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The Middle East & North Africa

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Head of Qatari Haj Mission commends State's efforts to serve pilgrims

Just
talabat it.



BUSINESS | Page 1

Qatar GDP forecast to record 'fastest' post-pandemic growth of 5.1% in 2022



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QCB: 25,000 local transactions worth QR230mn executed

The Qatar Central Bank (QCB) yesterday announced yesterday that more than 25,000 local transactions, worth more than QR230mn, were executed within the first 24 hours of the start of the money transfer service outside official working hours. QCB had earlier directed all banks to start implementing local transfer requests throughout the week, including on the weekend. This directive comes as part of QCB's endeavour to activate the role of banks and financial institutions in providing the best services to customers. **(QNA)**

Qatar takes part in UN meeting on road safety

Qatar participated in the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting dedicated to discuss improving the topic of road safety under the slogan 'Horizon 2030 for Road Safety' with the participation of delegations from more than 130 countries. The agenda of the meeting covered a number of topics, including the adoption of a concise, action-oriented and agreed political declaration submitted by the President of the UN General Assembly, a discussion of road safety contained in the UN 2030 Agenda. **Page 4**

Bullet that killed Abu Akleh handed to US

The Palestinian Authority handed the bullet that killed Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to US forensic experts yesterday as it seeks to prove conclusively that it was fired by an Israel soldier. **(AFP)**

FM participates in Lebanese meeting



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani participated yesterday in Lebanese President Michel Aoun's meeting with the Arab foreign ministers who are participating in the Arab Ministerial Consultative Meeting in Beirut. **(QNA) Page 2**

Special lane on A-Ring Road for buses, taxis

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced the designation of a special lane for buses, taxis and authorised vehicles on A-Ring Road, to facilitate traffic and serve the FIFA World Cup 2022 transport plan. This has been done in co-ordination with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport and Mowasalat (Karwa), Ashghal said in a statement yesterday.

Abdulaziz al-Mawlawi, Mobility executive director at the SC, said: "The bus lane will help provide a smooth and environment-friendly transport experience for thousands of fans during the FIFA World Cup." Lieutenant Khalid Nasser al-Mulla, head of the technical team of the Corniche Closure Committee, said the new lane will be designated for public transport buses, taxis and authorised vehicles such as emergency vehicles. All necessary traffic markings and

directional signs that support law enforcement and the monitoring of traffic violations in future stages have been developed. The lane will facilitate the arrival of police and emergency vehicles at accident sites and help evacuate the accident scene faster, which contributes to reducing traffic congestion on A-Ring Road and roads accessed through it, in addition to reducing the mixing of such buses with other vehicles. **Page 12**

MoPH issues Covid advice to travellers ahead of Eid

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has issued Covid-19 precautionary advice to people travelling abroad for the summer vacation. With the number of new daily Covid-19 cases in Qatar rising in recent weeks, and with many countries around the world experiencing high numbers of Covid-19 cases, the MoPH has stressed the importance of travellers adhering to Covid-19 precautionary measures when abroad to protect themselves and their families and reduce the risk of getting infected and falling sick to the virus or bringing the virus back and infecting their families. In a statement, the ministry explained that even though the Covid-19 precautionary restrictions have been lifted in Qatar, it is still recommended for all members of the community to voluntarily follow the precautionary measures to protect their health.

The MoPH recommends the following simple but effective precautionary measures to keep individuals safe when travelling abroad.

1. Check the Covid-19 travel policy of the country you are visiting to in advance of your travel and ensure you adhere to all requirements for vaccination status and testing or any forms to be completed.
2. Check the Covid-19 measures in place within the country you are visiting to ensure you adhere to all requirements.
3. Review the MoPH Covid-19 Travel and Return Policy for the latest testing and quarantine requirements following your return to Qatar.
4. Ensure you get vaccinated against Covid-19 with all doses for which you are eligible, including the booster dose, before travelling for maximum protection.

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Qatar attends consultative meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Beirut



Qatar participated in the consultative meeting of Arab foreign ministers, which was held yesterday in Beirut. Qatar's delegation to the meeting was headed by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani.

Qatar stresses active participation of Afghan women in peace-making

Qatar has affirmed its keenness to enhance the active participation of Afghan women in the peace-making and peace-building process.

This came in a statement delivered by the Acting Charge d'Affaires of the Permanent Delegation of Qatar in Geneva Jawhara al-Suwaidi, before the 50th Human Rights Council, during the urgent debate on the 'Situation of Human Rights for Women and Girls in Afghanistan.'

In its statement, Qatar reiterated its deep concern about the suspension of studies in secondary schools for girls, stressing that these negative practices will have a significant impact on human rights, development and the economy in the country. Al-Suwaidi said Qatar will continue to co-ordinate



Acting Charge d'Affaires of the Permanent Delegation of Qatar in Geneva Jawhara al-Suwaidi.

closely with partners to enable the Afghan people to address all humanitarian, economic and social challenges, preserve the gains made, and achieve security, peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and in the region.

In its statement, Qatar said that making further progress in

Afghanistan also requires taking effective and urgent measures to mitigate the humanitarian impact of the existing crisis in all segments of society, especially among women, girls and children, as well as continuing efforts to reach a comprehensive national reconciliation. (QNA)

Lebanese president hails Qatar's support in diverse fields

Michel Aoun meets ANNHRI president

Lebanese President General Michel Aoun met HE the President of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI), and Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attayah, and the accompanying delegation during her visit to Lebanon, QNA reported.

Aoun praised the role HE al-Attayah plays through her presidency of the NHRC in Qatar, the Doha-based ANNHRI, in addition to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) based in Geneva.

In addition, Aoun stressed his appreciation for the support that Lebanon receives from Qatar in various fields.

The Lebanese president expressed his hope for fruitful co-operation between the Arab Network and the Lebanese Commission for Human Rights, which was established in 2016, noting that "work is underway for the Lebanese National Commission to achieve all the conditions required for compliance with the Paris Principles of the United Nations and to become a member of GANHRI."

He then added: "We are doing great work and unremitting efforts to promote the rights of Lebanese women, child rights, and the rights of the disabled people, despite the lack of resources."

For her part, HE al-Attayah affirmed her support for the recently established Lebanese National Human Rights Commission and advancing co-operation with it and other bodies, as well as securing the appropriate conditions for its joining the ANNHRI.

She said, "The presence of Lebanon within the network will enable it to interact with Arab



The Lebanese president expressed his hope for fruitful co-operation between the Arab Network and the Lebanese Commission for Human Rights.

institutions and co-ordinate co-operation in the field of human rights." She also expressed her hope that "the legal texts that sponsor the work of the Lebanese Commission will be completed, so that it is ready to join the Arab network, as well as provide its needs to be able to carry out the required tasks."

The ANNHRI president also affirmed the full commitment of the network to support the Lebanese Commission in terms of overcoming challenges and meeting the needs necessary to play its role in promoting and protecting human rights in Lebanon, as well as the participation of the Lebanese Commission in introducing, supporting and the spreading of the culture of human rights in Lebanon.

This can be manifested through programmes implemented by the national authority with ANNHRI.

Additionally, QNHRC and ANNHRI can work out with the Lebanese National Human Rights Commission on more future projects and plans and pro-

vide it with support.

Al-Attayah called for the need for financial and administrative independence of national human rights institutions for them to carry out their entrusted role in accordance with the Paris Principles of 1993.

She also noted the Arab Network's keenness to form the National Human Rights Commission in Lebanon with independence, pluralism and transparency, which will enable it to play a major role in the protection and perform its mission in the dissemination, establishment and promotion of human rights.

She stressed the government's important role in amending the law establishing the national commission in line with the Paris Principles in terms of transparency, financial and administrative independence, and benefit from best practices in the process of drafting the Commission's law, and called for expanding consultations on developing the draft law to serve the promotion and protection of

human rights. She further noted the Arab Network's full support for the efforts the government and civil society organisations are doing in this regard.

The president of ANNHRI recommended the importance of adequate government financial support for the national authority and the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, pointing out that this support is one of the most important conditions for establishing national institutions that are internationally equitable, to preserve the balance of the authority's independence in performing its advisory role to state institutions impartially.

In the same context, HE Maryam al-Attayah met with the President of the Beirut Bar Association Nader Daoud Kasbar.

Al-Attayah also stressed the need to support the Lebanese Human Rights Commission for obtaining classification (A) by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the funding required, and a permanent headquarters for the commission.

ACTA holds training programme on corruption risk assessment

The Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA) organised a training programme on "Assessment and Prevention of Corruption Risks in Governmental Institutions."

The programme has the aim of enhancing the knowledge and skills of participants in corruption risk assessment with regard to familiarity with the different approaches to assessing corruption risks, enable the prioritisation of appropriate measures to prevent and mitigate these risks, in addition to enabling the transition from a rules-based approach to a risk-based approach in the application of anti-corruption standards, QNA reported.

The programme aims to enhance the ability of government institutions to assess and prevent corruption risks, and enhance the ability of government institutions to strengthen prevention and institutional administrative control systems.

It combined theoretical and practical aspects in an interactive training, in which each participant gained theoretical knowledge and practice, and where the participant is guided on how to apply this knowledge and skills in a practical way in his job, in addition to providing the trainees during the theoretical training with theories, as well as national and international standards regarding the



The programme combines theoretical and practical aspects in an interactive training.



assessment and prevention of corruption risks.

This training programme comes within the framework of the development plan pursued by ACTA to enhance the capabilities of public officials, raise their efficiency and provide them with knowledge that

advances their scientific and practical capabilities in the areas of integrity, transparency and prevention of corruption, which contributes to building an important pillar in Qatar National Vision 2030, and represented in human development.

Somali PM meets Qatar's ambassador



Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre met with Qatar's ambassador in Mogadishu Hassan bin Hamza Hashem. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations. (QNA)

Labour ministry holds workshop on 'Occupational Health and Safety'

The Ministry of Labour, in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST), organised a training course for the ministry's inspectors, with the aim of qualifying them to obtain the International General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety (NEBOSH).

The two-day course dealt with ways to enhance the safety and health of workers in the workplace, and to increase the efficiency of inspectors and their ability to identify risks in the work environment.

About 18 inspectors of the Ministry of Labour participated in the course during which they were trained on skills and requirements that must be implemented while inspecting worksites and workers' housing. It also addressed the duties of managing health and safety in the workplace, how health and safety management systems and risk management work, understanding people and processes, how to monitor and measure health and safety, and the risk assessment mechanism.

The trainees will conduct an international test to obtain the International General Cer-

tificate in Occupational Health and Safety (NEBOSH), which is one of the important training courses for inspectors of the Labour Inspection Department.

The Labour Inspection Department will implement and apply labour legislation, as well as periodic and sudden inspections of worksites and places of residence, in addition to educating the public about labour legislation, control and issuing of violations, warnings, and the assertion that enterprises undertake preventive measures in the field of occupational health and safety. (QNA)



Qatar-Egypt legal co-operation for real estate registration discussed

Egyptian Minister of Justice Omar Radhwan met with a delegation from the Ministry of Justice headed by Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry for Real Estate Registration and Documentation Saeed Abdullah al-Suwaidi, QNA reported from Cairo.

The meeting dealt with ways

to enhance legal co-operation between the ministries of justice in Qatar and Egypt in real estate registration and documentation.

They also reviewed the experience of the two countries to improve the services provided to the public in these fields.

The Qatari delegation held

several meetings with officials in the sectors of real estate and documentation at the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, during which they reviewed opportunities for co-operation in the areas of documentation.

During the meetings, the Qatari delegation made presentations and explanations about

the Qatari experience in real estate registration, documentation and real estate brokerage. Egyptian officials praised the Qatari experience in these areas, its advanced position in global classification indicators, and its role in supporting and improving the business environment.

Estithmar Holding reveals a new luxury resort in Aspire Zone

Estithmar Holding CEO: Hospitality projects are our strategic choice to keep pace with the tourism growth in Qatar



Estithmar Holding Q.P.S.C. has unveiled a new luxury urban resort in the Aspire Zone, set to add to the luxury hospitality offerings in Qatar.

The project is in line with the group's goal to provide exceptional hospitality experiences in the tourism and hospitality sector, and to keep pace with the country's growing trend towards upgrading this vital sector.

The new project extends over more than 37,000 square meters at Aspire Zone as a world-class resort and resort that offers an unparalleled levels of luxury hospitality experience.

The guests will enjoy high levels of privacy from the moment of reception with the help of a dedicated team for personalized service and absolute luxury.

Inspired by Arabic architecture, the resort offers its guests a new concept of splendid hospitality experiences, seeking exclusivity and access to the utmost comfort, physical and mental relaxation.

Set to open by the end of 2022, the resort consists of 33 villas, each featuring a private pool and garden, divided into 20 luxurious suites and 13 two-bedroom villas that offers the highest levels of privacy and security enhanced by the latest outstanding facilities.

The one-of-its-kind resort also boasts 3 high-end F&B including a restaurant and tea lounge, and a wellness center including a Spa, a gym, kid's club and Padel tennis courts.

With its distinguished list of famous restaurants, the resort is set to take its esteem clients on a global culinary journey of various Arab and international flavorsome cuisines, particularly at La Casa Restaurant, in addition to the tea lounge. Guests will also have the chance to enjoy specially curated in-room dining services.



LaCasa will add an exquisite dining experience to the resort with its convivial, warm Mediterranean ambiance, revolving around the quality and freshness of the Mediterranean ingredients, herbs and spices.

La Casa promises a luxurious experience to its guests, from the picturesque set-up, the live entertainment to the outstanding service and delicious food. La Casa promises a luxurious experience to its guests, from the picturesque set-up, the live entertainment to the outstanding service and delicious food.

Situated in a prime location, the resort offers easy access to major sports and entertainment attractions at different parts of Qatar, with only about 30 minutes drive from Hamad International Airport.

To enable its guests to maintain their daily sports routine, the resort provides state-of-the-art facilities to promote health and



fitness activities, including two VPadel courts, a fully-equipped gym, as well as an entertainment area, a kid's club and pool to meet the needs of all members of the family.

Guests can also indulge in an amazing relaxation experience in the resort's main swimming pool 24-hour and receive specialized and bespoke treatments at the SPA.

On this occasion, Mr. Henrik Christiansen, Estithmar Holding CEO, said: "Estithmar Ventures Real Estate Development, a subsidiary of Estithmar Holding, has a strategic goal to contribute to the growth of tourism in Qatar, and to enrich and diversify the tourism offerings by developing luxury hospitality destinations from luxury resorts, open and operate these resorts as quickly as possible to meet the increasing local and international demand on hospitality destinations, as a direct result of the fast

growth of tourism sector in Qatar".

"Estithmar Ventures has a sustainable business plan to diversify its portfolio of world-class tourist and hospitality destinations, aiming through its great expertise and capabilities to be an active contributor to the growth of tourism and consolidate Qatar's position on the global hospitality scene. More projects and details in this sector will be revealed later this year" Christiansen added.

Last month, Estithmar Holding announced that its subsidiaries have established 6 new companies in the tourism, entertainment, hospitality and catering sectors, bringing the total number of its affiliated companies to 45. This step reflects the group's expansion, especially in the promising sectors with a projected increasing demand, that will lead to increase the group's revenues.

Premium Facilities

33 Villas
With Private Pool



3 High-end
Restaurants & Cafes



Wellness Center



Sport Club



Padel Court



Head of Qatari Haj Mission commends state's efforts to serve its pilgrims

Head of the Qatari Haj Mission Ali bin Sultan al-Misifri noted that the state is making utmost efforts to serve its pilgrims by supporting all campaigns and facilitating their affairs, to ensure a distinguished Haj period, QNA reported from Makkah al-Mukaramah. This came during an inspection tour to see the readiness of the camps for Qatari pilgrims in the holy sites of Mina and Arafat. The mission had earlier co-ordinated and held several meetings with the Saudi Ministry of Haj and Umrah and the Muttawiffy Hujjaj South Asia Company, which resulted in the allocation of distinct



sites for pilgrims of Qatar in Arafat, he said. He pointed to the integration of all the supporting units in the Qatari Haj Mission, each according to its specialisation, to ensure that the camps of Qatari pilgrims in Mina and Arafat are equipped and

include all services and facilities with the highest standards. Al-Misifri explained that the mission is a partner with the campaign owners with the same goal, which is to facilitate the performance of the fifth pillar for the pilgrims of Qatar.

Qatar attends UN meeting on improving road safety

Qatar participated in the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting dedicated to discuss improving road safety under the slogan 'Horizon 2030 for Road Safety' with the participation of more than 130 countries, QNA reported from New York.

The agenda of the meeting, in which Qatar was represented by a delegation from the National Traffic Safety Committee, covered a number of topics, including the adoption of a concise, action-oriented and agreed political declaration submitted by the President of the UN General Assembly for adoption, a discussion of road safety contained in the United Nations 2030 Agenda, as well as a dialogue between relevant stakeholders to achieve results and more effective achievements, enhance the interactive dialogue on investing in road safety, and to share experiences and benefit from them in addressing the remaining gaps in the process of implementing the second United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Brigadier Engineer Mohamed Abdullah al-Malki, member of the National Committee for Traffic Safety, secretary and head of the delegation, delivered a statement at the meeting on the state of traffic safety in Qatar, reviewing the country's experience in improving road safety and the great attention it attaches to this matter and its unique experience in road safety management in the Middle East and in developing countries, where the issue of preserving the lives and property of society and the states components occupies an advanced position in its social and economic policy.

He stressed Qatar's commitment to implementing the UN plan for 2030, which aims to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from road accidents by 50%, and pointed to the interest that was manifested in the establishment of the state's pioneering national committee for traffic safety which was entrusted with the task of drawing up general traffic policies and providing solutions and proposals which improves the level of traffic safety on the country's roads in its engineering, technical and



Brigadier Engineer Mohamed Abdullah al-Malki, member of the National Committee for Traffic Safety and head of the delegation stressed Qatar's commitment to implementing the UN plan for 2030, which aims to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from road accidents by 50%.

human fields. He added that since its establishment, the committee has played an active role in improving the level of road safety through several measures that it has implemented and which made it achieve advanced results in this field, and which has resulted in reducing the road accident death rate per 100,000 people by 49% during the period of implementation of the first work contract of the UN for Road Safety from 2010-2020, which coincided with the country's implementation of its National Traffic Safety Strategy for 2013-2022.

He referred to the preparations that the National Traffic Safety Committee is currently making to launch its implementation plan for road safety at the beginning of 2023, in conjunction with the second UN Decade of Action for Road Safety for 2021-2030, which aims to reduce the number of road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50%.

Brigadier al-Maliki listed the most important achievements of Qatar in road safety during the period of implementing its strategy, which was to reduce the response time for emergency calls to less than five seconds, and the response time of ambulance and rescue services to reach accident sites to eight minutes, which contributed to saving lives of many accident victims, and thus reducing the death rate. In addition also listed was the developing of the road network and increasing of its length and capacity for traffic, while meeting the highest standards of road safety and establishing 258km of lanes for bicycles and pedestrians, which led to a reduction in the number of

awareness programmes by the state from 2010-2020. This reflected positively on the behaviour of road users including drivers, passengers and pedestrians, thus reducing the rate of road accidents and the government's adoption of United Nations road safety resolutions contained in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

He referred to the challenges facing countries and people of the world in improving road safety contained in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, stressing the importance of the meeting, which opens the way for a dialogue between the relevant stakeholders, to

achieve more effective results as well as strengthening the interactive dialogue on investing in road safety, exchanging experiences and benefiting from them.

Qatar called on countries to co-operate and work together to achieve the goals of the UN Second Decade of Action for Road Safety. It also suggested that the UN form a technical team of experts and specialists to provide technical support to poor countries, to help them improve the level of road safety, and called for an effective mechanism for exchanging information and experiences between countries in order to enhance and improve the level of road safety in all countries.

Qatar Chemical Company Limited
Al Dafna – Amwal Tower – First Floor
P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar – Tel. 44847111 – Fax 44847695
Website: www.qchem.com.qa

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDERS

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	PT22-024-0-COALESCER	SUPPLY OF COALESCER WITH INTERNALS AND ACCESSORIES FOR RLOC PLANT	QR 45,500	12:00 hrs. on 30th July 2022
Brief scope: COMPANY intends to procure One no. of Coalescer with internals and accessories for RLOC Plant located in Ras Laffan Industrial City, Ras Laffan, and State of Qatar.				
2.	QC/TC/T/23/22	Supply of Corrosion Engineer for 3 Years	QR 136,500	12:00 hrs on 8th August 2022
Brief scope: Contractor shall provide a corrosion engineer on a long term basis to study/analyze the plant condition in respect of prevailing corrosion and for a strategy/plan to prevent/minimize corrosion failures so as to enhance reliability, mechanical integrity and process safety of QChem, QChem-II and RLOC Plant equipment and machineries. Corrosion Engineer will be stationed at Q-Chem Mesaieed office & will visit RLOC plant based on Job requirements.				

Tender Documents for the above description can be obtained as follows:
A. Pay to Bank and send the original receipt with authorization letter via email
For tender pay **a non-refundable document fee (cash only) of QR 1,000/-** Payable to Q-Chem, Bank Account (Contract Services - Tender) – Account Number 001-242007-003 with HSBC Bank) and submit the original receipt with an Authorization letter on Tenderer Company Letterhead with ID copy of the Tenderer representative **via email to tadvertisment@qchem.com.qa** In the authorization letter Tenderer shall nominate a single focal point with contact mobile number, **official email address**, office number, fax number for the communications related to this tender for the transfer and receipt of the tender documents.
B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email
Tender documents issuance from **03/07/2022 to 07/07/2022, 8am-12noon.**
C. Proposal details
Proposals should be valid for **240 days** from the tender closing date.
Tender must be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee (Tender Bond) issued by one of the Qatari Banks or by a Bank operating in Qatar and should be valid for **240 days** from the tender closing date.
D. Submission of Proposals
Guidelines for Electronic Bids Submission is attached in the Tender documents.

Qatar Chemical Company Limited
Al Dafna – Amwal Tower – First Floor
P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar – Tel. 44847111 – Fax 44847695

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDER

No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	RM22-009-0-FFSTAW	Tawteen Opportunity: New Manufacturing Facility Setup For FFS Bags In Qatar Five Years Off-Take Agreement For Supply Of FFS Bags To Q-Chem	NA	12:00 hrs. on 31st August 2022
Brief scope: Supplier is expected to establish a new manufacturing facility in Qatar for the production of FFS bags required for Q-Chem as part of QatarEnergy Tawteen initiative.				

Tender Documents and Tawteen Investor Pack for the above description can be obtained as follows:
A. Pay to Bank and send the original receipt with authorization letter via email
Pay **a non-refundable document fee (cash only) of QR 1,000/-** Payable to Q-Chem, Bank Account (Contract Services - Tender) – Account Number 001-242007-003 with HSBC Bank) and submit the original receipt with an Authorization letter on Tenderer Company Letterhead with ID copy of the Tenderer representative **via email to tadvertisment@qchem.com.qa** In the authorization letter Tenderer shall nominate a single focal point with contact mobile number, **official email address**, office number, fax number for the communications related to this tender for the transfer and receipt of the tender documents.
B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email
Tender documents issuance from **03rd July 2022 to 07th July 2022, 8am-12noon.**
C. Proposal details
Proposals should be valid for **240 days** from the tender closing date.
D. Submission of Proposals
Guidelines for Electronic Bids Submission is attached in the Tender documents.

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Bond Value	Tender Fee	Bid Closing Date
QF/2022/PPMD-SS/30990	Web Design, Development and Management Services for QF-HBKU on Call-Off Basis for 3 Years with Option to Extend for One (1) More Year	QAR 500,000.00	QAR 1,000.00	14 August 2022
QF/2022/PPMD-CM/107800	Provision for Construction of Car Parking Lots & Roads to QF on Call Off Basis for Three (3) Years with Option to Extend for One (1) More Year	QAR 500,000.00	QAR 1,000.00	17 August 2022

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement & Program Management Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders.
Tender Fee : Interested bidders shall first deposit the respective non-refundable Tender Fee as mentioned above into the following Qatar Foundation bank account:
Account Name : QATAR FOUNDATION
Account Number : 0 0 1 3 - 0 2 4 1 7 1 - 0 0 1
Swift Code No : QNBQAQAA
IBAN : QA19 QNBA 0000 0000 0013 0241 7100 1
Bank Name : Qatar National Bank.
Tender Fee Payment Dates : From 03 July 2022 until 07 July 2022 between 09:00 AM-02:00 PM except Friday and Saturday. The tender fees should be paid to QF account before 07 July 2022, 02:00 PM. Tender documents will not be issued if fees are paid after the specified deadline.
Interested bidders shall request the tender document by providing clear copies of the following documents to Qatar Foundation's email qftenderfee@qf.org.qa via a single email.
1) Bidder's tender fee receipt clearly highlighting "QF Tender reference number" and "bidder's name".
2) Authorization letter on company's letterhead detailing the Commercial Registration number, full name, telephone, and email id of the company's focal point for all tender communications.
QF Tender Committee will verify all the above documents and issue the tender documents via email to all bidders who have fully complied with above requirements.
The commercial bid must be valid for 120 days from bid closing date.
Qatar Foundation tendering qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Joint panel formed to find pricing solutions for local farm produce

A joint committee between the Ministry of Municipality and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been formed to explore the best possible solutions and mechanisms for the pricing process of the locally produced agricultural products, said Yousef Khalid al-Khelaifi, director of the agriculture affairs department at the Ministry of Municipality.
According to a report in local Arabic daily *Arrayah*, he said that during a recent meeting of HE the Minister of Municipality Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie with the productive farm owners, the ministry laid great emphasis on the pricing process of local agriculture products.
He also gave instructions to involve the representatives of the farm owners in the work of this pricing team, to listen to their views, opinions and to review them accordingly. Al-Khelaifi said that the recent meeting came to complement the previous meeting held in March on the sidelines of the 9th Qatar International Agricultural and Environmental Exhibition, as part of the ongoing consultative meetings with the local producers held to discuss ways of developing and boosting local agriculture products.
Accordingly, HE the minister introduced the farm owners to a number of initiatives and programmes adopted by the Ministry of Municipality.
He also briefed the participants at the meeting about the agreement with Hassad Food Company, according to which different kinds of agriculture services will be offered to farmers to speed up and improve the quality. The other topics of discussions included the abundance of production during the agriculture season and the possibility of extending the agriculture season to increase production.
In the meantime, al-Khelaifi pointed out that the local production of vegetables has seen a quantum leap over the past few years achieving an increase of almost 100% over the past three years compared to the previous years. The local production of vegetables amounted to 102,000 tonnes in 2021 compared to only 55 tonnes in 2017.

Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

Tender Announcement :-

Sr. #	Tender No.	Description	Temporary Tender Bond	Documents Fees (Non-Refundable)	Closing Date
1	QRC/EMS/137-2022	Purchase and supply of 2 Double Cabin Pickup	35,000 Q.R	500 Q.R	24/07/2022

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 07:00 am to 02:00 pm till the closing date.
Required Documents:
1. Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
2. Company's Commercial registration copy.
3. Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents (500 Q.R) not refunded & account details:
- Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
- Bank: Al Rayan.
- Account number: 003-100689-200 / IBAN:QA09MAFR000000000003100689200

For more information: please call: (70707784), or Email: whc.tenders@qrcs.org.qa

QC provides relief to 15,442 Rohingya refugees



Recently, Qatar Charity distributed essential food items and gas cylinders among refugees, which benefited 15,442 people.

Qatar Charity (QC) has continued with its relief assistance for Rohingya refugees at Bhasan Char, a remote island in Bangladesh, aiming to ensure food security and protect them from vulnerability. Recently, QC distributed essential food items and gas cylinders among refugees, which benefited 15,442 people. Under the guideline of RRRC (Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner) of the Government of Bangladesh, QC's relief staffers provided aid from the distribution centre in Bhasan Char. The food packages contained rice, pulses, oil, salt, sugar, onion, garlic, ginger, spices, dried fish and potatoes, which plainly will fulfil the food necessity of a family for one month. Until now, nearly 30,000 Rohingya refugees have been relocated to Bhasan Char island from Cox's Bazar camps and Qatar Charity provides food relief among them by turn, a press statement notes. Getting the continuous aid from QC, the refugees have expressed their wholehearted gratitude and they thanked the donors and benefactors. Ajim Ullah,



44, said: "We came here six months ago and from then we are receiving food items from Qatar Charity, and this assistance enabled us to run our family smoothly." Dilder Begum, 33, added: "It's an irony of fate that we are evacuated from our birthland, which has brought a lot of desolation in our life. Now, we are dependent on the relief. Thanks to Qatar Charity for extending co-operation for the Rohingya." Food relief Since 2021, Qatar Charity has been providing food relief and essentials at Bhasan Char. Last year, a total of 122,989 refugees benefited through the relief programme for Rohingya. Bangladesh is currently hosting more than 1.1mn Rohingya at camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

QIIB ties up with Qatar Airways Privilege Club to launch new 'Instant Personal Finance'

QIIB has launched a new 'Instant Personal Finance' offer through its digital channels (QIIB Mobile and Internet Banking) with "exceptional features", including a "competitive" finance rate and Avios reward miles from Qatar Airways Privilege Club.

By applying for this offer, which is valid until August 31, QIIB customers can obtain instant personal finance via QIIB Mobile and Internet Banking.

Each customer will be granted a reward of 10,000 Avios by Qatar Airways Privilege Club for every QR50,000 worth of finance with a minimum four years financing period and its multiples and receive 10,000 Avios for every QR100,000 of finance with a financing period between two and four years and its multiples.

Under the terms of the new offer, customers who obtain finance can benefit from a grace period of up to 12 months for Qatari nationals and three months for expatriates, calculated based on the finance term.

Upon satisfying the required standards and uploading the necessary documents to QIIB Mobile Banking or Internet Banking, the finance amount will be transferred to the customer's account in real-time.

QIIB CEO Dr Abdulbasit Ahmed al-Shaibei said: "We are pleased to launch a new personal finance offer through our digital channels in collaboration with Qatar Airways Privilege Club. This offer is in line with the bank's directions in promoting digital transformation culture and encouraging customers to use digital channels, given their various benefits, including their ease and efficiency."

He noted: "Customers' rising demand for QIIB Digital Channels is our driving force behind launching such offers. QIIB has put in place a high-performing digital infrastructure as part of executing a large part of the Bank's digital transformation plan. Most of QIIB's services and products are available through the digital platforms and some operations were completely digitalised in satisfaction of the Customers' preferences who wish to execute such operations without the hassle of visiting the Bank's Branches."



HE Akbar al-Baker (left) and Dr Abdulbasit Ahmed al-Shaibei



By applying for this offer, which is valid until August 31, QIIB customers can obtain instant personal finance via QIIB Mobile and Internet Banking.

"The QIIB finance offer meets the requirements of our customers. It was launched after studying the market needs and monitoring the customers' aspirations to obtain personal finance with competitive features, flexible terms and a quick turnaround of financing. In order to obtain the personal finance through our Digital Channels, the customer who meets the conditions is only required to upload the necessary documents to QIIB Mobile or Internet Banking and the request will be processed in real-time.

"An instant text message will be sent to the customer's mobile phone stating that the required finance was obtained. The customer may apply at any desired time, round the clock without the need to be limited to the official working hours of a branch."

He continued: "The personal finance offer via QIIB Digital Channels carries an added value represented in the co-operation and partnership with Qatar Airways, the world's leading airline, through granting customers who obtain personal finance under this offer, a reward of up to 20,000 Avios for each finance of QR100,000. This will help e-customers to head to their desired destinations, especially while approaching the summer and vacations season."

Dr al-Shaibei called upon the bank's Customers to "avail of this special offer" designed to keep up with the customers' requirements and aspirations while taking into account the best standards applied in the banking sector by ensuring customers are granted finance at the lowest possible cost and with the best features.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive HE Akbar al-Baker said: "We are constantly striving to provide Privilege Club members with maximum benefits for being a part of our loyalty programme."

He continued: "Partnering with QIIB will provide our loyal customers with a convenient tool to collect 10,000 Avios when opting for finance of QR50,000 or QR100,000 depending on financing duration."

"This is another testament to our commitment of providing a world-class experience to local members, giving them more ways to earn and burn Avios in Qatar."

Darwish Interserve General Manager, Mohamed Saadeh awarded as the Highly Commended FM Executive of the Year



Darwish Interserve General Manager, Mr. Mohamed Saadeh has been awarded the Highly Commended FM Executive of the Year by the creditable award of the FM industry-- Facilities Management Middle East 2022-- which took place in Dubai last June 16, 2022. The award was one of the major recognition of the night, highlighting Mohamed's extensive experience for the past 20 years of demonstrated history in the Facilities Management industry. In the preceding years, Mr. Mohamed has been leading to improve operations and drive company growth as the General Manager of Darwish Interserve Facility Management that was also shortlisted for the category of Sustainability Initiative of the Year for Mr. Mohamed's vision of the company's SustainAbilities Plan.

In the alliance of the Chairman—Mr. Yousuf Bin Jassim Al Darwish and CEO—Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Darwish and their continuous support to Mr. Mohamed as a transformational executive with foresight and imagination; ambitious business goals and revolutionary innovation were successfully delivered to DIFM. He was able to usher the company into



a world class operation, generate multi-million value of contracts, spearheaded prestigious projects and diversified the range of clients' industries such as Government, Telecommunication, Bank, Residential, and schools.

"From personal experience, outstanding accomplishment requires much more than sacrifice and maximum commitment. Passion, perception, the courage to keep going and refusing to quit is also paramount to success. Your vision should always inspire you

to give great energy and tenacity to reach your goals and never be discouraged by negativity," said Mr. Mohamed Saadeh

Facility Management Middle East Awards 2022 have come to be seen as the benchmark of success for FM companies in the GCC region. In its 15th edition, FMME brings together to celebrate the achievements of the region's leading FM consultants and contractors who have been continually improving and innovating their processes in an ever-evolving landscape.

Announcement of Public Tender

Tender #	Description of Tender	Bidders Registration / Collection of Tender Documents	Deadline for Participation Confirmation
MNT/379/10-2022	Facilities Management Services for Admin Buildings and Customer Care Outlets for 3 Years	Jminhas@ooredoo.qa	24 July 2022

• Summary SOW:

- The scope includes preventive & corrective maintenance including but not limited to Civil, Mechanical, HVAC, Electrical, ELV, UPS, Elevators, Fire Fighting systems, etc for all Ooredoo admin buildings, customer care buildings, customer care outlets, TEC yard (Ooredoo's Technical Engineering Center), Kiosks & SSMs (Self Service Machines), etc.

• Bidders Registration/Collection of Tender Documents.

- The process of document collection is following:
 - Bidders are requested to Submit their participation confirmation for this tender to the given email address: Jminhas@ooredoo.qa by 24 July 2022 before 3:00 PM Doha Time.
- The participation confirmation should also include the following mandatory documents:
 - Company CR /Trade License / Establishment Card
 - Previous Experiences in Similar FM Services projects executed within last 5 years with value (Minimum three (3) projects, not Less than Qr. 5 million for Each project)
 - Quality Management Procedures & Certifications (ISO Certifications to be provided)
 - Health, Safety & Environmental Certification (Relevant ISO Certifications to be Provided)
 - Previous experience in working with CAFM (computer aided facility management) or equivalent software (Relevant Certification / proof to be provided)

• **Note:** the above mentioned documents are mandatory requirement for Ooredoo to evaluate and prequalify bidders. Only the qualified bidders will be contacted for further registration and tender participation.

- After initial review, at Ooredoo's sole discretion, those bidders/participants, who are not already registered with Ooredoo, shall be contacted for registration in Ooredoo Sourcing Portal.
- Once the online registration is completed, the formal tender document will be floated via the Ooredoo's sourcing portal and proposals are to be submitted through the portal only. Necessary instructions will be shared as part of tender documents.
- In case of any clarification, you may contact the above mentioned email.



Jabra returns to Qatar under Modern Home

Jabra, a leading brand in audio, video and collaboration solutions, has marked a return to Qatar with its latest products and a presence stronger than ever.

After a two-year hiatus, Jabra now operates in Qatar under the umbrella of Modern Home, offering “innovative products engineered to empower consumers and businesses”, a press statement notes.

Jabra’s engineering excellence is built on 150 years of “pioneering work” within the GN Group, which was founded in 1869, and operates in 100 countries.

Jabra is world-renowned for creating integrated tools for contact centres, offices and collaborations that help professionals work more productively from anywhere.

Its wireless headphones and earbuds enable consumers to better enjoy calls, music and media.

Launches latest Elite Wireless Earbuds line-up

As it announces its return to the market, Jabra is presenting three products within its latest Elite true wireless line-up – the Elite Pro, Elite Active and core Elite lines.

The line-up is now available at Modern Home at Al Maha Centre on Salwa Road; FNAC at Lagoona Mall, Doha Festival City, and Place Vendôme; Virgin Megastore at Villaggio, Landmark Mall, Mall of Qatar and Place Vendôme; and other major electronics retailers in Qatar.

The line-up includes the “Jabra Elite 7 Pro, a revolutionary product that features Jabra MultiSensor Voice technology, offering best-in-class call performance”.

Jabra is also releasing the Elite 7 Active with pioneering ShakeGrip coating, perfect for those with active lifestyles.

Finally, the third addition to the range is the Jabra Elite 3, “which brings fantastic sound while on the go to a wide audience”, the statement explains.

This redefined Elite range “signifies the latest breakthrough in true wireless technology: each one is specifically engineered to reinvent the true wireless experience as you know it by introducing new and unique technologies optimised for specific use cases in a sleek and modern design”.

As one of the first companies to introduce true wireless technology, Jabra has taken six generations’ worth of learning and is reinventing true wireless to better fit the needs of today’s millions of true wireless users.

The new Elite range is tailored for specific use scenarios.

Jabra’s new Pro category is designed for those who want the best of the best for calls and music, allowing users to experience true wireless without limits.

Jabra’s Active category is tailored for sports and active lifestyles and the earbuds are specifically engineered to stay put when you sweat.

Finally, Elite 3 makes up part of Jabra’s core category, a new standard for entry-level, on-the-go sound.

The return of Jabra to Qatar reinforces Modern Home’s portfolio of providing its customers with internationally-respected brands.

It also reflects its unique position as the preferred choice for brands that are looking to establish a strong presence in the local market, the statement adds.



Kuwaiti team praises Qatar education development

A high-level educational delegation from Kuwait, headed by Assistant Undersecretary for the Public Education Sector Osama Hussein Sultan Najim, has concluded a visit to Qatar, during which they were briefed on the Qatari experience in public education development.

Members of the delegation met Ministry of Education and Higher Education officials, and visited some educational institutions to learn about Qatar’s experiences and best practices in education development.

In a press statement, Najim praised the Qatari experience in education development, stressing that Qatar has achieved tangible successes and a great leap in the development of education, placing it in an advanced rank among international classifications in the field of education quality.

The Kuwaiti official added that the current visit to Qatar came with the aim of reviewing this rich experience, and studying the prospects for co-operation between Kuwait and



Qatar in the educational aspect.

Najim attributed the quality of education in Qatar to several reasons, including the use of modern and advanced technological methods, adopting diversification of educational paths, attracting specialised and international schools and their role in raising the learner’s receiving efficiency.

He lauded Qatar’s interest in national identity and keenness to develop the spirit of scientific research among learners, and its use of local and international experiences in developing curricula and its integration with technological progress, and assigning local and international capabilities and competencies.

During the visit, the Kuwaiti delegation was briefed on the quality indicators of education.

Assistant Undersecretary for Evaluation Affairs Khalid Abdullah al-Harqan gave an explanation about the system for measuring the quality of students’ academic achievement, and the system for assessing the quality of school performance in schools and kindergartens.

The delegation also learned about Qatar’s experience in the educational curriculum development project, and in the field of technical and vocational education and the advantages offered to students of specialised schools, namely technical and banking schools.

Members of the delegation met Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs Omar Abdul Aziz al-Naama, Director of Private Schools Affairs Rashid Ahmed al-Ameri, and a number of officials of the private education affairs sector in the ministry. – QNA

Business picking up as Eid draws closer

As Eid al-Adha holidays near, the demand on the clothes, accessories and tailors’ is increasing, with the local businesses experiencing a surge in demand.

Local Arabic daily *Arrayah* reported that sales of Eid necessities and new clothes have been steadily on the rise over the past few days.

The traders said that they had not expected sales to high due to the summer holidays and with many families travelling abroad.

However, as the Eid holidays this year are near to the beginning of the month and consequently, payday for most people, customers are willing to spend more.

Traditional popular souqs received the largest numbers of customers, Qataris in particular, such as Souq Waqif, Souq Al Ali, Souq Al Jabr, and Souq Al Deera.

Shop owners and operators stressed that they are keen to give their customers the best offers possible and achieve better sales to make up for the periods of slumps over the past seasons.

Salesman Mohamed Sharafeldin said that the sales of men’s accessories and clothes have increased considerably over the past week.

He said that prices have not increased over the past years: the white head covering for men is priced between QR20-150 depending on the quality, brand, and origins, while men’s perfumes start from QR40.

Salesman Fraidan Zaid said that the prices at the tradi-



tional souqs are stable, with the variation in prices of the same items often falling within the range of a couple of riyals.

He noted that customers prefer such places due to the concentration of many shops selling different items.

Salesman Fadlurrahman Ahmed stressed that businesses are keen to attract customers at this season, with some offering good discounts to encourage repeat business.

These traditional souqs also offer custom tailoring, with a wide selection of fabrics and tailoring styles.



ANNOUNCEMENT

We, Wunderman Thompson W.L.L announce the change of name of company from

J Walter Thompson Doha L.L.C
(CR No. 57638)

to

Wunderman Thompson W.L.L
and the company shall keep its
Commercial Registration no. (57638)

Any objection please contact 4004 2200

QFCRA signs MoU with HBKU college

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA), which aims to serve as a framework for co-operation relating to the development and understanding of the law and its implementation between both parties.

The MoU was signed by HBKU College of Law dean Susan L Karamanian and QFCRA chief executive Michael G Ryan.

Others in attendance were QFCRA managing director (Policy, Legal and Enforcement) Prue Morris, QFCRA deputy managing director (Policy, Legal and Enforcement) Farah Abdulrahman al-Muftah, senior HBKU digital specialist Faisal al-Janahi, and Laith Hammad, partnership officer from the HBKU President’s Office.

“Over the past four years, the College of Law has worked closely with the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)” said Karamanian, adding: “Given this existing relationship and our expertise in legal aspects of financial services, including innovative areas, such as the blockchain and cryptocurrencies, it is only natural for us to extend our engagement specifically to the QFCRA.”



“The relationship will enable College of Law faculty and students to work closely with QFCRA experts to address a variety of aspects of financial services regulation so that they are aligned with international best practices,” she continued.

“Further, the relationship will give our students critical experiential learning as they navigate through the sophisticated regulatory environment of the QFC.”

“We are pleased that our partnership with HBKU’s College of Law gives us an excellent opportunity to collaborate, share knowledge and further enhance Qatar’s legal landscape, in particular financial services regulation,” Ryan said.

“We look forward to working closely with both the faculty and students at the College of Law and providing prospects for an exchange of knowledge and experience between both parties.”

“Additionally, this marks the QFCRA’s third MoU with the HBKU, and we look forward to our continued co-operation with the institution as a whole,” he added.

Under the MoU, the HBKU and the QFCRA aim to explore areas of opportunities for collaboration in relation to legal aspects of financial services and sharing knowledge of financial services regulation.

In connection with the MoU, the QFCRA and the HBKU will host lectures and symposia, provide internship opportunities to students, and embark on joint research activities.

The MoU comes as part of both parties’ commitment and shared goal of building legal capacity within Qatar to help Qatar achieve the objectives set forth in Qatar National Vision 2030.

Silatech helps 700 Moroccans get jobs

Silatech, an international socio-economic development non-profit organisation that connects youth to jobs and economic opportunities, has announced a new milestone in Morocco with its partners, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and EFE-Maroc.

More than 700 young men and women have been placed into jobs in various sectors including education, sales, food and beverage, and the automotive industry.

The “A Chance to Reset: Reskilling, Empowerment towards Sustainable Employment to Thrive” project aims to bridge the skills mismatch and tackle the high youth unemployment rate in Morocco, especially after the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

The project targets the placement of 8,175 youth into high demand jobs.

“The pandemic has been catastrophic for young people around the world, but it has accelerated the pace of change for organisations like Silatech to come back stronger than before,” said Silatech chief executive Hassan Ali al-Mulla. “We believe that partnerships and innovative solutions are the ultimate way forward to tackle the rising global issue of youth unemployment.”

This four-year project aims to combat the high rates of youth unemployment and underemployment that Morocco faces within its youth demography by helping them develop their skills as well as their technical expertise based on the job market needs.

“Since September 2021, and thanks to the ‘RESET’ project, EFE-Maroc has been able to train thousands of youth across Morocco and place more than 700 job seekers into employment,” said EFE-Maroc chief executive Houda Barakate. “Our goal is to reach 2,000 placements annually, which is achievable when we have a strong and agile ecosystem as is



the case for Morocco and this is thanks to its four main pillars: committed public partners, a motivated private sector, high potential young people, and a dedicated civil society.”

James Carty, deputy director for Middle East and East Asia at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said: “We are proud of what has been accomplished by this partnership with Silatech and EFE-Maroc in its first year.”

“Programmes such as ‘RESET’ are extremely important, particularly in a country where 43% of the population is below the age of 24,” he said. “The pandemic is the most serious health crisis the world has experienced in a long time and there has never been a greater need to tackle employment with focus and innovation.” – QNA

MoPH issues Covid precautionary advice to travellers ahead of Eid

From Page 1

5. Adhere to the following precautionary measures during your travel, especially in countries where Covid-19 is circulating widely in the community:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or use a hand sanitiser.
- Avoid physical contact when greeting others, including abstaining from shaking hands and kissing.
- Follow cough etiquette and use your sleeve to cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing or use tissue paper and dispose of it appropriately.

- Wear a face mask in closed public places when you are near other people, in crowded indoor settings, near someone who has respiratory symptoms or when you have respiratory symptoms.
- Avoid gathering and crowded and poorly ventilated places as much as possible.
- Obtain a traveller health insurance where possible.

The ministry called on all eligible individuals to receive their Covid-19 booster dose. Anyone aged 12 years and above who had their second dose more than six months ago is eligible for a booster dose, with eligible people able to receive their booster vaccine dose at one of the 28 Primary Health Care

Corporation health centres as well as the Qatar Vaccination Centre for Business and Industry in Bu Garn.

At present, the Pfizer vaccine is approved for booster dose for those 12 and above while Moderna vaccine is approved for those 18 and above.

A fourth vaccine dose is also available for individuals 50 years of age and older and those with chronic diseases that increase their risk for severe Covid-19 infection, regardless of their age.

The fourth dose is offered to these vulnerable individuals after four months from their booster dose (third dose) or Covid-19 infection.



An Iranian man walks amid the rubble after an earthquake in Sayeh Khosh village in Hormozgan, yesterday.

Strong quakes kill five in southern Iran

AFP
Tehran

A series of strong earthquakes rocked southern Iran yesterday, killing at least five people, injuring over 90 others and reducing an entire village to rubble.

The quakes, including two of magnitude 6.0, struck west of the major port city of Bandar Abbas in Hormozgan province, the US Geological Survey said.

The first rattled an area north of the town of Dezhgan shortly after 2:00am (2130 GMT), before a 5.7 tremor hit two hours later followed quickly by the second 6.0 magnitude quake, the USGS said.

Five people were killed, Hormozgan governor Mehdi Dousti said, quoted by official news agency IRNA.

Dousti told state television that the village of Sayeh Khosh, close to the epicentre, had been “completely destroyed”.

“Ninety-three people were injured, of whom only seven are still in hospital for treatment,” national emergency services spokesman Mojtaba Khaledi told state television.

The broadcaster showed footage of residential buildings reduced to rubble in Sayeh Khosh, which was plunged into darkness in a power outage.

In another video, a family



An excavator removes rubble after an earthquake in Sayeh Khosh village in Hormozgan.

was seen sifting through debris and trying to recover their belongings, as a woman was heard screaming in the background.

Ambulances and other vehicles tried to navigate roads covered in rubble as shocked residents wandered through the streets.

People spent the night outdoors in the provincial capital Bandar Abbas – with a population of more than 500,000, located about 100 kilometres east of the epicentre – as long queues formed at gas stations there, state media reported.

Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi visited Hormozgan province and told state television

that restoring water and electricity were among the government’s top priorities.

Iran’s Red Crescent Society said in the morning that search and rescue operations were nearly over. “We are concentrating on housing the victims of the earthquake,” Hormozgan governor Dousti told state television.

A provincial heritage official told IRNA the quake damaged 50 historical windmills on Qeshm island, located just off the coast.

Iran sits astride the boundaries of several major tectonic plates and experiences frequent seismic activity.

‘Fragile situation’ as Libya anger boils over living conditions

AFP
Tripoli

Libya’s rival leaders were under growing street pressure yesterday after protesters stormed parliament as anger exploded over deteriorating living conditions and political deadlock.

Libyans, many impoverished after a decade of turmoil and sweltering in the soaring summer heat, have been enduring fuel shortages and power cuts of up to 18 hours a day even as their country sits atop Africa’s largest proven oil reserves.

Libya has been mired in chaos and repeated rounds of conflict since a Nato-backed uprising toppled and killed dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Protesters stormed the seat of the House of Representatives in the eastern city of Tobruk on Friday night, ransacking its offices and torching part of the building.

In both the main eastern city of Benghazi – the cradle of the 2011 uprising – and the capital Tripoli, thousands took to the streets to chants of “We want the lights to work”.

Some brandished the green flags of the former Gaddafi regime.

Calm appeared to have returned to Tobruk yesterday, though there were calls on social media for more protests in the evening.

The UN’s top Libya envoy Stephanie Williams said that “riots and acts of vandalism” were “totally unacceptable”.

“It is absolutely vital that calm is maintained, responsible Libyan leadership demonstrated and restraint exercised by all,” she tweeted.

UN-mediated talks in Geneva this week aimed at breaking the deadlock between rival Libyan institutions failed to resolve key



Libyan firefighters extinguish a flame at the House of Representatives in the eastern city of Tobruk yesterday, after angry protesters stormed the building ransacking its offices and torching part of it.

differences. Presidential and parliamentary elections, originally set for December last year, were meant to cap a UN-led peace process following the end of the last major round of violence in 2020.

But voting never took place due to several contentious candidacies and deep disagreements over the polls’ legal basis between the rival power centres in east and west.

In Tripoli on Friday, hundreds came out to demand elections, fresh political leadership and an end to the chronic power cuts.

The sudden eruption of unrest appeared to be spreading to other areas of the country, with Libyan media showing images of protesters in the oasis city of Sebha, deep in the Sahara desert, torching an official building.

A local journalist said protesters in Libya’s third city Misrata were blocking roads after setting fire to a municipal building on Friday night.

Interim prime minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah leads a Tripoli-

li-based administration while former interior minister Fathi Bashagha draws support from the Tobruk-based House of Representatives and eastern military strongman Khalifa Haftar.

“For more than a year, the overwhelming majority of diplomatic and mediation efforts around Libya have been monopolised by the idea of elections, which won’t happen for at least two years, given the failure of the Geneva negotiations,” Libya expert Jalel Harchaoui said.

This year “has been extremely painful for Libyans” because the country “imports almost all its food and the Ukraine war has hit consumer prices”, Harchaoui said.

Libya’s energy sector, which during the Gaddafi era financed a generous welfare state, has also fallen victim to political divisions, with a wave of forced closures of oil facilities since April.

Supporters of the eastern-based administration have shut off the oil taps as leverage in their efforts to secure a transfer

of power to Bashagha, whose attempt to take up office in Tripoli in May ended in a swift withdrawal.

Libya’s National Oil Corp has announced losses of more than \$3.5bn from the closures and a drop in gas output, which has a knock-on effect on the power grid.

“There is kleptocracy and systematic corruption in the east as in the west, as the fancy cars and villas of the elite constantly remind the public,” Harchaoui said, accusing militias from both camps of carrying out “massive” fuel trafficking.

Recent weeks have seen repeated skirmishes between armed groups in Tripoli, prompting fears of a return to full-scale conflict.

The European Union’s envoy to Libya, Jose Sabadell, said Friday’s events “confirm people want change through elections”.

But he urged peaceful protests, adding that “special restraint is necessary given the fragile situation”.

Israel strike on Syria injures two civilians

AFP
Damascus

An Israeli air strike wounded two civilians yesterday in the Syrian government’s heartland on the war-torn country’s west coast, the defence ministry said.

“The Israeli enemy carried out an air strike” after daybreak near the town of Al-Hamidiyah, the ministry said, identifying the locations hit as poultry farms, without elaborating. The strike was conducted from

the Mediterranean Sea, west of Lebanon’s northern city of Tripoli, and “led to the injury of two civilians, including a woman”, it said in a statement. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said the facility that was struck had formerly been used to keep farm animals but was now used by Lebanon’s Hezbollah, a Syrian government ally.

The Israeli army said yesterday that they “do not comment on reports in the foreign media”. Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian of Iran, also a staunch ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, condemned the Israeli strike. “With its attacks, the Zi-

onist entity is trying to portray Damascus as an unsafe city to obstruct the return of displaced Syrians,” he said yesterday during a visit to the Syrian capital.

Video footage by Syrian’s official news agency SANA showed rubble at what it said was the site of the targeted facility.

People are seen inspecting the site, where pulverised chunks of concrete and iron lay on the earth in the middle of a field.

Al-Hamidiyah is located south of Tartus, a bastion of the Syrian government and home to a naval port used by Russia, whose armed forces have backed Assad.

Independent Algeria turns 60, but colonial-era wounds remain

AFP
Algiers

Algeria marks 60 years of independence from France on Tuesday, but rival narratives over atrocities committed during more than a century of colonial rule still trigger bitter diplomatic tensions.

The North African country won its independence following a gruelling eight-year war which ended with the signing in March 1962 of the Evian Accords.

On July 5 of the same year, days after 99.72% voted for independence in a referendum, Algeria finally broke free from colonial rule – but memories of the 132-year occupation continue to mar its ties with France.

The country’s authorities are planning to mark the anniversary with pomp and ceremony, capped by a vast military parade in Algiers, the first of its kind in 33 years.

A show is also planned at the capital’s opera house that “re-

traces the long history of Algeria”, said the minister for independence fighters, Laid Rebiga.

The government has even commissioned a logo – a circle of 60 stars containing military figures and equipment – to mark “a glorious history and a new era”.

Algeria’s war of independence left hundreds of thousands of dead and, despite a string of gestures by French President Emmanuel Macron, a crisis late last year underlined how spiky the issue remains six decades on.

Macron reportedly questioned whether Algeria had existed as a nation before the French invasion and accused its “political-military system” of rewriting history and fomenting “hatred”. Algeria withdrew its ambassador in response.

“Relations between the power system in Algeria and ‘official France’ have been punctuated by crises and pseudo-reconciliations since independence,” said Athmane Mazouz, head of Algeria’s secularist opposition party RCD.

“At this point, all bets are off on whether they can establish better ties.”

France has ruled out any form of apology for the colonial period.

But Macron has also made a number of gestures aimed at mending ties with the former colony.

Visiting Algiers during his



File photo taken on July 3, 1962, shows Algerian troops of the National Liberation Army (ALN) parade in front of the Palais de Sports in Oran, during a ceremony celebrating Algeria’s independence.

first presidential campaign in February 2017, he described colonisation as a “crime against humanity”. He has since acknowledged the French army was behind the death of Algerian nationalist lawyer Ali Boumendjel and anti-colonialist French mathematician Maurice Audin.

France has returned the skulls of 19th century Algerian resistance fighters and opened state

archives on the Algerian war. And the two sides appear to have moved on from the latest crisis.

Macron and his Algerian counterpart Abdelmadjid Tebboune confirmed in a June 18 phone call their desire to “deepen” relations.

Tebboune even congratulated Macron on his “brilliant” re-election and invited him to visit Algeria.

Historian Amar Mohand-Amer said it was time for “a quick return to a normal situation”.

“Sixty years after independence, isn’t it time we took the heat out of this debate?”

Mohand-Amer pointed out that the anniversary celebrations come at a time of raised tensions in the wider region around Algeria.

To the east, in war-scarred

Pope Francis ‘greatly disappointed’ over cancelled Africa visit

Pope Francis has said he is “greatly disappointed” he cannot make a planned visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan due to knee pain, AFP reported from Vatican City. The 85-year-old pontiff suffers chronic arthritis in his knee, according to Vatican sources, and has cancelled a string of events in recent months. “The Lord knows how greatly disappointed I am to have had to postpone this long-awaited and much-desired visit,” the Pope said in a video message released by the Vatican yesterday. “But we remain confident and hopeful that we shall be able to meet as soon as possible.” The Vatican had postponed the Pope’s trip to South Sudan and the DRC on June 10 “at the request of his doctors” to avoid jeopardising treatment. In his video message, the Pope offered a “heartfelt blessing” to the two countries he was set to visit. He said: “I think of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the exploitation, violence and insecurity from which it suffers, particularly in the east of the country, where armed conflicts continue to cause much intense suffering, aggravated by the indifference and the convenience of many.”

Indian police arrest two more over tailor’s murder

Reuters
Udaipur/Mumbai

Indian police made fresh arrests yesterday over the murder of a Hindu tailor in Rajasthan, which sparked tensions between the Hindu majority and Muslim minority and a clampdown on protests and the Internet to prevent them from escalating.

Two men already under arrest for the murder, who filmed the act and posted it online, said it had been a response to the victim’s support for a politician’s derogatory remarks about the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The victim, Kanhaiya Lal Teli, had made a social media post supporting Nupur Sharma, a former spokesperson for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s party, who made anti-Islam comments in May.

Three senior police officials said yesterday that two more men based in Rajasthan were being held for planning Teli’s murder in his shop in Udaipur, a popular tourist destination.

“We have now arrested the two masterminds, and previously we had arrested two men who committed the heinous crime,” said Prafulla Kumar, a senior police official based in Udaipur.

Kumar said Internet services were being gradually restored and security forces continued to be on alert.

An angry mob including some lawyers slapped and shoved the four accused in the murder case when they were presented before a trial court yesterday.

Judges from the Supreme Court of India said on Friday that Sharma must apologise to the whole nation after her remarks intensified religious fault lines in India, angered Islamic nations and triggered diplomatic strains.

Local media reported a separate incident on June 21 in which a chemist was stabbed to death in the western state Maharashtra for allegedly supporting the remarks made by Sharma on social media.

“Five persons were arrested in connection with the murder of the chemist, and a search is on to trace the prime accused,” Aarti Singh, a chief regional police official, was quoted by local press as saying.

China lashed by year’s first typhoon

Dozens missing in shipwreck during South China Sea typhoon

Reuters/AFP
Shanghai/Hong Kong

China’s first typhoon of the year brought gales and rain to its southern shores yesterday, as forecasters warned of record rainfall and high disaster risk in provinces including Guangdong, the country’s most populous.

Typhoon Chaba, the Thai name for the hibiscus flower, was moving northwest at 15-20kph (10-15mph) after the eye of the storm made landfall in Guangdong’s Maoming city yesterday afternoon, the National Meteorological Centre said in a statement.

Chaba, though medium in intensity and expected to lose strength over time,

is likely to bring extremely heavy rains and may break the record for cumulative rainfall as it pulls the monsoon rain belt in the region inland, said Gao Shuanzhu, the centre’s chief forecaster.

“The abundant monsoon water vapour will lead to intense downpours and huge cumulative rainfall of an extreme nature,” Gao said, predicting up to 600mm (24”) of cumulative rainfall in some areas.

At risk are the west of Guangdong, where China’s typhoons usually linger, the east of Guangxi autonomous region and the island province of Hainan, with rainstorms causing landslides, urban waterlogging and floods, Gao said.

Hainan upgraded its emergency response to Level II, the second-highest, yesterday.

It suspended railway service across the island and cancelled more than 400 flights to and from the cities of Haikou and Sanya.

In Macau, one person was injured due to the wind and rain on Chaba’s approach, state televisions reported.

In waters off Hong Kong, which is 270km (170 miles) northeast of Maoming, more than two dozen crew on an engineering vessel with 30 people on board were missing after it snapped in two in waters as Chaba passed through, authorities said.

The vessel “suffered substantial damage and broke into two pieces” and the 30-member crew abandoned ship, according to the Hong Kong Government Flying Service.

Three people had been rescued as of

3pm local time (0700 GMT) and were taken to hospital for treatment, authorities said.

Dramatic footage provided by Hong Kong authorities showed a person being airlifted onto a helicopter while waves crashed over the deck of the semi-submerged ship below.

The three survivors said other crew members may have been swept away by waves before the first helicopter arrived, according to a government statement.

Rescuers in Hong Kong were notified of the incident at 7.25am local time (2325 GMT on Friday) and found the ship near Chaba’s centre, where harsh weather conditions and nearby wind farms made the operation “more difficult and dangerous”.

The ship’s location recorded wind speeds of 144kph and waves that were

10m high, authorities said.

The Government Flying Service dispatched two sorties of fixed-wing aircraft and four helicopter sorties, with mainland Chinese authorities also dispatching a rescue boat.

Rescuers said that they would increase the search area “due to the large number of people missing” and extend the operation into the night if conditions allowed.

In recent weeks, historic rainfall and flooding in southern China have destroyed property, paralysed traffic and disrupted the daily lives of millions in one of the country’s most populous and economically key regions.

Extreme weather including unusually heavy flooding is expected to continue in China through August, forecasters predicted this week, with climate change partly blamed.

India’s monsoon rains cover entire country

Reuters
New Delhi

India’s annual monsoon covered the entire country yesterday, six days earlier than usual, the state-run weather office said, but rain totals are 5% below average so far this season.

The monsoon, critical for farm output and economic growth in the world’s second-most populous country, arrived on the coast of the southern Kerala state on May 29, a couple of days ahead of usual, yet after a promising start the

rains gradually tapered off, clocking an 8% deficit in June.

Last month’s patchy rains slowed the planting of rice, an essential summer crop.

India’s rice farmers have planted 4.3mn hectares with the grain so far this season, down 27% from the same period last year.

The progress of the monsoon, which delivers about 70% of the country’s annual rainfall, is crucial for rice output and exports from India, the world’s biggest exporter of the grain.

Poor monsoon rains would further

delay rice planting, stunt the crop and cut yields, leading to a drawdown in state inventories that would trigger export curbs to ensure sufficient supplies for the country’s 1.4bn people.

India is likely to receive monsoon rainfall between 94-106% of the long-term average in July, the most crucial month for planting rice and a host of other summer crops such as corn, cotton, soybean and sugarcane, the India Meteorological Department said.

The weather office defines average, or normal, rainfall as between 96% and 104% of a 50-year average of 87cm (35”)

for the entire four-month season beginning in June.

Rain totals or between 90% and 96% are considered below average.

Bountiful monsoon rains in July would ease concerns about the output of summer crops, promising higher incomes in the countryside where most Indians live.

As almost half of the country’s farmland lacks irrigation, Indian farmers depend on the monsoon.

The farm sector employs more than half of the country’s population and accounts for nearly 15% of India’s \$2.7tn economy, Asia’s third-biggest.

Nature unleashed



In this photo released yesterday by the Indian Army soldiers and disaster relief teams search for survivors after a landslide in Noney district, some 50km from Manipur’s capital Imphal.



This handout photo taken and released by the Hong Kong Government Flying Service yesterday shows a ship after it broke into two amid Typhoon Chaba, during a rescue operation of the crew members in the South China Sea, 160 nautical miles southwest of Hong Kong.

Indian landslide search enters third day with 25 dead

The search for survivors buried under a landslide in India’s northeast entered its third day yesterday with 25 bodies pulled from the rubble and nearly 40 people still missing.

Security forces and disaster relief teams raced against the clock to find any more survivors trapped under the debris at a railway construction camp in Manipur state.

Most of the victims were reserve soldiers from the Territorial Army who had been working on the railway project.

Eighteen people have so far been pulled alive from the earth with no more rescued overnight, an army statement said, while 12 reservists and 26 civilians remain missing.

The situation at the scene of the landslide was “still serious” with rainfall and bad weather hampering rescue efforts, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said.

India’s remote northeast has been pummeled by heavy rainfall in recent weeks, triggering landslides and floods. Dozens were killed in the region after flooding last month, with relentless rains causing landslides and inundating homes. Earlier this year, at least 10 people, including a four-year-old child, were killed in floods and landslides after unusually heavy rains hit several parts of India. Experts say climate change is increasing the number of extreme weather events around the world, with damming, deforestation and development projects in India exacerbating the human toll. **-AFP**

Plane evacuated over smoke

An Indian domestic flight made an emergency landing in New Delhi yesterday after its cabin filled with smoke soon after take-off for the central city of Jabalpur, the airline said.

Passengers aboard the flight, operated by commercial carrier SpiceJet, were evacuated once the aircraft returned to Delhi. “While passing 5,000 feet, the crew noticed smoke in the cabin,” the airline said on Twitter.

Video purporting to show the smoke-filled cabin quickly went viral on social media.

No-frills carrier SpiceJet has been in the news in recent months, with another flight forced to make an emergency landing last month after its left engine caught fire. **-AFP**

Australia part of Asia, foreign minister says on visit to Malaysia

Reuters
Sydney

Visiting the Malaysian city where she was born, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said her story showed that Australia is part of Asia, as new data showed more than half of Australians were born overseas or had an immigrant parent.

Wong visited Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah state, where she lived for eight years as a child before migrating

to Australia, as part of an official visit to Malaysia.

“One in two Australians are either born overseas or have parents who were born overseas so this is a very Australian experience,” she told media on her first visit to Malaysia since a Labor government won office last month. “It matters that Australia speaks to South East Asia in a way that recognises that we are part of this region and our futures are shared.”

Results of a census conducted every five years and released on Tuesday

showed for the first time over half of the Australian population (51.5%) were born overseas or had a migrant parent.

“We are a multicultural and diverse nation ... It is one of the strengths of who Australia is and we should tell that story in the region more,” she said.

Wong recalled a day earlier in a speech that her grandmother, of Hakka Chinese descent, had raised her children alone in Sabah after most of the family died in World War II.

Wong’s father won an Australian scholarship to study architecture at the

University of Adelaide, which “meant he could climb out of the poverty he experienced as a child”.

He married an Australian woman, and the couple returned to raise a family in Kota Kinabalu.

Wong’s comments and official visit to Malaysia come two decades after a former Malaysian prime minister, Mahathir Mohamed, famously said that Australia could not join an East Asian diplomatic group because “they are Europeans, they cannot be Asians”.

Mahathir later predicted in a 2019

newspaper interview that migration meant Australia would in future “be more Asian than European”.

In an e-mailed statement late on Friday, Mahathir told Reuters that he was proud that a Malaysia-born Australian was the foreign minister and that all nations will be multiracial “because of ease of travel and porous borders”.

Britain, India, China, New Zealand and the Philippines were the biggest source nations for the almost one-third of Australian residents who were born overseas, the census showed.

Women battle for seats in male-dominated Papua New Guinea parliament

Papua New Guinea steps up security ahead of polls tomorrow

AFF/Reuters
Port Moresby/Sydney

Women are fighting to get at least one seat in Papua New Guinea’s male-dominated parliament when voting opens tomorrow in a mountainous, forest-clad land scarred by gender-based violence.

Prime Minister James Marape is fending off a challenge from his predecessor Peter O’Neill to lead this resource-rich but poverty-struck Pacific Island for the next five years.

Marape became prime minister in 2019 after O’Neill resigned amid unhappiness at the handling of a gas deal in the resource-rich but poverty-stricken country.

Whoever wins, the new leader will need to cobble together a coalition government, say analysts.

Women, though, are hoping just to have a voice in the 118-seat parliament.

In the nearly 50 years since Papua New Guinea gained independence from Australia, only seven women have ever secured a seat, and not one in the last election in 2017.

“Many of us really feel like we stand a great chance,” said Sylvia Pascoe, one of 142 women among the almost 3,500 candidates in this election. “Not just because the timing is right, but because we’ve spent our lives building up to this moment.”

Statistics on women’s experiences in the country are alarming: 63% have been subject to physical, sexual or emotional violence at the hands of their spouses, according to a national survey completed four years ago.

At least 70% of both men and women agreed that a man would be justified in beating his wife in at least one of these

circumstances: if she burnt food, argued, went out without telling her husband, refused sex, or neglected her children.

However, Pascoe said women were increasingly taking leadership roles in churches, sports and youth groups, and the “drought” in female representation in politics was sparking a change in sentiment ahead of the election.

“At the last elections, nobody was really out there rooting for women,” she told AFP, but women were now expressing a desire to vote for fellow women, and youth groups were singing songs in support of their runs for office. “People only saw men being leaders. Then suddenly, there was a drought, and they said: ‘Something’s not right, there is no balance.’”

Women in Papua New Guinea have found it hard to overcome perceptions that only men make leaders, said Jessica

Collins, Pacific researcher at the independent Sydney-based Lowy Institute think tank.

However, there is now more public debate about women’s place in politics, Collins added, with some young, determined female candidates running smart campaigns this year.

“The chance for getting women elected to parliament this time around is probably increasing,” she said.

Elections in Papua New Guinea can be dangerous, however.

At the last general election in 2017, more than 200 voting-related killings were documented by monitors from the Australian National University.

Election malfeasance was “more brazen than ever before,” the monitors said in a report, citing “serious irregularities” such as voter intimidation and multiple voting.

For women candidates hard-pressed to get financing, the risks can be greater, said Pascoe, who sometimes ventures

into volatile areas without the large security teams her male rivals enjoy.

So far, she had not encountered significant security issues but Pascoe said she had heard stories of crowds throwing stones and bottles at candidates.

“I was in a place the other night where the guy said they haven’t had water for a month,” she said.

“People are desperate” and when they do not hear what they want from candidates, they can get upset, Pascoe said.

Australia has sent more than 130 troops with transport aircraft to provide security for the vote.

Voting will take place from July 4-22, with ballots airlifted to remote constituencies with assistance from the Australian Defence Force.

They will assist the thousands of Papua New Guinea police and troops around the country, with the heaviest deployments in the remote and frequently violent highlands provinces.

Further complicating the process, the electoral roll is not up to date, said Pacific analyst Harry Ivarature at the Australian National University. “So the whole integrity of this election is already under question.”

The election outcome not expected to be clear until August.

Analysts say the battle to be prime minister could be tight as O’Neill calls for a revival of the resources sector, three years after resigning under pressure over corruption and a failure to spread mining wealth.

In an ethnically diverse country with more than 800 languages, there are few national issues to galvanise voters, and the overriding focus remains on what material benefits candidates can bring to local communities.

Women are hopeful however that their voices can break through.

“We might just see a whole new empowered generation rising out of this,” Pascoe said.

On US border, migrant desperation outweighs fear

AFP
Eagle Pass (United States)

Selvin Allende is worn out. With his one-year-old daughter on his shoulders and his pregnant wife beside him, he crossed the Rio Grande from the Mexican city of Piedras Negras into Eagle Pass, Texas — a dangerous journey that thousands of migrants undertake every year seeking a better future.

“I was afraid for my daughter in the river. I feel tired, defeated, but with the dream of working if the immigration services listen to us with their hearts,” says the 30-year-old Guatemalan.

The family left their home in Honduras because of crime and a lack of work, and made the long trip by train and on foot to get here.

He and his wife, walking with a

painful gait and eyes half-closed, make their way over to the border patrol waiting for them under one of the bridges that link Mexico and the United States. Their belongings fit in a pair of plastic bags.

The agents look over their passports and those of other people who recently arrived, and take them into custody to study their asylum claims.

The scene repeats itself several times a day under the resigned gaze of the security forces.

“This never stops. They can cross wherever and whenever,” said one National Guard soldier, who did not want to be named.

The reinforcement of security in the last few months has not stemmed the arrival of migrants without visas. In May, authorities detained more than 239,000 people on the Mexican border, a record, though the figure also in-

cludes those who tried to enter the US multiple times.

And yet, the journey comes with serious risks, as demonstrated by the case of 53 migrants found dead after being abandoned in a sweltering tractor trailer in San Antonio on Monday.

The man suspected of driving the truck has said he was unaware the trailer’s air conditioning had failed, according to media reports.

On the Mexican bank of the river trucks come and go, letting off people crossing to the other side.

This afternoon the temperature hits 37 degrees Celsius (99 degrees Fahrenheit), and some migrants cool off in the water as they wait for more people to arrive with whom they can cross the treacherous river, which has claimed many lives.

One Venezuelan family — five men, two women and two children — decide

the moment has come. Their crossing lasts 10 minutes, and halfway through, they grab onto each other to brace themselves against the strong currents.

When they arrive on the American side, they shout with happiness before turning themselves over to the border patrol.

The relief can be seen in every face. Alejandro Galindo, another Venezuelan crossing the river nearby, is emotional after 26 days of travelling with two companions.

“I’m crying with happiness. I want to help my family. In Venezuela we have no future,” the 28-year-old says.

Eagle Pass, a city of 22,000 people about 230km from San Antonio, has learned to live with the daily presence of the migrants.

A few metres from the bridge over the border, several men play golf in the

yellowish grass, paying no mind to the people crossing the river.

Valeria Wheeler, the director of the shelter Mission Border Hope, witnesses every day the challenges of the wave of migration. In two years, her facilities have gone from taking in between 20 migrants a week to up to 600 a day.

The recent arrivals spend a few hours there, in a large warehouse with benches, bathrooms and showers, waiting for a relative to pay for their transportation to another city.

The migrants’ economic profile has changed in recent times, explains Wheeler, 35.

Before, they were usually people who could buy an airplane ticket to somewhere near the border. But now they are poorer, and arrive after walking from Mexico or Central America.

“They come with physical and emotional wounds,” says Wheeler, whose

shelter receives only those released by the border patrol and able to seek asylum after getting around Title 42.

The measure, invoked under the administration of former president Donald Trump, applies to all Mexicans and Central Americans, and allows for the deportation of migrants without visas, even if they are seeking asylum, under the pretext of stopping the spread of Covid-19.

For those who try to elude the border patrol and deportation, the journey is even more dangerous than for others.

So-called coyotes, or traffickers, are one option, but the price can climb as high as \$10,000, and that’s not the worst part, as seen in the case of the 53 people found dead in San Antonio.

“We’re here so the people who arrive at the shelter don’t have to go through the same thing,” says Wheeler. “That’s what we’re working for.”

Imran Khan warns against ‘rigging’



Former prime minister and leader of the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan (front second right) waves to supporters during a protest rally against inflation, political destabilisation and continued hikes in fuel prices, as it passes towards Islamabad’s Parade Ground yesterday. Later, during his address, Khan warned his party supporters to be ready for the 20 provincial assembly by-elections to be held in Punjab this month, alleging that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would indulge in rigging to secure the seats that were vacated following the de-seating of his party’s 25 legislators — as mandated under the constitution — after they had switched sides and voted for the PML-N nominee for the chief minister’s election. **(AFP)**

Taliban gathering ends with calls for global recognition

Reuters
Kabul

A Taliban-run gathering of thousands of male religious and ethnic leaders ended yesterday by asking foreign governments to formally recognise their administration, but made no signals of changes on international demands such as the opening of girls’ high schools.

The Afghan economy has plunged into crisis as Western governments have withdrawn funding and strictly enforced sanctions, saying the Taliban government needs to change course on human rights, especially those of women.

“We ask regional and international countries, especially Islamic countries ... to recognise the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan ... release all sanctions, unfreeze (central bank) funds and support in development of Afghanistan,” the gathering’s participants said in a statement, using the group’s name for their government, which has not been formally recognised by any country.

The group’s reclusive leader joined the three-day gathering of more than 4,000 men on Friday, and delivered a speech in

which he congratulated the participants on the Taliban’s victory and underlined the country’s independence.

The Taliban went back on an announcement that all schools would open in March, leaving many girls who had turned up at their high schools in tears and drawing criticism from Western governments.

In speeches broadcast on state-run television, a small number of participants brought up girls’ and women’s education. The Taliban’s deputy leader and interior minister, Sirajuddin Haqqani, said the world had demanded inclusive government and education and these issues would take time.

But the group’s supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, who is normally based in the southern city of Kandahar and rarely appears in public, said foreigners should not give orders.

The gathering’s final statement said defence of the Islamic Emirate was obligatory and that the Islamic State militant group, which has said it was behind several attacks in the country, was illegal.

It said it would not interfere with neighbouring countries and they should not interfere in Afghanistan.

Foreign firefighters arrive in Greece for summer wildfires

Several dozen Romanian and Bulgarian firefighters took up their posts in Greece yesterday, the first members of a European force being deployed to the country to provide backup in case of major wildfires during the summer. More than 200 firefighters and equipment from Bulgaria, France, Germany, Romania, Norway and Finland will be on standby during the hottest months of July and August in Greece, where a spate of wildfires caused devastation last summer. A group of 28 Romanian firefighters with eight vehicles, and 16 firefighters from Bulgaria with four vehicles, were the first to arrive for the two-month mission, financed and co-ordinated under the European Union’s civil protection mechanism. “We thank you very much for coming to help us during a difficult summer for our country, and for proving that European solidarity is not just theoretical, it’s real,” Greek Civil Protection Minister Christos Stylianides said yesterday as he welcomed the members of the Romanian mission in Athens.

“When things get tough, you will be side by side with our Greek firefighters so we can save lives and property.”

Reuters
Kyiv/Konstyantynivka

Blasts shook Ukraine’s southern city of Mykolaiv yesterday as Russia’s artillery helped grind out gains in the east, after a week when the civilian death toll from Russian missile strikes climbed in urban centres well behind the frontline.

“There are powerful explosions in the city! Stay in shelters!” Oleksandr Senkevych, mayor of the Mykolaiv region which borders the vital Black Sea port of Odesa, wrote on the Telegram messaging app as air raid sirens sounded.

The cause of the blasts was not immediately clear, although Russia later said it had hit army command posts in the area. Reuters could not independently verify the reports.

Kyiv says Moscow has intensified missile attacks on cities far from the main battlefields in the country’s east and that it deliberately hit civilian sites. Ukrainian troops on the eastern frontlines meanwhile describe intense artillery barages that have pummelled

residential areas. Russia says it has targeted military sites and denies aiming at civilians. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said “Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets”.

The Chief of General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Valery Gerasimov, inspected Russian troops involved in what Moscow calls its “special military operation”, Russia’s defence ministry said, although it was not clear if he was in Ukraine.

The inspection follows slow but steady gains by Russian forces with the help of relentless artillery in east Ukraine, a focus for Moscow after it narrowed its broader war goals of toppling the government following fierce Ukrainian resistance.

“Definitely they are trying to demoralise us. Maybe some people are affected by that, but for us it only brings more hatred and determination,” said a Ukrainian soldier returning from Lysychansk, Ukraine’s last bastion in Luhansk province. Russian forces seized Sievierodonetsk, a major city in Luhansk this month, after

some of the heaviest fighting of the four-month-old war that pounded whole districts into rubble. Other settlements now face similar bombardment.

“Private houses in attacked villages are burning down one by one,” Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said on Telegram, adding that shelling stopped Lysychansk residents from dousing fires.

Troops on a break from the fighting and speaking in Konstyantynivka, a market town about 115km west of Lysychansk, said they had managed to keep the supply road to the embattled city open, for now, despite Russian bombardment.

“We still use the road because we have to, but it’s within artillery range of the Russians,” said one soldier, who usually lives in Kyiv but asked not to be named, as comrades relaxed nearby, munching on sandwiches or eating ice cream. “The Russian tactic right now is to just shell any building we could locate ourselves at. When they’ve destroyed it, they move on to the next one,” the soldier said.



A view shows a damaged building in Bakhmut, Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, in this still image obtained from a social media video released yesterday. **(Reuters)**

Kerry vows US to meet climate goal despite court setback



DETERMINED: John Kerry.

AFP
Washington

US climate envoy John Kerry has vowed the United States will meet goals it submitted to the United Nations on slashing greenhouse gas emissions, despite a Supreme Court ruling that curtailed the government’s powers.

“We are determined to achieve our goals. We can achieve our goals,” Kerry told AFP.

“But obviously it would help if we had a majority of the Supreme Court in the United States of America that actually understood the gravity of the situation

and was more willing to try to be helpful rather than present a hurdle of one kind or another,” he said.

President Joe Biden, after defeating the climate-sceptic Donald Trump, in April last year said the United States would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 to 52% by 2030 from 2005 levels, dramatically increasing the climate ambitions of the world’s largest economy.

He submitted the so-called nationally determined contribution to the UN climate body in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement, the landmark deal brokered by Kerry when he was secretary of state.

China, the world’s largest carbon emitter, called Friday on all nations to live up to Paris commitments, with foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian saying of the United States, “it is not enough to just chant slogans.”

Kerry, who has worked with Chinese officials in his climate role despite soaring tensions between Beijing and Washington, said that he was “not surprised by the messaging” from the Asian power.

“We will show China precisely how we’re going to get the job done,” Kerry said.

Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, called the

Supreme Court decision “a setback in our fight against climate change.”

Despite Biden’s pledges to wean the United States off fossil fuels, the Interior Department has released a five-year proposal that would authorise offshore oil and gas drilling in federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska, although it would still ban drilling in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The proposal comes amid soaring gas prices and as Biden seeks to woo Senator Joe Manchin, a Democrat from coal-producing West Virginia with the crucial vote, to back a package that would also boost clean energy. Environ-

mentalists see the legislation as a last hope amid expectations that Trump’s Republican Party will make advances in November congressional elections.

The Supreme Court, finishing a term in which three justices nominated by Trump pushed it sharply to the right, on Thursday cut the wings off a key way in which the government could have tackled climate change without fresh legislation.

In a 6-3 ruling branded “devastating” by Biden, the top court said the Environmental Protection Agency did not have authority to order sweeping cuts on emissions from coal-fired power plants. “I am convinced — and

our legal people are looking at it very carefully — that this decision leaves plenty of latitude for us to be able to do a lot of things that we need to do,” Kerry said.

Asked about calls by some lawmakers from his Democratic Party for Biden to declare a climate emergency, Kerry said, “I think the president needs to evaluate every option available.”

Coal accounts for around 20% of US electricity generation — still roughly on par with renewables. China, despite investing heavily in wind and solar, has also kept building coal production capacity. But Kerry said that the marketplace showed that coal was not the future.

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GULF TIMES

Aviation: long-term climate goal key to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050

The global aviation industry has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This commitment brings the industry in line with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5C goal. Climate change is the greatest threat facing our societies and achieving net-zero emissions will be a huge challenge as the expected scale of the industry in 2050 will require the mitigation of nearly 1.8 gigatonnes of carbon.

To fulfil aviation’s net-zero commitment, current estimates are for sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) to account for 65% of aviation’s carbon mitigation in 2050. That would require an annual production capacity of 449bn litres. Investments are in place to expand SAF annual production from the current 125mn litres to 5bn by 2025. With effective government incentives, production could reach 30bn litres by 2030, which would be a tipping point for SAF production and utilisation.

In 2021, irrespective of price (SAF is between two and four times the price of conventional jet fuel), airlines have purchased every drop of the 125mn litres of SAF that was available. And already more than 38 countries have SAF-specific policies that clear the way for the market to develop.

Global aviation industry has called upon all governments to support the adoption of a long term climate goal for air transport

incentives, both are now affordable and widely available.

By applying similar incentive-based policies to SAF, governments can support global SAF production to reach 30bn litres by the end of the decade.

This would be a tipping point as it would send a clear signal to the market that SAF is playing its intended long-term role in aviation’s decarbonisation and encourage investments to drive up production and drive down the price.

The market for SAF needs stimulation on the production side. The United States is setting an example for others to follow. Its SAF production is expected to reach 11bn litres in 2030 on the back of heavy government incentives.

Europe, on the other hand, is the example not to follow. Under its Fit for 55 initiative, the EU is planning to mandate that airlines uplift 5% SAF at every European airport by 2030.

Decentralising production will delay the development of economies of scale. And forcing the land transport of SAF will reduce the environmental benefit of using SAF.

To provide the right set of consistent policies and long-term stability needed for investments, the global aviation industry has called upon all governments to support the adoption of a long term climate goal for air transport at the 41st Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) this September, aligned with industry commitments.

Undoubtedly, this climate goal is critical to back up the industry’s decarbonisation ambitions and would provide a global multilateral framework for action without distorting competition.

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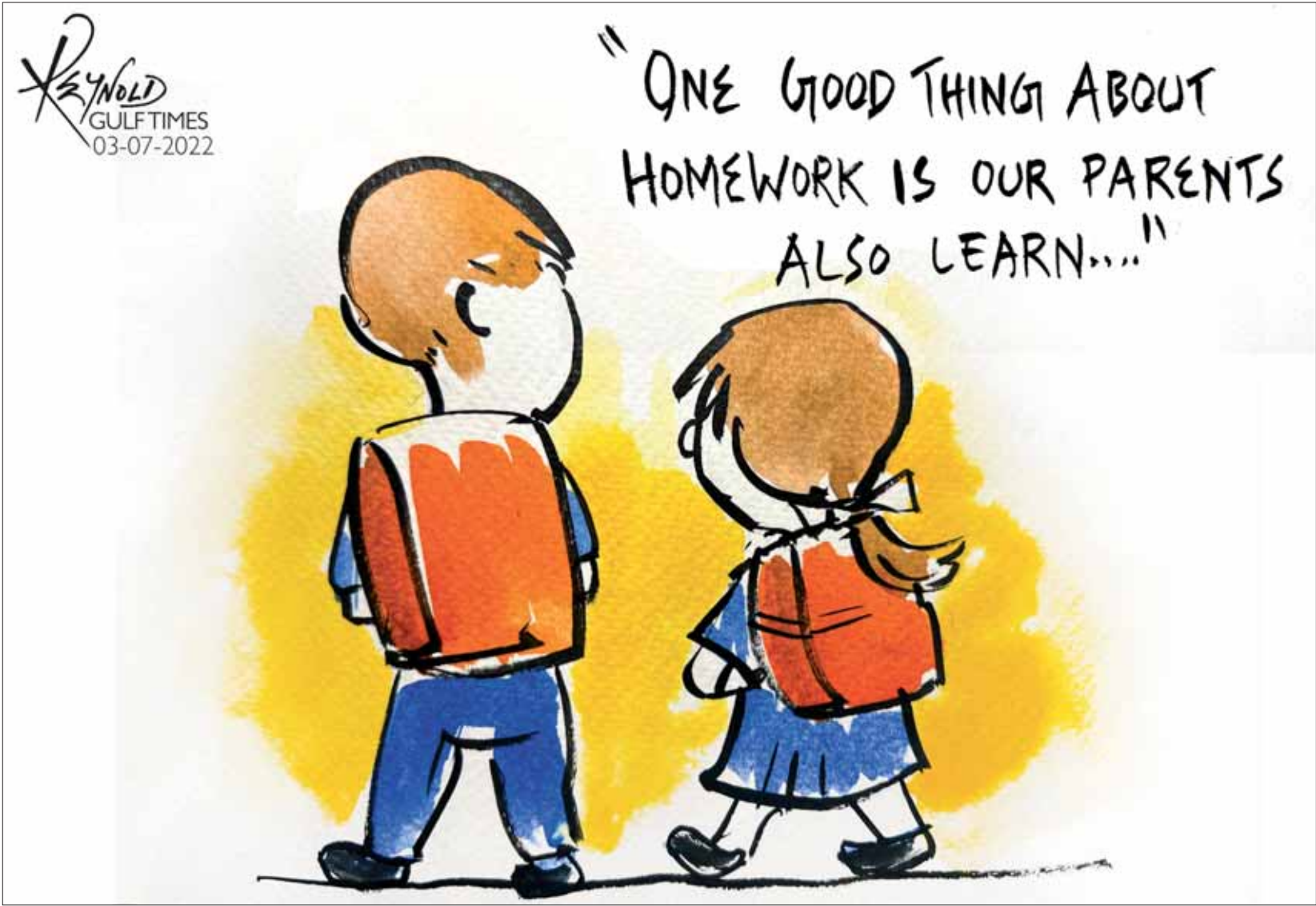
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The European war project

By Mark Leonard
Berlin

For seven decades, European integration has been driven by the quest for peace. But since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Europe has found itself unifying in response to war. The peace project has given way to a war project, and this fundamental shift is forcing European governments to reconsider some of their longest-held principles.

Most obviously, they now must concern themselves with hard power. There has been much discussion about German rearmament, Denmark’s decision to participate in European joint defence arrangements, and Sweden and Finland’s bid for Nato membership. Taboos have been broken, with European Union member states sending heavy weapons to Ukraine and the EU’s “peace facility” pledging €2bn (\$2.1bn) to arm that beleaguered country. Moreover, the EU has fashioned its economy into a weapon to use against Russia, and it is now planning for a war economy, where security will take priority over efficiency.

A second major change is that Europeans must rethink interdependence. European integration previously reflected the belief that economic links between countries would create a foundation for political reconciliation. That was the idea behind the original European Coal and Steel Community (the precursor to the EU), which turned former enemies into friends by merging the national industries that had produced the munitions for World War II. The hope was that even if economic links between

countries did not make war impossible, they would at least prevent a dangerous escalation in tensions.

But Russia’s invasion made a mockery of this idea, demonstrating that interdependence can also enable one party to blackmail the other. This realisation came hot on the heels of worries about “mask diplomacy” and “vaccine nationalism” during the Covid-19 pandemic, when many countries found themselves wholly reliant on others for critical supplies. It follows that Europe’s decoupling from Russian energy will also be accompanied by efforts to make Europe less dependent on China.

A third question involves the concept of sovereignty. For the past few decades, Europeans were mainly focused on taming this impulse in the name of supranational cooperation. But faced with an aggressive revisionist power, they now recognise that sovereignty must be protected before it can be pooled.

For its part, Russia has perverted the post-sovereignist rhetoric used by Europeans during the Balkan wars to justify its own invasion of Ukraine, which it cynically describes as a mission to protect Russian speakers from genocide. In the 1990s, Europeans advanced the “postmodern” idea that if there were massive abuses of universal human rights (those recognised by the United Nations) taking place within a sovereign country, the international community had a duty to step in to protect the victims from their own government.

The Russian variant of the “responsibility to protect” is not postmodern but pre-modern. The Kremlin believes it can decide unilaterally to intervene in other

countries to protect members of a loosely defined Russian civilisation. Many worry that China will adopt similar reasoning to launch an invasion of Taiwan. Earlier generations of Western leaders were wrong to assume that only their countries would ever be strong enough to override others’ sovereignty.

A fourth issue is the supposed universalism of the European project. In the early 2000s, I wrote a book titled Why Europe Will Run the 21st Century. I believed that the EU’s model of international cooperation would spread osmotically to all corners of the world. But the failure of the EU enlargement process in Turkey and the rise of a revanchist Russia have shown that the EU model is unlikely even to encompass all of Europe, let alone the whole planet.

In discussions with leaders from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, I have been struck by how few of them share the intense moral outrage that characterises the West’s response to Russia’s invasion. They see the conflict as a regional European conflict, rather than as a world war with which they should be concerned. Eurocentrism has not only led Europeans to misread leaders such as Russian President Vladimir Putin; it also is hindering Europe’s appeals to the rest of the world.

To correct course, European leaders must recognise that the EU experience is an exceptional product of a particular history and geography, and they must demonstrate enough curiosity to understand the world through others’ eyes. In a paradoxical way, decentring Europe could be the necessary first step to exercising European power in a multipolar world.

A fifth principle that needs rethinking is the idea of political order. While some European leaders cling to a security framework that reflects the principles of the post-Cold War moment, the hard truth is that Europe’s unique order – based on a set of institutions and treaties – has already been destroyed. In the future, European security will look much more like that of other regions, such as Asia. The balance of power and military might will matter as much as any treaties between Europeans and Russians.

The United States, of course, will remain engaged in the region. But much of the action will come from a lattice of bilateral and limited security arrangements. And even if the fighting in Ukraine ends, it will not give way to peace. The danger of cyberattacks, energy cutoffs, election interference, and Russia’s “little green men” will be permanent features of Europe’s new age of unpeace.

The Ukraine war will remake Europe. This does not mean that Europeans must abandon the idealism and creativity that drove the most successful peace project in history. But they must accept that their model will never be universal, that they will increasingly find themselves responding to decisions made by others, and that peace at home may depend on their willingness to countenance war elsewhere. From now on, European integration will be driven by the need to win in a dangerous world, rather than by the desire to avoid conflict. — Project Syndicate

● Mark Leonard, Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations, is the author of The Age of Unpeace: How Connectivity Causes Conflict.



A man stands past on the ground as he looks at a wall with flags from all over the world and a poster reading “All nations, we need your military equipment and personnel” in Kyiv last week. (AFP)

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Qatar participates in Transformation Education Pre-Summit in Paris

Qatar participated in the Transforming Education Pre-Summit, held at the headquarters of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) in Paris.

Qatar's delegation was headed by HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education and Chairman of the Qatar National Committee for Education, Culture and Science Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi.

In her speech at the summit, HE al-Nuaimi noted the importance that Qatar attaches to education in its permanent constitution and Qatar National Vision 2030, as one of the most important pillars of social progress.

She reviewed the most important results of the national consultations that were held in Qatar on June 16-17, regarding recommendations according to priorities that will help re-imagine education in the country, which can be crystallised into five priority axes, the first being the need for the effective application of a student-oriented learning experience that meets their needs, well-being, interests, abilities and aspirations, and full integration of persons with disabilities as well as those who face learning difficulties.

The minister added that the second axis is to make the most of technology, including artificial intelligence, which has witnessed an increasing acceleration, as digital learning is at the top of the priorities and interests of Qatar more than ever, especially in the wake of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

HE al-Nuaimi indicated that the third axis is concerned with attracting, motivating and developing teachers professionally, in light of the widespread of new technologies nationally and globally.

Thus, teachers will play a major factor in the successful transformation of educational systems, she added.

HE al-Nuaimi said that the fourth axis is to enable learners to contribute to their long-term well-being and that of their society, especially in light of the state's orientation towards building a knowledge-based economy and maintaining economic and environmental sustainability, which will require basing scientific research on the environment, sustainability and climate change.

She stressed that these requirements and priorities must reflect on educational curricula, as well as research funding in higher education institutions.

The fifth axis deals with education financing, where she underscored the importance that Qatar attaches to this field all over the world, and its keenness to provide quality and inclusive education for all everywhere, as a top priority of its policy in the field of development aid in areas of conflict and crisis.

HE al-Nuaimi explained that Qatar has provided support over the past decade, through the Qatar Fund for Development, to educational projects worth \$1bn around the world, benefiting more than 70 countries.

She concluded her speech by emphasising that education is the road map to the future, and the Education Transformation Summit can help determine the best routes on this map.

The transformation will require a lot of effort; however, Qatar is fully committed to these crucial tasks, she underlined.

The preparatory summit brought together about 140 ministers of education from the world over.

The ministers shared their countries' national consultation experiences.

Additionally, the initial content of the Education Transformation Summit to be held next September in New York was presented, with it having five main focus areas of transformation: schools and education, quality of life, educators, online connectivity, and education financing.

On the sidelines of the preparatory summit, HE al-Nuaimi met the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Summit Dr Leonardo Garnier, and discussed with him the summit's desired outcomes, in addition to the follow-up mechanisms post-summit.

The two officials also discussed development-oriented working procedures that would contribute to the transformation of education.

HE al-Nuaimi also met Director of the Education and Adolescent Development Program Group at the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) Dr Robert Jenkins, where they reviewed topics of common interest in education. – QNA

Special lane on A-Ring Road for buses, taxis, authorised vehicles

- Providing a smooth public transport experience for thousands of fans during World Cup
- Reducing travel time during the tournament
- Developing A-Ring Road and increasing number of lanes and its capacity
- Creating free lane for public buses and facilitating movement of emergency vehicles
- Facilitating arrival of public buses in timely manner and achieving integration of transport system
- Creating free and fast lane for Karwa taxis

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced the designation of a special lane for buses, taxis and authorised vehicles on A-Ring Road, to facilitate traffic and serve the FIFA World Cup 2022 transportation plan.

This has been done in coordination with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Transport, and Mowasalat (Karwa), Ashghal said in a statement yesterday.

Abdulaziz al-Mawlawi, Mobility executive director at the SC, said: "The bus lane will help provide a smooth and environment-friendly transport experience for thousands of fans during the FIFA World Cup."

"We would like to thank all our valued stakeholders for managing this important project, which will directly benefit fans and officials during the tournament and help Qatar deliver an outstanding event," he said.



Lieutenant Khalid Nasser al-Mulla, head of the technical team of the Corniche Closure Committee, said the new lane will be designated for public transport buses, taxis and authorised vehicles such as emergency vehicles.

All necessary traffic markings and directional signs that support law enforcement and the monitoring of traffic violations in future stages have been developed.

He added that the existence of a designated lane for public buses will create a more comfortable environment for the movement of buses on the road network, which will contribute to reducing travel time, encourage the use of public transportation, and reduce the number of personal vehicles on the road.

The lane will also facilitate the arrival of police and emergency vehicles at accident sites and help evacuate the accident scene faster, which contributes to reducing traffic congestion on A-Ring Road and roads accessed through it, in addition to reducing the mixing of such buses with other vehicles.

Saleh Saeed al-Marri, acting director of the Land Transport Network Planning Department



The bus lane on the A-Ring road extends from Ras Abu Abboud Bridge to Al Diwan Intersection and Al Rayyan Road



Main advantages

- Encouraging the use of public transportation
 - Reducing travel time
 - Encouraging the public to use the bus
 - Reducing traffic congestion
- Environmental advantages
 - Reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality
- Enhance traffic safety
 - Priority lane for emergency vehicles
 - Reducing the number of traffic accidents



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced the designation of a special lane for buses, taxis and authorised vehicles on A-Ring Road, in order to facilitate traffic and serve the FIFA World Cup 2022 transportation plan.

Ministry of Transport is working towards enhancing the transport experience in general by adopting the latest, environment-friendly urban and technological systems that serve transportation systems in different regions in the world.

Mohamed Ali al-Marri, secretary of the Corniche Closure Committee, said: "This step comes after increasing the number of road lanes on A-Ring Road from two to four in each direction, to enhance road capacity and traffic flow and reduce traffic congestion."

"A-Ring Road extends from Ras Bu Abboud Bridge to the Al Diwan Intersection with Al Rayyan Road, and is considered to be one of the vital roads in Doha as it links many commercial and residential areas and service facilities, in addition to linking many tourist destinations such as National Museum of Qatar, Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Waqif, Al Bidda Park, as well as developmental projects in Doha Central such as Msheireb Downtown Doha," he said.

Ahmed Hassan al-Obaidly, executive manager of Opera-

tions at Mowasalat (Karwa), said: "This lane contributes to reducing the travel time taken for public transport buses on A-Ring Road and in Doha Central, as well as facilitates the arrival of public transport buses on time and achieving integration of the transportation system (buses and Metro). These improvements will encourage the public to use public transportation and create a free and fast path for taxis."

This lane will achieve various environmental benefits such as reducing the number of personal vehicles on the road and encouraging the use of environment-friendly public transport, which in turn leads to reducing CO2 emissions and improving air quality, in addition to enhancing bus fuel efficiency and thus achieving the desired environmental sustainability.

Designating a lane for public transport buses on A-Ring Road is one of the measures taken by the committee responsible for managing the Corniche Street closure plan, and other priority lanes for buses passing on different routes will be determined later, the statement added.

Durham School for Girls earns coveted recognition

School marks numerous achievements

Durham School for Girls was recently awarded the title of "High Performance Learning (HPL) World Class School", the first all-female international school to have this honour bestowed upon it.

"It is an outstanding reward recognising the school's incredible approach to teaching and learning," Durham School for Girls said in a press statement.

HPL has been implemented throughout the school, including the creative teaching methods as well as the smart and innovative use of technology.

"This has enabled Durham girls to achieve their personal best and make huge progress in their learning across all subjects," the statement noted. "The embedding of this approach in conjunction with the strong British Curriculum, core school and Qatari values, has allowed the girls to be the best they can be and exhibit confidence for life in their approach to all that they do."

The school has also been recognised as a Microsoft Showcase School for its contribution in transforming the educational space.

"The focus on innovative teaching and learning and equipping students for the digital future by providing an exceptional, state-of-the-art, technologically driven environment allowed Durham to join this exclusive global community of schools and is a credit to its exceptional ICT (information and communications technology) Department and the

commitment of staff and students to embrace technology in a positive and meaningful way," the school stressed.

This year Durham School for Girls also celebrated a number of important academic milestones, most importantly Years 11 and 12 girls sitting for the British Standard Public examinations at IGCSE and AS levels, which allow students to move on to the next stage of their education.

A graduation ceremony for the Year 12 cohort with their families and Durham staff saw them relive their time at the school, celebrating the end of formal education and the beginning of the next part of their road to success.

The students have been "extremely successful", gaining university places at Carnegie Mellon (early entry), Virginia Commonwealth, Aberdeen, St Andrews, and Qatar University to study a wide range of subjects – from Business and Computing to Architecture and Art.

Continuing with innovative opportunities for girls who study at Durham, the Dual Enrolment initiative with SUNY ADK will see a number of girls attend university classes and gain transferable university credits in their own environment supported by staff from the comfort of their own school.

This head-start initiative already has a number of girls signed up to start in September.

The school takes every opportunity to celebrate the achievements of their girls both in and out of school.



The opportunity to be part of the Arab Cup 2021 as FIFA flag-bearers in group games and represent their country on the world stage was a special one, as they were also chosen for the final played in front of more than 60,000 people.

On an individual level, a Year 10 student was selected to represent the Qatar national women's football team in a recent friendly match, while a student in Year 12 was an integral member of the successful Qatar national debate team in several international competitions.

Students have also become published authors and created in-house newspapers.

Durham School for Girls said it is "proud of these wonderful examples of students making a difference and pushing themselves to shine".

The school's merit reward system has seen a number of girls achieve bronze and silver



Students celebrate their accomplishments.

awards, and two Year 7 girls reached 150 merits and have been awarded their gold badges – a "brilliant achievement".

Celebrating success is a regular part of Durham School for Girls, said principal Vanessa Whay, who added: "It has been wonderful to see girls being rewarded for both academic achievements and highlighting the 'MARK' (Moral Integrity, Ambition, Responsibility and Kindness) and Qatari values that are the bedrock of our school and impinge on all aspects of our daily life."

"Shoutouts in assemblies, certificates for achievement, kindness and other rewards are integral to showcasing what is happening throughout the school," she said. "It was lovely to have our prize-giving ceremony where those achieving excellence in all areas, including leadership and attendance."



Durham girls got the opportunity to be part of the Arab Cup 2021 as FIFA flag-bearers.