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MARCH 14, 2023
SHABAN 22, 1444
VOL.16 NO. 5829 QR 2

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PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES FIFTH GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM

Collective action needed to face crises: PM

KHALID TAWALBEH
DOHA

PRIME Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani on Monday inaugurated the 5th Global Security Forum at the Sheraton Doha Hotel.

Delivering a speech at the opening ceremony, the PM highlighted the most prominent challenges facing the world in regional and international security, and the monopoly exercised over basic commodities as a result of wars and crises.

"The world continues to face challenges that have affected all sectors and the list of its goals is to consecrate justice, equality and cooperation, and problems can only be solved by employing the capabilities of the people who make up the majority of the population of our regions," the PM said.

He added, "The global crises have posed huge economic challenges, and it requires collective action to face them. The state of Qatar has taken great strides early in this path."



The PM underscored the continuation of this approach based on balancing interests and principles and mediation to settle international disputes by peaceful means.

He underlined that Qatar has become a reliable partner in peacemaking and supporting stability, adding that Qatar will continue this role to mitigate crises, respond to current chal-

lenges, and to emphasize the possibility of finding diplomatic solutions to disputes.

The PM said that success in overcoming various challenges remains dependent on the ability of countries to adhere to basic principles like justice, equality, solidarity, and the rejection of double standards.

The PM also said that the politicization of basic goods

- The politicisation of basic goods such as energy, water and medicine is no less dangerous for the most vulnerable peoples from the effects of wars and conflicts
- Qatar, in light of the successive global crises, took early steps to stabilize supply and supply chains
- The Middle East region desperately needs a sustainable framework to ensure peace and stability in the long term
- Qatar has adopted a realistic approach for years that combines environmental protection and fair energy security for all

international organizations to achieve global food security, and to exchange experiences with them in these areas.

With regard to the challenge of environmental protection and global energy security, the PM affirmed that Qatar has adopted a realistic approach for years that combines environmental protection and fair energy security for all, indicating that Qatar has provided European countries with energy during their current crisis, and that it will play a major role in a serious and responsible energy transition, especially in light of increasing its production capacity to 126 million tons by 2026.

He said Qatar follows an approach that combines national and humanitarian development internally, and a foreign policy based on balancing principles and interests and mediation in resolving disputes by peaceful means, referring to Qatar's achievements in this field, and to its impressive success in organizing a World Cup that carried a message of peace and harmony among the people. **PAGE 2**

such as energy, water and medicine is no less dangerous for the most vulnerable peoples from the effects of wars and conflicts. He said that the Middle East region, which has been the scene of crises for several decades, desperately needs a sustainable framework to ensure peace and stability in the long term based on the principles of dialogue, mutual

respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

He said Qatar, in light of the successive global crises, took early steps to stabilize supply chains, realizing the importance of increasing local production of basic goods and diversifying supply chains to enhance its national security, stressing that Qatar will spare no effort in working with its partners,

Six initiatives for Qatarisation of jobs in pvt sector: Al Marri

QNA
DOHA

In presence of Minister of Labour HE Dr Ali bin Smaikh Al Marri, the Shura Council on Monday discussed the Ministry of Labour's efforts in the Qatarization of jobs in private sector, qualifying national workforce, and regulating labour recruitment offices.

The Shura Council praised the efforts on the Ministry of Labour to improve the services it provides with the aim of developing the labour market, qualifying national cadres, and realizing partnership between the public and private sectors.

Dr Al Marri confirmed that hiring Qataris in the private sector during the past year increased by about five folds, to reach 1,850 employees, while the number of establishments that cooperated with the Qatarization programme reached 331 in various sectors.

He said that the Ministry of Labour is implementing six effective initiatives within the Qatarization programme in

the private sector, pointing out that these initiatives took into account various aspects of creating jobs and training programs for citizens and strengthening communication with private sector establishments, in order to realize the desired goals. He pointed out that the draft law on Qatarization of jobs in the private sector, which was approved "in principle" by the Cabinet in February, addresses many of the challenges facing the Ministry of Labour in increasing the rates of hiring Qataris in the sector.

He explained that the draft law gives the Ministry of Labour more flexibility in the field of attracting and motivating Qataris, and hiring them in the private sector, and also created legal frameworks to encourage companies to hire citizens. He said the draft law granted the Minister of Labour regulatory powers to implement the law by setting conditions, incentives, facilities and privileges, setting conditions and controls for training Qataris students, and approving scholarship policies. **PAGE 16**

Al Sadd Health Center inaugurated

QNA
DOHA

MINISTER of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohammed Al Kuwari on Monday inaugurated the new Al Sadd Health Center of the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC).

With the opening of Al Sadd Center, the number of health facilities affiliated to PHCC has reached 31 spread across the country.

Located in a strategic area in the centre of Doha, Al Sadd Center serves many neighbouring areas. Registration is carried out according to the approved national address for patients.

In a statement, Dr Al Kuwari affirmed that the expansion of primary health care centres in various regions of the country comes within the framework of serious work to ensure that all residents have access to high-quality and integrated health services, and at the right time and place, in order to achieve the goal (A Healthy Population: Physically and Mentally) in Qatar National Vision 2030 and in the health strategy. She added that primary health



Minister of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohammed Al Kuwari during the inauguration of Al Sadd Health Center on Monday.

care services have become more focused on healthy lifestyles and disease prevention, and seek to promote public health, within the framework of the health sector plans to shift care from a curative, hospital-based model to an enhanced one that provides preventive and health services in the community. For her part, Managing Direc-

tor of Primary Health Care Corp (PHCC) Dr Mariam Ali Abdul Malik said that the corporation has recently witnessed the opening of a number of new health centres, the latest of which is the Al Sadd Health Center with its comprehensive and integrated services.

Continued on page 2

QIFF attracts thousands of food lovers

MERIAM JELLITI
DOHA

THE 12th edition of the annual Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) is attracting thousands of visitors daily and is by far the biggest and the most popular edition.

Over 80 restaurants, cafes and hotels are participating in the festival, which is organised by Qatar Airways and Qatar Tourism.

QIFF is bringing together food vendors, chefs, and food enthusiasts until the March 21 to showcase their culinary skills and offer a diverse range of food items to the visitors. From street food to gourmet dishes, food festivals offer a unique opportunity to



indulge in a wide range of culinary delights.

Food festivals have become a popular trend around the world and equivalently in Qatar, and it's easy to see why. QIFF offers the opportunity to try new and exciting dishes, explore different cultures, and gather with friends and family.

QIFF is one such event that combines international cuisines with a fun kids zone, making it an exciting festival for families. Open to the public until the March 21, it's an event that brings together the best of the world's cuisines in one place. From Arabic to Italian, Mexican to Japanese, and everything in between, the festival offers a diverse range of international dishes to satisfy any taste bud. **PAGE 5**

WHO appoints Qatari doctor in advisory group

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has selected a Qatari doctor to be a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Integrating the Health and Care Workforces, with the aim of creating better care networks for the elderly population. Dr Hanadi Al Hamad, National Lead for Healthy Ageing for the Ministry of Public Health and Chairperson for the Department of Geriatrics and Long-Term Care at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), has been appointed as a member of the group that is working on developing the first global source of policies in the field of workforce integration in health and social care. **(QNA) PAGE 3**



Nation

Good morning Doha

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Contact US: **Qatar Tribune** ■ EDITORIAL ■ Phone: 40002222 ■ ADMINISTRATION & MARKETING ■ Phone: 40002155, 40002122, Fax: 40002235 P.O. Box: 23493, Doha.
EDITORIAL: qatar.editor@qatar-tribune.com, COMMERCIAL PRESS RELEASE: qtpressreleases@qatar-tribune.com, ADMINISTRATION: admin@qatar-tribune.com, ADVERTISEMENT: advertising@qatar-tribune.com
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Quick read

Amir congratulates Pope of Vatican

THE Amir His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday sent a cable of congratulations to His Holiness Pope Francis of the Vatican on the occasion of the National Day of the Vatican City State. (QNA)

Deputy Amir congratulates Pope of the Vatican on National Day

THE Deputy Amir His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday sent a cable of congratulations to His Holiness Pope Francis of the Vatican on the occasion of the National Day of the Vatican City State. (QNA)

PM sends greetings to Pope of Vatican on National Day

PRIME Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani on Monday sent a cable of congratulations to His Holiness Pope Francis of the Vatican on the occasion of the National Day of the Vatican City State. (QNA)

Qatar hosts Military Strategic Partnership Conference 2023

QNA
DOHA

HOSTED by the State of Qatar in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a five-day Military Strategic Partnership Conference (MSPC) 2023 and Exhibition kicked off here on Monday.

Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant General (Pilot) Salem bin Hamad bin Aqeel Al Nabit participated in the opening session. The conference aims to enhance and highlight Qatar's role as a strategic ally for international peace and security, in addition to strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation between NATO and its leaders, and allied and partner countries.

The conference, in which more than 35 of NATO's partner countries are participating, will address several topics related to the present, future and directions of partnership of NATO, maritime security and building defence capabilities from NATO's perspective, and a review of current views on partnerships, updates of new



systems, the strategic direction of the alliance and developments in its training.

The conference will also highlight partnerships in energy security, cooperation, factors and topics related to cybersecurity, the NATO Social Forum approach to capacity building, considerations and perspectives, as well as good governance and integrity in the alliance and its building initiatives.

The conference will include a range of panel discussions focusing on: NATO advisory support and assistance to partners, education and training and NATO partners, and how access to programs can be improved and designed to meet mutual needs as well as developing flexibility within the world of partnership and strategic communication.

World leaders, policymakers discuss global order, crises as 5th security forum begins

KHALID TAWALBEH
DOHA

THE 5th Global Security Forum 2023 hosted by Qatar commenced on Monday with a wide participation of heads of states and government officials and worldwide thinkers, as well as policy makers.

The invite-only event under the theme 'Reshaping the Global Order: Conflict, Crises and Co-operation', being held under the patronage of Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, will run until March 15.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, who welcomed the attendees and stressed that the forum aims to address global and regional security challenges.

The forum brought together heads of government and ministers, security agency chiefs, senior policy makers, prominent experts, academics, journalists and private sector leaders from across the US, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Indian Ocean and Far East to address pressing issues facing global security today.

The main business agenda began with a fireside chat with Rwanda's President Paul Kagame, who provided valuable insights virtually into his country's experiences in post-conflict reconciliation and development, including fostering dynamic socio-economic progress, and on regional and international security dynamics that shape the nation's diplomacy, development and defence priorities. President Kagame stressed that his country's agreement with the United Kingdom to receive migrants came out of the difficult situation and the conditions suffered by the affected people, which took the lives of many of them.

"These people were victims of human traffickers. That is why we agreed on a process to find a solution for them,



whether they are regular or irregular migrants," he said. "The regulars should be brought here and dealt with in a proper environment, and they can choose between returning to their countries or staying here. There could also be a third country ready to receive them."

Meanwhile, with heightened US-China relations in the global spotlight, Teo Chee Hean, Singapore's senior minister and coordinating minister for National Security, reflected on the changing dynamics on the global stage from the Lion City's perspective, including the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on China and the Asia-Pacific region, the strategic competition between the US and China, and the importance of international cooperation and coordination.

In another fireside chats featured Musa Faki Mohamed, chairman of the African Union Commission; HE Hassan Al Thawadi, secretary-general of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy; Dr Joshua Geltzer, deputy assistant to the President and Deputy Homeland Security Adviser, US National Security Council; Timmy T Davis, US ambassador to Qatar; and Larissa Knapp, executive assistant director, Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Other participants were Ambassador Roger Carstens, US's special presidential envoy for Hostage Affairs; Robert C

O'Brien, co-founder and chairman, American Global Strategies and former US National Security Adviser; Christopher Miller, author and former US acting secretary of Defence; Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, chairman, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore and former ambassador-at-large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore; and Major-General Michel Friedling (Retd), former commander of the French Joint Space Command, France.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict was a highlight of the forum, with a dedicated session reflecting on the current state and future prospects following the one-year mark of the war.

The session saw Ambassador Nathan Sales, TSC senior fellow; Dr Kacper Rekawke, postdoctoral fellow, University of Oslo Centre for Research on Extremism; and Dr Biljana Lilly from Warsaw Security explore the conflict's traditional military dimensions as well as the role and impact of private military companies.

As the world looks back on the 20th year of the post-Iraq conflict, there was a dedicated session, organised in partnership with the New American Foundation, on the lessons learned from the conflict's impacts and implications for contemporary global security, regional dynamics, emerging threats and US influence.

The event focused on the issue of mediation and conflict resolution amid today's security and diplomatic challenges with framing remarks from Assistant Foreign Minister for Regional Affairs HE Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh Al Khulaifi.

Later, a panel including Aaron Nuutinen, of the US State Department; Djibril Bassole, Burkina Faso's former Foreign Minister; and Ambassador Dr Monica Juma, National Security Adviser to the President of Kenya, will examine lessons learned and good practices in mitigating conflicts, including through mediation, conflict prevention mechanisms, and defense and diplomatic engagement, with reflections on diverse regional dynamics, including in Africa and the Middle East.

Tuesday's session, which will be moderated by Paul Wallace, Middle East Energy and Commodities, Bloomberg, will seek the views of Frank Fannon, former US assistant secretary of State for Energy Resources; Dr Carolyn Kissane, assistant dean, New York University Centre for Global Affairs; Scott Modell, CEO, Rapidan Energy Group; and Dr Damilola Olawuyi, professor and UNESCO chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development, Hamad Bin Khalifa University's College of Law.

The Global Security Forum 2023, hosted by the Qatar International Academy for Security Studies (QIASS), is being held in cooperation with several high-level agencies and institutions, including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), New America Foundation, Qatar's Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Defense One, the Centre on National Security at Fordham Law, Strong Cities Network and the Airey Neave Trust.

Virtual participation to the fifth edition is available through the Forum's official website, globalsecurityforum.com

10th AgriteQ is all set to kick off tomorrow

QNA
DOHA

THE Ministry of Municipality on Monday announced that the activities of the 10th Qatar International Agricultural Exhibition (AgriteQ) 2023 will commence from March 15 to 19 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, with the participation of more than 55 countries.

This was announced at a press conference held by the ministry to present the programme and activities of the exhibition, which will serve as a strategic platform for the advancement of the Qatari agricultural sector, as the backbone of food security.

Chairman of the Organising Committee of the exhibition and Director of the Public Parks Department at the Ministry of Municipality Engineer Mohammed Ali Al Khoury said the exhibition confirms the increasing interest of the country in the agricultural sector in recent years, with the aim of achieving great leaps in local production to increase self-sufficiency rates and achieve food security, espe-



cially after the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic and the interruption in supply chains around the world, which made achieving self-sufficiency a very vital matter for various countries.

He added that the exhibition is a direct gateway to accessing the latest global technological innovations that support the national trend towards expanding agricultural production to meet local demand for food products.

Khoury pointed out to the success of the exhibition during the past sessions, which had the greatest impact on

raising self-sufficiency rates of vegetables, meat, fish, poultry and eggs.

For his part, Deputy Chairman of the Organising Committee and Director of the Department of Agricultural Affairs at the Ministry of Municipality Youssef Khaled Al Khulaifi said Qatar has made remarkable achievements in developing the agricultural sector, in light of the insightful vision and directives of the wise leadership, which placed development of natural resources, particularly agriculture, at the top of the national priorities to achieve self-sufficiency and food secu-

urity, with a focus on adopting innovative policies, strategies and technologies that serve environmental sustainability.

He said Qatar promotes optimal investment in technology, research and development, and food control as basic pillars for raising the volume and quality of agricultural and animal production in safe and sustainable ways, in line with the objectives of the 'National Development Strategy of the State of Qatar', which aims to increase the proportion of local production of livestock to 30 percent and fish to 65 percent in support of Qatar National Vision 2030.

He said the exhibition is being organised in cooperation with Mahaseel Company.

The organising committee announced that the exhibition will be accompanied with a conference, which will constitute a scientific, cultural and research platform aimed at exchanging information, experiences and scientific data in food security, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, as well as discussing the impact of the environment and climate change on food security.

'New centre has capacity to attend to 35,000 patients'

Continued from page 1

She indicated that the new centre covers the surrounding areas with its services. It has a capacity of 35,000 patients, and it is expected that this number will be fully registered in the first year through electronic registration or a direct visit to the centre.

She added that the PHCC, while focusing on establishing new centres, is also working on maintaining, expanding and developing some of the existing centres that are witnessing a high turnout of patients, especially those that serve densely populated areas, in the context of continuing care to preserve the health of the population of Qatar by providing the best health services and developing them through the quality, diversity and integration of the treatment services provided, as well as preventive services as the main entrance to achieve the vision and mission of the corporation.

The capacity of the Al Sadd Health Centre can be increased to 50,000 registered in the centre's lists to serve the residents of Al Sadd and neighbouring areas, which are the areas of Al Mirqab Al Jadeed, Fereej Bin Mahmoud, Al Messila, Fereej Bin Omran, Al Hitmi Al Jadeed, and Hamad Medical City.

The new centre includes many services such as family medicine clinics, pregnancy and postpartum follow-up, healthy child services, periodic immunizations, healthy women, non-communicable diseases, communicable diseases, travel immunisations, annual health examination, adolescent health, premarital examination, dental, ear, nose and throat, dermatology, ophthalmology, optometry, maternal and child health consultations, nutritionist, social worker, health education, physiotherapy, minor surgery, urgent care services for the elderly and children, and mental health services.

Preterm, precision medicine research clinic opens at WWRC

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

A new state-of-the-art Qatar Preterm and Precision Medicine Research Clinic (QPrem & PM-RC) to assess preterm children's readiness to join school, opened recently at the Women's Wellness and Research Centre.

The clinic, named after QPrem (Qatar Preterm Study) and Precision Medicine (QPrem & PM-RC), focuses on the development of preterm and it is looking comprehensively at various aspects, including their medical, psychological, neurocognitive, executive functioning, behavioural, genetic predisposition and environmental factors.

The aim is to inform policy makers and practitioners of possible ways to intervene and improve the quality of life and care of preterm children and their families.

Speaking about the re-

search clinic, Dr Hilal Al Rifai, WWRC's chief executive officer and medical director, said the establishment of the clinic aligned with Qatar's National Health Strategy, adding that Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has given great attention to family and child-centred care when designing and developing the WWRC.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce the opening of the WWRC's Qatar Preterm and Precision Medicine Research Clinic (QPrem & PM-RC). Our hospital has reached a new milestone with this accomplishment. The QPrem & PM-RC will offer evidence-based care to patient and ease the clinicians' decision-making process," he said.

Translational and Precision Medicine Research Lab (T&PML) Director Dr Nader Al Dewik said, "This new research clinic will not only assess the children's development but also will feed the third-generation



omics lab with samples utilising this new technology. This is to discover the underlying environmental and genetic factors of high priority health concerns impacting mothers and their preterm children. This will assist us to deepen our understanding of the potential causes of morbidities and comorbidities among maternal and neonatal health to support the development of new targeted interventions and therapies."

Head of Newborn Screening Programme Dr Ghasan Abdoh, the lead PI of the QPrem project, said, "This new research clinic will give us a great opportunity to follow up the children and their parents and look at the consequences of being premature from clinical perspective."

The research clinic at the WWRC was opened in collaboration with Professor Muthana Samara from Kingston Uni-

The aim is to inform policy makers and practitioners of possible ways to intervene and improve the quality of life and care of preterm children and their families

versity London and Professor Neil Marlow from University College London (UCL).

Professor Samara, one of the principal investigators (PIs) of the QPrem project, described the research clinic as vital, stressing that it gives clinicians the opportunity to look at the long-term development of premature children and investigate their readiness for school.

He said, "The study will assess children's IQ, language, behaviour, academic achievement, executive functioning, social relationships, among other factors. It will also utilise outstanding and innova-

tive methodologies, including experimental testing using advanced technology, validated tools and tests in English and Arabic, tailored to the Qatari population. The study will inform clinicians on potential interventions that can be implemented in clinical practice in the future to improve children's readiness for school."

"The WWRC and its Translational & Precision Medicine Research Lab (T&PML) and Qatar Preterm and Precision Medicine Research Clinic (QPrem & PM-RC) are a gathering place for national and international clinicians, scientists conducting research from different health and academic sectors. We strongly believe that these efforts will open new research and practical avenues that can combine clinical practice with research, and this can be achieved by investing more in resources and human capital," Dr Hilal added.

WCM-Q symposium discusses population health challenges

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Institute for Population Health (IPH) at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) held a one-day symposium to discuss population health challenges and outcomes, and ways to promote health.

The symposium was designed to enable healthcare practitioners to look to the future of healthcare and sustainability, understand what equitable culturally competent patient care means, and become 'change agents' who can promote physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Topics under discussion included population health challenges and the emerging paradigm of health and disease, sustainability of the global lifestyle medicine movement, perspectives at the confluence of pandemics, and public health priorities in the region.

In addition, an interactive panel discussion focused on public health in Qatar, the future of healthcare, required health curricula for school children, lifestyle health, and health policy and its challenges.



Event speakers included Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad Al Thani, director of the Public Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Qatar, and associate professor of clinical population health sciences at WCM-Q and Qatar University; Dr Javaid Sheikh, dean, professor of psychiatry and professor of population health sciences at WCM-Q; Dr Hanan Abdul Rahim, associate professor of public health (epidemiology) and dean of the College of Health Sciences, Qatar University; Dr Sohaila Cheema, associate professor of clinical population health sciences and assistant dean for the IPH, WCM-Q; and Dr Ravinder Mamtani, professor

of population health sciences and vice-dean for population health and lifestyle medicine at WCM-Q and professor of medicine at the Centre for Global Health, New York.

Visiting international expert speakers included Dr Wayne Dysinger, past president, American College of Lifestyle Medicine and CEO, Lifestyle Medical California, USA; and Dr David Katz, president and founder, True Health Initiative, founder and CEO, Diet ID, Inc., and past president, American College of Preventive Medicine.

Dr Mamtani said, "Data available on chronic illnesses over the past 20 to 25 years shows that we have a serious

health crisis on our hands — a pandemic of chronic illness. The good news is that we can reduce premature mortality due to heart disease, cancer and other chronic conditions by adopting lifestyle medicine approaches like a healthy diet, physical activity, healthy sleep patterns, and so on, thereby improving the health, wellbeing and quality of life for a great many people, now and in the future. It is, therefore, imperative that healthcare professionals are equipped with relevant knowledge and skills related to population health and lifestyle medicine."

The course was aimed at physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, researchers, educators, public health professionals, dentists, pharmacists, healthcare administrators and others working in the medical field.

The symposium, titled 'Fixing the Broken Promise of Health,' was accredited locally by the Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP) of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and internationally by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).



New DIFI journal to advance policies supporting Arab families launched

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), in partnership with Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press), has launched a scientific journal to support Arab families. The announcement, which took place at an official ceremony, coincided with the launch of the sixth cycle of DIFI's OSRA Research Grant.

The DIFI journal and the OSRA Research Grant aim to support innovative and high-quality research development to enhance knowledge on issues facing Arab families, as well as provide policymakers with evidence-based policy and programme recommendations.

Dr Sharifa Noaman Al-Emadi, executive director of the DIFI — a member of Qatar Foundation — spoke at the ceremony, emphasising the ethical and institutional role of DIFI in producing, publishing and supporting scientific research, which policies and interventions are built upon. "It was necessary for us, after years of producing various knowledge guidelines pertaining to complex topics of interest to Arab families, that there be a scientific platform specialising in family issues allowing researchers to publish scientific and academic studies."

She then invited researchers to apply to publish their research. Speaking about the OSRA Research Grant, Dr Al-Emadi added: "With the aim of enriching the Arab research

agenda with various family topics, we have been able to, through five cycles of the grant, support 48 research projects related to Arab families in various parts of the Arab world."

Dr Al-Emadi concluded by thanking the Qatar National Research Fund for the support they have provided to the grant process since its inception, and the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council for the technical support in launching DIFI's grant platform.

Dr Rima Isaifan, head of Academic and Journals Publishing, HBKU Press, and a joint Associate Professor at HBKU's College of Science and Engineering, presented an overview of the DIFI journal.

"The DIFI journal marks a valuable addition to our peer-reviewed journal portfolio at QScience.com due to its unique contribution to family research and policy-related topics. HBKU Press has the privilege of working hand-in-hand with DIFI to disseminate and promote evidence-based knowledge towards developing family-related policies at national, regional, and international levels."

Dr Azza Abdel-Moneim, Family Research Expert, and Fatima Al-Mutawa, Researcher and Grants Specialist, both from DIFI, also provided overviews on the terms and conditions of publishing in the journal, as well as the OSRA Research Grant objectives, priority research areas identified for the sixth cycle, and eligibility of participants.

HMC expert invited to join WHO group on integrating health and care workforces

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) is in the process of developing global policy options to support its member states, including Qatar, to progressively integrate their health and care workforces.

Dr Hanadi Al-Hamad, Qatar's National Health Strategy lead for healthy ageing and chairperson for the Department of Geriatrics and Long-Term Care at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), has been appointed as a member of



Dr. Hanadi Al Hamad

the WHO Technical Advisory Group on integrating health

and care workforces to establish better care networks for ageing populations.

The goal is to develop the first global policy resource with an explicit focus on care workers as part of integrated person-centred health services and strengthened primary health care (PHC) systems.

The WHO Technical Advisory Group on integrating the health and care workforces will act in an advisory capacity to the WHO.

The group is tasked with defining the key issues that care workers face in the con-

text of integrating the health and social care workforce to strengthen primary care.

Dr Al-Hamad, who is also the medical director of Rumailah Hospital and Qatar Rehabilitation Institute, has established a strong and successful working relationship with the WHO, including acting in an advisory capacity for the safety and care of older persons during the COVID-19 pandemic. The invitation is for a two-year appointment as a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on integrating health and care workforces.

GU-Q's public talk highlights Israeli violations against Palestinians

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

GEORGETOWN University in Qatar (GU-Q), a QF partner, recently hosted a compelling public event featuring Omar Shakir, Human Rights Watch's Israel and Palestine director, who reflected on the impact of his organisation's major report on Israel's human rights record.

The latest event in the university's Palestine Speaker Series, titled 'Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians', featured Omar Shakir sharing how Human Rights Watch reached its determination that Israel's actions amount to the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution.

He also shared details

about the global attention generated by the report and the experience of being deported by the Israeli government for his human rights advocacy.

In his opening remarks, Dr Safwan Masri, dean of GU-Q, highlighted the university's commitment to providing opportunities for its students and the broader community to engage with experts in various fields and to foster critical thinking and meaningful dialogue about important issues.

"Omar Shakir's insight into the plight of Palestinians and the persistent violations of their human rights at the hands of the Israeli state was incredibly educational, and a powerful reminder that we must continue to strive for peace and



Omar Shakir shares how Human Rights Watch reached its determination that Israel's actions amount to crimes against humanity.

justice for all people," he said.

Shakir is the author of the report released by Human Rights Watch in April 2021

titled 'A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution'.

He explained the methodology that was used to reach this conclusion and outlined the legal basis for defining Israel's actions as apartheid.

He also provided a historical context for the situation in Israel and Palestine, with examples of the ways in which the Israeli government has used its power to deny Palestinians their rights.

The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session, during which members of the audience had the opportunity to engage with Shakir and ask him questions about his report, the current human rights situation facing Palestinians and what is needed to help bring an end to apartheid and to forge a path to a peaceful future.

Led by associate professors Abdullah Al Arian, Karine Walther and visiting assistant professor Nadya Shaiti, and with the support of GU-Q Dean Safwan Masri, the Palestine Speaker Series is part of a larger project at GU-Q which aims to provide a platform for dialogue and analysis of the historical and contemporary issues facing Palestine.

A former Fulbright Scholar in Syria, Omar Shakir was the 2013-2014 Arthur R. and Barbara D. Finberg Fellow at Human Rights Watch.

He holds a Juris Doctorate and a Bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a Master's degree in Arab Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington, DC.

HAMMADI MEETS TURKISH AMBASSADOR



Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs HE Dr Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi met with Ambassador of Turkey to Qatar HE Dr Mehmet Mustafa Goksu in Doha on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries. (QNA)

QU launches Innovation and Entrepreneurship Contest 2023

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR University's (QU) College of Business and Economics (CBE) and College of Engineering (CENG), in collaboration with the Office of Strategic Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (SIEED), have launched the annual 'Innovation & Entrepreneurship Contest 2023'.

Dr Khalid Kamal Naji, dean of CENG; Prof Rana Sobh, dean of CBE; Dr Mahmoud Abdulwahed, director of SIEED; Dr Wadha Labda, director of Technology Innovation and Engineering Education - TIEE at CENG; Dr Boumediene Ramdani, head of Research & Policy at the Center for Entrepreneurship & Organizational Excellence - CEOE; as well as QU faculty, staff and students attended the inaugural event.

This year's contest is distinguished by its focus on creating business ideas and innovations that directly benefit the Qatari economy and help in building a knowledge-based economy. This year's participating teams will have access to a training programme provided by experts on how to prepare and present effective business models, and pitch the essence of their business ideas. The ideas will be presented to a panel of judges.



Dr Khalid Kamal Naji



Dr Mahmoud Abdulwahed



Prof Rana Sobh

In addition to monetary prizes, the winners will get the chance to have their ideas developed further in the SIEED's incubator through vigorous coaching and training, enabling them to develop their business plans, and possibly get funding opportunities and access to the local business community.

Dr Naji said: "The contest is designed to spread awareness about the importance of entrepreneurial activities, trigger the entrepreneurial skills of QU students and engage them on how to develop sound business plans. They have to acquire the skills and competencies to become the next leaders in the world of business. In this regard, CENG is committed to providing its students with a forum to develop their creative and innovative

business ideas which will add value to their education."

Prof Rana Sobh stressed the importance of innovative ideas to develop a sound business sector and ultimately contribute to the country's development and progress. She said: "Through this annual competition, we are inviting our students to invest their talents in the spirit of competition, shared knowledge and teamwork."

Dr Boumediene Ramdani said, "Ideas will be subject to evaluation from academic and industry experts who will share their experiences with our students and assess the ideas based on their desirability in the market (33%), their viability - chances of success (33%), and feasibility - chances of making it happen (33%)."

Ghana I-Day Walking Football Cup held



THE Walking Football Federation Qatar organised the first-ever Ghana Independence Day Walking Football Cup 2023 at Al Jazeera Academy football field under the patronage of the Federation President Farhan Al Sheikh Al Sayed and Ghanaian Ambassador HE Mohamed Nurudeen Ismaila.

The prize ceremony was led by Ghana Ambassador, Farhan Al Sheikh and Regional Operations Manager of LuLu Group International Simon Alexander.

Walking football is one of the fastest growing sports concepts in the world. Its no tackle, fast passes, no high ball, fast walk, and safe game mode is attracting a lot of communities to the game.

A number of diplomats have regular walking football sessions in Doha and are enjoying this safe sports concept.

Uganda Walking Football Club team was a surprise winner beating Sri Lankan team Casemoria 3 goals to 1. The third place went to Kenya Walk-

ing Football Club which beat Ghana Walking Football Club 2-1.

Walking Football Federation Qatar is bringing communities together and working on creating united communities in Qatar who live in harmony under the wise leadership of the country.

Player of the Tournament medal went to Douglas Mayanga of the Ugandan team. Best Goalkeeper medal was won by Sri Lankan Mohamed Taqi and the Fair Play medal was given to Nigerian Andrew Chukwudi. (TNN)

Arab Awards for Promotion of Research in Social and Human Sciences distributed



KHALID TAWALBEH
DOHA

MINISTER of Culture HE Dr Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, and Dr Azmi Bishara, director-general of the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies, crowned the winners of the 'Arab Award for the Promotion of Research in the Social and Human Sciences', at a ceremony held on Tuesday in the conference hall of the Centre in Doha. This came at the conclusion of the ninth session of the Conference of Social and Human Sciences which was held from March 11 to 13.

Award committee chairman Dr. Abdul Wahab Al-Effendi presented the outcomes of this session for the academic years 2021-2023. He announced that the committee had decided to give the Arab Award in this session to three of the 20 participating research projects, of which 10 made it to the short list.

Dr Ahmed Abu Al-Ola received the award for his research on "Political Culture Among Nubian Youth in Egypt: The Nubian Movement Towards the Issue of Return as a Model". The committee noted its harmonious structure, the good choice of its goals, the consistency of the curriculum and the topic, the valuable results of the study, the importance of the references on which it was based, as well as the writing of the text in a proper language.

The second winner was Dr Said El Hadji who was awarded for his research "Consensus in the Culture of the Moroccan Political Elite: In the Relationship Between the Determinants of Consensus and Democratic Transformation in Morocco", which the scientific reading committee of the award confirmed as consistent with the goals of the Centre stipulated in the first article of the award's statute. The research confirms the results previously reached by Moroccan researchers in explaining the existing political structure in Morocco.

The third winner of this year's Award was Dr Mohammed Al-Nuaimi. His research "Political Culture and the Collective Act of Protest in the Context of the Arab Uprisings (2011-2019)", was confirmed by scientific reading committee of the award as a great intellectual effort to formulate the problem at the theoretical level, and a serious attempt to understand the complex and changing reality that concerns some Arab countries.

The Arab Award for Social and Human Sciences is a competitive

award launched by the Arab Centre in 2011, in order to encourage Arab researchers to conduct creative scientific research on issues and problems related to the process of development of Arab societies in the field of social sciences and humanities.

The Centre has always kept open the door of competition for Arab researchers. In the light of the experiences since 2011, the Arab award has continuously evolved. It no longer includes the category of young researchers with a distinctive award, it is no longer awarded for research published in peer-reviewed scientific journals in Arabic and foreign languages, and it has kept pace with the development of social sciences and humanities. It is held every two years to allow researchers sufficient time to complete their research. All research approved to participate in the conference are contenders for the award.

The most important development witnessed by the award is that in addition to a financial reward as incentive for the winner, it includes a grant for completing a research project within a year, with a total value of USD 50,000 per session.

It is given to a maximum of three papers submitted to the conference of Social and Human Sciences. The prize consists of a winning certificate, an incentive financial reward worth USD 10,000, and a research grant worth USD 40,000 where the Centre monitors progress in the completion of the project within its approved mechanisms.

More than 250 papers have competed for the Arab Award in its nine sessions, and more than 50 researchers from various Arab countries, namely Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan, Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait, Palestine, Syria and Algeria, have won it.

At the end of the ceremony, the Arab Centre Director-General Dr. Azmi Bishara, spoke about the role of the Centre in encouraging research in the social sciences and humanities, through award as well as other programmes.

He also presented the theme of the tenth session of the conference of Social and Human Sciences and the Arab Award, which is "Social Media: The Dialectic of Freedom of Expression, Censorship and Control", inviting researchers to contribute. The formal invitation and its background paper will be announced soon, on the website of the Centre and through social media.



Embassy of Japan holds 14th Japanese Speech Contest at Qatar Univ

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE 14th Japanese Speech Contest was organised on Saturday by the Embassy of Japan in Qatar in collaboration with Qatar University and the Japanese Language Teachers Association in Qatar (JALTAQ).

The contest, held at the Research Complex at Qatar University, saw the participation of 15 Japanese language learners in Qatar, who competed in three categories to demonstrate their linguistic abilities.

In his opening remarks, the Ambassador of Japan to the State of Qatar H.E. Satoshi Maeda, expressed his appreciation to the sponsors, judges, participants, Qatar University and JALTAQ for supporting and promoting the Japanese language education



in Qatar. Ambassador Maeda also emphasised that the speech contest leads to the further deepening of the amicable relations between Japan and Qatar.

Fatima Al-Marzoqi, a Qatari national, won the first-place prize in the advanced category. She delivered a speech on the challenges she faced in her journey to master the Japanese language which drew applause from both

the judges and the audience.

Ahmed Almohannadi, who is currently pursuing his master's degree at Tokyo Metropolitan University in Japan under the Japanese government scholarship (MEXT Scholarship), shared his experience about life in Japan during an online talk session. He stressed the importance of studying Japanese language and how it opened up new

horizons for him.

The following Japanese and local companies sponsored the contest, thereby showing the great importance of the event for both Japanese and Qatari business societies: Chiyoda Almana Engineering, Chubu Electric Power Company, Darwish Holding (FNAC, Sony, Yamaha), Itochu Corporation (Junko Sushi and Japanese Dining), JALTAQ, LNG

Japan, Marubeni Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, MUFG Bank, Ninja Ramen restaurant and Sumitomo Corporation.

The member of a delegation of Japan's Kyushu University visiting Qatar on an official mission to promote studying abroad in Japan for Qatari citizens, also attended the event. They set up an information desk during the event where a number of partici-

pants asked questions on studying abroad in Japan.

The annual event became a wonderful occasion to embrace the Japanese language and culture in Qatar and a great addition to the existing Japan-Qatar bilateral cooperation in cultural and education sectors as the Embassy of Japan in Qatar and JALTAQ collaborated with Qatar University for organising the event.



QIFF: A celebration of culture & cuisines



THE BIGGEST EDITION OF QIFF DRAWS HUGE CROWDS DAILY

Organised by Qatar Airways and Qatar Tourism, the festival sees more than 80 restaurants, cafes and hotels showcasing diverse range of food items



The 12th Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) is welcoming thousands of visitors to the newly-opened Lusail Al Sa'ad Plaza – the street synonymous with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 final celebrations. Qatar's largest and longest-running food festival, this edition of QIFF runs until March 21



MERIAM JELLITI
DOHA

THE 12th edition of the annual Qatar International Food Festival (QIFF) is attracting thousands of visitors daily and is by far the biggest and the most popular edition.

More than 80 restaurants, cafes and hotels are participating in the festival, organised as a project by Qatar Airways and Qatar Tourism.

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND CUISINE

A celebration of culture, community, and delicious food, QIFF is bringing together food vendors, chefs, and food enthusiasts until the March 21 to showcase their culinary skills and offer a diverse range of food items to the visitors. From street food to gourmet dishes, food festivals offer a unique opportunity to indulge in a wide range of culinary delights.

Food festivals have become a popular trend around the world and equivalently in Qatar, and it's easy to see why.

QIFF offers the opportunity to try new and exciting dishes, explore different cultures, and gather with friends and family.

A KID-FRIENDLY FESTIVAL

QIFF is one such event that combines international cuisines with a fun kids zone, making it an exciting festival for families. Open to the public until the March 21, an event that brings together the best of the world's cuisines in one place.

From Arabic to Italian, Mexican to Japanese, and everything in between, the festival offers a diverse range of international dishes to satisfy any taste bud.

QIFF takes place in a large outdoor space, equipped with colorful sitting areas, music, and festive decorations. Families can enjoy a culinary adventure while immersing themselves in the festive atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the festival is the Kids Zone. This dedicated area is designed to provide fun and engaging activities for children of all ages. There are, face painting, arts and crafts, and games to keep kids entertained for hours. Parents can relax and enjoy their food while their children play in a safe and welcoming environment.

COOKING DEMOS

Another exciting aspect of the festival is the live cooking demonstrations. Top chefs from around the world have come together to showcase their skills and teach festival-goers how to create their own international dishes at home.



This interactive experience is perfect for foodies who want to learn new recipes and cooking techniques.

The festival also offers a range of workshops for both adults and children. These sessions cover a variety of topics, from complicated recipes to making a ten minutes meal, and provide an opportunity to learn from industry experts. The workshops are a great way to dive deeper into a specific cuisine or cooking style and are perfect for those who want to improve their culinary skills.

This year's edition of the festival is not just about food and entertainment; it's also about celebrating diversity and promoting cultural exchange. The festival brings together people from all walks of life and encourages them to explore new cultures and traditions through food. It's an excellent opportunity for families to learn about different parts of the world and to appreciate the richness and diversity of our global community.

It is hard not to engage and indulge in the vibrant and welcoming atmosphere at the festival, making it accessible to everyone regardless of their age. This inclusiveness is reflected in the festival's atmosphere, which is friendly, relaxed, and buzzing with excitement.

Visitors can stroll around the festival venue, taking in the sights and sounds while sampling different cuisines from around the world. The aroma of sizzling meats, fresh herbs, and exotic spices fills the air, creating an unforgettable sensory experience.

In the evening, the festival comes alive with a spectacular fireworks show that lights up the night sky. This daily display is a highlight of the festival and draws large crowds who gather to watch the dazzling display of color and light.

QIFF is more than just a celebration of food, it's a celebration of community, culture, and diversity. The festival creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere that brings people together and encourages them to explore new tastes, sights, and sounds. Whether you're a foodie, a culture enthusiast, or just looking for a fun day out with the family, the Food Festival is an event not to be missed.

FOOD & FUN

Food and entertainment have always gone hand in hand, and what better way to celebrate both than at a food festival with live entertainment? Walking through rows of food stalls, each offering delicious food from different cuisines, guests will enjoy the lively music of talented DJs from all around the world or international artists on the wide open air stage. That's the kind of experience the festival with live entertainment can offer.

The festival features a variety of entertainment options to keep visitors engaged and entertained. You can expect DJs playing a mix of upbeat music, live bands performing your favorite tunes, dance performances, magic shows, and much more. These entertainment bits add a whole new dimension to the food festival experience and make it a memorable event for all.

Food festivals with live entertainment are not only about eating delicious food and enjoying great music; they are also a platform for local businesses and artists to showcase their talent. Visitors can interact with chefs, learn new cooking techniques, and even take home some cooking tips and tricks.

In conclusion, Qatar International Food Festival is an exciting event that offers something for everyone.

It's a perfect family day out, combining international cuisines with fun and engaging activities for children. The festival provides a unique opportunity to explore new cultures, learn new recipes, and appreciate the diversity of Qatar's community and it is safe to say that QIFF is not to be missed out and definitely a chance to experience an incredible culinary adventure.



Developing Accord Could Vastly Improve Oceans' Survival Chances

THERE'S hope yet for Planet Earth. Representatives of 70 nations along with oil companies and major shipping lines have agreed in principle on a plan to stabilize oceans, limit exploitation and preserve habitats for marine life. That might not seem like such a big deal for landlocked Missourians, but there's not a place on Earth that doesn't depend one way or another on the health of the world's oceans and the abundance they provide. And they are dying rapidly, threatening to take the rest of the world with them.

It's remarkable in itself that UN members — who rarely agree on anything — have been able to reach a framework for protecting the oceans from further man-made harm. The oceanic areas mapped out for protection belong to no country. That means no country has an automatic right to exploit marine life or mineral riches beneath the sea floor. Conversely, no nation has an automatic right to tell any other nations what they may or may not do in an area where no nation holds jurisdiction. That's why the only way to protect the oceans is for all nations to agree that this is necessary for the good of the world.

US Climate Envoy John Kerry, fresh from an international meeting in Panama, stated early this month that a series of meetings that began in 2014 have culminated in the current draft agreement, in which countries around the world have committed to abide by 1,800 specific measures carrying a price tag of more than \$100 billion to address global climate change, sustainable fisheries, maritime security, marine pollution and areas where species survival is under threat.

Without regulation, industrial fishing fleets from countries like China fan out thousands of miles from their own shores to catch, process and package massive quantities of marine life for consumer markets. They are fishing the oceans to death.

When careless people throw plastic bottles into a gutter or stream, or when the streets flood and sweep away all the scattered litter, or when a massive tsunami or hurricane washes away entire coastal towns — that debris makes its way into the oceans. Literal floating islands of debris — plastic, wood, furniture, car parts and insulation foam — have formed on ocean surfaces, with one garbage patch in the Pacific reported to be the size of the state of Texas. They block off sunlight and choke off life for the creatures below.

The agreements reached in Panama set a low bar: Conserving only 30% of the ocean by 2030. And all that is conditional on an international treaty, which could take years more to negotiate and more years to win legislative ratification. And, as Americans learned with the Paris Climate Accord, all it takes is one change of US administration to scuttle everything. So, even at 30%, this is by no means a slam-dunk.



We Commend QNL's Contribution to Preserve Arab Heritage: AFLI President

In a few years, Qatar was able to emerge and excel through a wide range of cultural activities and events that contributed to introducing Arab culture and intellectual heritage, praising the role of Qatar National Library in preserving the Arab heritage through its existing and ongoing project related to digitize the region's documents

QNA
DOHA

PRESIDENT of the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI) Dr Nabhan bin Harith Al Harrasi has affirmed that Qatar National Library (QNL) is a prominent cultural and scientific resource not only in the Arab world, but also throughout the world.

In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) on Monday, the AFLI president said that Qatar was able, in a few years, to emerge and excel through a wide range of cultural activities and events that contributed to introducing Arab culture and intellectual heritage. He praised the role of Qatar National Library in preserving the Arab heritage through its existing and ongoing project related to digitize the region's documents.

He explained that this project contributed to preserving and introducing these documents, which have become a source for researchers and scholars, especially in the field of history.

He added that communication between Qatar National Library and the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information has been continuing since the opening of the library, noting that cooperation has been strengthened over time.

In a previous meeting between the library and the AFLI President, it was agreed on a set of cooperation programmes, including participation in the QNL Annual Forum for Library Professionals, which will be held on March 19 for two days, during which participants from libraries, museums and cultural centers sector from all over the world will exchange talks and experiences about their initiatives in the field of cultural diplomacy.

Representatives of Qatar National Library also participate in AFLI activities, the most important of which is the annual AFLI conference.

Dr Al Harrasi, a Library and Information Science Associate Professor and Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University in the Sultanate of Oman, appreciated QNL's role as the Regional Center for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) to preserve heritage in the Arab world, stressing that the library had this status, due to its cultural and scientific location in the



region, and thanks to its continuous activity in linking knowledge to society, as well as the scientific communication network established by the library with regional and international organizations.

Choosing Qatar National Library as the IFLA Regional Center to introduce the world to Arab intellectual heritage enhances civilizational communication between East and West, he added.

Regarding the existence of a database on libraries in the Arab world, he said that there is a database of researches published in the library and information sector called Al-Hadi database, but there is no map of Arab libraries, stressing that the federation contributes to developing the skills of librarians in preserving documents and manuscripts, as it provides continuous training programs in all sectors, including the preservation of documents and manuscripts.

He underlined that during the past years, AFLI organized many training programs and workshops in the field of archives and documents, which touched on preserving documents and manuscripts and digitizing and making them available, adding that it intends to organize a symposium and a work-

shop in this field next May in Tunisia, during which issues related to converting documents into electronic sources will be addressed, in addition to reviewing some pioneering experiences in the Arab world in document management.

Al Harrasi affirmed that all Arab countries fall under the umbrella of the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information and receive great attention, and that the countries in which libraries were exposed to security risks and challenges are under the concern and study of the Federation, noting that the AFLI issued a special book on libraries in Palestine, and another book on the challenges faced by libraries in light of the Covid-19 crisis, and is currently planning to hold a symposium on libraries affected in conflict-prone areas based on AFLI's role in supporting and preserving Arab library heritage.

Al Harrasi stressed the need to invest in information technology in the work of libraries to progress civilizations and for people to obtain knowledge quickly, with high efficiency. Technology has greatly interfered with the information services provided by libraries during the past three decades with the advent of the global informa-

tion network and has contributed to managing the huge amount of knowledge that would otherwise have been difficult to control without databases and search engines, he said, stressing the ability of libraries, with high efficiency, to adapt technology to serve its goals, and strengthen its relationship with beneficiaries and researchers. He added that in light of the knowledge explosion and the huge amount of information sources, after the spread of Web 2.0, content management systems appeared to organize information and facilitate its retrieval.

These systems have succeeded to a large extent in achieving these goals, and have evolved through systems by introducing more accurate techniques and tools that respond to the needs of researchers, highly intelligent systems.

In the future, it is expected that content management systems will witness a huge leap, especially after the introduction of Artificial Intelligence. The digitization of documents and sources of information has become necessary now to link the past with the present, Dr Al Harrasi said, adding that digitization also contributes to preserving heritage and making it widely available via the Internet.

Many countries, such as Australia and the United Kingdom, have worked to digitize their archives of documents and make them available to the public to enhance knowledge, and to introduce the world to their intellectual heritage, he stressed.

The national libraries are primarily responsible for preserving the heritage of nations, collecting intellectual production, introducing it, and promoting civilized and cultural communication. These principles are compatible with the policies and strategies pursued by countries. National libraries are the basis for achieving cultural diplomacy, and the foundation for preserving identity and community values, and contribute significantly to implanting the principles of reading, especially for young people, he added.

He concluded his interview by saying that the transformation to a knowledge economy requires the availability of information and databases, as well as the existence of institutions capable of providing consultations, especially in planning and decision-making, and these requirements are provided by national libraries.

A Full Banking Crisis Isn't Apparent In The SVB Wreckage

PAUL J DAVIES

THE market still appears to be hunting for weakness among some smaller US banks and even across Europe after US authorities stepped in to guarantee deposits at Silicon Valley Bank. This makes little sense: There should be no snowballing of runs on banks. But profit expectations could be trimmed at many firms, which could justify some — but far from all — of the price declines.

The Federal Reserve brought out its bazooka Sunday, guaranteeing funds for any bank whose depositors might have been clicking "withdraw" over the weekend. The central bank saw clear potential for a systemic crisis in the closures of SVB and Signature Bank and acted to kill it before it got started.

In Europe, the much smaller local office of SVB in the UK was easily absorbed into HSBC Holdings Plc in a private solution negotiated by regulators swiftly over the weekend. The chances of contagion were far smaller in Europe anyway, in part because rules designed to ensure that banks can cope with a sudden wave of deposit withdrawals apply to many more institutions than in the US.

SVB was knocked over by a combi-

nation of its highly concentrated deposit base and very large unrealized losses on Treasuries and mortgage bonds. There are no other publicly traded US banks with balance sheets that look similar to SVB's, according to Bloomberg Intelligence's Herman Chan.

But on Monday morning, investors continued to react as if more were equally endangered. Shares in another California-based lender, First Republic Bank, dropped more than 60% in pre-market trading, even though its deposit base and assets are more diversified than SVB's. First Republic had only 8% of its deposits from venture capital and private equity related businesses and funds, versus 52% for SVB, and it had a much smaller portfolio of bonds, according to analysts at UBS Group AG.

Still, investor jitters and whatever the Fed was hearing at the weekend from banks about deposit flows were enough for US regulators and the Treasury to deem that there were real risks for the wider banking system. The response was a system-wide solution, pledging cash in exchange for all Treasuries, agency debt and mortgage-backed bonds without any discount being applied to face value. That is like quantitative easing on demand for the financial system: No



bank should fail for want of cash.

In the UK and Europe, there are even fewer financial firms that might look anything like SVB or Signature Bank, or Silvergate Bank, a third lender that was shuttered last week. HSBC has bought SVB's UK operations for a nominal £1 (\$1.20), taking responsibility for £6.7 billion worth of deposits and getting in return £8.8 billion of assets. HSBC's UK bank had nearly £280 billion of deposits at the end of 2022, so SVB will be easily swallowed. HSBC said the tangible net assets of the business it has bought were expected to be about £1.4 billion. It will likely book a decent profit on the trade, which the bank will reveal in future.

This is a neat and quick solution reached because SVB UK was so small and there was little chance of any direct contagion from its problems.

However, European bank stocks were still getting heavily sold Monday.

Fearful investors were focusing on holdings of bonds that are likely a source of unrealized losses. European banks hold €1.6 trillion (\$1.7 trillion) of government bonds on their balance sheets, with Italian and Spanish lenders holding the largest shares at €466 billion and €279 billion respectively, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. Given the rise in European interest rates, many of these bonds will have fallen in value in the past year, but that doesn't mean that banks are suddenly much more risky.

Banks only lose money on these bonds if they are forced to sell them, otherwise they'll just get repaid the full value when the securities mature. They'll only need to sell the bonds if they suddenly need to pay out deposits — and they would have to repay a lot. Banks in the UK and Europe are subject to stricter liquidity rules than those in the US, which means they are forced to keep a higher level of cash and easily sellable assets against their deposits.

Also, banks in Europe were already holding more cash than regulators require as they get ready to repay special low-cost loans from the European Central Bank this year, known as

TLTROs, according to Moody's Investors Services. At the same time, the only bonds that could cause banks to book unrealized losses are those that they hold at historic cost in so-called hold-to-maturity buckets. For the majority of large European banks, these bonds account for less than 10% of all assets, according to analysts at Jefferies Financial Group Inc. At SVB, those holdings were 43% of its assets at the end of 2022.

Many banks are likely to see profit forecasts cut if this episode leads to official interest rates peaking sooner. Also, the costs of bank deposits are still rising to catch up with the rate rises that have already happened, so banks' lending margins could peak sooner rather than later, too. For banks that are already weakened, or struggling with strategy, a margin squeeze and any prolonged spell of tensions will be very unhelpful. That's likely the main reason why Credit Suisse Group AG, along with other banks deemed to be among Europe's weakest, saw its stock take another pasting on Monday. But an earnings hit for many banks isn't a crisis for the entire financial system.

(Paul J Davies is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering banking and finance.)

Iran-Saudi Arabia deal casts China in leading global role

AGENCIES
BEIJING

AN agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia to reestablish diplomatic relations has cast China in a leading role in Middle Eastern politics — a part previously reserved for long-time global heavyweights like the U.S. and Russia. It's another sign that China's diplomatic clout is growing to match its economic footprint.

Under Xi Jinping, Chinese diplomacy has become known for angry outbursts against the West, threats against Taiwan, aggressive moves in the South China Sea and a refusal to condemn Russia over Ukraine.

The deal reached in Beijing Friday, under which the sides

agreed to reopen their embassies and exchange ambassadors after seven years of tensions, shows a different side of Chinese diplomacy. Xi appears to have played a direct part in the talks by hosting Iran's president in Beijing last month. He also visited Riyadh in December for meetings with Gulf Arab nations crucial to China's energy supplies.

The agreement was seen as a major triumph for China, coming as Gulf states perceive the US as winding down its involvement in the Middle East.

"I think it is a sign that China is increasingly confident in taking a more assertive role in the Middle East," said Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat, an academic affiliated with the

Washington-based Middle East Institute. China's economic interests increasingly draw it into conflicts far from its shores. It's by far the biggest customer for Middle Eastern energy exports, while the US has reduced its

The agreement was seen as a major diplomatic triumph for China, coming as Gulf Arab states perceive the United States as winding down its involvement in the Middle East.

need for imports as the country shifts toward energy independence.

Chinese officials have long argued that Beijing should play an active role in the region, said June Teufel Dreyer, a political scientist specialising in Chi-

nese politics. Meanwhile, US-Saudi frictions have created "a vacuum that Beijing was happy to step into," Dreyer said.

China has invested heavily in regional energy infrastructure. It also occasionally

contributed naval ships to join anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia, though the US Navy has served as the main security guarantor for Mideast waters since the 1980s. In a statement Saturday, China's Foreign Ministry quoted an un-

identified spokesperson as saying Beijing "pursues no selfish interest whatsoever." "China has no intention to and will not seek to fill so-called vacuum or put up exclusive blocs," it said, in an apparent reference to the US

At the close of the ceremonial legislature's annual session Monday, Xi Jinping said China should "actively participate in the reform and construction of the global governance system" and promote "global security initiatives." The diplomatic victory comes as Washington has heavily criticised China for failing to condemn Russia's invasion and for accusing the US and NATO of provoking the conflict. However, many Middle Eastern governments view

China as a neutral party, with strong ties to both Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The deal "boosts Beijing's ability to project an image of itself as a constructive actor for peace, which will be helpful for fending off accusations from the West that it is supporting Russia's invasion in Ukraine," said Amanda Hsiao, an International Crisis Group analyst.

"It demonstrates that China is trying to conduct competition in foreign diplomacy with the U.S., and not only in its immediate neighborhood," said Wang Lian, an international relations professor at Peking University. The successful negotiations show the two countries "placed their trust in China," Wang said.

Ukraine: Defence holds as Wagner forces seek Bakhmut breakthrough

DPA
KIEV

THE situation around the embattled city of Bakhmut is still difficult, as Wagner forces are trying to break through Ukraine's defence lines, the commander of Ukraine's land forces said on Monday.

Oleksandr Syrskyi described the situation around Bakhmut as still difficult.

"The Wagner assault groups are attacking from several directions and trying to break through the defences of our forces and advance into the city centre," he said, according to a Ukrainian military statement. He was referring to the Russian mercenary force led by Yevgeny Prigozhin.

Ukrainian units inflicted "noticeable losses" on the enemy with artillery, tanks. "The defence of the fortress continues!" the colonel general assured. Ac-



Russian pastor Roman Vinogradov and his wife Yekaterina have a huge family of 16 children, including 4 of their native and 12 fostered ones. Five of these children have recently arrived from eastern Ukraine, controlled by Russian troops. (AFP)

ording to Ukrainian military observers, Russian units have

gained ground mainly north

Monday morning report also

eral localities north of Bakhmut. On the Russian side, a Ukrainian counter-attack to relieve Bakhmut in the Donetsk region is increasingly expected. Prigozhin had mentioned this in a video message as a threat scenario for his units.

According to Russian reports, several Ukrainian brigades were massed between the cities of Sloviansk and Kostiantynivka for this purpose.

So far, however, the mud that appears in the spring has not allowed for quick advances off paved roads.

A Ukrainian counter-attack is not the only worry for Prigozhin and his Wagner troops, as they could face difficulties due to a lack of new prisoners as recruits, according to British estimates released on Monday.

Half of the prisoners previously recruited had become victims of the heavy fighting, it said.

Cyclone Freddy kills many in Mozambique, Malawi

AGENCIES
BLANTYRE

CYCLONE Freddy that is currently battering southern Africa killed at least 44 people in Malawi and Mozambique since it struck the continent for a second time on Saturday night, authorities said.

At least 39 people in Malawi's commercial hub of Blantyre have died with several others missing or injured, the city's chief executive officer said. Authorities in Mozambique reported that five people were killed in the country since Saturday.

The deaths in Malawi include five members of a single family who died in Blantyre's Ndirande township after Freddy's destructive winds and heavy rains demolished their house, according to police report.

A three-year-old child who was "trapped in the debris" is also among the victims, with her parents among those reported missing. The cyclone lashed over Mozambique and Malawi over the weekend and into Monday.

It's the second time the record-breaking cyclone — which has been causing destruction in southern Africa since late February — made landfall in mainland Africa.

It also pummeled the island states of Madagascar and Reunion as it traversed across the ocean.

Tokyo court orders retrial of oldest death row inmate

AGENCIES
TOKYO

THE Tokyo High court on Monday ordered a retrial for an 87-year-old former boxer who has been on death row for more than five decades af-

ter his murder conviction that his lawyers said was based on forced confession and fabricated evidence. The court said Iwao Hakamada deserves a retrial because of a possibility that a key evidence that led to his conviction could have been

fabricated by investigators, according to a statement from the Japan Bar Association. Amnesty International says Hakamada is the world's longest-serving death row prisoner. He has been temporarily released since 2014, but still not cleared

of charges, when the Shizuoka District Court in central Japan suspended his execution and ordered a retrial. That ruling was overturned by the Tokyo High Court until the Supreme Court in 2020 ordered the lower court to reconsider. His

defense lawyers rushed out of the courtroom and flashed banners saying "Retrial." "We won his retrial. I'm so glad, and that's all I can say," said his 90-year-old sister Hideko, who has devoted her life to prove her brother's innocence.

Yeoh makes history as 'Everything Everywhere All At Once' triumphs

DPA
LONDON

MICHELE Yeoh made history at the 95th Oscars as "Everything Everywhere All At Once" took home a clutch of major awards.

The multiverse sci-fi epic, directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, claimed seven prizes including best directing and best picture, the biggest of the night.

It was a disappointing evening for Irish talent with "The Banshees Of Inisherin" going home empty-handed despite its nine nominations.

Yeoh claimed the Oscar for best leading actress, fending off competition from two-time Oscar winner Cate Blanchett to become the first woman from an Asian background to win the prize. Taking to the stage, she said: "For all the little boys and girls who look like me, this is a beacon of hope and possibilities. "Dream big, dreams do come true. Ladies, never let anyone tell you you are past your prime." She added: "This is history in the making." Her co-star Jamie Lee Curtis, 64, won her first Oscar, for supporting actress, and paid tribute to all the special people in her life.

The actress, who is the daughter of Hollywood stalwarts Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis, added: "And my mother and father were both nominated for Oscars in different categories, I just won an Oscar."



Michelle Yeoh and co-star Jamie Lee Curtis.

Kwan and Scheinert, jointly known as "The Daniels," took home the award for best directing - only the third time it has gone to a duo.

Ke Huy Quan received a

Yeoh is the first woman from an Asian background to win the Oscar prize

standing ovation as he took to the stage after claiming best supporting actor for his role in "Everything Everywhere All At Once," becoming the first person from an Asian background to win the category. "My journey started on a boat," he said.

"I spent a year in a refugee camp and somehow I ended up here on Hollywood's biggest stage." Brendan Fraser won the best actor Oscar for his perfor-

mance as a reclusive English teacher with morbid obesity in "The Whale," completing a dramatic career comeback after years out of the spotlight. "The Mummy" actor, 54, was visibly emotional as he thanked director Darren Aronofsky for "throwing me a creative life-line." Costume designer Ruth E Carter became the first African-American to win two Academy Awards for best costume design - for her work on the first "Black Panther" film and now its sequel, "Wakanda Forever." "All Quiet On The Western Front" also enjoyed a successful night, continuing its runaway success at the Baftas last month, by securing four awards including best cinematography and original score.

The co-directors of "An Irish Goodbye" led a chorus of Happy Birthday for the film's star James Martin from the

stage after the film won best live action short film. Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis" failed to capitalise on its eight Oscar nominations, going home empty handed despite its star Austin Butler being touted as a favourite to take best actor.

Elsewhere on the night, Elizabeth Banks tripped as she took to the stage to present the award for best visual effects, which went to "Avatar: The Way of Water," but quickly managed to steady herself.

She was joined by a person wearing a bear costume in reference to her recent film "Cocaine Bear" and quipped: "Oh my God. He tripped me." The award for best documentary feature film went to "Navalny," about Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and the events related to his 2020 poisoning.

Director Daniel Roher dedicated the award to Navalny and political prisoners around the world, saying: "Alexei, the world has not forgotten your vital message to the world." Navalny's wife, Yulia Navalnaya, added: "Alexei, I am dreaming of the day you will be free and our country will be free, stay strong my love." Host Jimmy Kimmel kicked off the night by entering the stage attached to a parachute, in a nod to best picture nominee "Top Gun: Maverick" and made references to last year's slap incident which involved Will Smith and Chris Rock.

India's Elephant Whisperers, RRR shine at Oscar



Art school students give final touches to a painting of Indian actors N.T. Rama Rao Jr. (L) and Ram Charan of Indian movie "RRR", along a street in Mumbai on Monday. (AFP)

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

INDIAN documentary film "Elephant Whisperers" won the Oscar in the "Best Documentary Short Film" category while "RRR's" power-packed song "Naatu Naatu" took India globally as it won the Oscar for "Original Song".

Producer Guneet Monga along with director Kartiki Gonsalves took centre stage to accept the honour. Singers Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava and composer along with director SS Rajamouli and lead actors Jr NTR and Ram Charan are all present at the big event.

The plot of the film 'El-

phant Whisperers' revolves around a family who adopts two orphan baby elephants in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

This is not the first time that Guneet Monga has brought the Oscar to India. In 2019, Guneet Monga's documentary "Period. End of Sentence" bagged the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject.

Singers Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava and composer along with director SS Rajamouli and lead actors Jr NTR and Ram Charan are all present at the big event.

Composer MM Keeravani and lyricist Chandrabose accepted the award on behalf of the team.



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'Favourable economic conditions help GIS witness strong post-pandemic recovery' [PAGE 9](#)



DOW	32,068.85 +159.29 PTS	QE	10,408.42 -156.99 PTS	SENSEX	58,237.85 -897.28 PTS	GOLD	1,914.40 +2.53%
BRENT	PRICE 80.80	PERCENTAGE -2.39%	WTI	PRICE 74.89	PERCENTAGE -2.33%	SILVER	21.89 +6.72%

644 building permits issued in February 2023, says PSA

QNB sponsors Excellence Awards to support SMEs

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QNA
DOHA

THE number of building permits issued by all municipalities of Qatar in February 2023 showed a general decrease of 11 percent to 644 permits as compared to 721 permits issued in January 2023.

A statement issued by Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) said, "Comparing the number of permits issued in February 2023 with those issued in the previous month we noted a general decrease of 11 percent. The decrease was noted in most of the municipalities: Al Sheehaniya (68 percent), Al Shammal (53 percent), Al Khor (34 percent), Al Wakrah (21 percent), Al Rayyan (13 percent), Al Doha (4 percent)." On the other hand, PSA said that there was a clear increase in the municipality of Um Slal (47 percent) and Al Da'ayen (11 percent).

In a quick review of the data on building permits issued during the month of February 2023, according to their geographical distribution, the municipality of Al Rayyan came at the top of the municipalities where the number of building permits issued was 156 permits, accounting for 24 percent of the total issued permits, while the



The municipality of Al Rayyan came at the top of the municipalities where the number of building permits issued was 156 in February this year.

municipality of Al Doha came in second place with 135 permits (21 percent) followed by Al Wakrah municipality with 127 permits (20 percent) then municipality of Al Da'ayen with 123 permits (19 percent).

The rest of the municipalities were as follows Um Slal 56 permits (9 percent), Al Khor 29 permits (5 percent), Al Sheehaniya 10 permits (2 percent), and finally Al Shammal 8 permits (1 percent).

In terms of the type of permits issued, data indicates that the new building permits (residential and non-residential) constitute 39 percent (251 permits) of the total building permits issued during the month of February 2023, while the percentage of additions permits constituted

57 percent (366 permits), and finally fencing permits with 4 percent (27 permits).

By analysing new residential buildings permits data, villas' permits topped the list, accounting for 82 percent (164 permits) of all new residential buildings permits, followed by apartments buildings permits by 11 percent (22 permits) and dwellings of housing loans permits and other residential building permits by 4 percent (7 permits) each.

On the other hand, commercial buildings were found to be at the forefront of non-residential buildings permits with 47 percent (24 permits), followed by industrial buildings like workshops and factories with 29 percent (15

permits), then mosques with 16 percent (8 permits).

Comparing the number of certificates issued in February 2023 with those issued in the previous month, a general decrease of 11 percent was noted.

This decrease was clearly noted in most of the municipalities like Al Shammal (40 percent), Al Doha (30 percent), Al Rayyan (23 percent), Al Da'ayen (17 percent). On the other hand, there was a clear increase in the municipality of Al Khor (143 percent), Um Slal (21 percent), Al Sheehaniya (14 percent), and Al Wakrah (5 percent).

In a quick review of the data on building completion certificates issued during the month of February 2023, according to their geographical distribution, Al Wakrah municipality came at the top of the municipalities where the number of building completion certificates issued was 83 certificates (24 percent) of the total issued certificates, while the municipality of Al Rayyan came in second place with 79 certificates (23 percent), followed by municipality of Al Da'ayen with 67 certificates (20 percent), then municipality of Al Doha with 57 certificates (17 percent).

The rest of the municipalities were as follows: Umm

Slal had 29 certificates (8 percent), Al Khor 17 certificates (5 percent), Al Sheehaniya 8 certificates (2 percent), Al Shammal with 3 certificates, accounting for 1 percent.

In terms of the type of certificates issued, data indicates that the new building completion certificates (residential and non-residential) constitute 78 percent (268 certificates) of the total building certificates issued during the month of February 2023, while the percentage of additions certificates constituted 22 percent (75 certificates).

By analyzing new residential buildings completion certificates data, villas' topped the list, accounting for 86 percent (181 certificates) of all new residential building's completion certificates, followed by other residential buildings by 5 percent (11 certificates), then dwellings of housing loans and apartments buildings certificates by 4 percent (9 certificates).

On the other hand, commercial buildings were found to be at the forefront of non-residential building completion certificates with 52 percent (30 certificates), followed by industrial buildings e.g., workshops and factories with 28 percent (16 certificates), then mosques with 10 percent (6 certificates).

QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, on Monday announced its strategic sponsorship of the SME Excellence Awards ceremony organised by Qatar Development Bank (QDB) to honour the top performing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Qatar.

This comes in recognition of SMEs that have excelled in their businesses, created sustainable business models, achieved remarkable business growth, and have made a positive impact and contribution to the local economy.

QNB's sponsorship comes as a part of the bank's belief in the important role of SMEs in further improving the Qatari economy. The bank provides business owners with the best day-to-day banking solutions required to operate and expand their business. The awards event is a valuable platform for entrepreneurs to highlight their achievements, as well as their outstanding and innovative efforts in managing their business.

QNB Group, 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.

Industries Qatar ("IQ" or the "Company") would like to inform its shareholders that Qatar National Bank ("QNB") is the dividend distributor of the Company's annual dividends for 2022. Please note that the Ordinary General Assembly meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15th March 2023 at 3:30 p.m. Qatar Time, in Al-Majlis Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel, Doha.

Shareholders who registered their bank accounts with the Qatar Central Securities Depository before 15th March 2022, will have their dividends transferred directly to their relevant bank accounts. Shareholders who have not registered their bank accounts, are kindly requested to fill out the "QNB Application for Dividends Credit to the Account" available on both QNB's website and send it to the email specified in the application in order to complete the dividends bank transfer. The shareholders may also visit any branch of QNB and complete this form accordingly. Upon successful submission of this form, all the outstanding uncollected dividends will be directly transferred to the designated account.

For further details, Shareholders may contact the QNB Shareholders Service Centre at (+974) 44252444.

Documentation requirements to be provided along with QNB Application for Dividends Credit to the Account:

Person Collecting	Required Documents
Shareholder for his own dividend ONLY	• Original valid ID of shareholder
Shareholder for his own and his minor's dividends	• Original valid ID of shareholder • Original valid ID or Birth Certificate of the minors or valid Special Power of Attorney
Representative of a shareholder to collect for shareholder ONLY	• Original valid ID of representative • Original copy of Authority Letter • Original valid ID of shareholder
In case of a mother representing minors	• Original valid Special Power of Attorney authorizing the mother • Original valid ID of the mother
Representative of a shareholder to collect including minors of shareholder	• Original valid ID of representative • Original copy of Authority Letter with names of minors, NIN, and ID number stated in the letter • Original valid ID or Birth Certificate of the minors or valid Special Power of Attorney
In case if shareholder is deceased	• Original Court Inheritance Certificate
Corporate shareholders	• Original copy of Authority Letter • Photocopy of CR • Photocopy of the ID of authorized signatory • Original valid ID of representative

'Favourable economic conditions help GIS witness strong post-pandemic recovery'



Addressing shareholders at the company's annual general assembly meeting on Monday, GIS Chairman Sheikh Khalid Bin Khalifa Al Thani said, "All the group companies have progressed well to a robust set of results compared to last year."



SATYENDRA PATHAK
DOHA

ALL the group companies of Gulf International Services (GIS) witnessed a strong post-pandemic recovery and significant growth thanks to favourable economic conditions and better dynamics in the oil and gas industry and the overall constructive macroeconomic context in relation to the various business segment activities, the company's chairman said on Monday.

Addressing shareholders at the company's annual general assembly meeting on Monday, GIS Chairman Sheikh Khalid Bin Khalifa Al Thani said, "All the group companies have progressed well to a robust set of results compared to last year. In 2022, there were several strategic initiatives taken, and some of which were successfully implemented, while others were excluded because they were not aligned with the company's strategy."

Within the catering segment, he said, "GIS has pro-

ceeded with the merger of Amwaj with Al Shaqab and Atyab. Thanks to the efforts made by all parties, an agreement has been reached that will result in the largest Qatari company specialising in the catering sector, while expectations indicate that the new entity will have significant contributions in the field of catering services and manpower provided to the industrial sector in Qatar, with a potential of expanding in other activities."

About the insurance segment, he said, "As part of our continuous efforts to expand and explore new investment opportunities for the benefit of our shareholders, there was a proposal to merge our subsidiary Al Koot Insurance and Re-insurance Company with Doha Insurance Group. Based on the preliminary negotiations regarding the aforementioned potential merger, both the parties concluded that an initial principle agreement could not be reached."

"Accordingly, both parties have jointly decided to with-

draw from these negotiations, as the proposed merger would not have achieved mutual interests related to the shareholders of both companies. Going forward, the insurance segment will continue to exert efforts in achieving value addition for the Group," he said.

With regard to the aviation segment, he said, "Gulf Helicopters Company (GHC) achieved the highest net profit since its inception, due to the remarkable increase in aviation activities locally and internationally."

It is worth noting that GHC will continue its expansion by adding new helicopters to its fleet, and a contract has been signed with Leonardo to supply five AW139 helicopters with the option of adding five more aircraft of the same specification. This will contribute toward enhancing the financial and operational performance of the company."

Within the drilling segment, he said, "Our efforts resulted in increasing the average daily rates of drilling rigs dur-

ing 2022, which contributed positively to improving the financial performance of the segment. The Group will continue its efforts toward restructuring the debt to be more effective and efficient, being a key pillar of our overall Group strategy which will support the financial sustainability of the Group."

The Group reported a net profit of QR290 million for 2022, with the Group's total assets amounting to QR10.9 billion as of December 31, 2022.

"As we ended the year strongly, backed by constructive industry dynamics coupled with strategic realisations. Therefore, after considering the Group's operating, investing and financing needs, the board of directors recommend a total dividend distribution of QR186 million for 2022, equivalent to QR0.10 per share, representing 10 percent of the nominal share value," he said.

Looking ahead, he said, "The strategy of GIS will continue to remain focused on maximising value by capi-

talising on the competitive strengths of its Group companies while pursuing attractive opportunities to expand footprints while looking ahead to improve asset utilisation and enhance operational excellence to create long-term shareholder value."

Speaking on the occasion, Privatized Companies Affairs Acting Manager at QatarEnergy Abdulla Yaqoob Al Hay announced that the negotiations with Tamween Capital and Abela Qatar International in relation to the merger between Amwaj, Atyab and selected entities of Shaqab Abela are now complete, subject to extra-ordinary General Assembly meeting approval.

The newly merged entity will be called Amwaj Catering Service Limited, where GIS will own 30 percent stake and the merger will be effective from January 1, 2023.

"This 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," Hay said.

"Combining Amwaj with Shaqab and Atyab would be a win-win transaction for all the shareholders, with new shareholders boosting its topline amid a strong client base, while GIS getting access to enhanced profitability margins by way of operational synergies," he said.

Also, he said, "This merger would lead to enhanced cost efficiencies, coupled with senior management expertise in the field of catering and services."

Following the completion of the transaction, each shareholder of the merged entity will nominate 2 members for Amwaj's board of directors having equal rights. The CEO of the merged entity will be independently appointed by the new board of directors.

All the parties collectively agreed to complete the merger based on the estimated fair value of equity amounting to QR 637 million. The merger deal will be value accretive for GIS and its shareholders backed by a forecast business plan.

QIIB sponsors 24th Gulf Engineering Forum

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QIIB announced its sponsorship of the 24th Gulf Engineering Forum, themed "Environmental Engineering and Sustainability", which was held from March 7 to 9 at the Sheraton Grand Doha Hotel.

A number of ministers and dignitaries from Qatar, the GCC and Arab countries attended the forum, which was organised by the Ministry of Municipality, the Gulf Engineering Union and Qatar Society of Engineers.

The forum featured panel discussions attended by experts and specialists from the State of Qatar and the GCC countries, which addressed topics related to technology and smart cities, sustainable building materials, efficient management of buildings and cities, waste management and recycling".

On the occasion, QIIB



QIIB CEO Dr. Abdulbasit Ahmed Al Shaibei

CEO Dr. Abdulbasit Ahmed al-Shaibei, QIIB commented, "By sponsoring the forum, QIIB affirms its support and participation in activities that provide value addition to the general trends of the state, particularly, the issues of sustainability, technology, recycling, and other important matters".

He pointed out: "The importance of the forum's theme

and its focus on sustainability hint at modern trends in business and engineering projects. As banks, we are undoubtedly interested in promoting ideas and initiatives that enhance sustainability for representing the future and being a legacy for future generations".

The CEO noted, "We ensure to implement our social responsibility strategy including a wide range of activities and initiatives that serve the widest possible segment of society, and support creativity, innovation, digital transformation, and many other topics that represent basic trends for the society's advancement and development".

He added, "We highly recognise the success of this important forum and thank the organisers for their efforts. We are confident that the forum's recommendations would be a step forward in a number of topics that were discussed and highlighted".



QFMA warns investors against dealing with suspicious firms

QNA
DOHA

QATAR Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) warned investors against dealing with suspicious companies.

In a tweet, QFMA said it had noticed repeated advertisements for companies calling and promoting saving and investment to obtain profits.

To avoid fraudulent operations, the authority warned the investors against dealing with such companies without assuring that they have the required licenses from relevant authorities in the country.



Tender Advertisement

مؤسسة دوري نجوم قطر
لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات

Closing date	Method of envelop presentation	Document Fees (QR)	tender bond (QR)	Subject	Tender number
22/03/2023	2 envelopes (technical and financial)	500	30000	Qatar Cup 2023 Event Support & Delivery	3/2023

- Please note that you can obtain a copy of the documents related to the Tender in question during our working hours.
- Please deposit the amount related to the tender in QSL's account number (QA29QNBA00000000013027075001) in QNB as well as a copy of the commercial certificate. Moreover, note that the official letter of your company must state clearly the name of the person who represents the company and who is in charge of receiving the tender documents. The letter on behalf of the company must state the tender reference number and the willingness to be part of the tender.
- Each proposal must include a primary performance bond and a letter of the guarantee for a period of 120 days. This performance bond must be from any bank recognized by the state of Qatar. Please note that no proposal will be taken into consideration without the performance bond. (A copy of the performance bond must be available in the technical proposal as well). The performance bond must be valid for 90 days starting from the day the envelopes are opened. Also note that this performance bond will be returned to all companies once the tender is completed.
- A final performance bond of 10% from the final amount of the contract must be presented and must be valid for a duration of 90 days after the completion of work, and that is 15 days after the acceptance letter.
- Place the proposal in the tender Box of QSL. The office is located in al bidda tower in the Dafna region on the 23th floor, unit 80 (Mr. Omar Al maraghi) The proposal must be directed to the Head of the tender Committee. The number of the tender must be mentioned as well as the subject and it should be register by the secretary of the tender committee which should be before 12:30PM, Doha timing from the closing date.
- Quotations must be in Qatari riyals.
- The proposal must include fixed prices.
- No modification is allowed after closing dates. If the participants wish to withdraw, the performance bond will not be reimbursed.
- Proposals must be submitted in one original and two copies along with a copy of the tender bond.
- Any proposal can be rejected if the participant is not willing to adhere to the conditions, kindly submit the technical proposal and the financial proposal in separate envelopes. Any proposal that does not include the 2 envelopes as indicated in the policy won't be accepted.
- For any additional information please don't hesitate to contact us by phone: (44754011) or by (fax) (44754041).

Nakilat reaffirms to follow through its expansion plans at AGM

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

NAKILAT held its Annual General Meeting on Monday, chaired by Abdulaziz Jassim Al-Muftah, the Chairman of Nakilat's Board of Directors.

During the AGM held at the Marsa Malaz Kempinski, the Pearl - Doha, the Group discussed the consolidated earnings results with a net profit of QR1.44 billion in 2022, highest since inception, an increase of 6.3 percent and key activities held in 2022.

The General Assembly approved the Group's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 and a recommendation by the Board of Directors to distribute a cash dividend of 13% of the nominal share value (representing QR 0.13 per share). All items on the agenda were also approved during the AGM.

Following an overview of Nakilat's activities and financial results in 2022, the Chairman commended all employees of the company for their continuous efforts to achieving strong financial performance and sustainable operational excellence. The company's resilience and the convergent

efforts has enabled Nakilat's sustained growth momentum and business continuity, creating immense value for both its customers and shareholders.

The company followed through its expansion plans with the delivery of "Global Sealine", a technologically advanced LNG carrier newbuild during the past year, demonstrating commitment to innovation, sustainability, and operational excellence. This allowed Nakilat to provide greater fleet capacity and flexibility to its customers and gave the company a significant competitive advantage in the energy transportation sector. Moreover, this contributed towards the company's efforts at reducing its carbon footprint and operating sustainably apace growing its international shipping portfolio.

Nakilat is not only continuously supporting and committing to reduce carbon emissions across the industry, but also applies industry best practices and supports different initiatives to address climate-related risks and opportunities. The company published its 2021 Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Report, which is in-line with



global international standards and received for the 2nd consecutive year an independent assurance by EY that enhances report's credibility towards all company's stakeholders and shareholders.

Nakilat Chief Executive Officer Eng. Abdullah Fadhlah Al Sulaiti said: "Despite all the challenges the world faced in 2022 by an unprecedented

pace of rise in interest and inflation rates, Nakilat managed to overcome these fluctuations with the least impact on its financial performance, a clear indication of the strength and durability of our operational excellence in the field of energy transportation and marine services. The results were complimented by the efforts of our dedicated workforce and

collaboration to achieve optimal value for our shareholders and customers. Through the recent strategic expansion of the company's fleet with an additional 4 LNG carriers, and the improved performance of its joint ventures operating in the drydock, demonstrating our commitment to innovative sustainability and operational excellence. The addition to

our fleet has allowed Nakilat to increase its fleet capacity and increase operational efficiency, giving us a competitive advantage at a time when the company is expanding its portfolio in the global transportation market by constantly searching for growth opportunities that benefit its shareholders in the long term. As a final note, I would like to emphasize that we have revamped our ESG strategy in accordance with international standards and industry best practices. This ensures that Nakilat continue to meet the growing expectations to strengthen our ESG governance structure, actively mitigate environmental-related risks and explore new opportunities."

Nakilat's Board of Directors expressed their appreciation to H.E. Eng. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Managing Director and CEO of QatarEnergy for its ongoing support of Nakilat's activities as well as its Industrial Cities Directorate for its cooperation with the Erhama Bin Jaber Al Jalahma Shipyard, and Qatargas in playing a significant role to ensure Nakilat's strong financial performance.



Qatar Chamber hosted on Monday a delegation from the Republic of Gambia led by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment Lamin Dampha

QC seeks to boost trade relations with Gambia

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Qatar Chamber hosted on Monday a delegation from the Republic of Gambia led by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment HE Lamin Dampha, and his accompanying delegation.

QC Assistant Director General for Government Relations and Committees Affairs Ali Bu Sherbak Al Mansouri attended the meeting, which touched on the economic and commercial cooperation and means to enhance them and ways to bolster cooperation between the private sector in both countries.

On his part, Ali Bu Sherbak said that there is a strong desire from the Qatari side to develop commercial relations with its Gambian counterpart, noting that there are multiple opportunities for partnerships and alliances between Qatari and Gambian businessmen.

Bu Sherbak stressed the Chamber's keenness to develop cooperation with the Gambian side, noting that there is an agreement signed with the Gambia Chamber of Commerce to boost cooperation and another MoU to establish a joint business council. He affirmed the importance of activating these agreements and increasing the mutual visits between both businessmen of both countries and strengthening relations between the Qatari private sector and its Gambian counterpart.

He gave an overview of the role of the Qatar Chamber in the business community, and the services and activities it makes to safeguard the interests of businessmen and promote the national economy and the Qatari private sector



abroad.

In turn, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment HE Lamin Dampha said that the delegation's visit aims to enhance the commercial cooperation with Qatar, and review means to develop businesses between the

Qatari and Gambian private sectors.

Dampha called on Qatari investors to visit Gambia which offers plenty of investment opportunities to learn about these opportunities, indicating that Gambia is a member of the Economic Community of West African States which is a large

market for more than 300 million populations.

He expressed his aspiration to see Qatari investments in Gambia in various sectors which offers various incentives for investors, indicating that his country is keen to enhance trade exchange with Qatar and supply Gambian products to Qatar.

QFC, PWC AND QBWA host special event on women's day

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR Financial Centre, a leading onshore financial and business centre in the region, in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) and the Qatari Businesswomen Association, held a special event themed "Embracing Technology to Build Gender-Balanced Societies" to celebrate International Women's Day. The event convened diplomats and experts from different fields to discuss the innovative ways technology is used to promote gender equality and inclusion.

In her opening remarks Sheikhha Alanoud Al-Thani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Business Officer, QFC, said: "In Qatar, we've experienced an incredible 70 per cent annual growth in FDI projects for the past several years. Technology and the digital economy have been critical to this growth. However, technology has been only one factor behind our success. Throughout the region, women are a driving force behind the transformation that is underway." Sheikhha Alanoud added: "There is an undisputed recognition that to succeed in today's global economy, it is essential to empower women. Numerous studies have shown that levelling the playing field between women and men has major economic benefits, and countries that fail to do so lag behind their peers. Empowering women has helped Qatar prosper as never before. Qatar is booming, and women are a key reason for that growth."

Speakers at the event included Mrs. Aisha Hussein Al Fardan, Vice Chairwoman, QBWA, and His Excellency Ambassador Cristian Tudor - Head of European Delegation to the state of Qatar, who shared their insight on the work toward achieving gender equality.

In her speech, Mrs. Aisha Hussein Al Fardan said: "Tech-

nology has the power to change lives, break down barriers, create opportunities for all, and improve conditions in marginalised societies.

However, women still face significant challenges in accessing technology, especially in developing countries where the gender digital gap is more apparent.

As we celebrate the progress that has been made today, we must also remember the work that still needs to be done." The event's agenda included a panel discussion featuring Her Excellency Mrs. Karin Fichtinger Grohe, Ambassador of Austria to the State of Qatar; Dr. Noora Fetais, Founding Secretary-General of the Arab Association for Cybersecurity, and Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Qatar University; Mrs. Maya Oweini, Director of Operations, PWC; and Rising Leader Miss Yara Al-Fetais Al-Marri, who engaged in an in-depth discussion on how to enhance women's participation in building a brighter future with the aid of innovative technologies and the measures and strategies countries should take into consideration to promote equity.

Stressing the significance of observing International Women's Day, Mr. Bassam Hajhamad, country senior partner and consulting leader for PwC Qatar, said: "International Women's Day is a key opportunity for all females within the industry to celebrate their success stories, which is a fundamental part of our PwC Inclusion agenda.

We strive to ensure that diversity is at the heart of what we do by providing the right opportunities and environment for our female colleagues to grow and become future leaders. Encouraging and recognising diversity and equality across the workplace is a measure of our own personal and professional success."



QFC, PWC and QBWA celebrating womens day

QT Economy & Business

Economists: Qatar's bid to host IMF, WBG for 2026 confirms its global role, soft power

Doha will be a destination for the world's elite and decision-makers in the financial and political fields throughout the days of the event's meetings

QNA
DOHA

ACCORDING to economists the State of Qatar's bid to host the meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group for the year 2026 is the culmination of a series of major meetings, conferences and events hosted by the Qatari capital, Doha.

They described this event, in the form of its approval by the concerned authorities, as the 'World Cup of the financial sector,' given that Doha will be a destination for the world's elite and decision-makers in the financial and political fields throughout the days of the event's meetings.

In their statements to Qatar News Agency, economists stressed that Qatar's bid to host the event is an affirmation of the country's soft power and role that has been established over the past years, which was translated into the country's hosting of the largest political and economic conferences, sporting events and cultural activities around the globe.

In this context, Economist Dr. Abdullah Al Khater told QNA in a statement that Qatar's candidacy to host the meetings of IMF and WBG for the year 2026 confirms the growing organizational capabilities of various major global events, such as the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), and the opening of the opening of UN House in Doha, adding that these events prove the growth of the State of Qatar's soft power.

This candidacy is another episode in a series of events with a global dimension that support Qatar's reputation as a destination for dialogue and discussions dealing with inter-



national affairs, he added.

He also explained that Qatar's candidacy to host these meetings is an equivalent to a candidacy to host the activities of a financial World Cup, considering that these events attract an elite of economic actors and economic and political decision makers around the globe.

Dr. Al Khater pointed out that UAE's support for Qatar's candidacy file to host the 2026 annual meetings of the IMF and WBG, clearly demonstrates the solidarity, cohesion, and harmony that has come to characterize the region, and the continuous endeavor to spread

the values of security, peace and sustainable development.

The meetings of IMF and WBG and the discussions that take place during them, intersect with the role played by the State of Qatar at the international level, especially in supporting the least developed countries, and its endeavor to provide the necessary funds and technical briefing for these countries to improve their conditions and lift the challenges they face, in addition to searching for solutions to the global economic systems, the economist said, noting that these systems are in need of more fun-

damental reforms - as proven by the changes that the world has been witnessing.

Through the topics raised in previous meetings, which fall under the category of challenges facing countries as one of their largest financiers - especially those related to liquidity, interest rates, climate changes and other challenges, the International Monetary Fund is attempting to open up to the various actors in the global economy, he added.

Dr. Al Khater concluded his statements by saying that the meetings of IMF and WBG, which are also known as Bret-

ton Woods Institutions, are usually a wide area for discussions of ideas related to questions about the roles of states and governments in the economy, as well as discussions of issues related to privatization and the role of the public and private sectors in raising the efficiency of the economic performances of states.

In turn, in his remarks to QNA, Associate Professor of investment risk analysis at Al al-Bayt University, Jordan, Dr. Omar Gharaibeh stressed that Qatar's candidacy to host the 2026 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group (WBG)

and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will help direct the attention toward Arab countries economies, encourage a civilizational dialogue between the participating delegations from private sectors, governments, and senior officials from IMF and WBG on the issue of sovereign debts in these countries, and reach proper methods to pay these debts away from conventional methods that rely on taxes. Dr. Gharaibeh said that in light of the apparent divisions in the world, Qatar has a valuable opportunity to discuss these issues and challenges facing the Arab countries through establishing genuine partnerships, attracting investment, achieving necessary reforms to develop those countries' economies to raise their growth rates, addressing the huge gap between income and wealth, and promoting the role of the middle class and reducing poverty to reach sustainable economic development and achieve stability in those countries.

He pointed out that these meetings will be important to open new horizons for participating countries to deal with thousands of world governmental officials, bankers, experts, businesspersons, and academics, enabling them to discuss significant issues, such as global monetary and financial stability, promotion of economic development, aid effectiveness, and the issue of climate change that will affect the entire world.

In a similar statement to QNA, Director of Investment House trading room Waleed Al Fuqaha said that Qatar's candidacy to host the meetings of the WBG stems from its role that seeks to achieve global stability, whether economically or politically.

Harvesting the sun twice: How Agri-PV can create cheap energy and crops in the MENA Region

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

A revolutionary suite of technologies could transform food and energy production in some of the world's most climate vulnerable regions, the Al-Attayah Foundation discovers in its latest Sustainability Research Paper.

Agri-voltaics, commonly shortened to Agri-PV, is the practice of co-developing an area of land for agriculture while simultaneously producing electricity from solar PV.

Also called dual-use solar, the practice involves adjusting the height of solar panels to as much as 14 feet, as well as adjusting the spacing between them, to accommodate equipment, workers, crops, and grazing animals.

The spacing and the angle of the panels allows light to reach the plants below and has the added benefit of shielding those crops from extreme heat.

The electricity generated gets uploaded to the grid, typically through nearby substations. While some of the electricity may find its way to the host farm, the projects are devised to provide power for general use and potentially provide an alternative source of revenue for land-owners.

The concept of Agri-PV was first conceptualised in Germany in 1981 and has more recently gained momentum globally due to growing interest in sustainable investments, demand for renewable energy and the fallen costs of

PV technologies over the last decade.

Installed capacity of Agri-PV worldwide has increased from 5 megawatts-peak (MWp) in 2012 to more than 14,000 MWp in 2020, with national funding programmes prevalent in China, France, Japan, South Korea, and the US.

A year-long research collaboration between the University of Sheffield, World Agroforestry and Latia Agripreneurship Institute conducted in the semi-arid Kajiado county, approximately 100km south of Kenya capital Nairobi, has given a tantalising glimpse into the technology's potential in harsh, hot growing conditions.

At the test plot, cabbages grown under the 345-watt solar panels have been a third bigger, and healthier, than those grown in control plots with the same amount of fertiliser and water.

Other crops such as aubergine and lettuce have shown similar results. Maize grown under the panels was taller and healthier.

According to Dr Richard Randle-Boggis, a researcher at the University of Sheffield's Harvesting the Sun Twice project, the solar panels also shielded crops from sun and ultraviolet radiation (UV) and allowed for higher electricity generation while reducing the amount of water needed for irrigation by 47 per cent.

This is especially significant in countries like Kenya, where unprecedented



droughts caused by global warming are already affecting food and water security, and where buying electricity from the national grid is exceedingly expensive, Randle-Boggis continued.

"We've reduced their reliance on the national grid, so they're becoming more self-sufficient," he explained.

"And there is also the potential for climate-change resilience because you're

essentially creating a more favourable growing environment and curbing some of those extreme conditions." In the next decades, food, water, and energy demand in the MENA region will increase as the population grows and climate vulnerability accelerates. This is likely to amplify the scarcity of land suitable for agriculture which creates an additional threat to the region's

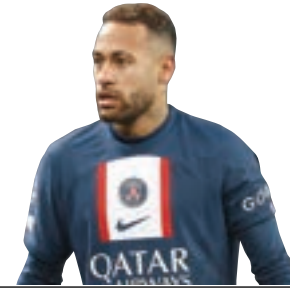
food security.

The benefits of Agri-PV are wide-ranging and could potentially make a strong contribution to address these challenges. Agri-PV in agrifood chains can contribute to food security and nutrition, enhance productivity and support income diversification.

Furthermore, it can contribute to minimising GHG emissions and help the agri-

food sector adapt to the effects of climate change.

However, challenges and barriers still exist to support its widespread development and utilisation, including existing farming practices, high initial investment costs due to low market penetration and awareness, lack of government incentives and limited technical knowledge of best practices for adoption.



QATAR VOLLEYBALL TEAM AMONG TOP 25 FOR PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS QUALIFICATION



The Qatar Volleyball team has made the grade for the FIVB Volleyball Men's Qualification Tournaments for Paris 2024 Olympics after placing themselves within the top 25 teams in the world. Qatar will battle for their maiden Olympic Games volleyball appearance at the Qualifiers where six teams will secure tickets to Paris Games next year. Details of the qualification tournaments will be announced by FIVB, the governing body of world volleyball, later. France have already qualified for the Games due to their host status, while Russia have been made ineligible. The remaining 24 teams at the top of the FIVB rankings will be drawn under three pools, based on the hosts venues of the qualifying tournaments (Brazil, Japan and China). Two nations from each pool will receive qualification for the July 27-August 11, 2024 multi-sport extravaganza.

King Of The Court Miami Tour bronze for Younousse & Tijan



Qatar's Cherif Younousse and Ahmed Tijan won the bronze medal at the King of the Court - Miami Beach 2023 Tournament. The Qatari former World No. 1 pair, now ranked third, shared the podium with Estonian duo Kusti Nolvak/Mart Tiisaar who emerged champions, and the silver winners Noe Aravena/Vicente Droguett of Chile. Canadian duo Brandie Wilkerson and Melissa Humana-Paredes won the women's title.

Quick read

Italian Super Cup played as four-team tournament in Saudi Arabia next season

THE Italian Super Cup will be played as a four-team tournament next season and held in Saudi Arabia for four of the next six years, Serie A said on Monday. Serie A said it would decide whether to maintain the four-team format for the following five seasons at a later date and after a meeting of its clubs. The next two Super Cups will be held in Saudi Arabia, with two years elsewhere before returning to the Arab nation for the final two years. Serie A didn't say where the two editions not held in Saudi Arabia would be played. Next year's tournament will be contested in January 2024. The Super Cup has up to now featured the Serie A champions and the winners of the Italian Cup, with Inter Milan thumping AC Milan in this year's edition in Riyadh in January. From next season it will feature the top two in Serie A and the Italian Cup finalists from the this campaign, in a similar change to the one made to the Spanish Super Cup.

QNB Stars League: Al Arabi edge Gharafa; Qatar SC beat Al Ahli 3-1

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

A 38th-minute penalty by Tunisian star Youssef Msakni helped Al Arabi edge Al Gharafa 1-0 in the QNB Stars League at the Thani Bin Jassim Stadium on Monday.

Al Arabi also received a red card in the 67th minute when their captain Abulla Hassan Al Marafi was penalized for fouling an Al Gharafa player during a challenge.

The win strengthened Al Arabi's position as second in the rankings with 34 points and now two points adrift of leaders Al Duhail. Al Gharafa moved down to 6th place remaining on 23 points.

The match saw many tussles between players of the two sides while trying hard to make successful raids.

In the 30th minute, Al Arabi's call for a penalty were ruled out by the referee after a VAR confirmation when Ahmed Fathi collided with Al Gharafa's Ahmed Alganehi while trying to head a ball inside the 'D'. The ball appeared to have hit the hand of a jumping Alganehi but the VAR replay confirmed it had gone off the back shoulder.

The Dream Team didn't have to wait long as soon they got a spot kick after Al Gharafa's Islom Khujaev handled the ball while trying to clear it in front of the goal against a challenging Rami Suhail. The referee this time signaled to the spot after a VAR view.

With the Al Arabi defence holding good, Al Gharafa's attempts to equalize met with a lot of resistance.

Qatar SC beat Al Ahli 3-1 Meanwhile, Qatar SC climbed to fourth in the table after a come-from-behind 3-1 win over Al Ahli at the Hamad Bin Khalifa Stadium.

Ahli took the lead towards the end of first half before Qatar SC rallied to score all their goals in the second half for a much-needed victory. While Hossein Kanaani scored for Ahli in the 44th minute, Qatar SC's scorers were Badr Benoun (72nd minute), Eisa Ahmed (77th minute) and Under-20 substitute Raoul Sanda (90+8 minute).

Both teams began the battle sprightly and Qatar SC's Javier Martinez produced a menacing header in the sixth minute, but Al Ahli goalkeeper Yazan Naim jumped high to stave off the threat with his outstretched hand. Qatar SC made a few more raids, but were still unsuccessful.

Ahli then struck when Kanaani produced a fine header off a corner kick from Aboubakr Mohamed Bayoumi,



Al Arabi's Tunisian star Youssef Msakni (centre) battles for the ball with an Al Gharafa player as Al Arabi's Aron Gunnarsson looks on during their postponed Week 10 match of the QNB Stars League at the Thani Bin Jassim Stadium on Monday. Al Arabi won 1-0.



Qatar SC players celebrate their win over Al Ahli at the Hamad Bin Khalifa Stadium on Monday. The 3-1 win saw Qatar SC surge into the top four of the QNB Stars League.

which flew into the left corner of the net. Rattled Qatar SC then looked to make amends and in the added time of opening half, Sebastian Soria did break through to score, but was offside.

The hard efforts of Qatar SC paid them dividends late into the second half with Benoun replying with a superb header to the top right of the net from a dead ball kick of Bashir Resan.

Qatar SC did not have to wait long to consolidate their lead as Palangi made a good left foot kick even while losing balance off a cross from Soria.

Ahli stepped up their efforts to find an equalizer, but were again left shocked in the dying moments as the young Sanda launched a counter-

attack picking on a long ball to dash for a fine field goal. He was assisted by Khaled Walid on the way as he returned a perfect cross.

Umm Salal beat Al Shamal 1-0

Earlier at the Thani Bin Jassim Stadium, Umm Salal recorded a valuable 1-0 win over Al Shamal thanks to Adel Alawi strike in the stoppage time. Umm Salal, who are 11th in the table raised their tally to 13 points, just one behind Shamal, who are ninth. Shamal's Jassim al-Hashemi was sent off in 90+10 minute after receiving a second yellow card.

The match started off strongly and Umm Salal's Yassin al-Bakhit almost scored in the fifth minute, but Sha-

mal goalkeeper Babacar Seck blocked the ball. Play was confined to the midfield and Umm Salal's Al Bakhit passed a ball in the 19th minute to Joao Teixeira, who hit it over the crossbar.

At the beginning of second half, intense attempts were made especially by Umm Salal. They came close to scoring again in the 54th minute, but the Al Shamal defence and goalkeeper dealt with it.

Shamal too had their chances and, in the 59th minute, Amjad Atwan hit his shot against the post as he tested Umm Salal goalkeeper of Khalifa Abubakr. Even as both teams tried hard for a breakthrough, Umm Salal succeeded in getting it as Al Bakhit provided Alawi with a cross to find the target.

Misbah explodes again as Asia Lions shrink Giants in 10-overs clash

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

WITH rain and grey skies threatening to play spoilsport in the Legends League Cricket on Monday, Asia Lions' Misbah Ul Haq ensured that the fans still had plenty to rejoice in a shortened 10-overs-a-side game at the Asian Town International Stadium on Monday.

But Misbah Ul Haq cracked an unbeaten 44 off just 19 balls as Asia Lions beat World Giants by 35 runs in the rain-reduced match.

The 48-year-old, who hardly looks so though, once again launched himself cracking an 44 off just 19 balls as he slammed four fours and three huge sixes, two of which was caught in the stands by the fans. Each catch of a six is rewarded with QR600!

Misbah's blitzkreig and



Asia Lions skipper Shahid Afridi obliges fans with a selfie at the Asian Town International Stadium on Monday evening.

Tillakaratne Dilshan's unbeaten 32 off 24 balls (3x4s; 1x6) saw the Asian Lions posted 99

for 3 in 10 overs. World Giants could muster only 64 for 5 in 10 overs despite



Misbah Ul Haq (right) celebrates their win with skipper Shahid Afridi.

Chris Gayle's 23 off 16 balls with three sixes.

The West Indian Gayle was earlier lucky to have survived after the umpire ruled him leg before wicket but a DRS decision changed that in his favour and he laughed back his way to

the crease.

Later, Asia Lions skipper Shahid Afridi, with a double strike in the 5th over removed Gayle and Lendl Simmons, to put his team on road to victory.

Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak scaped

Shane Watson and Ricardo Powell in eighth over as World Giants fell short by 35 runs

It was second win for the Asian Lions after their win over India Maharajas in the tournament opener.

Speaking about the contest, Raman Raheja, the Co-founder and CEO of Legends League Cricket, said, "Rain Gods played a surprise one on us here in the desert but finally we had a good game of cricket. Fans enjoyed and that's what matters in the end. We are ready for the next match between Asia Lions and Indian Maharajas on Tuesday and hopefully with no surprises from the weather."

SCORES: Asia Lions 99 for 3 in 10 overs (Tillakaratne Dilshan 32 n.o., Misbah Ul Haq 44 n.o.) **beat World Giants 64 for 5** (Chris Gayle 23, Shahid Afridi 2 for 11, Abdur Razzak 2 for 2) **by 35 runs. MoM:** Misbah Ul Haq.

Neymar undergoes successful knee surgery at Aspetar



Brazilian football star and Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar da Silva Santos Junior, has been discharged from Aspetar, orthopedic and sports medicine hospital on Sunday following a successful ankle surgery on Friday. Neymar will now take some time to recover before starting his rehabilitation programme. (TNN)

De Bruyne sees no issues with Haaland's form amid Man City blip

DPA
BERLIN

KEVIN de Bruyne downplayed any suggestion of issues within the team and a decline in form for Manchester City's star striker Erling Haaland.

Haaland has been in sensational form in his debut campaign with the club, scoring 34 goals in all appearances across all competitions.

However, the Norway international has scored just three goals in his last nine appearances, leading to suggestions that his performance levels have dropped.

De Bruyne does not see it that way though, explaining that teams are more prepared to face him now than they were at the beginning of the season.

"I think it's a bit of everything but I don't feel like it's different than in the beginning," he told a press conference ahead of the Champions League clash against RB Leipzig.

"People are maybe more anticipating to his runs, there's always the first part of the season and then the second part. In the second part, I feel teams are a lot more organised, they play for more from both sides of the table, so people are more prepared in every sense of the way.

"Maybe he was a little bit



(From left) Manchester City's Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva, Manchester City's English midfielder Phil Foden and Manchester City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland attend a team training session at Manchester City training ground in Manchester on Monday. (AFP)

more prolific [before] when he got the chances but I don't think we need to complain about Erling's output.

I think he's fine. "If we see the Crystal Palace game, he could have scored two, I don't think there's any issue but obviously people are always anticipating for him to score two or three goals but his average is a goal a game. It seems fine for me.

"It's good to have different

options. In the past few years, people would maybe say there wasn't enough presence in the box and there wasn't enough deep runs, now people are saying the opposite.

"It works in different ways. In the beginning of the season when everything was going in, we were winning a lot of games and nothing was going wrong, but then obviously when you lose a few points it's different. "I don't think there's an

issue with anything going out from the team or with Erling. I know people will judge on how we play and maybe we sometimes play a better brand of football in different games or in other years but that happens.

"Crystal Palace at home for instance, he won us the game. I think the team is really happy with him, he's really happy playing with us, so I think we're fine."

Gary Lineker reinstated as BBC presenter as corporation apologises

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

TELEVISION sports presenter Gary Lineker will continue as a presenter at British public broadcaster BBC after the corporation apologised for "potential confusion caused by the grey areas" of its social media guidelines.

A host of sports presenters and pundits pulled out of BBC shows at the weekend after the former England striker was told to step back from hosting his football review show "Match Of The Day" in a row over impartiality.

The 62-year-old was taken off air for a tweet comparing the language used to launch a new government asylum seek-

er policy with 1930s Germany. The BBC's director-general Tim Davie has now confirmed Lineker will continue as the host of "Match Of The Day," saying: "Everyone recognises this has been a difficult period for staff, contributors, presenters and, most importantly, our audiences. I apologise for this.

"The potential confusion caused by the grey areas of the BBC's social media guidance that was introduced in 2020 is recognized. I want to get matters resolved and our sport content back on air."

In a short statement, Lineker said: "I am glad that we have found a way forward. I support this review and look forward to getting back on air."



Gary Lineker, former England footballer turned sports TV presenter for the BBC, leaves his house, in London, on Monday. Gary Lineker will return as presenter of the flagship BBC football show Match of the Day, the broadcaster said. (AFP)

Muller not upset about being dropped for next Germany games

DPA
MUNICH

BAYERN Munich forward Thomas Muller has reacted calmly to not being picked into the German national team for the next two international breaks, saying it gives him more time to focus on his club.

Germany coach Hansi Flick said that Muller, 33, would not be part of the squad for March and June friendlies but that the door wasn't closed and he could feature again from September onwards and at next year's Euro tournament in Germany.

Flick said he wanted to give young talent a chance and that he had informed 121-times capped Muller of his decision.

Muller said on Instagram Monday he wasn't upset: "We appreciate each other and will continue to have a good exchange. Then we'll see how it goes. I'm keeping my fingers

crossed for the boys for the first international matches of the year." The 2014 World Cup winner was dropped by former coach Joachim Löw in 2019 but recalled by Löw two years ago. Muller said after the World Cup group stage exit in Qatar in December that he would remain available for the national team if he was selected.

Muller said he would now fully focus on Bayern who top the Bundesliga and are in the quarter-finals of the Champions League and German Cup.

"Personally, I want to use the international break to prepare myself in the best possible way for the upcoming tasks at Bayern," he said.

"The decisive phase of the season in club football is just around the corner. We are in a great position in all three competitions and still have a lot to do this season! My hunger for trophies is unbroken!"

Frankfurt fan official fears Naples ban could set a precedent

DPA
FRANKFURT

AN Eintracht Frankfurt fan official has urged the continental football body UEFA to take action after their fans have been banned by Italian authorities from attending the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie at Italy's Napoli.

"UEFA must not remain idle. We expect a clear position on this. It is a clear UEFA rule that 5% of the stadium capacity must go to the visiting club in a securely separated area," Dario Minden from the board of Frankfurt's fan department told dpa on Monday.

"A venue that cannot guarantee this has no place in European competition."

Frankfurt can have none of their fans at the game after the prefecture of the city of Naples decreed on Sunday that tickets must not be issued to Frankfurt residents.

The decision came after Frankfurt successfully had a first ruling from Italy's inte-

rior ministry banning all German citizens overturned.

Frankfurt board member Philipp Reschke named the Naples decree "unlawful" and "unsuitable," saying said that two-thirds of their fans do not live in the city.

He said the club was foregoing its allocation because the situation remained uncertain but that they would also appeal the latest ruling because "it is more about the principle for us and how it affects future decisions."

Minden expressed fear that the case - based on security concerns after violence around the first-leg game in Frankfurt - could be a dangerous precedent.

"Many in the football business probably don't yet understand the implications of what Naples is doing to Eintracht Frankfurt right now," he said.

"It jeopardises the whole European away game culture when it is so easy to exclude visiting fans. Ultimately, the whole magic of the European Cup would go to the dogs."

Southampton demand action after racist abuse aimed at Walker-Peters

DPA
LONDON

SOUTHAMPTON have demanded action from social media platforms after calling in police over racist abuse aimed at defender Kyle Walker-Peters.

The full-back was targeted with a series of offensive replies, including monkey emojis, to his latest Instagram post following Sunday's 0-0 Premier League draw at Manchester United.

One racist term was used in reference to United substitute Alejandro Garnacho, who had been left writhing in pain after a challenge by Walker-Peters late in the game.

An official statement from the Saints said: "In February 2021, the club made a statement about one of our young players receiving abhorrent racial abuse following a match against Manchester United.

"More than two years on, we find ourselves in the exact same position: disgusted and disappointed in the behaviour of those online who lower themselves to abusing players for the colour of their skin.

"What is equally frustrating



Southampton's English defender Kyle Walker-Peters (left) vies with Manchester United's English striker Marcus Rashford (right) at Old Trafford in Manchester on Sunday. (AFP)

is the lack of meaningful action in those two years from the social media platforms who allow such hatred to breed and fester.

"As we have said before, Southampton Football Club fights every day to remove such people from our sport and our community in order to protect our players, our staff, Southampton fans and those football supporters around the world who recognise and celebrate the diversity that makes football

special.

"We have forwarded the messages concerned to Hampshire Police in keeping with our normal processes when dealing with these cases.

"We have also reported these posts to the social media platforms involved.

"We can only hope that they finally pay attention to what continues to be a major problem and that we do not find ourselves repeating these words in

another two years' time." Southampton's stance was backed by the Football Association.

A statement on the FA's official Twitter account said: "We strongly condemn the racist online abuse that continues to be directed towards players across our game.

"We urge social media companies and authorities to take the strongest possible action and we will not stop challenging this issue until tangible changes are made." Meta, which owns Instagram, is in contact with Southampton over the matter and has removed the offending comments from Walker-Peters' account.

A spokesperson said: "We don't want racist abuse on Instagram, and we've removed a number of comments for breaking our rules.

"Over the last few years, we've launched several ways to help protect people from having to experience abuse in the first place, including our Hidden Words feature which lets people filter offensive comments and DMs - and we recently started turning this on by default for people with creator accounts.

India win Test series 2-1 against Australia, clinch World Test Championship final spot

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD

THE last day of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2023 saw India win the series 2-1 after Australia batters held out for a draw at Ahmedabad.

With this result, India have secured their place in the ICC World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval starting on June 7, after a thrilling last-ball win for New Zealand ended Sri Lanka's push for a top-two finish.

The final day of the fourth Test of the series began with the tourists 88 runs behind the India total. Rohit Sharma tossed the ball to his trusted bowlers, Ravichandran Ashwin and Mohammad Shami.

And soon enough, Ashwin provided a breakthrough by trapping the makeshift opener Matthew Kuhnemann lbw. This however proved to be a false dawn, as Travis Head (90) and Marnus Labuschagne (63*) ensured that the India attack laboured on a true batting surface.

The duo pretty much ended chances of an India victory by batting out almost 50 overs, before Head fell to a beauty from Axar Patel.

This was Patel's 50th Test wicket. He became the fastest Indian player to reach the landmark (in terms of balls bowled).

Post-tea, a draw seemed to be the only result possible. With the game meandering nowhere, the sides shook hands in the 79th over of Australia's innings.

Virat Kohli won the Player of the Match award for his stunning 186 at Ahmedabad. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja were the joint-winners of the Player of the Series award. Both made crucial all-round contributions: Ashwin picked 25 wickets and scored 86 runs, while Jadeja picked 22 wickets and scored



India's players pose with the trophy after winning the series at the end of the fourth and final Test against Australia at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday. (AFP)

135 runs.

With this draw, India took the series 2-1. This is India's fourth successive Test series win over Australia.

Overall, India have won 10 out of 16 Border-Gavaskar Trophy series.

They have now won their last 16 Test series at home.

India have secured their place in the ICC World Test Championship final against Australia at The Oval starting on June 7, after a thrilling last-ball win for New Zealand ended Sri Lanka's push for a top-two finish.

India's destructive start to their Test series at home against Australia means their worst possible WTC points percentage is now 57%, assuming there are no penalty points

against them for a poor over rate in the fourth Test against Australia in Ahmedabad.

Sri Lanka were initially hampered by rain and then unable to bowl out New Zealand on day five of the first Test in Christchurch, meaning Dimuth Karunaratne's side can now finish with a best possible WTC points percentage of 53% even if they win the second Test.

Taking a 2-1 series lead in the opening three of four Tests at home against Australia proved to be enough for Rohit Sharma's side to clinch their spot in the WTC final, though to put the icing on the cake they are on track to avoid defeat in the fourth Test and win the Border-Gavaskar series outright.

India began their campaign

for the cycle in England, taking a 2-1 lead in their series against Joe Root's men, before the fifth Test was postponed until 2022 due to Covid.

They would go on to lose the fifth Test match in Birmingham, though strong home series against New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh set up their charge to the WTC final.

Their Border-Gavaskar series win sets up a final against Australia on neutral ground at The Oval in London beginning on June 7, with the winner claiming the World Test Championship mace.

India lost the inaugural World Test Championship final to New Zealand in 2021, as Kane Williamson's side chased down a target of 139 in Southampton.

Rohit Sharma, skipper of the Indian team was elated after India sealed their spot in the final. He said, "We are delighted to qualify for our second successive World Test Championship Final. We have played some outstanding cricket both home and away in the last two years and I am proud of my team and their unwavering commitment to success in Test cricket which is one of the main reasons for our qualification."

Anticipating a tough contest against Australia, Rohit added, "We will soon turn our focus on the Ultimate Test at The Oval which is one of the most iconic Test venues in the world. Australia will definitely come hard at us in the final and it should make for an enthralling

contest that will be enjoyed by five-day cricket fans from around the world."

The Indian captain was also confident about their chances of winning the mace, stating, "India have always enjoyed excellent support in England and I am confident that we will have a big turnout of Indian fans from 7 June once we begin our quest for the ICC World Test Championship Mace, we are determined to win the championship and improve on our performance at Southampton two years ago."

Scores
Australia 480 (Kawaja 180, Ashwin 6-91) & 175-2 dec (Head 90, Labuschagne 63*) **vs India 571** (Kohli 186, S Gill 128). **Match Drawn; India won series 2-1.**

How Christchurch match shifted World Test Championship final race

ICC

CHRISTCHURCH

NEW Zealand ended Sri Lanka's hopes of qualifying for the ICC World Test Championship 2023 final after sealing a last-ball, two-wicket win in Christchurch.

As Kane Williamson scurried to run a match-winning bye off the final ball, their victory quashed Sri Lanka's hopes of finishing in the top two positions in the ICC World Test Championship standings, with India now set to play Australia in the final of the marquee event at The Oval in London from June 7-11.

Earlier on a dramatic day in Christchurch, rain added to the uncertainty as Sri Lanka and New Zealand battled in the first Test, with multiple scenarios seeming equally likely at various points.

Needing 257 runs with nine wickets in hand on the truncated day, New Zealand began

in circumspect fashion, before Daryl Mitchell and Kane Williamson accelerated.

A draw was not good enough for Sri Lanka, who attacked in spite of the Kiwi counter, and as the pair arm-wrestled in a pulsating day, all four results were still possible when Asitha Fernando took the ball for the match's final over.

With five needed off the final three deliveries, Williamson swatted a boundary behind point, before running a bye with the injured Neil Wagner to claim victory off the final ball of the day at 7:41pm local time.

Sri Lanka needed victory in both Test matches in New Zealand to stand a chance of qualifying for the final.

Scores
First Test, Christchurch, (day five)
Sri Lanka 355 (Southee 5-64) & 302 (Mathews 115)
New Zealand 373 (Mitchell 102) & 285-8 (Williamson 121*)
New Zealand won by 2 wickets.



New Zealand's Kane Williamson (centre) makes a successful run to win the first Test against Sri Lanka at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Monday. (AFP)



Islamabad United's Shadab Khan plays a shot during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Twenty20 match against Peshawar Zalmi at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, in Rawalpindi on Sunday. (AFP)

Pakistan name Shadab as captain for Afghanistan T20Is

ICC

ALL-ROUNDER Shadab Khan will captain Pakistan for the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan, which is set to commence on 24 March.

Pakistan have rested key players and named a new-look side filled with fresh talent, with the onus on managing the workloads as well preparation for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Regular captain Babar Azam, opener Fakhar Zaman, the pacers Haris Rauf and Shaheen Afridi, as well as Mohammad Rizwan, the wicketkeeper-batter, have all been rested.

In addition, all of Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Mohammad Hasnain and Khushdil Shah failed to find a spot in the squad.

These players had formed the crux of Pakistan's squad

Regular captain Babar Azam, opener Fakhar Zaman, the pacers Haris Rauf and Shaheen Afridi, as well as Mohammad Rizwan, wicketkeeper-batter, have all been rested.

for the T20 World Cup in Australia.

In their place, four uncapped players – Ihsanullah, Saim Ayub, Tayyab Tahir and Zaman Khan – have been named in the 15-man squad.

Abdullah Shafique, Azam Khan, Faheem Ashraf and Imad Wasim have also been recalled to the side.

"I want to congratulate Shadab Khan on his appointment as the Pakistan team captain for the series against Afghanistan," said Najam Sethi, the chair of PCB's Management Committee.

"Shadab Khan has been the Pakistan vice-captain in white-ball cricket for the past

couple of years and it is logical that he takes over the side in the absence of Babar Azam for the short three-match T20I tour of Sharjah.

"For the short Sharjah tour and to ensure continuity, we have also appointed Mohammad Yousuf as the interim head and batting coach.

"Yousuf has been with the national side since last year as a batting coach and has also been working in the National High Performance Centre."

Haroon Rashid, the Chair of the selection committee, said the rotation policy employed would enable Pakistan to test the skillset of the talent pool.

"For the short three-T20I

series against Afghanistan, the selection committee has followed the standard rotation policy by resting the leading performers and providing high-performing domestic performers with opportunities to demonstrate their talent and potential at the international level," he said.

"This will also allow us to test the temperament and abilities of these players and helping us to strengthen our pool of players as we look forward to building and preparing a formidable side for next year's T20 World Cup in the West Indies and United States."

Pakistan squad:
Shadab Khan (c), Abdullah Shafique, Azam Khan, Faheem Ashraf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Ihsanullah, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Zaman Khan, Tayyab Tahir, Shan Masood, Saim Ayub.

Big depth in Qatar Baja motorcycle classes

● Al Balooshi brings five-point FIM Bajass World Cup lead to Qatar Baja

● 14 Veterans, four Juniors and four Women set for FIM motorcycle tussle

● Lusail Boulevard to host ceremonial start on Thursday evening

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
LUSAIL

IN terms of numbers and strength in depth across the different classes, this week's Qatar International Baja is the largest ever to be hosted by the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) since 33 bikes tackled the event back in November 2004, with victory on that occasion falling to UAE-based German rider Tim Trenker on a KTM.

This week, 51 motorcycles and four quads grace the entry list for the second round of the 2023 FIM Bajass World Cup.

MX Ride Dubai has entered four motorcycles in Qatar and the team's lead rider Mohammed Al Balooshi will be hoping to repeat his recent Saudi victory and extend his early lead in the FIM Bajass World Cup. The Emirati has mixed memories of his previous visits to Qatar for the longer Cross-Country Rally and knows full well how tricky the navigation is and how deceptive the terrain can be.

His brother Sultan is 10th in the championship standings and rides a second team bike alongside fellow Emirati Marwan Al Rahmani and Kuwait's Abdullah Al Shatti. Jordan's Abdullah Abu Aisheh is not present on this occasion.

Qatar-based Australian Martin Chalmers is seeded at two after finishing second to Al Balooshi in Saudi Arabia, while Briton Alex McInnes is third



Polish ride Konrad Dabrowski, who claimed overall victory in last year's Qatar International Baja.

2023 Qatar International Baja – Leading entries:

FIM - Bikes (top 10)

1. Mohammed Al Balooshi (ARE) KTM 450 Rally Replica
2. Martin Chalmers (AUS) Beta 430 RR
3. Alex McInnes (GBR) Husqvarna FE450
4. Konrad Dabrowski (POL) KTM 450 Rally
5. Jonathan Finn (CAN) Honda CRF 450 RL
6. Mishal Al Ghuneim (SAU) KTM 450
7. Hamdan Al Ali (ARE) KTM 450
8. Brett Hunt (GBR) Husqvarna FE450
9. Andrew Houlihan (AUS) Husqvarna FR
10. Sultan Al Balooshi (ARE) TBA

FIM - Juniors

3. Alex McInnes (GBR) Husqvarna FE450
4. Konrad Dabrowski (POL) KTM 450 Rally
5. Jonathan Finn (CAN) Honda CRF 450 RL
49. Alessandro Iacovelli (ITA) Husaberg 350 FE

FIM - Women

36. Fabrizio Machitella (ITA) KTM 450 EXC-F

FIM - Veterans

28. Mirjam Pol (NLD) KTM
30. Joanna Modrzewska (POL) KTM 450 Rally
31. Sarah Khuraibet (KWT) Husqvarna FE 450
41. Vanessa Ruck (GBR) Honda CRF 450 RX
13. Barry Howe (GBR) Husqvarna 450 FE
18. Cesare Zacchetti (ITA) KTM EXC 350F
22. Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani (QAT) GasGas Rally Replica
23. Mohammed Al Kaabi (QAT) KTM 450 Rally Replica
24. Jaco Anderson (ZAF) KTM 450 EXC
26. Mahanna Rashid Al Naimi (QAT) Honda CRF 450 X
32. Ola Floene (NOR) KTM 450 Rally
33. Francesco Catanese (ITA) KTM 450 Rally
36. Fabrizio Machitella (ITA) KTM 450 EXC-F

FIM Bajass World Cup - standings after round 1:

1. Mohammed Al Balooshi (ARE) 25pts
2. Martin Chalmers (AUS) 20pts
3. Alex McInnes (GBR) 16pts
4. Jonathan Finn (CAN) 13pts
5. Mishal Al Ghuneim (SAU) 11pts
6. Abdullah Abu Aisheh (JOR) 10pts
7. Hamdan Al Ali (ARE) 9pts
8. Brett Hunt (GBR) 8pts
9. Andrew Houlihan (AUS) 7pts
10. Sultan Al Balooshi (ARE) 6pts, etc



Joanna Modrzewska.



Qatar-based Australian Martin Chalmers and Abdullah Al Shatti.

the latter riding a Honda CRF 450 RX.

Fourteen riders are eligible to score points in the FIM Veterans category for over 45. Australia's Andrew Houlihan leads the class after his useful ninth-place finish in Saudi Arabia but competition will be intense in the Qatar deserts.

The Husqvarna rider faces a six-strong Italian challenge from Cesare Zacchetti, Francesco Catanese, Fabrizio Macchitella, Alberto Bertoldi, Elio Agliani and Enrico Tanganelli, while Britain's Barry Howe also holds European hopes of suc-

cess alongside Norway's Ola Floene.

The Qatari trio of Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani, Mahanna Rashid Al Naimi and Mohammed Al Kaabi, South Africa's Jaco Anderson and Emirati rider Mohammed Al Shamsi round off the runners eligible for the Veterans' category.

The competitive action gets underway with a Prologue stage on Thursday from 14.15hrs onwards. This precedes the ceremonial start at a new location on Lusail Boulevard, starting with the motorcycles and quads from 19.30hrs.

Inaugural Qatar Universities Handball League 2023 gets underway

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE first edition of the Qatar Universities Handball League 2023 for men kicked off at the Qatar University's new sport arena on Sunday. The March 12-21 event has participation of a number of high education institutions and Universities who are competing in a friendly environment full of sportsmanship and fair play.

The opening day on Sunday was attended by senior officials and board members of the Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation (QCSF), along with representatives of Universities, participating teams and students.

Qatar Universities Hand-



ball League is the third consecutive event to be organized within a month under the umbrella of the Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation (QCSF), according to its calendar for the sport season 2023.

Most notably, the sport arena at the Qatar Foundation is hosting now the competitions of first edition of the

Qatar Universities basketball League 2023 for men & women, which is running from mid February to the 15th of March, while at the Qatar Foundation Cricket Ground students are competing for top honours in the first Qatar Universities Cricket League 2023, from 25th of February to 19th of March.

These opening edition has received a big response from higher education institutions, teaching staff and students with Qatar University, Doha University for Science & Technology, Qatar Foundation Universities and High military institutes being among the top ones.

QCSF Secretary-General Rashid Saed Mohammed, said the QCSF's 2023 calendar is busy with several sport tournaments and events along the year 2023 and hopefully these activities could be more effective in spreading the sport culture among students.

"The QCSF will keep interacting and participating in all the sport and community events annually organized by the State of Qatar," he said.

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Scheffler triumphs at Sawgrass and soars back to number one

DPA
NEW YORK

SCOTTIE Scheffler earned a huge confidence bump ahead of his Masters title defence by triumphing at The Players Championship on Sunday.

The American went on a run of five birdies around the turn at Sawgrass, picking up shots at each hole from eight to 12, on the way to a 69 that took him to 17 under, enough for a five-shot victory.

Scheffler, 26, hops up one spot and returns to number one in the world rankings thanks to this big win. He has won all six of his PGA Tour titles since the beginning of last year, with a hot streak leading up to Augusta last year followed in 2023 by a Phoenix Open victory and now this commanding success.

He was two clear of nearest rival Min Woo Lee coming into the final round, but as the Australian's challenge fell away, Scheffler pulled further clear of the field. He broke 70 in all four of his rounds.

Tyrrell Hatton matched the back-nine course record on his way to second place outright, with the Englishman coming home in 29 for a seven-under-par 65 to finish at 12 under.

Hatton made birdies at 10, 12 and then at every hole from the 14th onwards, pro-



Scottie Scheffler of US celebrates after making his putt to win on the 18th green during the final round of The Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, on Sunday. (Getty Images/AFP)

ducing what he described as a "pretty mad" final flourish to scorch to 12 under.

Viktor Hovland had a closing 68 to finish in a tie for third with Tom Hoge, whose

70 on Sunday was the final act in a dramatic week that began for him with a 78. Hoge narrowly made the cut after a 68 in round two, before shooting a course-record 62 on Saturday.

He cancelled flights home on Friday, when bad weather caused a delay to the second round, and again on Saturday, after making it through on the cut line, with Hoge reaping the rewards of his persistence.

American Alex Smalley had a hole-in-one at the 17th, the famous par-three island hole, early on Sunday, but windy conditions later on made it treacherous and a host of players sent balls into the water.

Scheffler reached that penultimate hole with a five-shot lead and an excellent tee shot meant he had cleared the last real obstacle in his path.

Hideki Matsuyama was in with a shout at one stage after reaching 12 under with five holes to play, but the 2021 Masters champion played those holes in three over par, signing for a 68 and sliding to fifth place.

Scheffler's playing partner Lee was one of seven players tied for sixth after having two sevens on his card. Lee finished with a miserable 76 that a brilliant birdie at 17 could not salvage, albeit he revelled in the moment after hitting his tee shot to just five feet from the pin. A bogey at the last summed up his rotten day.

QBF launches 2nd GFB24 Clinic with NBA coach brown



The Qatar Basketball Federation (QBF) has launched the 2nd edition of its GFB24 Clinic (Performance Camp) in Doha with world renowned coach Gig Brown, a certified NBA trainer. The clinic has been organized by Fame Sports Academy in collaboration with QBF to be held from March 12-16 at QBF's Al Gharafa courts with the participation of more than 90 players including the University of Sharjah eves' basketball team - which has been hosted by QBF. In addition, QBF has also scheduled a friendly match between Qatar Ladies national team and the University of Sharjah team to be played on Thursday.

Quick read

IOC to send monitoring team to women's boxing worlds in India: IBA

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) will send a monitoring team to the upcoming women's boxing world championships in India, the sport's ruling body IBA said on Monday. An IBA statement said the IOC team would be led by professional services company Price-waterhouseCoopers (PwC) and its presence "part of the important compliance assessment process of continuous monitoring of the IBA and its ongoing governance reform, practices, and activities." "The IBA is confident that the PwC team will see first-hand IBA's best practices regarding technical and competitions rules, specifically its heralded bout review process," the statement said. Beleaguered IBA has been suspended by the IOC since 2019 over issues including governance, financial transparency and the integrity of refereeing and judging. (DPA)

Shura discusses Ministry of Labour's efforts in Qatarisation of jobs in private sector

QNA
DOHA

THE Shura Council, at a meeting chaired by Speaker of the Shura Council HE Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim on Monday, discussed the Ministry of Labour's efforts in the Qatarisation of jobs in private sector, qualifying national workforce, regulating labour recruitment offices and the progress made in developing the ministry's electronic services and digital transformation towards simplifying and facilitating procedures for citizens and companies.

The Shura session was attended by Minister of Labour HE Dr Ali bin Smaikh Al Marri.

The Shura speaker and members welcomed the minister, praising the efforts made by the ministry to improve the services it provides with the aim of developing the labour market, qualifying national cadres and realising partnership between the public and private sectors.

In his presentation, Dr Marri confirmed that hiring Qataris in the private sector during the past year increased by about five folds to reach 1,850 employees, while the number of establishments that cooperated with the Qatarisation programme reached 331 in various

sectors.

He explained that the ministry is implementing six effective initiatives within the Qatarisation programme in the private sector, pointing out that these initiatives took into account various aspects of creating jobs and training programmes for citizens and strengthening communication with private sector establishments in order to realise the desired goals.

He pointed out that the draft law on Qatarisation of jobs in the private sector, which was approved 'in principle' by the Cabinet in February, addresses many of the challenges facing the Ministry of Labour in increasing the rates of hiring Qataris in the sector.

The minister said the draft law gives the ministry more flexibility in the field of attracting and motivating Qataris, and hiring them in the private sector, and also created legal frameworks to encourage companies to hire citizens.

He said the draft law granted the Minister of Labour regulatory powers to implement the law by setting conditions, incentives, facilities and privileges, conditions and controls for training Qatari students and approving scholarship policies in coordination with the Min-



istry of Education and Higher Education.

He stressed that under the new draft law, a set of penalties will be imposed on violating establishments, as the ministry has the right to issue warnings, as well as sanctioning and fining violating companies.

Dr Marri added that the work environment requires offering some incentives, facilities and privileges to increase the attraction of Qataris in the private sector.

He pointed out that the ministry is working on attracting and classifying expatriate workers, which contributes to increasing productivity in the work environment, through vital initiatives to provide classification methods for workers, the level of their skills and the need of the local market for them.

He explained that organising expatriate workforce in the

local market will have a fundamental role in benefiting from the existing labour skills, in addition to increasing the rates of attracting skilled workers.

He stressed that these measures will reduce the percentage of non-skilled workers and replace them with skilled workers that benefit employers and increase the productive capacity of the private sector.

He revealed that the ministry is working on implementing seven initiatives to attract and classify expatriate workers, including the launch of the Qatari guide for classifying occupations, the labour rotation programme, a programme specialised in talent visas, and the provision of different types of work permits based on the workers' skill levels.

Dr Marri said the ministry is in the process of establishing a national centre for accredita-

tion and testing of professions and skills for expatriate workers with the aim of raising production efficiency and reducing costs in state projects.

On another issue, the minister said that among the main priorities of the ministry is to develop the policies and procedures of labour recruitment offices by finding solutions to the most important challenges facing the ministry's teams in implementing the development and modernisation policy for the recruitment offices sector.

He pointed out that the ministry implemented a series of measures to improve the work environment and preserve the rights of employers, indicating that it was decided to extend the probation period for domestic workers from three to nine months, and set the maximum prices for the recruitment of domestic workers to prevent exaggeration in prices and studying the application of insurance for domestic workers.

He added that the ministry carried out inspection campaigns on recruitment offices and places that might employ runaway workers, indicating that the licences of 54 recruitment offices were revoked, as part of its inspection campaigns to ensure the application of the

law and ministerial decisions.

Regarding the digital transformation programme, the minister said that the programme constituted a qualitative leap in the speed of development, launch and delivery of high-quality services to the public, indicating that it mainly contributed to reducing the time for completing transactions, in addition to establishing an effective information link with some government agencies related to the work of the ministry.

He said the total number of services that have been offered since the launch of the Digital Transformation Unit last May amounted to about 30 electronic services, highlighting the ministry's preparedness to launch a package of new services of interest to a large segment of the public.

The members of the Shura Council appreciated the role of the Ministry of Labour, stressing their keenness to support the ministry in its efforts to improve the reality of the labour market.

They focused on the role of the private sector in absorbing national cadres and the need to reorganise recruitment offices, in a way that guarantees the rights of all parties.



Filmmakers celebrate Qumra for its support to their film journeys

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

FILMMAKERS from the region and beyond, whose projects are nurtured at Qumra, the annual industry incubator event by the Doha Film Institute, have highlighted its role as 'one of a kind' and 'very important for the world today' to build new voices in cinema and lauded DFI's support for enhancing the credibility of their projects.

This year, Qumra is mentoring 44 films, including feature narratives, documentaries, web series and shorts from 23 countries as part of the Doha Film Institute's mission to accelerate the success of emerging filmmakers and enable them to take their projects to audiences around the world.

The selected Qumra projects stand out for their powerful, original and creative themes and cinematic sensibilities. One such project is the web series *Miara* (Morocco, Qatar), directed by Talal Selhami and Jawad Lahlou. Set in the 8th Century, North Africa, it is about a young Berber woman, who discovers that her murdered father was a fallen Viking King.

The directors said the film is also an exploration of identity and roots and aims to dispel the notion that largely mounted series with high ambition and scale are hard to be made in the Arab world.

"Recreating the period is a painstaking process, which is why financing is central to accomplishing this," said Talal. "We have already shot the pilot and the encouragement we receive from Qumra is exceptional. We hope to engage with more producers and this platform offers us that opportunity."

Merging the worlds of cinema and dance, *Backstage* (Morocco, Tunisia, Belgium, France) by Afef Ben Mahmoud and Khalil Benkirane, is about Aida, a member of a contemporary dance troupe touring Morocco.

Afef said she drew on her experience as a professional dancer and theatre for the film. The challenge in their journey was "financing," with Khalil adding that "we got a lot of rejections saying our project was too ambitious. Today, we are close to landing our 'ship' safely by the shore. There is an audience who appreciate arts, music and theatre, and since our project is about the life of a dance troupe, it will appeal to them."

Khalil said Qumra brings the *crème la crème* of the industry to mentor emerging projects and "you don't find all these people together in one place anywhere else. For us, we are close to completing the film. We still need finance and distribution, and with all these experts coming and watching 20 minutes of our film is an op-



portunity to take our film to the next level of visibility."

Amanda Nell Eu, director of *Tiger Stripes* (Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Indonesia, Qatar), explores the theme of empowerment, from an intimate personal level about a girl who discovers a terrifying secret about her physical self.

She said being at Qumra has given a wide rope for her to network with distributors, film festival directors and other professionals.

"My film is about growing up and body transformation, with the title also being inspired by the tiger in Malaysia - beautiful and ferocious - and using it to symbolise empowerment," she said.

Lina Soualem, director of *Bye Bye Tiberias* (France, Palestine, Belgium, Qatar), charts the journey of her mother, acclaimed Palestinian actress Hiam Abbass, who left her native village Deir Hanna in Galilee 30 years ago to follow her acting dream in France.

"This is also a story about the power of relationships between women - the memories they carry despite the difficulties they face. In Palestine, it could be the exile, in other places, it could be the weight of traditions. My film is about how women find their place in the world and a lot of people could relate to it," she said.

Laila Abbas, also from Palestine, is bringing another interesting slice of society with her film *Thank You for Banking with Us!* (Germany, Palestine, Qatar).

Currently in the production stage, "the film is about inheritance laws in the region and how they are not fair to women," said Laila, who approaches the subject through two sisters who, after the passing of their father, fight the system to gain a share of his wealth.

She said the theme is treated with sensitivity, intensity and humour, adding it is inspired by events that happened in her family.

'Focus on narrative, see the film frame by frame in your mind'

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

ACADEMY Award winning screenwriter and director Qumra Master Sir Christopher Hampton had a powerful message for emerging scriptwriters and directors: "See your film frame-by-frame in your mind as you write and focus on the power of storytelling. You can never write a film in approximations."

Addressing the participants of his masterclass at Qumra 2023, the annual industry talent incubator event by the Doha Film Institute, Sir Hampton reiterated the need for paying attention to all the cinematic necessities right from the scripting stage, and underlined the need to have the best professionals, including actors and crew, to create an engaging film. "Hire the best people and then let them do their best and intervene as little as possible."

"Many first-time directors make the mistake of trying to do everything, thinking they know everything and try to impose their personality into their projects," observed Sir Hampton, who won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Dangerous Liaisons* (1988), directed by Stephen Frears, and a second win in the same category for his screenplay and adaptation of Ian McEwan's *Atonement* (2007), directed by Joe Wright.

Sir Hampton debuted as director with *Carrington* (1995) about the life of painter Dora Carrington, which he also wrote, as well as the visceral *Imagining Argentina* (2003) that explored the 'forced disappearances' of more than 30,000 people. With a distinguished oeuvre spanning theatre and film, and a series, *The Singapore Grip*, he says he had "a wonderful life, doing what I wanted to do. There has been some bumpy bit along the road. There were setbacks and moments that you feel depressed."

But the lesson he had to share from his own experiences with emerging talent, including actors, directors, and writers, is "to do a film, write a script, only when you really want to do it." He said film schools play a good role in helping aspiring filmmakers understand the various departments in filmmaking, and it is important to have training across the spectrum.

Born in Portugal, Sir Hampton lived a good part of his childhood in Alexandria, Egypt, where he used to watch at least three movies a week with his father who was a great film enthusiast. "There were no restrictions and I used to watch every film that was coming out. Going to the movies, probably, made me want to be a writer."



and screened in less than seven months, the film was a breakout moment for Sir Hampton in international cinema.

Looking back, he says: "We - in cinema - are in such a serendipitous business. As it often happens in our industry, a series of miracles led to the film [*Dangerous Liaisons*] being made possible." He says he was on set during the shoot, a process he likes, unless he feels his directors are uncomfortable with his presence.

Making *Carrington*, Sir Hampton says, was not an easy journey either. From script to screen, it took 18 long years. Highlighting the value that talented professionals bring to a project, he observes that working with Denis Lenoir, the French cinematographer, gave the film a distinctive look and feel. "Lenoir used a technique called flashing, which gave the film a milky sheen and the characters progressively growing older organically without using makeup."

Sir Hampton also shared his memorable experiences of working on 'Imagining Argentina,' based on a novel that dealt with a heart-wrenching subject in an imaginative, magical realistic manner. He had to navigate through interventions by over 11 producers, including a total reedit that was ordained by them, and having to introduce an opening credit sequence only at the behest of another.

While there were scripts that eventually made it to the big screen, Sir Hampton says there is also a large section of films in his life that are 'invisible' - never been made. One such was *Nostromo*, that was all set to go on floors, but did not materialise with the passing of Sir David Lean, who invested many years in the project. But his acquired many invaluable lessons.

"I learnt to shape the power of the narrative and of putting scenes together. It also made me realise what one must take into consideration as a scriptwriter - and that is not just the script but everything that makes a film. You must treat your script with deadly seriousness and during the process of writing, it should consume you, thinking about nothing else."