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Qatar Tribune

First with the news and what's behind it

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World 7

Japan calls for UN meeting after North Korea fires missiles

Business 9

Baladna partners with Bel Group to expand dairy offerings in Qatar

Sports 12

Murray saves three match points to advance at Qatar ExxonMobil Open 2023

ASIAN GAMES 2030: QATAR READIES TO DAZZLE AGAIN

مرحباً بعودة الآسياد

DOHA 2030

ACCORDING to Amiri Decision No (13) of 2023, establishing and organizing committee for the 21st Asian Games – Doha 2030, Qatar is preparing to organize an exceptional edition in 2030, affirming its full leadership in the world of sports at the level of all games. Qatar seeks to draw a new road map for sports creativity by organizing the second edition in its history, the 21st in the history of Asian Games, after the distinctive edition organized by Qatar in 2006. Qatar achieved a lot of success by presenting distinguished champions in various sports, who won medals and wrote their country's name in the heroes' records. Qatar relies heavily on its great capabilities, and the accumulation of experiences in organizing various sporting events, exceeding 500 championships and event at all levels, led by the largest and most prominent event in the world, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 held last November and December. **PAGE 6**

AMIR MEETS US SENATOR

US Senate thanks Qatar for helping evacuate thousands of people from Afghanistan

QNA
DOHA

HIS Highness the Amir of State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met with Senator from Kansas State in the friendly United States of America Dr Roger Marshall, on the occasion of his visit to the country, at his Amiri Diwan office on Monday.

During the meeting, they reviewed the strategic relations of friendship and cooperation between Qatar and the US, in addition to exchanging views on regional and international developments.

Dr Roger Marshall, handed to HH the Amir the US Senate's decision, which included the Senate thanks and appreciation to the State of Qatar for its efforts and decisive role in helping the United States to evacuate thousands of people , its citizens, permanent legal residents and Afghans at risk and their families, as well as Qatar's pivotal role in harboring thousands

of people who were evacuated.

For his part, HH the Amir thanked the Senate for this decision, reaffirming Qatar's per-

manent position on supporting international humanitarian work and making all efforts to bring peace in the region and the world.

Qatar, UK sign MoU for strategic dialogue

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met with HE the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Cleverly in London on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and the ways to support and develop them, in addition to regional and international developments, particularly the humanitarian situation in Turkey and Syria after the earthquake, the latest developments in the Iranian nuclear file, and the crisis between Russia and Ukraine. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed regarding the establishment of a strategic dialogue between Qatar and the United Kingdom. **(QNA)**

PM inaugurates DJWE

QNA/TNN
DOHA

PRIME Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani inaugurated the 19th edition of Doha Jewellery & Watches Exhibition (DJWE) at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC) on Monday.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Interior toured the pavilions, where he was briefed on the most prominent collections displayed by Qatari and international companies participating in the exhibition. His Excellency was also briefed on the most important new designs of jewellery, watches, and rare gemstones.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of sheikhs and ministers, a number of members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the state and a number of senior officials and businessmen, as well as representatives of exhibiting companies.

The opening of the DJWE was attended by the biggest names in Bollywood, alongside Irina Shayk, Nasser Al Attiyah, Mutaz Barsham and other celebrities.

Unique to this year's edition is an auditory element to the DJWE campaign, as an exclusive musical score is created by famed Qatari composer, Ms Dana Al Fardan.

Over the coming six days, visitors to the exhibition will be treated to an extensive display of luxury collections from over 500 brands, with local and international designers brought together under one roof. Visitors can expect to marvel at the exquisite craftsmanship from the most prominent jewellers, limited edition collections and extraordinary showpieces. **PAGES 15 & 16**

New powerful earthquakes rock Turkey and Syria

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck the Turkey-Syria border region after it was devastated earlier this month by temblors that killed more than 47,000 people.

Monday's aftershock in Turkey's Hatay province was at a depth of 2km (1.2 miles), the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre said.

The quake hit the town of Defne at 8:04pm (17:04 GMT) and was strongly felt in the cities of Antakya and Adana, 200km to the north.

A second magnitude 5.8 centred in Samandag district of Hatay shook the region several minutes later, Turkey's disaster

People react after a 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit in Antakya, southern Turkey, on Monday.

Shura discusses efforts to develop educational system

QNA
DOHA

THE Shura Council on Monday discussed the most important educational issues, especially in terms of education development initiatives, implementation of the relevant ministry's strategic plans, teacher's training, education for people with disabilities, achievements and future plans

Chaired by Speaker HE Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim, the Shura Council discussed educational issues in the presence of Minister of Education and Higher Education

HE Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi.

The minister highlighted some relevant educational statistics and indicators, as the number of students in the general education exceeds 326,000 students distributed in about 600 schools, while the number of higher education students reach more than 35,000 in 33 university educational institutions.

She also revealed the progress made by the educational system during the past fifteen years in terms of academic and cognitive achievement, which is reflected in the international tests for students, as it

reached (414 points in mathematics, up from 318), in reading (407 points, up from 312), and in science (419 points up from 349), according to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

In a related context, she referred to the expansion of the establishment of private schools, the development of curricular standards and national professional standards for teachers, the launch of training programs for educational cadres, in addition to licensing and accreditation for all school employees.

QatarEnergy to take over all marketing activities managed by Qatargas (PG 9)

Continued on page 2

Nation

Good morning Doha

DIAL DOHA	FIRE AMBULANCE POLICE	999	Airport Services-Operator	44656666	Drain Centre	44687894
Electricity	991		Qatar Airways	44496666/44496000	Ministry of Education	44941111
Water	991		Qatar Airways (Airport)	44496688	Qatar Television (QTV)	44894444
Hamad Hospital	44394444		Gulf Air	44455444	Qatar Broadcasting Service (QBS)	44894444
Childs Emergency Centre (Al Saad)	44393333		Gulf Air (Airport)	44656318	Qatar University	44852222
Rumila Hospital	44396666		Immigration & Passport Department	44890333	Postal Department	44464000
Women's Hospital	44396666		Traffic Department	44890666	SriLankan Airlines	44322628/44369910
Airport Services- Enquiry	44622999		Water Emergency	44325959	Oman Air	44320509/44321373
			Electricity Emergency	44677601	Oman Air (Airport)	44626835
			Weather Forecasting (Admn)	44656590		

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AMIR PRESENTS AMBASSADOR OF NIGER WITH AL WAJBAB DECORATION



The Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday met with Ambassador of the Republic of Niger HE Embarak Boubacar Hassan, who called on HH the Amir to greet him on the occasion of the end of his tenure in the country. HH the Amir awarded the ambassador with Al Wajbah Decoration in recognition of his contribution to promoting the bilateral relations between Qatar and Niger, wishing him success in his future assignments and further progress in the relations between the two countries. For his part, the ambassador thanked HH the Amir and the State's officials for the cooperation accorded to him, which contributed to the success of his tour of duty in the country. (QNA)

AMIR MEETS AMBASSADOR OF CHAD



The Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday met with Ambassador of Chad to Qatar HE Dr Ali Sossal Brahim who called on HH the Amir to greet him on the occasion of the end of his tenure in the country. HH the Amir wished the ambassador success in his future assignments and further progress in the relations between the two countries. For his part, the ambassador thanked HH the Amir and the State's officials for the cooperation he received that contributed to the success of his work in the country. (QNA)

Quick read

Amir sends greetings to Bangladesh president-elect

THE Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has sent a cable of congratulations to Mohammad Shahabuddin on his election as the president of Bangladesh, wishing him success and further development and growth in the relations between the two countries. (QNA)

Amir sends message to Algerian president

THE Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has sent a written message to President of Algeria Abdelmadjid Tebboune pertaining to bilateral relations and the means to develop them. Assistant Foreign Minister for Regional Affairs HE Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Salih Al Khulaifi handed over the message to the Algerian president during a meeting in Algiers on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed the two countries' bilateral ties. (QNA)

Deputy Amir congratulates Bangladesh president-elect

THE Deputy Amir His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Mohammad Shahabuddin on his election as president of Bangladesh. (QNA)

Tunisian president meets assistant FM

PRESIDENT of Tunisia Kais Saied met with Assistant Foreign Minister for Regional Affairs HE Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Salih Al Khulaifi in Tunis on Monday. The assistant FM conveyed the greetings of the Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to the president and wishes of further progress and development to the Tunisian people. For his part, the president entrusted the Assistant Foreign Minister with his greetings to HH the Amir, wishing him good health and happiness, and continued progress and prosperity for the Qatari people. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries. (QNA)

Ministry strengthens focus on improving quality of education: Minister

Continued from page 1

The minister confirmed that since 2018, the ministry has strengthened the focus on improving the quality of education in the country, especially with regard to granting fair opportunities for all learners to enrol in high-quality educational programmes, training the workforce to be efficient and qualified, characterised by performance and commitment to work ethics.

She indicated that there are four main axes for the development of the educational system in the State of Qatar, stemming from the four pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

The minister explained that the first axis is students, in which their capabilities are strengthened and they acquire the basic and necessary skills to keep pace with the requirements of reality, instilling in them the values of the Qatari identity, developing and strengthening them.

She pointed out that the second axis is related to teachers, as it aims to attract, train and develop them, pay attention to those with international competencies, and find various options for professional development.

With regard to the third axis, she indicated that it focuses on schools, seeking to be safe, advanced and attractive, developing early education services and raising enrolment rates, and building a comprehensive educational experience, aiming to improve the quality of school life for students.

On the fourth axis, the minister explained that it focuses on the ministry through developing institutional capacities, while ensuring the highest level of transparency and accountability, and building partnerships with families, and

the public and private sectors, in order to achieve efficiency, equality, inclusiveness, growth and innovation in the educational system.

She also touched on the various initiatives of the ministry, which stem from the four main axes, and efforts to enhance the educational process in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, reviewing the most important of these initiatives, their objectives and foundations.

She stressed that the ministry took into account a number of guiding principles when designing the initiatives, the most important of which is not to neglect any student, and to promote public schools as a preferred choice for students, and to ensure a well-organised private sector, based on its being a partner in the educational process, as well as improving the quality and efficiency of the entire system.

She also affirmed the ministry's keenness to attract qualified teachers, focus on Qataris among them, build and develop their capabilities, and provide them with the necessary tools and capabilities to enable them to teach according to the highest quality standards.

She noted the ministry's interest in people with disabilities, by integrating them into the educational process, and creating a suitable environment for them to enhance their capabilities and provide them with all support.

Within this framework, the minister referred to the establishment of a number of specialised schools for people with disabilities, including Al-Hedaya Schools, which seeks to make a quantum leap by providing a range of specialised programs in the fields of behavioural therapy, physiotherapy, and other specialised academic programs.



She also referred to the ministry's efforts to integrate students with disabilities, through programs and plans that seek to provide them with the necessary skills that enable them to enter the labour market, and to represent an added value in society.

She indicated that the Ministry of Education and Higher Education pays attention to creativity and constructive initiatives that promote self-reliance, based on the fact that education is a fundamental pillar in development.

She pointed out the ministry's interest in governance, digital transformation and the speed of launching e-learning, indicating in this regard that Qatar was one of the first countries to invest in the technology sector since 2012. In response to several inquiries of members of the Shura Council, the minister affirmed the ministry's keenness to enhance the teacher's status, and to pay attention to the comprehensive and periodic evaluation of the educational system, to ensure the quality of education and address any deficiencies if the need arises.

She noted that during the process of reviewing, the curricula's distinctiveness and accordance to the highest levels has become clear to the ministry, indicating that the problem lay in the delivery of information and teaching and the promotion of these skills. Training teachers and enabling them to deliver information in the required manner is one of the main initiatives of the ministry, she added.

She emphasised the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's keenness to ensure that every child is in school, noting that 70 schools have been rehabilitated to be centres for the integration of students with disabilities and the provision of specialists to identify cases that require early intervention and follow-up.

She explained that the school calendar, which extends over 180 days, is considered normal and appropriate to access skills and information, and meets the required standards.

In her response to a question related to the decrease in the number of Qatari teachers, she pointed out that this issue is not limited to Qatar, explain-

The minister explained that the first axis is students, in which their capabilities are strengthened and they acquire the basic and necessary skills to keep pace with the requirements of reality, instilling in them the values of the Qatari identity, developing and strengthening them.

ing that it is a problem afflicting the countries of the region and the world, as the teaching profession is not the first choice for young people for several reasons, including the nature of the work, despite the allowances and privileges for teachers in appreciation of the effort they make.

In a related context, she addressed the 'Tomouh' (Ambition) program, which adopts high school certificate holders to join the teaching profession after graduating from the College of Education at Qatar University, adding that the program succeeded in providing schools with a large number of teachers from both genders.

Commenting on the presentation, Speaker of the Shura Council HE Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim stressed the need to increase the number of Qatari teachers, work to enhance the school environment, and to find appropriate solutions to overcome the difficulties that prevent this from being achieved.

He focused on the role of the family in the educational process, pointing out the importance of instilling the values of national identity in students, and focusing on private schools in this aspect.

He affirmed the council's keenness to support the min-

istry and provide everything necessary to achieve its lofty mission in finding high-quality education that contributes to achieving development and building the bright future of Qatar.

For their part, members of the Shura Council valued the Ministry of Education and Higher Education role, affirming their keenness to support the ministry in its efforts to enhance the educational process, and focused during their interventions on developing and revising curricula, Qatarisation of teaching jobs, motivating and training teachers, and educating people with disabilities.

Members of the Shura Council also emphasised the importance of drawing plans and implementing educational initiatives in line with the great significance that the country places on education, considering that it is the basis for the development of the human element, the most important tributary for achieving sustainable development, and an integral part of the Qatar National Vision.

The members of the Shura Council noted the need to train and qualify the teachers, promote national identity, and instil Islamic values in young adults calling for expanding the supervisory role of the MOEHE over private and international schools. Council members emphasised the need to support and attract Qatari teachers, removing any obstacle that may stand in their way.

They stressed the importance of continuing to provide qualitative education for people with disabilities and promote their educational opportunities, integrate them, and provide them with a suitable learning environment, out of the state's care for them and its endeavour to empower them.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL MEETS CHIEF OMBUDSMAN OF TURKEY



Attorney-General HE Dr Issa bin Saad Al Jafali Al Nuaimi met with Chief Ombudsman at the Ombudsman Institution of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Seref Malkoc and his accompanying delegation, in Doha on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed issues of common interest and ways to enhance them. (QNA)

MoCI recalls Mercedes-Benz GLE and M Class 2011-2017 models

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled Automobiles, Qatar's Mercedes-Benz dealership, has announced the recall of Mercedes-Benz GLE and M Class, 2011-2017 models, as water may seep into the rear area of the vehicle and accumulate over time in the spare tire compartment and the collected

water may rub against the fuel pump control unit, which can affect the engine.

The ministry said the recall campaign is part of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The ministry said that it will coordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the

necessary repairs are carried out.

The ministry urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, which processes complaints, inquiries and suggestions through Call Centre: 16001, email: info@moci.gov.qa, Twitter @MOCIQATAR, Instagram MOCIQATAR and the ministry's mobile application available on iPhone and Android devices MOCI_QATAR

Sheikh Abdulaziz oversees relief efforts of Humanitarian Funds in Turkey and Syria

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

RELIEF efforts of the Humanitarian Funds of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Turkey and Syria continue, as Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman Hassan Al Thani, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Humanitarian Funds of the OIC in Doha, supervised the distribution of aid to the earthquake victims.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz and the accompanying delegation also inspected the condition of those affected by the disaster and assessed their needs.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz said his visit was very important in conveying the suffering of the affected people to the Arab and Islamic world, as well as "in doing our part in a big way to support the brothers in Turkey and Syria". He indicated that the extent of the destruction he witnessed was huge and could not be described by words, and that the Humanitarian Funds would seek to provide all forms of support and aid. He thanked Qatar for its urgent intervention, as well as of all Arab and Islamic countries.

Sheikh Abdulaziz expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Father Amir His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who have sponsored these funds since their inception, as well as the Qatari Ministry of



Foreign Affairs for its unlimited support for the programmes.

He added: "The support of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, was the reason for the funds to have a distinguished headquarters to carry out their role to the fullest extent in Qatar. The State of Qatar, under its wise leadership, is one of the leading countries in the field of regional and international humanitarian work, and it enjoys a prominent position in this aspect thanks to its humanitarian and charitable institutions."

The teams of Humanitarian Funds continue to provide

aid that includes tents, blankets, medical and in-kind aid, and emergency food in Kilis, Gaziantep, Hatay, Rehanieh and Iskenderun, as well as the Syrian border areas that were greatly affected by the earthquake.

The Humanitarian Funds seek to implement their development and relief projects through concluding international strategic partnerships to serve the humanitarian work, as the funds of the OIC reached several international strategic partnerships during official visits with a delegation headed by Sheikh Dr Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman Hassan Al Thani.

Qatar's GAB now a member of global accreditation body

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR-BASED Global Accreditation Bureau (GAB) has become a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) – the global association of accreditation bodies, representatives of third-party conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies and stakeholders.

GAB is the first and only accreditation body in Qatar that provides accreditation services to third-party certification bodies that certify compliance of management systems of organisations with ISO 9001 (Quality Management), ISO 14001, (Environmental Management), ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management) and ISO/IEC 17025 for laboratories and ISO 14065 (Validation/verification of environmental information including greenhouse gas assertions) standards accepted worldwide.

GAB's inclusion as an Accreditation Body Member of IAF will enhance GAB's international recognition and acceptability, and also allow GAB to contribute to and participate in the activities of IAF through its various committees. GAB's latest IAF membership adds on to its previously attained status of being the Associate Member of Asia Pacific Accreditation Co-operation (APAC).

With the recent approval from IAF, GAB is now the first and only member of IAF, legally established and headquartered in Qatar, providing accreditation services to conformity assessment bodies which offer third-party certification to clients as per applicable international standards. The scope of accreditations covered under IAF include management systems certification, product certification, personnel certification, validation, and verification, etc.

Commenting on IAF's latest recognition of GAB as an accreditation body member, Dr. Yousef Alhorh, Founding Chairman of GAB said, "The rationale behind GAB's establishment as an accreditation body native to Qatar was to have a robust accreditation process in Qatar to ensure that the third-party certification process – which con-



Dr. Yousef Alhorh, founding chairman of GAB



tributes to the quality of goods and services offered by certified organisations in Qatar's fast-growing economy – is also under the oversight of a local body. GAB's latest recognition by International Accreditation Forum as an accreditation body member reflects the strength and integrity of GAB's accreditation programme."

Within MENA region, GAB is the first and only accreditation body that provides accreditation for validation and verification bodies in accordance with ISO 17029 and ISO 14065 for validation/verification of environmental information including greenhouse gas (GHG) assertions. GAB is among MENA region's leading accreditation bodies providing accreditation services to third-party conformity assessment bodies.

In assessing the certification bodies, GAB's resources and evaluation framework are in accordance with applicable international standards to ensure technical competence and integrity of the conformity assessment process followed by the conformity assessment bodies. GAB's accreditation services are rendered in compliance with international standard ISO/IEC 17011 "Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies".

Qatar National Library launches mobile app to allow users seamless access

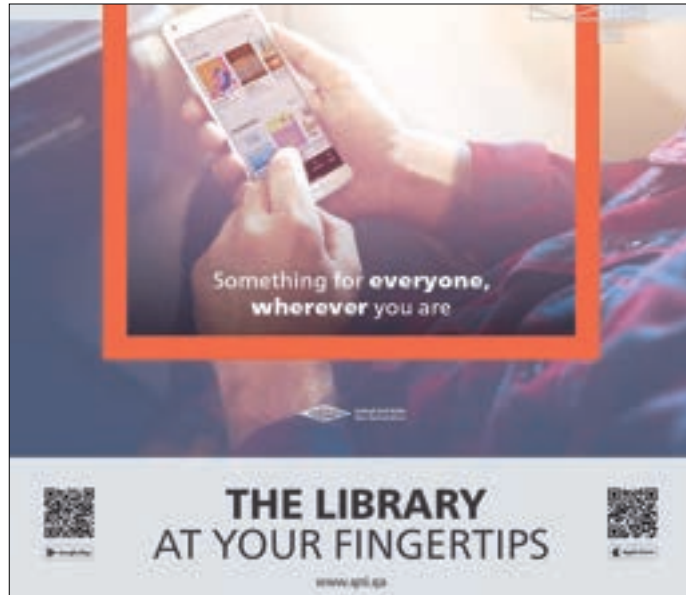
TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR National Library has announced the launch of its new mobile app, as part of its mission to deliver exceptional digital library experiences.

The QNL app is designed to engage users, keep them informed about the Library's services and provide on-the-go access to resources and information. With its seamless integrations, the app offers patrons an innovative and convenient way to connect with the Library and its resources.

The QNL app is a one-stop-shop for library members, providing quick and easy access to the Library's vast collection of information and resources. This includes immediate access to e-books and audiobooks, as well as newspapers and magazines from around the world. It also gives users instant access to online resources for academic purposes and for children and young adults directly on the app, without the need to login every time!

Users can also use the app to search for print books, book a room, send questions to QNL librarians, and much more. Furthermore, the app features



real-time notifications, information about upcoming events, and important information, ensuring that users stay up-to-date with the latest news from the Library.

The mobile app is a testament to the Library's commitment to promoting innovative technology and enhancing the user experience. With its user-friendly interface and intuitive design, the app makes it easy for users to find what they are looking for and access Library

resources from anywhere, at any time.

"The Library is committed to increasing access to its collections and broadening the reach of its services and this app demonstrates our commitment to engaging with the mobile community," said Nasser Al-Ansari, Director of IT Operations & Infrastructure.

"We understand the importance of staying ahead of the curve when it comes to digital technology, that's why with the



launch of our new mobile app, we are making it easier for patrons to access our resources and services and connect with the Library in new ways."

The Library is dedicated to promoting innovative technology for the benefit of members, increasing accessibility and transforming the way they access information and engage with the Library's resources and services. The QNL app is free and available for download globally on iOS devices from the App Store and for Android from Google Play.

Accessing primary care services in Qatar

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) provides the first point of contact in the healthcare system in Qatar, acting not only as the first point in care but also as the principal point for continuity of care for the community.

With 30 health centres across the country, the PHCC provides primary care services including a general practice -- where you can be seen by your family physician -- vaccinations, optometry, urgent care services and other services.

The family physician will provide you with essential medical care and preventive care services, such as routine checkups, immunization and screening tests. Depending on the nature of the health condition, you may be referred to a specialist or secondary care services. The team also man-



ages those with multiple or long-term conditions.

To register for PHCC services, you need to apply for a health card.

You can do this in person at your nearest Primary Health Care Centre or online via Hukoomi. The card costs an annual fee of QR100 for expat residents and QR50 for Qatari nationals. To apply for a card, you will need to provide:

- Passport/valid ID
- Valid residence permit

- 2 passport-size photographs
- Proof of address (e.g., a recent utility bill or rent contract)
- Vaccination card (children only)
- ID of your sponsor (domestic staff only)

Once registered, you can access PHCC services by booking an appointment via the PHCC Naraakom app or by calling 107. You have the option of booking a face to face or a virtual appointment.

Alternatively, you can call 16000 for an urgent telephone or video consultation with the physician during the hours of 7am to 11pm. A nurse-led telephone triage service is also available from 11pm to 7am which will lead patients to appropriate services, such as PHCC 24hr Urgent Care services, based on their needs.

PHCC also provides urgent care services for non-threatening medical conditions requiring immediate attention, such as minor burns, sprains, severe headache or earache, high fever, dehydration, and dizziness. PHCC provides a walk in 24-hour Urgent Care Service at the following health centres: Rawdat Al Khail, Al Rayyan, Al Kaaban, Al Sheehaniya, Al Ruwais, Muaiter, Abu Bakr Al Siddiq, Um Salal and Al Mashaf.

For more information about PHCC and the services available, visit: www.phcc.gov.qa.

ASSISTANT FM MEETS EGYPTIAN ENVOY



Assistant Foreign Minister HE Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater met with Ambassador of Egypt to Qatar HE Amr Kamal El-Din El-Sherbiny in Doha on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed the relations and the latest regional and international developments, especially the humanitarian situation in Turkiye and Syria, as well as the Afghan file. (QNA)

elev8 organises metaverse webinar for leaders of pvt & public sector firms in Qatar

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

WITH the objective of sharing insights into the rapidly developing world of the metaverse, elev8, a global learning partner in providing digital skill solutions and transformative education, hosted recently an engaging webinar on 'Metaverse in the Middle East: Business Applications & Opportunities'.

Covering the future frontiers of the metaverse, the webinar detailed the growth of the digital technology, case studies of organisations successfully capitalising upon the metaverse's features and practical ways in which businesses can implement the solution to create withstanding value.

elev8's hosting of Metaverse in the Middle East is an extension of the organisation's mission to help large enterprises and governments upskill their workforce and proactively utilise the latest, cutting-edge digital technologies.

Lasse Rouhiainen, a best-selling author and international expert on the metaverse, artificial intelligence and disruptive tech-



nologies, led the webinar, identifying the metaverse's limitless potential for growth.

Rouhiainen, who has given keynote presentations and conducted seminars in more than 16 countries across the world, also explained the metaverse's ability to improve efficiency in a variety of sectors. Rouhiainen also discussed the requirement for upskilling and recruiting to close skills gaps in preparation for a future-ready metaverse workplace.

Metaverse in the Middle East was attended by more than 55 participants working in a variety of sectors across Qatar, including finance, telecommunications, oil and gas, education, construction and public ministries, in

addition to developers, system administrators, analysts, digital engineers, project managers, and senior business officials all attending the webinar. Participants were able to learn about how the next Internet evolution would shape their careers and the sectors they work within.

Maria Balbas, president at elev8 and executive vice-president of YNV Tech Talent, affirmed the metaverse webinar's success.

She said, "With organisations aware of the limitless potential available within the metaverse, we aim to empower people with the skills necessary to ensure they can successfully transition to the jobs of the future."

EAQC joins hands with QU at 2nd World Congress for Engineering & Technology

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

ENGINEERS Australia Qatar Chapter (EAQC) partnered with Qatar University (QU) in a four-day World Congress for Engineering and Technology, which comprised the 2nd International Conference on Civil Infrastructure and Construction (CIC 2023) and the 15th International Conference on Vibration Problems (ICOVP 2023).

The global event was organised by QU under the patronage of Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, in collaboration with Public Works Authority (Ashghal), the Ministry of Municipality, and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

The programme was attended by industry leaders, policy makers and key figures, along with a number of professional partners from engineering organisations and societies inside and outside Qatar. During the forum, keynote speakers, professors, scholars and engineers from around the globe delivered keynote speeches and lectures. Notable among them were: Lauri Koskela, professor of Construction and Project Management at Huddersfield University, UK; Mariah Lehman, ASCE president, USA; and Rafat Siddique, dean of Research and Projects at Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, India.

The aim of the conference was to provide a platform to report and discuss the recent advances and developments in infrastructure and construction besides urban planning and design for society's wellbeing.



Australian Ambassador HE Jonathan Muir with President of Engineers Australia (Qatar Chapter) Tamer Naguib.

Furthermore, the conference provided a forum to discuss challenges and developments associated with the environment and climate change.

Tamer Naguib, president of EAQC, stated that international conferences like CIC 2023 provide the right platform to discuss and explore innovative ideas in civil infrastructure and construction disciplines, and a forum to encourage research and implementation of best practices in those domains.

Engineers Australia highlighted the Recognition Agreement between Engineers Australia Qatar Chapter and Ministry of Municipality where Engineers Australia Chartered status is officially recognised by the Ministry, meaning that any Chartered member of Engineers Australia applying to be a registered engineer in Qatar is exempted from the Ministry's assessment exam administered by the Committee for Accreditation of Engineers and Consultancy Offices.

Engineers Australia, being a professional partner at the conference, showcased its activities

at its booth which was visited by numerous dignitaries, notably HE Jonathan Muir, Australian Ambassador to Qatar, and Professor Dr Saud Abdul Ghani aka Dr Cool, who is the brain behind outdoor air-conditioning of FIFA stadiums, among others. The government of Western Australia, Medgulf Construction Company (Medgulf), Engineering Consultants Group (ECG) and Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC) were also represented at the Engineers Australia booth, being sponsors to the local Qatar Chapter.

With around 115,000 individual members spread over 120 countries, Engineers Australia is the apex body for the engineering profession in Australia, being the voice of the profession to advance the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community. Founded in 1919 as the Institution of Engineers Australia, its work has underpinned the progress of its nation for more than a century and continues to shape the future by creating healthy, secure, prosperous and sustainable communities.

Filipino community joins embassy to mark QNSD

ASHRAF SIDDIQUI
DOHA

FILIPINO community members joined the Embassy of the Philippines in Qatar to celebrate Qatar National Sport Day at the Education Centre, Qatar Foundation, on Saturday. The event was titled 'Yantok at Kamao: Arnis and Boxing Exhibition'.

Present on the occasion were HE Lilibeth V. Pono, ambassador of the Philippines to Qatar; Abdullah Mohammed Al Dosari, president of activities and events, Qatar Sports

for All Federation, Ministry of Sports and Youth; Serge Van Poelvoorde, executive manager, Qatar Gymnastics Federation; Danijel Saric, Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum; Agnes Pagaduan, area manager Philippines Airlines; Dahlia Agbanlog, chairperson, Kulinarya Qatar and Greg Loayon, chairman Philippines Business Council Qatar, besides a number of embassy officials, community leaders and members.

HE Lilibeth V. Pono in her address on the occasion said that February has a special significance in both Qatar and Philippines. While Qatar Annual Sports Day is celebrated in February, National Arts Month is celebrated in the same month in the Philippines.



portance of physical exercise in an individual's life. He thanked the Philippine embassy for involving Filipino community members in activities marking the day and also for inviting him.

Talking to Qatar Tribune, Greg Loayon, chairman, Philippines BuAsiness Council, Qatar thanked the embassy for organising a great community event to showcase Philippines sports, while aligning with Qatar' vision of focusing on the health and wellbeing of all its citizens and residents.

activities. It is also shows that all communities in Qatar are living together in harmony."

Abdullah Mohammed Al Dosari said that Qatar National Sport Day highlights the im-

portance of physical exercise in an individual's life. He thanked the Philippine embassy for involving Filipino community members in activities marking the day and also for inviting him.

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Halqa-e-Ahbab celebrates Qatar National Sport Day

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Halqa-e-Ahbab Qatar (HAQ), a well-known forum of expatriate Pakistanis, organised various activities at Al Bidda Park to celebrate Qatar National Sport Day.

More than 300 children and adults participated in an array of fun-filled sports and games activities. The participants, who were divided into senior and junior categories, took part in various games like long jump, relay race, shoot the target, run with buddy etc.



Separate games and activities were organised for young girls and women as well.

A colourful prize distribution ceremony was held at the end of the six-hour event and representatives of different forums distributed prizes among winners and participants.

Since its inception, HAQ has been focusing its activities on youth. Through academic and recreational activities it

has been trying to inculcate in them Islamic teachings and cultural values. Besides organising events on Pakistan's national days, HAQ regularly celebrates Qatar National Day and Qatar National Sport Day.

OIS hosts slew of events to mark Annual Sports Day 2023

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

OLIVE International School (OIS) celebrated its Annual Sports Day 2023 with great enthusiasm as House T-shirts and track-pants marked the day's events.

The chief guest at Umm Salal was Principal Jacob Mathew while on the Thumama campus, the chief guest was Shalini Rawat, Vice Principal of Operations. Anupama Sajith, Vice Principal Academics, was the chief guest on the Nuaija campus.

The day started with the PE Department offering a flo-



ral and formal welcome to the guests and dignitaries. This was followed by the hoisting of the school flag, accompanied by yoga drill, a power-packed drill performance by stu-

dents of grades III to VI, sports song, and dance.

Thereafter, the chief guests declared the meet open. The students displayed a wide array of House-wise energetic

and bouncy sports events ranging from track events including 50m race, 100m race, 200m race, 400m race and 4 x 50 m relay. All the Houses were awarded points on the basis of their performances.

The winners of the events were awarded medals, trophies and certificates by the Principal Jacob Mathew, Vice Principals Shalini Rawat and Anupama Sajith.

The Red House was adjudged as the winner. The chief guest addressed the students and highlighted the significance of the day, emphasizing the importance of sports in a student's life.

QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY QPSC INVITATION TO TENDER

QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ-369423	SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF ALUMINUM KITCHEN CABINETS - FRAME CONTRACT FOR 3+2 YEARS	500/- (Non-refundable)	21,000/- (Twenty One Thousand Only)	21.02.2023 22.02.2023 23.02.2023 26.02.2023 27.02.2023 28.02.2023 01.03.2023	16.03.2023

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
 - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
 - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
 - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA00000000013025828058**
 - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to purchase@qafco.com.qa on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date, you may contact at 'purchase@qafco.com.qa' or on 44227797
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Tender Office, between 0930 - 1100 hours during the Holy month of Ramadan and 0930 - 1130 hours and 1230 - 1400 hours, of any working day of the Company, on/before the "Tender Closing Date".

QT

Indian Experience



Reports by **Mehre Alam**
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"The reason I exercise is for the quality of life I enjoy."
— Kenneth H. Cooper

SOME of the biggest resolutions of life, they say, sit prettier on special occasions. And why not? There's an aura that these special days or occasions carry with them binding us into solemn actions – with the hard resolve to make it come what may. The challenges can come. Rather, they will. But a resolute being presses on. And on. On a path that may test the will and resolve but would for sure churn out the results.

February 14 presented – to locals and expatriates – one such big occasion. Qatar is one rare example where a country has marked a special day dedicated to sports – Qatar National Sport Day. The first National Sport Day was observed in the year 2012. The day's basic objective is to promote sports and educate the local population on ways to reduce health risks associated with sedate lifestyle, such as coronary heart disease and diabetes and so on.

For a sports-loving country that has hosted one of the most successful World Cups in FIFA history, the following year's National Sport Day carried a special significance. No wonder the expatriates, very much like the locals, are far greater aware of what sports and a physically active lifestyle can do to boost our health. **Qatar Tribune** interacted with some Indian expatriates to find out what resolutions they have chalked out to mark this year's National Sport Day. Here's what they told us:

Shafqat Nabi, Brand and Fashion Management Professional

For me, being healthy should be our lifestyle choice and should come in a complete package – right from eating (and on-time!) healthy and balanced food to surrounding myself with positive people to being involved in activities that make us feel good. Six and a half hours of daily sleep and some outdoor activities (at least brisk walking, preferably in early morning sun) at least five days a week are a must. I try to include yoga in my daily routine even if it's for a short time.



Power-naps are a bliss too.

With this kind of lifestyle, we do not have to try harder or be a tad too calorie-conscious.

And the best part is, even if I cheat myself at times, it doesn't hurt much. I end up having the best of both worlds!

Aftab A. Siddique, BSF-Q

National Sports Day is an occasion to encourage Qatari citizens and expatriates to include exercise in their daily regimen with a view to moving towards a healthier lifestyle. Exercise is defined as physical activity that you do to make your body strong and healthy. May we all get inspired to exercise daily so that we may be able to live a healthier life.

The main objective of Qatar Na-

tional Sport Day is to promote sports and physical activities and enhance people's awareness of their benefits. It's incumbent upon us to educate and encourage all to lead a healthy lifestyle so as to reduce health risks associated to with leisure and in-activeness.

Taking a lead, BSF-Q organised its event to promote National Sport Day with 100 participants from the Bihari expatriate community in Qatar. The activities included soccer, running race for women and events especially tailored for children.

To mark the National Sport Day, BSF members resolved to focus on sports and physical activities which go a long way in helping us to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

What's more, the participants really enjoyed the activities and by the end of the day, they were more determined to promote sports as part of their daily routine.

Irfan Ansari, Founder, Bihar Social Forum

Qatar National Sport Day is an



occasion to celebrate the spirit of sports in a myriad of ways. It was to honour this sentiment that

around 100 members of Bihar Social Forum-Qatar took the initiative of reaching the Rayyan Park early morning with their families and children.

The gathering enjoyed the day with a slew of sporting events arranged at the venue.

As for our resolutions to mark the Sport Day, we have decided to encourage one and all to engage in sports in daily life so as to become fitter and add more charm to life.

Jawed Ahmed, Founder, AMUAAQ

Here's my wish list/health resolutions on National Sport Day:



good sleep instead of 3-4 hours and stretch it to 6-8 hours

- Limit my intake of unhealthy food and eat healthy meals; mean and slim dinner; focus more on fruits and liquids

- Do swimming regularly, at least 1 to 2 km on alternate days; keep doing cycling or walking as well 1-2 km on alternate days

Jishan from Mannai

Qatar National Sport Day presents us an opportunity to prioritize our health, have fun with family and friends, and participate in a variety of activities. We support Qatar Sport Day as this is an occasion that encourages us to embrace an active lifestyle.

Parwez Ali Saifi, BSF

The first National Sport Day was held in 2012 and was designated for sporting endeavors by the citizens of Qatar. The day's main purpose is to promote sports and educate the people on the ways to reduce health risks associated with an inactive lifestyle, such as coronary heart disease and diabetes. BSF Qatar organised sports events at Al Rayan Park, where more than 100 people participated in a variety of games.



BSF founder Irfan Ansari and president S a t y -endra Pathak welcomed the gathering and distributed certificates to the winners. It was a day of true inspiration with regard to our resolve for active lifestyle and sound health.

'Qatar inspires everyone to think big, use creative skills to attain success'

Rahul Gupta, who has taught in Qatar schools for several years, says physical activity, as in dance, not only promotes chemical balance but also deepens the mind-body connection

RAHUL Gupta, a former dance teacher at a school in Qatar, has one big regret in life: That he missed out on watching the 2022 FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar. He goes even as far to admit that he felt "jealous" of his Qatar-based friends and acquaintances who were able to watch from the close quarters the biggest sporting spectacle of the world.

Qatar, says Gupta, is a global trendsetter country that puts its energies on out-of-the-box ideas, inspiring everyone to think big and use their creative forte to its optimum. "I just love Qatar," he says, while pointing out to one such out-of-the-box way of combating the COVID-19 gloom – the classical dance instructor and his pupils took to dance to beat the pandemic blues.

"I wish to share my views on how important physical activity is – as clearly evidenced during the previous periods of lockdowns. As the pandemic pressed on, people found innovative ways to come together. One of them was classical dance," says the former dance teacher of a Qatar school.

"Dance transcends all barriers and boundaries. In this kala [art], there is no race, religion, age, or colour. It's just about the joy of rhythm. A joy you experience when you celebrate the diversities. There is this power in dance to bring people together in one voice. Classical dance has always been used in various ways, be it prayers, or celebrations," notes Gupta, who is currently based in Dubai, and still gets requests in plenty for dance coaching in Qatar.

"It is amazing what the virtual



world has done to us globally in making the world such a smaller place. I feel that my bit, my contribution to this has been in encouraging people to dance their blues away."



Gupta, who has taught in Qatar for several years, says that students who enrolled in his Bharatanatyam dance classes, did so for a variety of reasons. "Some wanted to make a career in dance, others wanted to



tone up their bodies, while some wanted to get rid of their inhibitions of dancing at public shows and just have fun. However, one quest binds every student, which is that dance frees the mind and soul," he explains.

"Physical activity, as in dance, not only promotes chemical balance but also deepens the mind-body connection," he explains.

Talking about the online-offline challenges of yore, he admits, "In the beginning, teaching on an online platform seemed quite strange to me. However, I challenged myself to be in tune with the new system immediately. But then gradually it turned perfect and I was able to interact with students without any interruptions. It had become just like the regular classes."

A professional dancer and dance trainer who's been teaching Bharatanatyam and different types of Western and Indian dance forms to children, adults and those with

disabilities over the past 15 years or so, he rues there's still a maze of confusion about the various dance forms among the uninitiated. "And especially so in the Gulf countries, but the students and their parents who approach us now are much more aware about these aspects, for example, the difference between the various classical dance forms."

As for the response from the parents, he says it's been inspiring and positive. The online classes have a few advantages as they provide an opportunity to parents to get involved in classes and ascertain how the teacher is interacting with students, he says, adding, "it's refreshing for parents who are also passionate about classical dance". Bharat Gupta, the son of Rahul Gupta, concurs with the views of his father. "During the lockdown times, the one thing that kept me occupied and happy was my Bharatanatyam," he points out.

Finally, A Plan To Save Joshua Tree From Climate Change

CLIMATE change is the single greatest threat to the long-term survival of the Joshua tree, a beloved symbol of California's high desert. But the biggest short-term obstacle is an impasse by state wildlife officials, who have been unable to agree whether to list it as threatened under the state Endangered Species Act.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration is proposing a promising solution, legislation that would provide comprehensive protection for the imperiled trees at the center of a battle over competing uses of the Mojave Desert and the interconnected threats of rising temperatures, drought, development and wildfire.

The proposal would protect the trees from being wiped out by the next century while allowing for renewable energy and housing development — no matter what the California Fish and Game Commission decides. It's a well-thought-out compromise that acknowledges both scientific and political realities, and would still allow designation as threatened, though that move seems unlikely.

Scientists have long warned that climate change poses an existential threat to the western Joshua tree, one of two distinct species that live in California, and that the tree could lose more than 90% of its current habitat by the end of the century without greater protections. But powerful interests oppose listing it as threatened, saying it would put up too many barriers to urban development and solar and wind energy projects that California needs to slash greenhouse gas emissions.

These trees have been under temporary legal protection since 2020, making it illegal to kill them without special permits. But those safeguards would go away if the Fish and Game Commission decides not to list Joshua trees as threatened, returning authority to issue permits to remove Joshua trees to county sheriffs or county agricultural commissioners.

The governor's proposal would allow wildlife officials to permit the killing or removal of a western Joshua tree only if certain conditions were met, and would give property owners and developers the option of paying mitigation fees instead. The money would be pooled into a state-controlled conservation fund that could be used for large-scale projects, like the acquisition of land in the tree's northern range and in higher elevation areas where survival is more likely as the climate continues to warm.

One of the strengths of the proposal is a requirement that the Department of Fish and Wildlife, by 2024, develop a conservation plan to save the species across its range. That proactive approach is fitting for this climate-driven threat,



and an improvement on the usual process, where threatened and endangered species aren't subject to serious action to prevent their extinction until their numbers are already so low that it's almost too late.

The legislation was crafted with input from Native American tribes, renewable energy companies, the construction industry, organized labor and environmentalists, and has the support of the Center for Biological Diversity, the group that in 2019 petitioned to protect the western Joshua tree on climate change grounds, triggering the temporary protection.

Prospects for making those protections permanent seemed to dim last year, when state wildlife scientists recommended against listing the Joshua tree as threatened, despite criticism by independent peer reviewers that the analysis had mischaracterized the science and understated the threat climate change poses. In June, the state Fish and Game Commission deadlocked on whether to designate it as threatened, and has since delayed making a decision.

It's clear that listing the Joshua tree presents challenges unlike any of the roughly 250 other species protected under the California Endangered Species Act. There are millions of Joshua trees spread across a vast area of the state, and about half the tree's range is on private land, including in fast-growing communities such as Lancaster and Yucca Valley. State wildlife officials predict that the listing of the Joshua tree would create the single biggest permitting workload in its history, requiring them to weigh in on thousands of projects, from home additions to large-scale solar energy arrays.

Yes, this legislation would make getting a permit for the removal of Joshua trees easier, cheaper and faster than if they were designated threatened under current law. But this approach is still vastly better than the likely alternative of doing nothing. It includes transparency measures, with annual reviews and public reports detailing the effectiveness of the program and how mitigation fees are being spent. It allows the department to periodically adjust the rules and fees to ensure conservation efforts are working.

California wildlife officials' inability to move proactively to protect the Joshua tree from the warming climate has been disappointing. But this legislation creatively bypasses that and imagines something better: the rare kind of compromise that could actually provide broader, more effective conservation than the Joshua tree would otherwise receive under the current legal and political process.

State lawmakers should advance this legislation and get California a step closer to ensuring the Joshua tree's survival.

Asian Games 2030: New Event To Dazzle Athletes And Fans

Qatar is preparing to organise an exceptional edition in 2030, a its affirming its leadership in the world of sports at the level of all games



QNA
DOHA

ACCORDING to Amiri Decision No (13) of 2023, establishing and organizing committee for the 21st Asian Games -- Doha 2030, Qatar is preparing to organize an exceptional edition in 2030, confirming its full leadership in the world of sports at the level of all games.

Qatar seeks to draw a new road map for sports creativity by organizing the second edition in its history, the 21st in the history of Asian Games, after the distinctive edition organized by Qatar in 2006.

Qatar achieved a lot of success by presenting distinguished champions in various sports, who won medals and wrote their country's name in the heroes' records.

Qatar relies heavily on its great capabilities, and the accumulation of experiences in organizing various sporting events, which exceeded 500 championships and event at all levels, led by the largest and most prominent event in the world, which is the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which was held last November and December.

Qatar also has a great legacy left by the various championships that

it organized in all sports at the continental, global and regional levels, which includes distinguished gyms and various installations, and training fields conform to international standards and specifications, the residence headquarters and transportation, and the ease of access to sports facilities, which enhances its capabilities to succeed in the Asian Games Doha 2030.

Qatar is betting on the integrated and distinguished infrastructure that the country has established in recent years and dazzled the world with an exceptional edition of the World Cup, as FIFA World Cup facilities will host the 2022 football competitions of the Asian Games.

The Asian Games includes 40 sports: Athletics, Basketball, Football, Swimming, Weightlifting, Cycling, Boxing, Shooting, Wrestling, Volleyball, Hockey, Table Tennis, Tennis, Badminton, Windsurfing, Gymnastics, Fencing, Archery, Bowling, Golf, Handball, Rowing, Equestrian, Judo, Taekwondo, Canoe, Kabaddi, Sepak takraw, Softball, Wushu, Baseball, Karate, Soft Tennis, Modern Pentathlon, Billiards, Rugby, Bodybuilding, Chess, Squash and Triathlon.

Qatar added chess and triathlon in the 2006 edition. More than ten

thousand male and female athletes will compete in the Asian Games, searching for colored medals in all sports specially athletics, swimming, archery, cycling and gymnastics the most medal-intensive sport. Immediately after winning the bid to host the event, Qatar prepared to make a new mark in the world of sports, this time on the continental level of Asia which constitutes the largest continent in terms of human resources.

Qatar renewed commitment to fulfilling the promises it made to the Olympic Council of Asia, when it submitted the bid to host Doha 2030, stating that the tournament enjoys great support from the wise leadership to achieve the required success to promote Qatar's global branding by supporting sport that bring people together, removing barriers between peoples of the world, where competition and sportsmanship prevail.

The Asian Games (Doha 2030) coincides with the 80 years since the first version in India in 1951. The next edition will be held in China, while Japan will host 2026 edition. With Doha hosting the 2030 edition, the West Asian region organizes the tournament three times after Iran in the 1974 edition.

The COVID 'Emergency' Is Ending. Here's Who Will Be Hurt Most

**WENDY NETTER EPSTEIN
& DANIEL GOLDBERG**

IN the State of the Union, President Joe Biden stated that "we have broken COVID's grip on us." Indeed, COVID-19 deaths are down about 75% since last year's speech. Consistent with that progress, the Biden administration announced in January that it will end the public health emergency (and national emergency) declarations on May 11.

Yet nearly 500 Americans are dying from COVID-19 per day. As many as 1 in 5 U.S. adults who contract the virus experience some effects of long COVID. And the toll of the disease has never been distributed equally.

Historians have long pointed out that pandemics tend to reveal social inequalities and often make them worse, as we have seen with COVID. Studies show that people in areas of social disadvantage have died from COVID at higher rates than those in affluent areas. After controlling for differences in age, people of color have contracted COVID at higher rates, and have died at higher rates, than white people.

It was these inequities that prompted the Biden administration, Congress and some states to adopt policies designed to even the playing field. These policies meant that most Americans could access COVID testing, treatment and vaccines for free or close to free. They also addressed



US President Joe Biden delivers his State of the Union address during a joint meeting of Congress in the House of Chamber of the US Capitol on February 7.

access issues — getting people insured — by expanding Affordable Care Act subsidies for exchange policies, offering a temporary Medicaid coverage option for uninsured people in 15 states, and by not disenrolling anyone from Medicaid in all states during the public health emergency. Between February 2020 and March 2021, at least 13 million additional people enrolled (and stayed) in Medicaid. These policy changes didn't solve health inequity, but they blunted the impact of COVID on vulnerable communities.

But with the end of the public health emergency, so too comes the end of many of these protections.

Most uninsured people will no longer be able to access free COVID tests. Medicaid continuous coverage is ending. The federal uninsured fund has already lapsed.

A direct consequence will be that the uninsured and undocumented people, almost half of whom are uninsured, won't be able to access care for COVID. This is a tragedy in its own right and is likely to expand racial health inequalities connected to COVID. It will also have broader impacts on the community and the economy as COVID will spread, workforce shortages will continue and burdens of long COVID will increase.

Perhaps the most consequential change ahead is the looming loss of Medicaid eligibility for millions of low-income Americans. As part of a spending bill signed into law in December, states will soon begin a redetermination process for deciding Medicaid eligibility. Disenrollments can begin as soon as April. As many as 18 million enrollees may lose coverage. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services predicts that people of color are much more likely to lose coverage based on administrative hurdles alone, even if they remain eligible for Medicaid.

This massive coverage loss in a short period of time could have devastating consequences, further straining already-stretched hospitals, diminishing access to necessary screenings and care for chronic disease, as well as increasing emergency department use and medical debt for low-income Americans. Black and Hispanic people are twice as likely as white people to be enrolled in Medicaid and more likely to be directly impacted.

There are actions states should take now to prevent worsening COVID inequities. State governments can start by encouraging those who lose Medicaid coverage to get alternative coverage that will provide COVID benefits. Many will be eligible for free or reduced cost plans in the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Rhode Island is launching a program to automatically enroll those who lose

Medicaid coverage during unwinding into a marketplace plan. Other states, like Maryland, plan to use navigators to contact those no longer eligible for Medicaid to help them enroll in a qualified health plan.

States could also look at other ways to ensure access to social safety net programs for low-income communities. For instance, in November, Colorado opened enrollment for a program called OmniSalud that assists undocumented residents and individuals with protections through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to obtain affordable health-care insurance through the state's marketplace. By January, 10,000 Colorado residents had enrolled.

In many states, however, undocumented immigrants and some people who cannot afford a policy have limited options to obtain coverage, particularly in the 11 states that have not expanded Medicaid. As such, states and localities must also continue to look for ways to provide free COVID testing and treatment to uninsured populations.

(Wendy Netter Epstein is a visiting professor at University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. Daniel Goldberg is an associate professor in the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.)

Southern Turkey hit by another earthquake

DPA
ISTANBUL

AN earthquake of 6.4-magnitude has shaken the south-eastern Turkish province of Hatay, the Kandilli earthquake monitoring centre said on Monday, causing further damage in the quake-ravaged region.

The earthquake's epicentre was located in the district of Samandag but it was felt by residents in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine.

The latest quake comes two weeks after a devastating earthquake in the same area that has killed more than 47,000 people in Turkey and Syria.

Abdel Kafi, a Syrian activist in north-west Syria said, "It was strong like the first one but did not last long... it scared people and people rushed to the streets." He was referring to the quakes on February 6 that killed 41,156 people in Turkey alone, the disaster authority AFAD said earlier.

The official death toll in Syria stands at 5,900 but it has not been updated in days. Thousands more are feared dead in both countries.

The latest quake came after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara, just before the Turkish leader flew to Hatay, already ravaged by the earlier earthquake.

Blinken had met civilian aid workers from the Syrian rescue group White Helmets during his visit to the quake-hit region, who told him about the desperate situation faced by survivors in areas where the decade-long civil war has complicated international efforts to deliver aid and assistance.

White Helmets deputy Farouk Habib described US support as "crucial" during the meeting with Blinken. Habib told dpa afterwards that Blinken reiterated US support for uninhibited humanitarian aid access to the region.



A youth runs across the upturned cobbled stoned street in Demirkopru, a small Turkish village now divided by a large crack in Hatay recently. (AFP)

A tour of the destruction in Turkey had left Blinken grasping for words to describe what he saw. He had earlier announced that the US would increase aid for the disaster from \$100 million to \$185 million.

Blinken praised the work and expertise of the Syrian White Helmets and the search and rescue teams, speaking of "heroic efforts" after the disaster, particularly given that aid was slow to arrive in the opposition areas of north-western Syria.

In Syria alone, 8.8 million people have been affected by the earthquakes, the deputy UN representative for Syria, Najat Rochdi, wrote on Twitter on Sunday.

Activist Mustafa Dahnoun, who is from Idlib, meanwhile told dpa over the phone that "aid is still very slow" and that people in the area "are in great need of everything." "The world community should work harder and push for more aid

to our region," he said.

In Turkey, search and rescue efforts have been called off in most of the affected provinces. Only in the provinces of Kahramanmaras and Hatay will the search continue for victims, AFAD chairman Yunus Sezer told journalists in Ankara on Sunday.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was in Hatay on Monday for another visit. He was seen in the midst of a crowd of people in pictures circulated on Twitter by the Turkish Communications Ministry.

The president said Hatay will be "revived in all its colours," pledging to rebuild the city as quickly as possible.

Erdogan had met Blinken at the airport in Ankara earlier, according to the presidential Office.

Sezer estimated that more than 1.2 million people have fled the affected region in Turkey and over 1 million people

are currently in emergency shelters.

For those left in the quake-hit regions, officials are increasingly concerned about health risks.

The EU health agency ECDC warned on Monday that infectious diseases are likely to spread in this phase of the recovery period. While immediate health needs after the quakes were related to trauma and interrupted health care, infectious diseases could now become a concern in the next two to four weeks, the agency said in Stockholm.

The damaged infrastructure, such as water and electricity lines, causes limited access to clean water, inadequate sanitation and lack of refrigeration for food, said the ECDC wrote. Food-borne and waterborne diseases, respiratory infections and vaccine-preventable infections thus all have the potential to spread, especially in temporary housing shelters.

Biden makes surprise visit to Kiev ahead of war anniversary

DPA
KIEV

US President Joe Biden made a surprise visit to Kiev on Monday, announcing new aid and military equipment for Ukraine, in a show of support as the first anniversary of Russia's full invasion approaches.

"One year later, Kyiv stands. And Ukraine stands. Democracy stands," Biden said, according to journalists travelling with the president.

Biden was using the widely used Ukrainian pronunciation of the name of the capital city.

In joint remarks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Biden announced \$500 million in additional assistance to Ukraine, as well as more military equipment including artillery ammunition, javelins and Howitzers - all items the US has already been supplying.

Zelensky said they had spoken about "long range weapons" and weapons that had not yet been supplied to Ukraine, without detailing any new commitments, according to the journalists' pool report.

Biden arrived in Ukraine early on Monday under the strictest security precautions, for his first visit to the country since the outbreak of war, and his first time there

as president. An air raid siren sounded during his visit.

The trip, which comes ahead of a scheduled visit to Poland later on Monday, was long kept secret for security reasons. The White House had repeatedly denied rumours that Biden would take the opportunity to visit neighbouring Ukraine.

In Kiev, Biden and Zelensky jointly commemorated the Ukrainians who had fallen during the war.

The visit, so close to the anniversary of the full-scale invasion on February 24, is seen as highly symbolic.

In the past few months, the US has provided various packages of weapons and ammunition worth billions of dollars in rapid succession.

According to the Pentagon, Washington has provided or promised military aid to Ukraine to the tune of almost \$30 billion since the start of the war. This includes various heavy weapons systems.

Biden and his administration have assured Ukraine that they will stand by the country for as long as it is necessary - a message he delivered to Kiev in person on Monday.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Biden plans to meet Polish President Andrzej Duda in Warsaw and hold a speech in front of the Royal Castle.



US President Joe Biden (left) walks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral in Kyiv on Monday. (AFP)

Scottish finance minister hopes to succeed Nicola Sturgeon

DPA
LONDON

SCOTLAND'S Finance Secretary has confirmed she is entering the race to succeed Nicola Sturgeon - with Kate Forbes' announcement meaning there are now three candidates vying for the top job.

Forbes, who had been widely tipped to stand, announced her decision on Monday, insisting she has the "vision, experience and competence to inspire voters across Scotland".

Currently on maternity leave after giving birth to her first child last year, her announcement came as another possible successor to Sturgeon, Constitution Secretary Angus Robertson, ruled himself out of the race.

Robertson said having two very young children meant it was "not right for me and my family to take on such a huge commitment".

Following the shock announcement from Sturgeon last week that she is stepping down after eight years as first minister, Forbes said both Scotland and the Scottish National Party (SNP) were "at a major crossroads".

In a video on Twitter, the finance secretary said: "The choices that we make in the next few weeks will have a profound impact on our future and on our children's future." Saying someone is needed who can "unite" the SNP - which has been split recently by the controversy over reforms to the gender recognition process - she pledged to "reach out and listen".

Forbes added: "More than anything we need a leader who is bold, brave and energised, fresh-faced and ready for new challenges."

German-language film *All Quiet On The Western Front* storms the Baftas

DPA
LONDON

GERMAN language film *All Quiet On The Western Front* was the big winner at Britain's Bafta film awards on Sunday, scooping a total of seven prizes.

The Netflix anti-war epic, directed by German filmmaker Edward Berger and based on the 1929 novel of the same name by Erich Maria Remarque, scooped top gongs including best film and best director.

It broke the record for the highest number of Baftas for a foreign language film previously held by Italian coming-of-age drama *Cinema Paradiso*, which claimed five in 1988.

Taking to the stage at the climax of the event at London's Royal Festival Hall, cinema-

tographer James Friend said the film showed how a generation of young German men were "poisoned by right-wing nationalistic propaganda" and he stressed that the film's message remains "relevant" nearly a century on.

Berger paid tribute to those fighting in Ukraine and also told the audience he was able to get over his "doubt" thanks to his daughter Matilda who had encouraged him to film the book she was reading at school.

It was a disappointing night for *The Banshees Of Inisherin* which had 10 nominations but emerged with only four wins.

However, these included best supporting actor and supporting actress for the film's Irish stars Barry Keoghan and

Kerry Condon respectively.

Baz Luhrmann's biopic *Elvis* also secured four wins, with its star Austin Butler beating favourite Colin Farrell to the best actor gong in a shock decision from the voting academy.

Farrell, who took the starring role in dark comedy *Banshees*, had been in contention for his first leading actor Bafta in his 25-year career.

Accepting the prize on stage, Butler thanked the Presley family for their involvement in the film, saying: "I cannot thank you enough for your love. This means the world to me." Everything Everywhere All At Once had an even more disappointing night, securing only one Bafta - for best editing - out of 10 nominations.

Russian prank callers release excerpts of call with Germany's Merkel

DPA
BERLIN

A renowned pair of Russian pranksters claim that they duped former German chancellor Angela Merkel into chatting about the war in Ukraine, as they released excerpts of the call on Monday.

Merkel's office in Berlin confirmed that the former chancellor, who left office at the end of 2021, had indeed been contacted.

"I can confirm a phone call with a caller who posed as former (Ukrainian) president Petro Poroshenko," a Merkel spokesperson told dpa.

The prank callers, who go by the name of Vovan and Lexus,

are known for duping world leaders and celebrities by posing as other officials in phone calls. They are considered close to the government of President Vladimir Putin.

Merkel's office said in a statement that the phone call took place on January 12 and was supported by translation from the German Foreign Ministry. The statement said that Merkel then informed the Foreign Ministry of her impressions from the call.

Merkel frequently dealt with Poroshenko during her tenure in office.

Poroshenko, 57, led Ukraine from 2014 to 2019 before being succeeded by current Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

At least 36 dead as heavy rains hit Brazil's Sao Paulo coast

AGENCIES

HUNDREDS of rescuers searched Monday for survivors of landslides and flooding that killed at least 36 people along the coast of Brazil's southern state of Sao Paulo following a huge weekend downpour.

Worst hit was the city of Sao Sebastiao, where at least 35 were dead. In neighboring Ubatuba a 7-year-old girl was killed. The disaster, in an area famous for beaches flanked by mountains, prompted cancellations in many cities of the Carnival festivities now in full swing elsewhere in the country.

Gov. Tarcisio de Freitas told television network Globo that another 40 people were missing. Nearly 800 people were homeless and 1,730 people have been displaced, his state government said in a



People remove mud from a flooded house after torrential rain caused flooding and landslides at the Juquehy district in Sao Sebastiao, Sao Paulo state, Brazil, on Monday. (AFP)

statement.

Television footage showed flooded homes with only their roofs visible. Residents used small boats to carry items and people to elevated positions.

A woman who gave only

her first name, Mailsa, said she and her husband, daughter and grandson only barely escaped when a landslide destroyed her house in the Juquehy municipality of Sao Sebastiao. The house was partially submerged,

parts of it fell away and the rest was left precariously perched on the edge of a hill.

"It was very quick. Either you run or you die," she said. "It's not possible to take anything, only your life, which is the most important thing." Members of the armed forces joined the search and rescue efforts, aggravated by poor access to many areas after landslides blocked the snaking roads in the region's highlands and floods washed away chunks of pavement in low-lying and oceanfront areas.

"Our rescue teams are not managing to get to several locations. It is a chaotic situation," Sao Sebastiao Mayor Felipe Augusto said on social media late Sunday night.

Augusto said about 50 houses collapsed in the city due to the landslides, and he posted

several videos of destruction and search efforts, including one of a baby being rescued by locals lined up on a flooded street.


The highway connecting Rio de Janeiro state with Sao Paulo's port city of Santos was blocked by landslides and floodwaters.

Precipitation in Sao Sebastiao had surpassed 600 millimeters (23.6 inches) during a 24-hour period over the weekend, among the largest such downpours ever in such a short period in Brazil.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva visited the region on Monday. He observed the damage in Sao Sebastiao from a helicopter and met with Gov. de Freitas at Sao Sebastiao's theatre, where search operations were being coordinated.



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Vodafone Qatar AGM approves distribution of cash dividend worth QRO.10 per share [PAGE 10](#)



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 BRENT	PRICE 83.76	PERCENTAGE +0.92%	 WTI	PRICE 76.84	PERCENTAGE +0.65%	 SILVER	22.01 +0.66%



The Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition has become one of the most prestigious events hosted by Qatar, and a major event on QNB's agenda, with its official sponsorship, proudly provided yearly.

QNB takes part in DJWE 2023 in support of local tourism

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QNB, one of the largest financial institutions in the Middle East and Africa, participated in the opening of the 19th Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition organised by the Qatar Tourism Authority and taking place at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, with a special attendance and participation of over 500 luxury local and international brands.

As the Official Sponsor of the exhibition, QNB is committed to supporting Qatar's tourism sector, and the economic diversity that is a core goal of Qatar's National vision 2030. It also supports the valuable participation of several national jewelry designers and luxury brands and talents.

The Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition has become one of the most prestigious events hosted by Qatar, and a major event on the bank's agenda, with its official sponsorship, proudly provided yearly.

As a special promotion, QNB customers using World Elite and World Elite Exclusive credit cards on their purchases will receive double Life Rewards points for the duration of the exhibition that concludes on 25 February.

QNB Group is currently ranked as the most valuable bank brand in the Middle East and Africa. Through its subsidiaries and associate companies, the Group extends to more than 28 countries across three continents providing a comprehensive range of advanced products and services. The total number of employees is 28,000 operating through 1,000 locations, with an ATM network of more than 4,800 machines.

Over the coming six days, visitors to the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition will be treated to an extensive display of luxury collections from over 500 brands, with local and international designers brought together under one roof.

QatarEnergy to take over all marketing activities managed by Qatargas

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATARENERGY has announced that it will be taking over all the marketing and related activities currently managed by Qatargas Operating Company Limited (Qatargas).

The integration of the activities into QatarEnergy is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

The strengthened alignment of LNG marketing activities within QatarEnergy will leverage a combined set of technical, commercial, and financial capabilities of both organisations to create an enhanced center of excellence for the marketing and sale of all energy products exported from Qatar.

Commenting on this occasion, Minister of State for Energy Affairs, QatarEnergy President and CEO HE Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi said, "The integration of the LNG marketing activities into QatarEnergy is a strategic decision taken as part of its growth journey and reaffirms our commitment to delivering excellence in everything we do. It is also aimed at further strengthening Qatar's global LNG offering to our customers and enabling us to provide a unified customer and stakeholder interface with greater value."

"This move takes QatarEnergy one step closer to achieving our vision of becoming one of the best energy companies in the world, and we are grateful for the support that our trusted international partners have placed in us for delivering on this critical strategic initiative. It goes without saying that we will ensure business continuity and a seamless transition, during which Qatargas will continue to deliver on all its commitments with no interruption," the minister said.

QatarEnergy currently manages the marketing and sale of all products produced for export by its group of companies/ affiliates, with the exception of LNG and Helium. Once the aforementioned integration is concluded, QatarEnergy will be the single point of responsibility for all existing and prospective customers interested in the purchase of energy products from the State of Qatar and will be able to provide diversified



LNG marketing

● The strengthened alignment of LNG marketing activities within QatarEnergy will leverage a combined set of technical, commercial, and financial capabilities of both organisations to create an enhanced center of excellence for the marketing and sale of all energy products exported from Qatar.

products and services offering with a superior integrated portfolio.

QatarEnergy is an integrated energy company committed to the sustainable development of cleaner energy resources as part of the energy transition in Qatar and beyond.

It is the world leader in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) – a cleaner, more flexible, and reliable source of energy, and an integral partner in the global energy transition. QatarEnergy's activities cover the entire spectrum of the oil and gas value chain and include the exploration, production, processing, refining, marketing, trading, and sales of energy products and commodities.

As "Your Energy Transition Partner", QatarEnergy is committed to building a better and brighter future by helping meet today's energy needs, while safeguarding our environment and natural resources for generations to come, bound by the highest standards of sustainable human, socio-economic, and environmental development.

Baladna partners with global cheese producer Bel Group to expand dairy offerings in Qatar



Baladna Chief Executive Officer Malcolm Jordan and BEL for Near & Middle East Chief Executive Officer Garo Matossian sign the partnership agreement.



TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR'S leading food and dairy producer Baladna has announced a landmark manufacturing agreement with global cheese and snack giant The Bel Group. This collaboration brings new opportunities for both the companies, starting with the production of The Laughing Cow® jars cheese in 2023 and Baladna producing more of Bel Group's products in the near future.

Producing popular products by international brands such as Bel not only will reduce

imports and make the food in supermarkets less vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, but it will also provide a more responsible, environmentally conscious option for Qatari consumers.

Baladna Chief Executive Officer Malcolm Jordan said, "We are pleased to enter into this agreement with Bel Group, who are world leaders in cheese products. This collaboration will allow us to expand the dairy offerings in Qatar and provide customers with even more high-quality products. As a leading dairy brand in Qatar, Baladna is committed

to supporting food sustainability efforts in the country. We are excited to benefit from Bel Group's unparalleled know-how as we look to expand our range of dairy products and make international brands more accessible in the Qatari market. We believe this partnership will have a positive impact on the dairy industry in Qatar and improve consumer choices."

Perhaps best known in this region for the popular Jibnet Abu Walad® cheese, the Bel Group has a long history and reputation in the cheese industry, with roots dating back

to 1865. Its core international brands include The Laughing Cow®, Kiri®, Babybel®, Bour-sin®, Nurishh®, Pom'Potes® and GoGo squeeZ®, with products distributed in nearly 120 countries.

BEL for Near & Middle East Chief Executive Officer Garo Matossian said, "The Bel Group is deeply committed to making our products accessible to new consumers and building sustainable partnerships with local producers around the world. This strategic partnership with Baladna in Qatar is an exciting step forward in our presence in the Middle Eastern Gulf, in

line with our mission to deliver healthier and responsible food for all. We are proud to partner with Baladna – they are Qatar's homegrown company. By combining their expertise with our delicious cream cheese, and our knowledge of cheese products, this partnership will enable us to offer consumers, delicious, nutritious, and accessible cheese products, and become a leader in the region's fast-growing dairy market."

The manufacturing agreement between Baladna and Bel Group is set to officially begin on Thursday, February 16, 2023.

The partnership with Bel Group is part of Baladna's ongoing commitment to expanding its successful production model and ensuring dairy self-sufficiency in Qatar. As a 100 percent Qatari company, Baladna is dedicated to providing high-quality, locally-sourced products to the Qatar market and promoting sustainable food production with minimal impact on the environment.

The company already exports its dairy and juice products across the region, including to Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Oman.

Vodafone Qatar AGM approves distribution of cash dividend worth QR0.10 per share

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

VODAFONE Qatar held its Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly Meetings on Monday chaired by Vodafone Qatar Chairman Abdulla bin Nasser Al Misnad.

The outcome of the Ordinary General Assembly Meeting was the approval of all resolutions on the agenda including the Board of Directors' proposal to distribute a cash dividend of 10 percent of the nominal share value, which is QR0.10 per share.

The meeting also covered the board of directors' report detailing the company's activities and its financial position for 2022. The shareholders reviewed and endorsed the external auditor's report on the company's accounts for 2022 and the external auditor's reports on the company's corporate governance and internal controls over financial reporting.

It was also approved unanimously that KPMG was re-appointed as the company's auditors for the financial year 2023, in addition to approving their fees.

The shareholders approved the consolidated financial statements of the company for 2022 and the corporate governance report of the company for 2022. Moreover, there was a unanimous agreement to discharge the



Vodafone Qatar held its Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly Meetings on Monday chaired by Vodafone Qatar Chairman Abdulla bin Nasser Al Misnad.

members of the board from all liabilities and approve their remuneration.

Addressing the shareholders, Abdulla bin Nasser Al Misnad said, "From the outset, 2022 promised to

be an eventful year for both Vodafone Qatar and the country as a whole.

Vodafone Qatar continued to support key events in Qatar and deepen important partnerships within the lo-

cal business and community spheres, all whilst further embedding its new brand positioning – Together We Can – into its operations and communications with stakeholders at all levels

through adapting to advanced technologies and empowering the human capability to use innovative solutions."

Misnad said, "In 2022, the Company reported an annual Net profit of QR502 million, a 53.4 percent increase compared to the previous year. Total revenue for the year increased 21.4 percent year-on-year to reach QR 3.1 billion due to continued growth across all business segments including Prepaid, Postpaid, Fixed broadband services (GigaHome), managed services, Internet of Things (IoT), and others. EBITDA increased to QR 1.2 billion reflecting the strong growth of 19.7 percent compared to last year."

The outcome of the extraordinary general assembly meeting, subject to obtaining all relevant regulatory approvals, was the approval of the proposed changes to Article 3 of the company's Articles of Association.

Finally, the shareholders authorised the chairman of the board and/or the vice chairman to sign the amended Articles of Association and to complete the required formalities in this regard, provided that the chairman of the board and/or the vice chairman shall be entitled to delegate this right to any member of the Board and/or the CEO of the Company and to allow authorised persons to assign this task to the company's employees as they deem appropriate.

QLM reports GWP of QR1.05 bn for 2022

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QLM Life and Medical Insurance Company (QLM), a leading medical and life insurance company in Qatar, declared its financial results for 2022. The company reported a gross written premium (GWP) of QR1.05 billion as against QR1.03 billion for the same period in the previous year. The net profit of the company for 2022 stood at QR83.3 million against QR106.2 million in the previous year.

Commenting on the company's performance results, QLM Chairman Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani said, "As the global economy completely emerged out of the shadows of the Covid-19 pandemic, the year 2022 was marked with its own unique challenges. The first half of the period witnessed an increase in claims activity coupled with softening of premium rates which pressured the bottom line. However, we continue to innovate and carry a strong positive momentum as we step into the Year 2023 and work to improve the health and vitality of all the members we serve."

Net investment and other income for the year stood at QR38.5 million as against QR37.8 million in 2021. Earnings per share were QR0.24 per share as compared with QR0.30 per share in the previous year. The board of directors of the company has recommended a dividend of QR0.125 per share against QR0.22 per share in 2021 which shall be placed for approval in the forthcoming annual general meeting of the shareholders.



QLM Chairman Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani

QLM Chief Executive Officer Fahad Al Suwaidi said, "We have made significant progress in the digital transformation of the customer journey and with full operations capacity the company has implemented the MOPH's recent initiative of launching the first phase in the mandatory health insurance scheme.

"This new requirement applies to all visitors arriving in Qatar effective 1st February 2023, an opportunity which QLM has been long preparing and is all geared up to capitalize. The Company has partnered with Hamad International Airport and put in place 3 dedicated kiosks which are strategically located



QLM Chief Executive Officer Fahad Al Suwaidi

before immigration and are easily accessible to all visitors. The continued focus on the retail segment has now started showing constructive outcomes and with the help of digital transformation, it ensures a seamless customer experience and improved operational efficiency."

QLM Life & Medical Insurance Company is a publicly listed company specializing in life and medical insurance solutions and is regulated by Qatar Central Bank. It provides best-in-class service to its clients, with a unique value proposition. The company's vision is to continuously provide outstanding medical and life coverage, by becoming a trusted healthcare partner.

GIS successfully accomplishes Amwaj's merger with Shaqab, Atyab

QNA
DOHA

GULF International Service (GIS), one of the region's largest oil and gas service providers, announced Monday that the company's board of directors during its meeting on February 13, 2023, has approved to call for the extra-ordinary General Assembly Meeting (EGM) scheduled for March 13, 2023, to obtain the shareholders' approval of the Merger of Amwaj Catering Services Limited (Amwaj) with Shaqab Abela Catering Services (Shaqab) and Atyab Fruits and Vegetables (Atyab). The merger will create largest local Qatari Champion in catering segment with sustainable value creation.

The proposed merger of Amwaj, a wholly owned subsidiary of GIS, with selected entities of Shaqab and Atyab, is intended to be effective from January 1, 2023.

The merger is an all-share combination of Amwaj with in-kind contributions from two new incumbent

strategic merging shareholders who are currently 100 percent joint owners of Shaqab and Atyab namely Tamween and Abela Qatar International.

New strategic shareholders of Amwaj along with GIS have jointly agreed to make the merger's effective date as January 1, 2023, and will enter into a definitive shareholders agreement alongside appropriate regulatory approvals.

The merger will create a catering national champion, and the combined entity will become the go-to player for all large-scale catering needs in Qatar and, potentially, in the wider region.

The merger will combine Amwaj's solid brand and strong client base with the incumbent shareholders' best-in-class management capabilities and proven track record.

Post-merger, Amwaj will have an effective shareholding of 30 percent held by GIS, 35.7 percent by Tamween, and 34.3 percent by AQI.

More than 400 US firms operating in Qatar: Ahmadani

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR Chamber Board Member Ibtihaj Al Ahmadani said that Qatar and the US have enjoyed deep relations and close partnerships in all fields, especially in the economic and commercial areas, pointing out that the US is one of Qatar's most valued and largest global partners, as their bilateral trade volume amounted to \$5 billion in 2021, while it was estimated at \$ 4.5 billion in the first nine months of the year 2022.

This came during the Private Sector Event, which was held on the sidelines of the "US-Qatar Strategic Dialogue 2023" that kicked off at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

The event was attended by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Sultan bin Rashid Al Khater and Dilawar Syed, State Department Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs.

As for mutual investments, Al Ahmadani noted that there



Qatar Chamber Board Member Ibtihaj Al Ahmadani speaks at the 'US-Qatar Strategic Dialogue 2023' held in Doha.

are more than 400 US companies operating in the Qatari market in various sectors, and registered in the Qatar Chamber, including 40 companies with 100 percent American capital, and

the rest of the companies with a Qatari-American partnership, noting that there are many successful Qatari investments in the US across different sectors, especially in the real estate, hospital-



Dignitaries attend the 'US-Qatar Strategic Dialogue 2023' held in Doha.

ity, and infrastructure sectors.

Underscoring the attractive investment climate in Qatar, she indicated that its political stability, state-of-the-art infrastructure, stable currency, and low corporate tax rates have

stimulated foreign investment flows from all over the world countries.

Al Ahmadai invited US companies to expand their investments in Qatar and take advantage of the incentives offered by

the state for foreign investors, calling on businessmen from both countries to enhance their cooperation by establishing commercial partnerships and alliances, whether in Qatar or the US for the benefit of both economies.

QT Economy & Business

Qatar Free Zones Authority chairman meets with US official



Minister of State and Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ) Chairman HE Ahmad Al Sayed received Dilawar Syed, the special representative for commercial and business affairs in the United States of America. During the meeting, prospects of cooperation were discussed to deepen the commercial partnership between the State of Qatar and the US. The meeting was attended by a number of senior officials from both sides, followed by a tour at the Business Innovation Park in Ras Bufontas Free Zone, to present the investment opportunities offered by the free zones.

Opec+ can adjust output policy if market conditions change, says Saudi energy minister

AGENCIES
LONDON

THE Opec+ group of 23 oil-producing countries remains flexible and can alter its output policy if market conditions change, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister has said.

"We are flexible enough to adjust Opec+ decisions if needed," Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said at a conference in the kingdom on Monday, according to a Bloomberg report.

His remarks come after the group agreed to stick to its existing oil output cuts of 2 million barrels per day at a meeting earlier this month.

The next meeting of the joint ministerial monitoring committee is scheduled for April 3.

Last week, Opec raised its 2023 oil demand forecast by 100,000 bpd amid expectations of an economic rebound in China, the world's largest crude importer.

"Key to oil demand growth in 2023 will be the return of China from its mandated mobility restrictions and the effect this will have on the country," the group said in its monthly oil market report.

However, economic factors such as high inflation, monetary tightening policies, sovereign debt levels and political tension have the potential to dampen the outlook for oil de-



Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud.

mand, Opec said.

Brent, the benchmark for two thirds of the world's oil, surged to \$140 a barrel after Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year.

The international benchmark has since given up most of those gains and is currently trading at about \$84 a barrel.

Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer after Saudi Arabia, said it would cut production by 500,000 bpd, or about 5 per cent of output, in

March after the West imposed price caps on its crude and refined products.

On February 5, the G7 and the EU agreed to set the price cap at \$100 a barrel for products that trade at a premium to crude, such as diesel, and \$45 a barrel for products that trade at a discount, such as naphtha and fuel oil.

The price cap was introduced along with an EU ban on Russian diesel and other refined products.

The International Energy Agency has predicted that the global supply of crude oil will surpass demand in the first half of this year.

However, the agency also noted that the balance could swiftly transition to a deficit as demand rebounds and Russian output declines.

The Paris-based agency expects global oil demand to rise by 2 million bpd this year, with 900,000 bpd coming from China alone.

Indian firms eye 'game-changing' potential of trade pact with GCC

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

INDIAN businesses are eyeing the potential of a free trade pact with Gulf countries, the Confederation of Indian Industry said on Sunday, as New Delhi recorded a significant rise in exports a year after such an agreement with the UAE.

India and the Gulf Cooperation Council agreed to resume talks on a free trade pact last November, the third such attempt following negotiations previously held in 2006 and 2008.

In 2021-22, their bilateral trade grew from \$87 billion to \$154 billion.

Indian businesses are excited about the potential of a free trade deal with the six-member union, said CII Senior Director Manish Mohan.

"The Free Trade Agreement with the GCC would be a game-changer in the region," Mohan told Arab News on Sunday.

"Businesses are excited. They are realizing that there is a huge potential in the Gulf and the Middle East and North Africa region across sectors like health, trade and investment," he added. "The GCC is also emerging as an important partner for India."

India and the UAE are recording a trade increase of nearly 30 percent across different sectors after they signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement last February. The landmark deal

reduced tariffs on around 80 percent of all goods and provided zero-duty access to 90 percent of Indian exports.

"There is remarkable growth," Mohan said. "The CEPA agreement is a starting point, and we are looking at a huge upward trend between India and the UAE."

Mohan said India's trade pact with the UAE is a "win-win situation," as the CII expects trade to reach \$100 billion in five years.

The UAE is India's third largest trading partner after the US and China, with a bilateral trade volume of \$43.3 billion in 2020-21, which the CII said rose to \$57 billion following the agreement.

"We are seeing an enhanced market access that is being offered under the India-UAE CEPA," he said.

"The UAE is a gateway to not only African countries but also central Asian countries. This will have positive spins with other countries as well as other regions through UAE. Everybody would benefit from the CEPA."

The Indian Embassy in the UAE said the agreement was "unleashed new opportunities" in trade.

"Exporters from both sides have benefited immensely since the CEPA entered into force," Sunjay Sudhir, India's ambassador to the UAE, told Arab News. "The CEPA has opened a new frontier for bilateral trade."

Slowing infra investment may dent Russia's oil sector

AGENCIES
LONDON

"It was forced on them. They don't have the ability to keep up the production volumes because they don't have access to necessary technology." So said the EU's energy commissioner Kadri Simson in response to Russia's announcement that it would cut oil production in March by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd). But is this the real reason?

National oil industries can collapse for various non-technical reasons: war, sanctions, political breakdown. History offers at least four solid examples that might compare to Russia's current situation, excluding physical destruction such as that in Kuwait in 1990-91.

Iran's production reached its all-time high of slightly more than 6 million bpd in 1974. The revolution of 1978-79, strikes by oil workers and the invasion by Saddam Hussein's Iraq in 1980 brought it crashing down to 1.3 million bpd in 1981.

Post-war recovery was hampered by American sanctions and unattractive condi-

tions for foreign investment, then by US presidents Obama and Trump's moves to cut off most of the country's oil exports. Nevertheless, despite ageing fields and infrastructure, and waves of civil unrest, production still hovers around 3.6 million bpd.

Iraq was also badly affected by wars. Production in the post-nationalisation glory years of the 1970s peaked at almost 3.7 million bpd in 1979. During the Iran-Iraq War, exports via the Gulf were cut by Iranian military action and Iran's ally Syria closed the pipeline through its territory. Output dwindled, partly recovered when a pipeline via Turkey was opened, then crashed to fewer than 300,000 bpd because of UN sanctions following the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The oil-for-food programme in the 1990s allowed for some recovery but the industry was starved of funds and equipment, then battered by looting and political chaos following the 2003 US-led invasion. Only after 2009 and the advent of major foreign investment could



The Soviet oil industry of the late 1980s, when Russian output peaked at 11.4 million bpd, was already struggling with inefficiency, outdated technology and depleted fields.

the situation improve, as Iraq passed its previous high in 2015 and reached a record of nearly 4.8 million bpd in 2019 before Covid struck. Today's Iraqi oil industry is almost entirely a post-2009 creation.

Venezuela is the most extraordinary case: without war or, until 2019, strict sanctions, it sabotaged itself. In the late

1990s, it challenged Saudi Arabia and its Opec colleagues with plans for rapid production growth, contributing to a price collapse. President Hugo Chavez, elected in December 1998, reinstated full co-operation with Opec. He fired 17,000 oil workers after a general strike of 2002-03 aimed at unseating him, ruining Petroleos

de Venezuela, once an admired national company.

Expropriation of foreign projects, lack of investment, emigration, corruption, theft and sabotage decimated Venezuela's petroleum industry under Mr Chavez and his hand-picked successor Nicolas Maduro. US sanctions in early 2019, following another disput-

ed presidential election, were the final straw. Record production in 1998 of more than 3.4 million bpd slumped to just 640,000 bpd in 2020.

Despite sanctions waivers to allow US companies to resume some operations, and greater openness to foreign involvement after an apparent change of heart in the Maduro administration, it seems unlikely that Venezuela's rusting industry, based on heavy, high-carbon oil, will ever truly recover. Russia itself is the final example. As Thane Gustafson's prescient book *Crisis Amid Plenty* recounts, the Soviet oil industry of the late 1980s, when Russian output peaked at 11.4 million bpd, was already struggling with inefficiency, outdated technology and depleted fields.

During the post-Soviet time of troubles in the 1990s, the integrated business was broken up and most passed into the hands of "oligarchs", who fought messy corporate battles to grab more. Prices were low, investment and tax payments minimal.



VINAY NAYUDU
DOHA



Former champion and Qatar ExxonMobil Open 2023 top seed Andrey Rublev at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex on Monday.

FOR someone who debuted into tennis at the age of 13, Andrey Rublev has come a long distance in twelve years having won numerous junior titles, made quarter-finals of Australian, French and US Open and won mixed doubles gold at the Olympics. He has also won ATP singles and doubles titles here in Doha. Son of a former pro boxer, Rublev with his ruffled hair is quite a force on the tennis court. Back in Qatar, he is now eager to get going. He spoke to the media on Monday on his impressions about Doha, the season and other things.

Excerpts

Welcome back!
I feel that I have great memories here. I won a title, I won doubles, I won in the final, semi-final. I'm happy to be back. I'm just enjoying myself for the moment in amazing hotel, in amazing facilities, the tennis club. We will see how everything is gonna be.

You have made three finals here. What do you think is so special about this court that makes you play so well?

I don't know. I lost here also once very early (smiling). I don't know. And the last time that I played here, I was in semifinal, but I did not play a match. I was first-round bye, then was walkover, walkover, and I was in the semis. So the last time that I played here I lost basically my first match. It was semis, but it was my first match (smiling).

So we'll see. I mean, the conditions are good here. When I used to play here it was the first week of the year. So there was no wind. The weather was super perfect. Now, this time it's a lot of wind, so it's really tough to play, the level become more equal, because you cannot shoot the same way, you cannot serve the same way, you cannot play the same way like normally you're playing because of the wind.

You need to somehow just make the ball in, and that's why conditions become same for everyone. That's why, from one point of view, it's even tougher.

Especially for the players who normally on paper are stronger, it's even tougher. I have tough first match that I will play. I'm waiting for the guys to play tomorrow, and it's gonna be tough match. So we'll see. Hopefully I can show great tennis.

How do you rate your start of the season?
For the moment on ATP tournaments, I didn't do well. In the beginning of the season I lost first two rounds, but I had tough draws. I lost to two good players three-sets matches that were so close, and then I

did really well in Australia. Last week I did first round. For the moment, looks like on ATP Tour not that good, but in the Slam for a moment I did well.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about this line of clothes you started with? How did it come through?

Basically something that I was thinking for a while. Then I have a really good connection with Nike. We are really close together, and I just asked if I can take one year of break for me to try to do something. For the moment, they allowed me without losing, how you say, our relationship to work, let's say, in the future or something.

That's it. So now hopefully for Roland Garros is gonna be a first big and really good project, and we'll see after this what's gonna happen.

In this week or in this month, there are many ATP tournaments around the world. How do you make your decision?

First of all, I talk with my team. Normally we decide from there. Like let's say to go to South America to play on clay when you need to go back Indian Wells to play on the hard, I don't know, it's a bit tougher. Like to spend there one month, even you lose first round, you are not going to come back. You will stay there, waiting for the next tournament and next tournament.

Then it's, I don't know, it's more for the players who like only to play on clay, and they try to avoid tournaments indoor or stuff like that.

That's why, in my case, I stay in Europe, because if I lose, in case first round or something, I can go and practice, and then the closest tournaments is Doha, Dubai, because anyway, you have Dubai or Acapulco, that one of those you have to play. Doha from Dubai is very close. So in the end it's more like this. What is like comfortable, then that's how we decide.

What were the things you like about the last season. Your game, and the things you maybe dislike?

I think in my case it's not about the game. First of all, the game you cannot control. You cannot control if you're gonna play this tournament on the highest level or you will feel not really good and you will not perform well. So in my case, it's not about tennis. In my case it's more about probably some emotional part and the things I'm doing outside the court. Because last year, there was many things that I did really good outside the court that helped me a lot, but still, I was doing a lot of bad things outside the court that was bringing me down or stuff like that.

IT WAS a clash between the established and GenX. But as he does often, the three-time Grand Slam and two-time Qatar champion Andy Murray showed his resilient self to survive three match points only to walk away with a victory later over Lorenzo Sonego in the opening round of Qatar Exxon-Mobil Open 2023 at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex on Monday night.

Scotsman Murray won 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (4) after a battle of two hours and 30 minutes wherein his opponent also fired eight aces against his one.

Murray saved the match points from 4-5, 15/40 on his own serve in the deciding set and later trailed 0/3 in the deciding tie-break. The 35-year-old raised his level in style from there, however, winning seven of the last eight points to clinch a two-hour, 30-minute win.

"It was really tough," said Murray post-match. "We never played together, or practised with each other before, so I didn't know exactly how the match was going to go and it took a while to get used to his game."

"He's a very aggressive player, takes a lot of chances, but it's high-risk tennis. He rolled the dice at the end, and it looked like he had the momentum. But thankfully in the mid-part of that tie-break he made a couple of mistakes and I managed to turn it around."

A slow start from Murray cost him dearly in the first set after Sonego broke the Briton to love in the first game. There were no further break points for either man as the Italian moved ahead, but Murray struck back in style in the second set, racing to a 5-0 lead that proved unsailable by staying aggressive and striking cleanly off both wings from the baseline.

The tension-filled third set appeared to be on the racquet of Sonogo, who frequently painted the lines with some huge groundstrokes and at one stage won 13 points in a row on serve. Yet Murray was not to be denied, as his late charge earned the victory despite the former World No. 1 having hit just 20 winners to Sonogo's 34.

Monday's win means Murray, who is a four-time finalist in Doha and lifted the trophy in 2008 and 2009, is now 7-0 in opening-round matches.

The 35-year-old Briton will play fourth seed Alexander Zverev in the second round as he bids to reach his first ATP Tour quarter-final of the season.

In the day's final clash, Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich

Andy Murray of Great Britain in action against Italian Lorenzo Sonego during their opening round match of Qatar ExxonMobil Open 2023 men singles at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex in Doha on Monday. Murray won 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (4).



Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina celebrates a point during his first round match against Constant Lietienne of France at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex in Doha on Monday. Davidovich Fokina won 6-4, 6-3.

CENTRE COURT start 2:30 pm
I. Ivashka vs [8] B. van de Zandschulp (NED)
E. Ruusuvaari (FIN) vs [6] D. Evans (GBR)
Not Before 6:00 pm
[WC] A. Shelbayh (JOR) vs S. Kwon (KOR)
[5] R. Bautista Agut (ESP) vs M. Fucsovics (HUN)
GRANDSTAND 1 start 2:30 pm
T. Griekspoor (NED) vs Q. Halys (FRA)
[LL] N. Basilashvili (GEO) vs [Q] A. Muller (FRA)
[Q] D. Dziumhur (BIH) vs J. Lehecka (CZE)
[R] R. Haase (NED) / M. Middelkoop (NED) vs

Fokina defeated Frenchman Constant Lestienne in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 in 84 minutes.

Earlier, Murray's countryman Liam Broady also enjoyed deciding-set tie-break success.

The World No. 147 converted six of 17 break points to see off fellow qualifier Oleksii Krut'kh 6-0, 4-6, 7-6(2) and set

[WC] M. Jaziri (TUN) / M. Zayid (QAT)
GRANDSTAND 2 start 2:30 pm
 Y. Bhambri (IND) / S. Myneni (IND) vs T. Puetz
 (GER) / J. Struff (GER)
Not Before 3:30 pm
 [WC] L. Broady (GBR) / A. Zverev (GER) vs [3] R.
 Bopanna (IND) / M. Ebden (AUS)
After Suitable Rest - J. Kubler (AUS) / J. Peers
 (AUS) vs T. Griekspoor (NED) / B. Stevens (NED)
 C. Lestienne (FRA) / B. van de Zandschulp (NED)
 vs R. Klaasen (RSA) / H. Reese (USA).

a second-round meeting with third seed Daniil Medvedev.

Australians Christopher O'Connell and Jason Kubler both advanced to the second round. O'Connell defeated world card Fernando Verdasco 6-3, 6-0, while Kubler led 7-6(1-0) when his opponent Aslan Karatsev retired from their first

round match. (*inputs ATP*)

Results

Men's Singles (1st Round)

[7] A. Davidovich Fokina (ESP) d C. Lesstienne (FRA) 6-4, 6-3

[WC] A. Murray (GBR) d L. Son-ego (ITA) 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (4)

C. O'Connell (AUS) d [WC] F. Verdasco (ESP) 6-1, 3-6, 6-0

[Q] L. Broady (GBR) d [Q] O. Krut'kyh (UKR) 6-0, 4-6, 7-6 (2)

J. Kubler (AUS) d A. Karatsev 7-6 (4), 10 Retired

Men's Doubles (1st Round)

[Alt] P Niklas-Salminen (FIN) / E. Ruusuvuori (FIN) d [1] N. Mektic (CRO) / M. Pavic (CRO) 6-2, 7-6 (5)

[2] H. Nys (MON) / J. Zieliński (POL) d R. Jebavy (CZE) / A. Pavlasek (CZE) 6-4, 7-6 (4)

D. Evans (GBR) / J. O'Mara (GBR) d I. Ivashka / A. Rublev 6-7 (5), 7-5, 10-7.

Djokovic starts 377th week as World No. 1, tying Graf record



men's tour - since the rankings were introduced in 1973 - is the now retired Roger Federer, who spent 310 weeks in top spot. But Djokovic has also matched Steffi Graf, the WTA leader, in making it to 377 weeks. Graf was the women's number one 45 weeks longer than second-placed Martina Navratilova (332), with Serena Williams in third (319). The WTA rankings began in 1975. **(STATS Perform/DPA)**

Novak Djokovic claimed a share of yet more history on Monday as he started his 377th week as world number one. Djokovic has won 22 major titles, the joint-most among men, and has long since held the record for the most weeks at the top of the ATP rankings. His

NEW YORK: In his first tournament since a four-month injury layoff Carlos Alcaraz went all the way and defeated Cameron Norrie 6-3, 7-5 in the Argentina Open final. Alcaraz, 19, became the youngest player to ever reach the world number one ranking in September, and with his victory in Buenos Aires he now has seven ATP Tour singles titles to his name. After knocking off some rust in a close three-set opening match against Laslo Djere, Alcaraz advanced to the final following straight sets victories over Dusan Lajovic and Spanish compatriot Bernabe Pavia. In the final, Alcaraz played an exceptionally tight first set, holding service points while not allowing his opponent to break. He broke twice in the opening set and secured the second, jumping ahead 3-0 as he threatened to lay down, recovering from 5-2 down to win the set. He would not allow it to reach a tie-breaker as he broke for serve. The 250 ranking points on offer were within striking distance of Novak Djokovic as he won the world number one. **(STATS Perform/DPA)**

Alcaraz defeats Norrie to triumph in return at the Argentina Open



Dusan Lajovic and Spanish compatriot Bernabe Zapata Miralles. Against Norrie, Alcaraz played an exceptionally tight first set, winning 73% (16-of-22) of his service points while not allowing his opponent a single break point opportunity. He broke twice in the opening set and secured another quick break to begin the second, jumping ahead 3-0 as he threatened to run away with the match. Norrie did not lay down, recovering from 5-2 down to tie things up at 5-5, but Alcaraz would not allow it to reach a tie-breaker as he finished the match with another break of serve. The 250 ranking points on offer to the winner pulls Alcaraz to within striking distance of Novak Djokovic as he looks to reclaim his spot as world number one. **(STATS Perform/DPA)**



Edmilson Junior of Al Duhail (centre) celebrates with teammates after they won the AFC Champions League Round of 16 match against Al Rayyan at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha on Sunday. (AFP)

AFC CL Final within Al Duhail's reach: Edmilson

AFC
DOHA

EDMILSON Junior believes Al Duhail SC have what it takes to make the AFC Champions League 2022 final after their gritty win over Al Rayyan SC in the Round of 16 on Sunday.

Al Duhail were tested to the limit by a hardy Al Rayyan who refused to give up despite staring at defeat, with Hernan Crespo's side finally advancing with a 7-6 penalty shootout win after the tie ended 1-1 at the Al Thumama Stadium.

The win was particularly satisfying for Edmilson Junior, with the player having missed a major portion of the season through injury.

"I am delighted with what we have shown during this game. It is a very special and important win for us. I was injured for a very long time and I am glad to have played a role in my team's win," said the left winger.

It was his cross which led to Al Duhail opening the scoring

through Mohammed Muntari in the 107th minute, with the Brazilian then converting their first spot-kick in the shootout.

Al Duhail's resilience, said Edmilson, has convinced him that they can go all the way to the final.

"I have played in Doha for five seasons now and have appeared in many Champions League matches. There have been changes to the squad and I strongly believe we can make the final," said the Player-of-the-Match.

Head coach Hernan Crespo shared his player's sentiment, saying his team's battling dominant performance has convinced him of their chances.

"This match shouldn't have gone as far as it did. We deserved to win as we controlled the match and had many chances, including goals which were disallowed.

"We have great players and if we continue performing like this, I strongly believe we can make the final," said Crespo.

Lewandowski restores 8-pt cushion for Barcelona

STATS PERFORM/DPA

ROBERT Lewandowski scored just his second LaLiga goal since October as Barcelona beat Cadiz 2-0 to restore their eight-point lead over Real Madrid.

The 34-year-old added to Sergi Roberto's opener as two goals late in the first half undid a Cadiz side who held their own for much of the Camp Nou clash and had two goals from Roger disallowed.

Another clean sheet, Barcelona's 17th shutout in La Liga this season, puts Xavi's side a step nearer the title, and this was a seventh consecutive league victory, the third time they have had such a run under the leadership of their former midfielder.

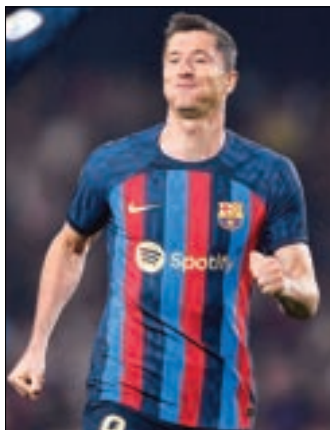
It sealed a double for the season, too, with Barcelona having won 4-0 in September against the team who are now fighting a relegation battle, sitting just two points outside the bottom three.

Cadiz thought they had made a 19th-minute breakthrough when a delicious pass over the top from Santiago Arzamendia, with the outside of his left boot, found Roger. The striker finished well but had strayed a foot offside, to Barcelona's relief.

Lacking service, Lewandowski barely had a sniff of goal until the 41st minute, when a cross from Ferran Torres on the right looked ideal for him to nod in at the far post. Under pressure, though, he could not make a clean connection.

The same duo combined as Barcelona struck two minutes later.

Lewandowski's stooping



Barcelona's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the Spanish League match against Cadiz CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Sunday. (AFP)

header from Torres' clipped cross was kicked off the line by Isaac Carcelen but only as far as Sergi Roberto, who slammed it back into the back of the net from eight yards.

Lewandowski drove in Barcelona's second goal in stoppage time, a clinical low strike from 16 yards taking his haul to 15 in the league this season.

The former Bayern Munich striker prodded a shot against the top of the bar early in the second half, before Cadiz's Roger had a second goal disallowed after finishing well from a corner, with team-mate Fali penalised for a nudge into Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

The visitors perhaps had reason to feel aggrieved, and Cadiz kept pushing, with Ter Stegen saving well from substitutes Fede San Emeterio and Chris Ramos late in the game, before Anthony Lozano headed against the left post. It wasn't to be their night.

Alaaeldin stars for Al Gharafa

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

OUMAR Sekou scored a brace as Al Ahli upstaged Al Sadd 2-1 in their Week 15 encounter of the QNB Stars League 2022-2023 season at the Hamad Bin Khalifa Stadium on Monday.

The Brigadiers hit back after trailing 0-1 for most part of the opening half showing the form they did at the start of the season.

While Akram Afif had put Al Sadd ahead in the 36th minute, Sekou scored the two goals for Al Ahli in the 44th and the 71st minutes of the match.

The win saw Al Ahli move to sixth place on the rankings table with 20 points from 14 matches. Al Sadd with 22 points from 13 matches are third in the rankings and ahead of Qatar SC on goal difference.

Sekou stole the show and even had one strike ruled out for off-side as Al Ahli kept their rivals at bay especially in the eight added minutes of the match.

Al Sadd came close to scoring many a time but they failed to find the target.

The Wolves also had a promising start when Baghdad Bounedjah's header in the 13th minute was well stopped by the rival goalkeeper Yazan Naim, who made another close save in the 24th minute.

The mercurial Akram Afif opened the scoring when he first initiated the move and then broke past the defence into the box to strike a telling goal.

Al Ahli managed to equalize just ahead of half time when a free kick of theirs hit the defence wall and came back into play. Aldoukali Al Baoure then lobbed the ball in for an unmarked Oumar to lunge from the right inside the box and score with a header.

Oumar's second goal was a fine field goal from his own move down the right. He sent in a cross but a defensive error by Al Sadd's Musaab Khidir saw the ball go back to a rushing Oumar to sent in a successful left strike this time.

Al Sadd who till then had already seen two hits go well and over the goal, tried hard to level the scores again but in vain.

There was a scramble in front of Al Ahli goal in the dy-



Al Ahli's Oumar Sekou Yansane (extreme right) looks on as Al Sadd's Santi Cazorla (centre) fights for the ball during their QNB Stars League Week 15 match at the Hamad Bin Khalifa Stadium on Monday.



Al Gharafa's Ahmed Alaaeldin (extreme left) celebrates with teammates one of his two goals against Al Shamal at the Al Gharafa Stadium on Monday.

ing minutes of the match as Al Sadd attacked. Once Hassan Al Haydos' kick was stopped at the right post by an alert defender while Santi Cazorla, who had a clear chance, shot feebly for the goalkeeper to collect. Bounedjah then tried to go for the kill but he too shot wide.

Alaaeldin stars in Al Gharafa's 3-2 win over Al Shamal
Al Gharafa beat Al Shamal 3-2 in an exciting encounter at the Al Gharafa Stadium on Monday.

Al Gharafa rallied to bounce back from deficit twice to overcome a strong Al Shamal, who led 2-1 at half time.

While Ali Olwan (10th min-

ute) and Rabeh Boussafi (44th minute) scored the goals for Al Shamal, Ahmed Alaaeldin (39th and 59th minute) and Ishak Beldofil (49th minute) did the scoring for winners Al Gharafa.

The brace from Alaaeldin – both goals scored through diving headers – stood out spectacularly.

The valuable three points took Al Gharafa's tally to 22 from 14 matches to stay 5th in the rankings.

Al Shamal still remain in the danger zone being 10th with 10 points from 12 games.

The start from Al Shamal was a good and they took the lead as Olwan made a fine

move down the middle and following a return of his pass from Boussafi he shot from outside the box and the ball deflected off a defender's foot on way into the goal.

Al Shamal then had a chance to double their lead in the 33rd minute but Moustafa Tarek's kick saw the ball go past the right post.

Six minutes later, Belfodil from the right provided a cross for an unmarked Alaaeldin to make a dive to head the dipping ball into the net.

Al Shamal hit back soon as just before half time while trying to defend a cross Al Gharafa's Islom Khujaev deflected the ball towards a lurking Boussafi, who moved up to left-foot it into the goal.

Al Gharafa soon restored parity again as Belfodil made the most of a Farid Boulaya's hard work of braking into the penalty area. With Boulaya passing the ball back to Belfodil, the Algerian striker did well to hold back a chasing defender to strike in time to make the scores 2-2.

The winning goal for Al Gharafa was created by a fast moving Homam Amin from the left and he sent in a lob into the centre of the 'D' and Alaaeldin dived to connect the ball mid-air for a perfect header.

The game continued to produce more absorbing moments and a few yellow cards were flashed. But all efforts of Al Shamal were well foiled by Al Gharafa.

Haaland 'the striker Man City needed' as teammate Ederson hits out at critics

STATS PERFORM/DPA
LONDON

ERLING Haaland is the striker Manchester City needed and suggestions the Norwegian only scores "easy" goals are "a lie," according to his team-mate Ederson.

Haaland has scored 32 goals in 31 appearances for City across all competitions since his move from Borussia Dortmund last year - more than any other player from Europe's top five leagues.

He has hit 26 of those goals in the Premier League, but with City struggling to pull clear of Arsenal and Manchester United in the title race, the 22-year-old has attracted criticism recently.

Arsenal great Thierry Henry suggested Tottenham's Harry Kane may have been a better fit for City, while former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher said Haaland "might have picked the wrong club." However, Ederson believes

Haaland is well-suited to City's style, though he acknowledges Pep Guardiola's men have had to adapt to his characteristics.

"When he arrived, we said he was going to score a lot - and that's been happening. He is a brilliant goalscorer, he always looks to score and help the team," Ederson told UEFA.com.

"He is the striker we needed, because in comparison to



Manchester City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland (R) takes a shot during the English Premier League match against Nottingham Forest at The City Ground in Nottingham, central England, on Saturday. (AFP)

Gabriel [Jesus], they are different players. Gabi likes to come in from out wide, he is stronger and more versatile. Haaland plays more centrally, looking to get into the box, he is a target in the area.

"That has been the major difference. When you get into the final third you have someone who will always be in the area.

"Many people say most of the goals he scores are easy - but that is a lie. It's his positioning - that's his best ability. He doesn't score easy goals, he positions himself very well.

"I hope he continues to score many goals, making us

happy and we'll keep working together for all the titles." City return to Champions League action when they visit RB Leipzig for the first leg of their last-16 tie on Wednesday, and with Haaland netting 28 times in 23 appearances in the competition throughout his career, the club hope his finishing ability will help deliver their first European crown.

Ederson is in no doubt as to the importance of continental success to City, saying: "That's our main objective, the main objective of the club. "We've been trying [to win it] and will carry on trying. We haven't

won it yet, we reached the final [in 2021], and a few semi-finals, and we didn't come out of it with a good result.

"But I think this year, we're more than capable of getting to the final and challenging for the title.

"Now this title is what the club needs, it's what we athletes need and it's what Guardiola needs here at the club, too. This year, we're going to try. We're going after it."

Haaland scored six goals in four appearances against Leipzig during his time with Dortmund, averaging a goal every 60 minutes against them.

Quick read

Tottenham slam online racist abuse of Son as 'utterly reprehensible'

London: England's Tottenham Hotspur have called out the online racist abuse directed at their player Heung-Min Son during the Premier League match against West Ham on Sunday, describing it as "utterly reprehensible." "We have been made aware of the utterly reprehensible online racist abuse directed at Heung-Min Son during today's match," the club wrote in a tweet after the Spurs defeated West Ham 2-0. Substitute Son, a South Korean national, scored the second goal briefly after coming in in the 72nd minute. The Spurs said they reported the online abuse and called on social media networks to act. "We stand with Sonny and once again call on the social media companies and authorities to take action," the tweet said. (DPA)

QATAR MOTORSPORTS ACADEMY STUDENTS EXCEL AT DUBAI KARTDROME ENDURANCE C'SHIP



Qatar Motorsports Academy student drivers Faesal Al Yafei, Khalid Al Maraghi, Bader Al Sulaiti and Taha Hassiba clinched two awards at the Dubai Kartdrome Endurance Championship over the weekend. The Endurance event which covered a distance of 700km over a period of 12 hours, was the first of four rounds in the 2023 Championship. The Qatari team won the award for the spirit of the competition, handed to the team due to their resilience and the manner they presented themselves for such a young and fresh team, and also clinched the third position in the GCC Category.



Katara Boxing Championships a big hit

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE 5th Katara Boxing Championships concluded in the presence of Sheikh Fahd bin Khalid Al Thani, President of the Qatar Boxing Federation (QBF), and Sultan Hassan Al Jamali, Secretary-General, QBF, with a prize distribution ceremony.

The champions featured 108 participants from several clubs, namely: The Victory Club; Doha Sport and Art Club; Franc Boxing Club; Al Jamiliya Club; The Tourist Club; Alpha Sport Club; Ninja Club; Time Sports Club; Qatar Boxing Federation; a club from Amman.

During the prize distribution ceremony, a large number of sports personalities and officials from Katara were present.

The Deputy General Director, Saif Al Dosari, was honoured along with Major General Khalifa Mubarak Al Khulaifi, former President, QBF, Saud Aziz Al Shammari, Muhammad Yousef Al Muhammad, an international referee, as well Olympic figure in boxing from Kazakhstan Mukhtar Khan.

The preliminary rounds were held on February 16 and semi-finals on February 17. The final round and prize giving was held on Saturday, February 18.



Sheikh Fahd bin Khalid Al Thani, President, Qatar Boxing Federation, honours a dignitary during the Katara Boxing Championships.



Woods admits return to top-level golf 'more difficult' than he let on

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

TIGER Woods admitted his return to top-level golf was physically harder than he let on after a final round of 73 in the Genesis Invitational.

Woods suffered multiple fractures of his right leg and ankle in a car accident in Los Angeles two years ago and has resigned himself to playing only a handful of events a year for the rest of his career.

The 15-time major winner showed glimpses of his brilliance at Riviera, particularly during a third round of 67, but found it difficult to walk 18 holes for five days in succession in his first event without the use of a cart since last summer's Open Championship.

"It's progress, headed in the right direction," Woods told reporters. "It certainly was a little bit more difficult than I probably let on.

"My team has been fantastic in getting my body recovered day to day and getting me ready to play each and every day. That's the hard part that I can't simulate at home.

"Even if I played four days at home, it's not the same as adrenaline, it's not the same as the system being ramped up like that, the intensity, just the focus that it takes to play at this level."



The Genesis Invitational host, Tiger Woods of the United States, presents the trophy to Jon Rahm of Spain after putting in to win The Genesis Invitational at Riviera Country Club on the 18th green in Pacific Palisades, California, on Sunday. (Getty Images/AFP)

Woods would not be drawn on whether he will contest another PGA Tour event before the Masters in April, adding: "Like I told you guys last year, I'm not going to play any more than probably the majors and maybe a couple more.

"That's it, that's all my body will allow me to do. My back the way it is, all the surgeries I had on my back, my leg the way

it is, I just can't. That's just going to be my future.

"So my intent last year was to play in all four majors, I got three of the four. Hopefully this year I can get all four and maybe sprinkle in a few here and there.

"But that's it for the rest of my career. I know that and I understand that. That's just my reality."

LeBron says 'I'll be fine' after exiting All-Star Game with injury

STATS PERFORM/DPA
NEW YORK

LEBRON James has downplayed the severity of the hand injury that forced him out of the second half of Sunday's All-Star Game in Salt Lake City.

James' Team LeBron lost 184-175 to Team Giannis, with the Los Angeles Lakers superstar ruled out at half-time after playing 14 minutes where he scored 13 points with four assists.

The four-time NBA MVP appeared to injure his right hand which was caught in the rim attempting to block Pascal Siakam's lay-up attempt in the second quarter.

"Coach [Michael] Malone is a defensive minded coach," James told reporters. "I had him in my early days at Cleveland. I told him I'd get one stop for him and I tried one little chase-down block and got my finger caught in the rim.

"But I'll be fine. I don't think it's too much to worry about but for precautionary reasons I had to just take the rest of the night off." James' availability will be critical to the Lakers' hopes of a run into the playoffs, currently sitting 13th in the Western Conference with a 27-32 record.

The 38-year-old, who missed three games last week due to an ankle injury, is averaging 30.0 points, 8.4 rebounds and 7.0 assists for the Lakers this season. The Lakers return to action after the All-Star break on Thursday against the reigning champions, Golden State Warriors.

Entertainment and educational activities at ExxonMobil stand at Khalifa Intl Complex

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR has announced its Public Village stand activities for the Qatar ExxonMobil Open 2023. ExxonMobil has been title sponsor of the tournament since 1995 and its stand has become a highlight for thousands of fans taking part in the popular annual sporting event with its fun and exciting entertainment.

For the second year running, planned activities promote sustainability as ExxonMobil Qatar's campaign theme for the tournament.

They highlight ExxonMobil's commitment to society's net-zero ambition and innovative sustainability solutions, including carbon capture and storage (CCS) and recycling, and nature based solutions, among others.

This year, visitors can take part in a unique and inspiring virtual reality game especially developed for the tournament, that allows them to capture carbon dioxide for storage and help fight climate change.

Furthermore, INJAZ Qatar – a long-term partner of ExxonMobil Qatar – will have a designated space at the stand. The relationship between the two partners began in 2007, and is based on a shared mission to provide young people with opportunities to channel their energy, innovation and creativity into productive projects that will help build a sustainable society for the future.

"We want our stand visitors to have a great time when they come by the Public Village. We encourage them to make the most of the activities we have planned for them that highlight our work and commitment to the environment and sustainability, and also learn about our special partnership with INJAZ Qatar," said Saleh Al Mana, Vice President and



Director of Public and Government Affairs for ExxonMobil Qatar.

"Our theme for the tournament this year is sustainability once again and we've tied it to tennis and sports in general. Sports are about making positive changes in our communities, societies and our world, and this is no different when it comes to creating a better and more sustainable future – we can all play a role in this as well and make a noticeable difference," he added.

The stand's most popular activity – the racing car simulator – has also made a return this year.

The full-size specification racing car is available to all visitors for an interactive and realistic racing experience and the chance to compete with family and friends. Even tennis players come

by the stand to try it out and beat each other's scores, and those visiting may get a chance to meet their favourite tennis stars and get a signed oversized tennis ball if they're lucky enough to be there at the same time.

As in previous years, the ever popular "ExxonMobil Minute" will feature at the 2023 tournament.

After matches, the winning player randomly serve tennis balls into the audience for lucky spectators to catch and claim a valuable prize at ExxonMobil Qatar's stand in the Public Village.

The Public Village is a dynamic mix of music, entertainment, performances, food, and a traditional Souq. Visitors can enjoy authentic Qatari food and other options, and experience special activities available to all.

Tariq Zainal, Qatar Tennis Federation's Secretary General, said, "It is a great privilege to welcome everyone once again to the 31st edition of this world-class event, the Qatar ExxonMobil Open.

The tournament is not just about tennis but also an opportunity to bring to the public in Qatar the finest of fun and entertainment, especially at the Public Village. With its myriad of things to see and do, the Public Village, which is open throughout the tournament, is an incredible venue that is not to be missed, and I am sure every participant will have a pleasant time visiting it."

The Qatar ExxonMobil Open will run from February 20 - 25, 2023. Tickets for the six-day event are also available to the public online at www.qatartennis.org

EXQUISITE LUXURY JEWELLERY AND WATCHES COLLECTIONS BECKON VISITORS AT DJWE



PHOTOS: KHALID TAWALBEH



Exquisite luxury jewellery and watches collections from more than 500 brands beckon visitors at the 19th edition of the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE) being held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre. The exhibition will treat visitors to an extensive display of exclusive craftsmanship from local and international designers. (TNN)

HMC trains school psychologists and social workers on how to stub out smoking habit among students



TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

HAMAD Medical Corporation's (HMC) Tobacco Control Center organised a training workshop on how to curb tobacco use and smoking among school students in Qatar on Monday.

The training programme was held as part of the centre's efforts to prevent tobacco smoking in educational institutions and in the community in general and was dedicated to psychological counsellors, social workers and nursing staff from several public preparatory and secondary schools across Qatar.

The workshop was attended by Dr Rayana Bou Haka, WHO's representative to Qatar; Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad Al Thani, director of the Public Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health; Dr Kholoud Al Mutawa, head of the Non-Communicable Diseases Department at the Ministry of Public Health; and Fatima Al Obaidli, head of Activities and Programmes Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Dr Ahmad Al Mulla, head of HMC's Tobacco Control Center said the workshop was aimed at providing participants with the necessary information and skills to enable them to effectively contribute to combating smoking and tobacco use in schools in Qatar and to help students who have fallen into the habit of smoking to quit.

He added that the latest studies showed that for many people, the age for starting smoking ranged from 12 to 15 years.

The workshop included lectures addressing several topics, such as the types of tobacco use and its prevalence in Qatar, the health effects of cigarette smoking and the use of tobacco products, the physiology of tobacco addiction and the role of schools in preventing and limiting the spread of smoking.

The event also offered a good opportunity to dispel misconceptions about smoking and tobacco use and to raise awareness among participants on how to deal with students who smoke and the factors affecting smoking initiation among students.

The workshop lectures were delivered by members of the Tobacco Control Center team, including Dr Ahmad Al Mulla, head of the Tobacco Control Center; Noor El Nakib, health-care services administrator; Dr Ahmad Abdullah and Dr Jamal Ba Suhai, smoking cessation specialists at HMC; and Dr Ashour Ibrahim, clinical psychologist at HMC's Tobacco Control Center.

Dr Ahmad Al Mulla stressed the importance of protecting present and future generations from the dangers of all kinds and forms of tobacco use.

He urged participants to give a special focus on protecting young people from being influenced by tobacco companies that keep targeting the youth as an emerging and vulnerable market for their addictive products.

"Several training workshops of this kind will be held in the future to include private schools in the country as well to help raise healthy generations and protect our new generations from this harmful habit," added Dr Mulla.



DIFI, UN, international organisations address family well-being in Africa

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE impact of socio-economic and demographic transformation in Africa and its effect on family well-being were topics of discussion at an event organised by the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) in preparation for the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 (IYF+30).

The three-day Expert Group Meeting (EGM), held in Pretoria, South Africa, in partnership with the University of Pretoria, the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) under the theme 'Demographic Changes and Family Wellbeing in Africa', saw experts' discussions around the impact of demographic changes on family wellbeing in Africa.

They also addressed the major family formation trends in Africa and how these changes affected family wellbeing, the role of technology in these changes and its impact on digital parenting, the challenges and opportunities presented by social protection policy frameworks towards supporting elderly care in the region,

the interlinkages between demographic trends, migration and urbanisation in contemporary Africa, and the major lessons learned in developing and implementing national and regional family policies.

Dr Sharifa Noaman Al Emadi, executive director of DIFI, highlighted the importance of focusing on family wellbeing through a comprehensive approach, which DIFI, a member of Qatar Foundation, is tackling through policy-research and mobilisation.

She emphasised the importance of focusing on family wellbeing with holistic approaches, stressing that DIFI works to enhance family wellbeing and supports the making and development of policies related to research, scientific evidence and multiple advocacy efforts.

She also noted that demographic changes, accompanied by the shrinkage of traditional interactions between nuclear and extended families because of urbanisation and the fragility of related policies, as well as declining fertility rates and other demographic challenges, mean structural treatments and policy and programme support is required based on knowledge basis.

Speaking about the preparations for the IYF+30, Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point of the Family at the Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) of the UN DESA, highlighted the importance of EGM recommendations to enrich the periodic UN Secretary General's report on the family.

Ignacio Socias, director of Communication and International Relations at IFFD, outlined the importance of international programmes that support national development agendas "including the voice of parents and families in the discussion for better and holistic policy design, implementation and evaluation is extremely important."

Professor Zitha Mokomane, professor at the Department of Sociology at the University of Pretoria, stressed that "while the important role of the family in society has been recognised everywhere in the world, it also needs to be substantiated through comprehensive family policies."

Representative of the African Union Commission on Social Affairs Lefhoko Kesamang pointed out the need to develop Management Information Systems on the African Family for better data collection on family interventions at the regional level.

PM INAUGURATES DOHA JEWELLERY AND WATCHES EXHIBITION



Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani inaugurated the 19th edition of Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE) at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC) on Monday. The prime minister toured the pavilions, where he was briefed on the most prominent collections displayed by Qatari and international companies participating in the exhibition. He was also briefed on the most important new designs of jewellery, watches and rare gemstones. The opening ceremony was attended by a number of sheikhs and ministers, a number of members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the State, senior officials and businessmen, as well as representatives of exhibiting companies. (QNA)



Qatar Tourism welcomes world to luxury and elegance at 19th DJWE

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition (DJWE), in its 19th edition, opened to a spectacular beginning at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The exclusive exhibition is being held under the patronage of Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al-Thani.

The opening ceremony was attended by the biggest names in Bollywood, alongside Irina Shayk, Nasser Al Attiyah, Mutaz Barsham and other celebrities.

Unique to this year's edition is an auditory element to the DJWE campaign, as an exclusive musical score is created by famed Qatari composer Dana Al Fardan.

At the opening ceremony, the prime minister toured the elaborate pavilions created by Qatar's leading jewellery brands and had a private viewing of some of their latest collections.

The event was organised by Qatar Tourism and Qatar Business Events Corporation with Qatar Airways as the Official Airline Partner and Qatar National Bank as the Official Sponsor.

Over the coming six days, visitors to the exhibition will be treated to an extensive display of luxury collections from over 500 brands, with local and international designers brought together under one roof.

Visitors can expect to marvel at the exquisite craftsmanship from the most prominent jewellers, limited edition collections and extraordinary showpieces. The event is truly a one-of-a-kind and currently the region's largest business-to-consumer show.

Chairman of Qatar Tourism and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said, "Over the past two decades, we have seen DJWE become the epitome of luxury and design, offering thousands of visitors a truly unforgettable experience. The combination of visitors being able to directly meet and interact with renowned designers and new participants like regional powerhouse Damas will make this year's edition even more of a success."

DJWE this year sees the valued support of Qatar National Bank (QNB) as the Official Sponsor. Commenting on the event, Yousef Mahmoud Al Neama, Group Chief Business Officer at QNB Group, said:

"QNB Group is proud of its participation as the Official Sponsor for the 19th edition of the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition, which has become the mark of luxury in Qatar and the region. Sponsoring this event, which established an annual tradition for the bank, affirms our commitment to support national events and implement the Qatar National Vision 2030 aimed at diversifying the local economy.

"In addition, our participation provides an important opportunity to position the QNB brand among the world's finest luxury brands, while encouraging local talents. I wish the exhibition a great success, and all guests and participants a most rewarding and enjoyable time at this much-anticipated annual event."

Speaking on Education Above All's (EAA) partnership series of 'Designing With a Purpose' and their long-running collaboration with DJWE which featured jewellery brand partnerships in the past such as Chopard, Richard Mille and now special designs by Valentino and Qatari jewellers for DJWE 2023, EAA's Director of Partnerships Parintaj Ankleshvria said, "Awareness and money

raised from these unique jewellery collaborations will support EAA's commitment to bringing new life chances, real hope and opportunities to improve the lives of poor and marginalised children, youth and women especially in the developing world through access to inclusive and equitable quality education."

Commenting on the 19th edition of DJWE, Ali Alfardan, vice-chairman of the Alfardan Group and president Alfardan Jewellery, said: "Once again, Alfardan Jewellery will exhibit an unparalleled collection at the 19th edition of the Doha Jewellery and Watches Exhibition, highlighting unique and elegant gems and pieces, even from our very own Qatari brand. We thank all our customers and visitors for their encouragement as always."

Speaking on Ali Bin Ali Luxury's participation in the region's most important jewellery and watches exhibition, Chief Operating Officer of Ali Bin Ali Luxury Awn Zureikat said, "DJWE is truly a global platform for luxury brands and it's getting bigger every year. Ali Bin Ali Luxury is proud of its longstanding association with this landmark event, and we are glad to be a part of this success story,

where creativity, exclusivity, art and beauty are all represented at this exhibition.

On behalf Al Majed Jewellery, Jamil bin Mahdi Al Majed, vice-chairman of Al Majed Jewellery, said: "This year's edition of DJWE is special because it is taking place directly following the exceptional FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which represents a historical turning point for advancing the tourism sector. In line with the traditions of previous editions, Al Majed Jewellery has established new exclusive partnerships with leading brands that will be unveiled during the exhibition in addition to the many brands that operate under the umbrella of Al Majed Jewellery and are achieving unique success in the Qatari market."

For his part, Bader Al Darwish, chairman and managing director of Fifty One East, said: "It gives us great pleasure to return to the Doha Jewellery & Watches Exhibition for its 19th edition. As longstanding supporters of the DJWE, we have proudly watched this event grow from strength to strength, asserting its status as a regional exhibition leader and shining a powerful light on Qatar's importance as a destination for appreciators of

fine jewellery and watches."

Commenting on the participation of Amiri Gems, HE Sheikh Nawaf Nasser bin Khaled Al Thani said, "Since its inception in 1994, Amiri Gems has actively participated in raising the level of jewellery and precious watches trade in Qatar in proportion to the purchasing power of Qatari citizens, which is considered one of the highest in the world. Hence, the decision to participate in the permanent annual participation in the Doha Watch and Jewellery Exhibition, from its first edition to its 19th edition this year, was the ideal strategic choice for Amiri Gems to continue presenting everything new in the world of luxury, sophistication and beauty."

Visitors are invited to the exhibition free of charge once registered via www.djwe.qa. The exhibition will run from Monday, February 23 to Thursday, February 23 from 12pm to 10pm; Friday, February 24, from 4pm to 10pm and Saturday, February 25, from 12pm to 10pm. Located in the heart of West Bay, DECC can be easily accessed by Doha Metro, with a direct route from Terminal 1 to the DECC Metro Station (Red Line), which has direct access to the exhibition halls.