

CORRECTIVE JAW SURGERY FOR THE BEST AESTHETIC AND FUNCTIONAL RESULTS



Dr. Lama Bittar
Oral and
Maxillofacial Surgery |
Implantology

**Premium
Naseem**

55223005 / 55223002

#DigitalizingLogistics
Move easy. Move successful.
Move digitally.
www.redlogik.com
QATAR | UAE | SINGAPORE | TUNISIA | EGYPT
redlogik

BUSINESS | Page 1

Qatar participates in World Bank and IMF annual meetings in Washington

Your groceries delivered to your doorstep

talabat
MONOPRIX

SPORT | Page 1

Squash: ElShorbagy leads stellar line-up at QTerminals Qatar Classic

homes **rus**

Designed
... for ...
togetherness

Hyatt Plaza | Mall Of Qatar | Ezdan Mall - Al Wakra
Place Vendôme Mall (Lusail) - Opening Soon
4015 6999

GULF TIMES

0 668039 136499
SUNDAY Vol. XXXXII No. 12069
October 17, 2021
Rabia 11, 1443 AH
www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

Published in QATAR since 1978

Join Ooredoo ONE and save QR 1,140!

ooredoo

Valid Until 10th September 2022
*12-month contract required
Terms and Conditions Apply

In Brief

Pro-military protesters rally in Sudan capital

Thousands of pro-military protesters rallied in central Khartoum yesterday, vowing not to leave until the government is dissolved in a threat to Sudan's transition to civilian rule. The protest comes as Sudanese politics reels from divisions among the factions steering the rocky transition from two decades of dictatorship under president Omar al-Bashir, who was ousted by the army in April 2019 following weeks of mass protests. Yesterday's protest was organised by a splinter faction of the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC), a civilian alliance which spearheaded the anti-Bashir protests and became a key plank of the transition. **Page 11**

Clinton improving but still in hospital

Former US president Bill Clinton's health is improving but he will remain in a California hospital for at least another night to receive antibiotics intravenously for a urological infection that spread to his bloodstream, his spokesperson said. The 75-year-old Clinton, who served as president from 1993-2001, entered the University of California Irvine Medical Center on Tuesday evening after suffering from fatigue. He spoke with President Joe Biden on Friday. The former president's spokesperson Angel Urena said that Clinton's white blood count has decreased, indicating his health is improving.

FM meets president of Iraq's Kurdistan region



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani met with the visiting President of the Kurdistan region of Iraq Nechirvan Barzani. The meeting reviewed aspects of bilateral co-operation between Qatar and Iraq and ways to develop them, in addition to the latest developments in the Kurdistan region. **(QNA) Page 4**

Macron condemns Algerians' massacre

Emmanuel Macron yesterday denounced as an "unforgivable crime" a bloody crackdown on Algerian protesters by police in Paris 60 years ago, the strongest recognition by a French president of a massacre in which many bodies were thrown into the River Seine. Macron attended a ceremony commemorating the anniversary at the bridge at Bezons, west of Paris, from where some Algerians had started their march and where many bodies were recovered from the Seine. **Page 11**

Qatar Endurance Club established to promote horse endurance races

The Ministry of Culture and Sports announced yesterday the establishment of Qatar Endurance Club, which will be concerned with organising horse endurance races, and serving the requirements of these races, horse owners and practitioners of this sport. The registration process for members who want to join Qatar Endurance Club will start at Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club as of today and for a period of 14 days that can be extended. Qatar Endurance Club is established with the support of the Ministry of

Culture and Sports to set up an entity that combines the elements of this type of equestrian sport and achieves the aspirations for developing the practice of this sport which represents an important aspect of equestrian sport. The horse endurance races were previously organised under the umbrella of Qatar Endurance Committee. Members will elect the club's management, which consists of a president and a vice-president, and the process will be announced in the coming period. **(QNA)**

Cityscape 2021 expo opens at DECC today

The event, which will run until Oct 19, brings together leaders from Qatar's top real estate developers and government entities



The ninth edition of Cityscape Qatar opens today (October 17) at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), gathering over 30 exhibitors and the participation of more than 30 speakers from leading local and regional real estate experts. Slated to run until October 19, the event is being held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani and will bring together leaders from Qatar's top real estate developers and government entities. Visitors can expect exclusive access to highly-anticipated project launches from across the country, including state-of-the-art residential developments and luxury hospitality projects. Exhibitors taking part in the three-day show include Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company, Qetaifan Projects, Sotheby's International Realty, and Barwa Group. Whilst visitors will be able to meet

developers in-person at the show, real estate enthusiasts can also expect over 20 hours of talks during Cityscape Qatar's Conference, taking place throughout the event. The conference will open with a keynote address from government entities ahead of a high-powered agenda of industry leaders' talks covering, sustainability, market forecasts, architecture, and tourism. Speakers include Sheikh Nasser bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, head of Business Development, Qetaifan Projects; Johnny Archer, head of Consultancy and Research, Cushman and Wakefield; Anurag Gupta, director at KPMG; Samvit Kanoria, partner, McKinsey & Company; Ibrahim M Jaidah, Group CEO and chief architect, Arab Engineering Bureau, the man behind the design of the Al Thumama Stadium for the 2022 FIFA World Cup; and Dr Alexandre Amato, head of Sustainability at Qatar Green Building Council, among others **To Page 4**

معاً لتحقيق الرؤية
Building Visions Together



زوروا في معرض سيتي سكيب قطر 2021 من 17 إلى 19 أكتوبر في مركز الدوحة للمعارض والمؤتمرات
Visit us at City Scope Qatar 2021 from 17 to 19 October at DECC



Qatar Charity's sustainable projects aid food security

Qatar Charity (QC) has commemorated World Food Day, which is observed annually on October 16, to promote awareness of the issues surrounding hunger and advocate collective action to highlight the need to ensure healthy diets for all.

World Food Day has been marked amid the continued Covid-19 pandemic, which has underlined that an urgent change of route is needed.

This day comes at a time when farmers are suffering, and millions of people are requiring emergency food aid. Sustainable agri-food systems, therefore, are needed to nourish 10bn people by 2050.

Believing in the need to enhance food security in countries experiencing disasters and crises, Qatar Charity supports farmers, implements qualitative agricultural and livestock projects, and distributes foodstuffs to internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and the poor, in addition to expanding partnerships with United Nations (UN) organisations to contribute to addressing food shortage, according to a press statement.

600,000 beneficiaries

Qatar Charity provided aid and implemented projects to support food security in 29 countries, benefiting nearly 600,000 people at a total cost of approximately QR30mn in 2020.

Supporting farmers

QC has rehabilitated more than 90 greenhouses with an

area of more than 150,000sq m during the past five years, at a total cost of over QR11mn, benefiting more than 550 people.

Qatar Charity recently started rehabilitating 15 greenhouses with an area of more than 20,000sqm, in co-operation with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. This comes as part of QC's continued efforts to support the agriculture sector and small farmers in Palestine.

Wheat for IDPs

Qatar Charity continues, for the second year in a row, to implement the 'Support Wheat Value Chain in North West Syria' project to contribute to meeting the wheat needs of people.

The project, which is the first of its kind in northern Syria, extends comprehensive support - from providing agricultural inputs to offering bread to the local community. The project has covered the needs of 200 families.

The project includes rehabilitating grain silos with a storage capacity of 12,000 tonnes of wheat, providing a new mill with a production capacity of 50 tonnes of flour per day, purchasing more than 1,000 tonnes of wheat, distributing subsidised bread, supporting farmers with basic inputs to grow wheat, and providing technical support to them through awareness sessions.

Aid for Rohingya

QC recently distributed more than 200,000kg of food items to nearly 9,000 Rohingya refugees in Bhasan Char, a remote Bay of



Qatar Charity supports farmers, implements qualitative agricultural and livestock projects, and distributes foodstuffs to IDPs, refugees and the poor, in addition to expanding partnerships with UN organisations to contribute to addressing food shortage.



Bengal island in Noakhali district of Bangladesh.

Int'l partnerships

Qatar Charity has signed two new co-operation agreements this year with the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs to support the wheat value chain in northern Syria for the third year

in a row during the 2021-2022 season. The \$2mn agreements are expected to benefit 92,000 people.

Last year, QC signed a contribution agreement for \$1.5mn with the UNRWA in support of the agency's food assistance programme in Gaza during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The agreement includes the

home delivery of food aid and medication.

"Qatar Charity seizes this opportunity to convey its sincere thanks and gratitude to all its partners like international organisations, donors, local companies and philanthropists in Qatar who have supported - and still support - the implementation of its continu-

ous projects that contribute to achieving food security in crisis-stricken areas and poor communities," the statement notes.

"Qatar Charity also calls on them to continue their generous support to achieve more qualitative accomplishments and make a difference in the lives of the target groups."

Qatar slams blast at Somali police station

Qatar voiced its strong condemnation of an explosion at a police station in the Somali city of Beledweyne, which left two dead and injured several others. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm position on rejecting violence and terrorism regardless of motives and reasons. The ministry expressed Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims, and to the government and people of Somalia, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. (QNA)

Windy conditions, slight decrease in temperature, high seas ahead: Met

Northwesterly fresh to strong winds are expected to begin affecting the country from tomorrow afternoon and continue for several days, until the end of next week, the Qatar Met department has said. The wind speed will range from 10-20 knots and may exceed 30 knots in some areas during the daytime, which will lead to blowing dust, a drop in horizontal visibility to less than 2km at times, and sea waves rising to 12ft in some areas, according to the weather office. The northwesterly winds will be accompanied by a slight decrease in temperatures, with the maximum ranging from 30-38C during the day and the minimum from 18-29C at night in different regions of the country. The Met department has called upon everyone to be cautious and avoid marine activities during the warning period. Meanwhile, today's forecast says poor horizontal visibility is expected some at places at first in both inshore and offshore areas due to misty to foggy conditions. The temperature in Doha is expected to range from 27-36C today, the forecast adds.

مشتريات أكثر بسعر أقل

رقم 10

رقم 15

رقم 20

رقم 30

So much more for so much less

Promotion valid from 17.10.2021 to 25.10.2021 or until stock last, Purchase limit may apply

يسري العرض من تاريخ 17/10/2021 وحتى 25/10/2021 قد تكون هناك حدود للمشتريات. يسري العرض حتى نفاذ الكميات

<p>بيض أبيض وسطي بولندي 30 بيضة White Eggs Medium (Poland) 30's</p> <p>2pcs Per Customer</p> <p>QAR 15.75</p> <p>QAR 10</p> <p>5 DAYS ONLY حتى تاريخ 21.10.2021</p>	<p>أورورا صدور دجاج بدون جلد وعظم 2 كيلو Aurora Chicken Breast Skinless/Boneless 2kg</p> <p>QAR 29.50</p> <p>QAR 20</p>	<p>بطاطس مقلية 2.5 كيلو Country Fries French Fries 2.5kg</p> <p>QAR 44.50</p> <p>QAR 10</p>	<p>ماغنوم آيس كريم بالوز قطع 6 قطع / 345 مل Magnum Mini White Almond 6's, 345ml</p> <p>QAR 24.75</p> <p>QAR 20</p>
<p>الولود دجاج كامل 1-3 جرام / جينان Lulu Whole Chicken 1000gm X 2pcs</p> <p>QAR 27.00</p> <p>QAR 15</p>	<p>بسكويت أوريو 24 حبة / 24 حبة Oreo Original Sandwich Biscuits 29.4gm X 24pcs</p> <p>3 أيام فقط حتى تاريخ 19.10.2021</p> <p>Zsets Per Customer</p> <p>QAR 15</p>	<p>أميريكان غاردين كاتشب الطماطم 1.81 كيلو American Garden Tomato Ketchup 1.81kg</p> <p>QAR 18.50</p> <p>QAR 10</p>	<p>مكرونة كويتية متنوعة 500 جرام / 4 حبات Kuwait Pasta Asstd. 500gm X 4pcs</p> <p>QAR 10</p>
<p>دوف صابون الجمال 100 جم / 4 حبات Dove Beauty Bar 100gm X 4pcs</p> <p>QAR 18.75</p> <p>QAR 10</p>	<p>باتمان فناديل وجه 200 ورقة / 5 حبات Batman White Facial Tissues 200 sheets X 5pcs</p> <p>QAR 18.75</p> <p>QAR 10</p>	<p>إريال مسحوق غسيل 3 كيلو Ariel Washing Powder Asstd. 3kg</p> <p>QAR 43.00</p> <p>QAR 30</p>	<p>برسيل مطهر منوع 3 لتر Persil Detergent Power Gel Asstd. 3Ltr</p> <p>QAR 43.25</p> <p>QAR 30</p>

Scan & download Lulu App

GET 5% BACK

0% INTEREST Buy now, pay over 6 months

Get our Exclusive Offers on WhatsApp Type "Offer" send to +974 5566 6989

Lulu Where the world comes to shop, safely!



THIS IS IT

Be one of only 70 fortunate individuals to open the door to exclusivity – right here in Qatar. The most sought-after properties in the country will soon be revealed.

Don't miss out on the best of everything. Luxurious Homes. World-Class Amenities. Brilliant Lifestyle.

VISIT CITYSCAPE NOW
and book your dream home before it's too late.

17-19 October 2021, Doha Exhibition and Convention Center

Follow UDC   @udcqatar

EASY PAYMENT PLANS

For enquiries, please contact our Sales Department:  +974 4409 5155  sales@udcqatar.com



President of Kurdistan region in Iraq arrives in Doha



President of Kurdistan region in Iraq Nechirvan Barzani arrived in Doha yesterday on an official visit to the country. Welcoming President Barzani and the accompanying delegation upon arrival to Doha International Airport were HE the Minister of Transport and Communications Jassim Self Ahmed al-Sulaiti, and ambassador of Iraq to the state Ban Omar al-Barazanchi. (QNA)

AL MIRQAB EXCHANGE CO W.L.L

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to advise the following customers that the below mentioned remittance send by them are still remain uncollected by the beneficiaries.

Please contact Al Mirqab office within 15 days from today at Al Sadd branch, Opposite to Food Palace, Doha, Qatar. Telephone 44823575/74797414

TT REF. NUMBER	DATE	REMITTER NAME	CONTACT NUMBER
TT 1235881	14.02.2011	MOHAMED KALEEL M NAZEER	33079464
TT124568	18.06.2011	NOEL LADIGNON MANGULABNAN	66103454

Cityscape 2021 expo opens at DECC today

From Page 1

“We are thrilled to be back on the ground in Qatar, especially as the country is experiencing incredible growth ahead of the 2022 FIFA World Cup. With the World Bank forecasting economic growth of 4.1% for Qatar in the next year, the country’s real estate market is flourishing with new developments.

“The show will offer exclusive access into these leading projects whilst also welcoming quality dis-

cussions between private and public sector stakeholders throughout the three-day event,” said Chris Speller, Group director of Cityscape.

Cityscape Qatar is supported by Platinum Sponsors Barwa and Qetaifan Projects.

The live event will be held in adherence with Informa AllSecure, a set of enhanced health and safety standards that raise the bar on safe, hygienic, productive, and high-quality organised event experiences.

For more information, visit www.cityscapeqatar.com.

QRCS sponsors surgeries for Iraqi IDPs, Syrian refugees in Erbil

The representation office of Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) in Iraq is executing a general surgery and oncology project for the benefit of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Syrian refugees in Erbil governorate.

This is part of the programme of medical convoys executed by QRCS all over the world since 2000, with a view to providing direct medical support for the beneficiaries, by performing significant surgeries, examinations and medications for the benefit of those suffering health issues but cannot afford the cost of treatment in poor and affected countries.

Hosted by Rizgary Teaching Hospital in Erbil, the project is aimed at improving health conditions and strengthening the health system of Erbil, by supporting the governorate’s health bureau and the hospital, to provide the Iraqi IDPs and Syrian refugees at camps who need specialised surgical interventions with access to adequate secondary healthcare so that they can get the right and timely treatment they need, QRCS has said in a statement.

Another objective of the project is to reduce the mortality and morbidity rates, by securing comprehensive and free-of-charge treatment services (clinical examinations, diagnosis and surgical operations).

This will be helpful in alleviating the suffering of the patients and their families, amid severe health and socioeconomic conditions, which were further exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. According to the action plan, the project involves performing clinical examinations for the patients at camp-bound healthcare centres, referring those who require surgical operations to Rizgary Hospital, where they undergo more advanced preoperative ex-



The representation office of QRCS in Iraq is executing a general surgery and oncology project for the benefit of IDPs and Syrian refugees in Erbil governorate.



aminations, with a total budget of QR103,777. Until the date of this report, 52 patients have been examined and 11 surgeries performed. The beneficiaries were selected based on the medical reports and field visits

at camps. Gifts and toys are distributed to the ill children, in order to boost their morale.

The project will last until the end of 2021, with funding from the revenue of benevolent donors in Qatar.

The owners of the mentioned cars are requested to proceed to Chevrolet Service Center, at Street 24 in Industrial Area, fifteen(15) days from the date of this announcement. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that these vehicles will be deposited in municipal warehouses after the deadline.

To receive your car, you have to pay the required amount and show your proof of ownership, otherwise the car will not be delivered.

SERIAL NUMBER	LICENCE NUMBER	VIN#	MODEL
1	502014	KL1JJ5CE1CB101683	SONIC LS 4CYL 1.6L A/T
2	396651	1GNFK13J88R234321	TAHOE Z71 5.3L A/T 4X4
3	277998	3GCUK9EC6EG314421	SILVERADO 2LT 1500 C/CAB 4X4 V8 5.3L
4	440991	1G1YY26W295103769	CORVETTE COUPE 6.2 AUTO TRANSMISSION
5	501457	6G1EK52B18L981652	LUMINA LS V6 3.6L AUTO
6	230072	1GKLVLEDXAJ130248	ACADIA
7	684095	KL1GD5CU8FB057372	MALIBU LS 4CYL 2.4L A/T
8	479776	6G1ML5D20BL546649	CAPRICE LTZ 6.0L V8 A/T
9	662059	1GNKV8KD7EJ255391	TRAVERSE 2LT AWD V6 3.6L A/T
10	475998	KL1JD5BE9GB503241	SONIC 2016
11	558308	2G1F93DP4D9805755	CAMARO ZL1 V8 6.2L A/T - CONVERTIBLE
12	577969	KL1PM5D58DK041130	CRUZE 2LT 4CYL 1.8L A/T



HMC's hospitals have been accredited by the organisation for more than 40 times over the last 15 years.

HMC marks 15 years of accreditation by JCI

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) this year marks 15 years of continuous accreditation for its network of hospitals and services by the prestigious United States Joint Commission International (JCI). JCI is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that accredits and certifies healthcare organisations and programmes across the globe.

JCI Accreditation and Certification is recognised as a global leader for healthcare quality of care and patient safety. JCI is a division of the Joint Commission Resources (JCR), the non-profit affiliate of the Joint Commission that has been accrediting healthcare organisations and programmes in the US for more than 50 years. The JCI mission is "To continuously improve the safety and quality of care in the international community through the provision of education and consultation services and international accreditation."

HMC's hospitals have been accredited by the organisation for more than 40 times over the last 15 years, recognising the organisation's international standards of care and commitment to providing the best care for all patients, a press statement notes. In 2019, 13 of HMC's hospitals were accredited by the JCI, of which 12 of the hospitals were accredited on Hospital Standards and one, Hamad Dental Center, on Ambulatory Care Standards. This included eight hospitals that already held JCI accreditation also being successfully re-accredited, as well as accreditation for the first time for five hospitals: Ambulatory Care Center,

Communicable Disease Center, Qatar Rehabilitation Institute, Hamad Dental Center and Mental Health Service.

Dr Badriya Sulaiman Said al-Ali, deputy chief quality officer for Regulatory Affairs and primary co-ordinator of the JCI-HMC Accreditation Programme at HMC, said accreditation is recognised as a framework to integrate a quality management system while reducing risk, and requires a systematic assessment of hospitals against explicit standards. International accreditation programmes, such as Joint Commission International's, can go a long way towards helping hospitals not only to improve their systems of care but also meet the needs of their often more diverse population of patients.

"Healthcare organisations around the world want to create environments that focus on quality, safety and continuous improvement. JCI accreditation meets this demand by stimulating continuous, systematic improvements in a hospital's performance and the outcomes. Accreditation is the gold standard of excellence in the healthcare. Accreditation is attainable only through collaboration among all organisation staff members. Providing high-quality care is a team effort and one that gives employees a feeling of prestige to work in an accredited organisation" Dr al-Ali said.

Dr al-Ali also noted that the accreditation process involves a thorough evaluation of a healthcare organisation's performance in areas that most affect patient health and safety. In getting accreditation, an organisation makes a

commitment to adhere to and maintain JCI standards, which provide the framework for safe and quality care.

"HMC chose to pursue JCI accreditation to affirm its belief, as well as the public's, that it is an excellent organisation that delivers care with a patient-centric focus and JCI accreditation is the basic foundation for quality healthcare and we must pursue the highest standards to create centres of excellence."

"With the JCI Gold Seal of Approval, HMC commits to keep striving for the highest level of performance possible, improve patient outcomes and create an environment for continuous improvement."

After rigorous inspections, HMC's hospitals were first given official JCI accreditation in 2006 and that continued till 2019, which is 15 years of passing the JCI Accreditation process. HMC hospitals and services are part of an elite group of the best healthcare providers in the world, the statement adds. "Getting JCI accreditation is part of our commitment to improving the way we deliver healthcare. JCI's standards for hospitals clearly define the principles and processes needed to assess the key functions of acute care organisations and associated ambulatory settings. It has been quite an experience for HMC. We have learnt to look at healthcare from the patients' point of view. We have put in place processes that will improve the quality of care. We can confidently say that we are providing patient care that meets international standards, and that we will continue to improve," Dr al-Ali said.

WAKRAH DESERVES GOOD HEALTH AND WE DELIVER IT RIGHT

At Naseem Medical Centre, we offer the most accurate diagnostic procedures and specialized treatment combining expert doctors and medical staff for various health conditions.

Major Departments:

- Endocrinology
- ENT
- Radiology
- Internal Medicine
- Orthopaedics
- Pharmacy
- General Medicine
- Ophthalmology
- Laboratory
- Dermatology
- Paediatrics
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Dentistry & Oral Health



Al Jabal Street, Zone 90, Street No. 670, Al Wakrah
www.naseemhealthcare.com | 44970777

Naseem
Medical Centre



الاحتفال بالذكرى السنوية الحادية عشر

Anniversary Celebration



World Class Shopping Experience

Promotion Available at All Safari Outlets on: 17-10-2021 العرض صالح لجميع فروع سفاري الدوحة يبدأ العرض من : 17/10/21. Purchase limit may apply. Offer valid until stock last only. قد يكون هناك حدود للمشتريات العرض ساري حتى نفاد الكمية.



QR 1.75
بصل الهند 1 كجم
Onion India 1kg



QR 7.75
فاصوليا هند 1 كجم
Beans India 1kg



QR 10.50
جاموس هندي 500 جرام
Indian Buffalo Meat 500gm



QR 4.75
قنبر محلي 1 كجم
Fresh Crab (Male) Doha 1kg



QR 6.75
سمك مكاريل إيران 1 كجم
Fresh Mackerel Iran 1kg



QR 18.75
دجاج مجمد ساديا 1000 جرام x 2 حبة
Sadia Chicken Griller 1000gm x 2pcs



QR 24.00
شوكولاته كواليتي ستريت 480 جرام
Quality Street Chocolate 480gm



QR 16.75
نيسكافيه كوب حمراء 200 جرام
Nescafe Red Mug 200gm



QR 18.75
أرز بسمتي كوهينور 5 كجم
Kohinoor Everyday Basmati Rice 5kg



QR 8.00
مكعونة إندومي مشكلة 70 جرام x 10 حبة
Indomie Noodles Asrtd. 70gm x 10pcs



QR 10.75
زيت طهي سلطانه 1.5 لتر
Sultanah Cooking Oil 1.5Ltr



QR 14.00
حليب كامل الدسم ابو قوس 1 لتر x 3 حبة
Rainbow Organic Full Cream Milk 1Ltr x 3pcs



QR 9.75
بيض طازج فايلوس 30 حبة
Fresh White Eggs 30's



QR 649
شاشة تلفزيون 32 بوصة سكايا وورث
Skyworth 32STD6500 32" FHD Android TV



QR 109
طقم ادوات طهي بايبللا 7 حبة
Papilla Granite Cookware Set 7pcs Asrtd.



QR 89
بطانية سولارون مشكلة
Solaron Single Blanket Asrtd.



QR 299
دراجة 20 بوصة مشكلة (في الصندوق حبة فقط)
Folding Bicycle 20" Asrtd. (Box Piece Only)



Snapshots from the launch event held at Barahat Square, Msheireb Downtown Doha.

Vodafone Qatar officially launches iPhone 13 Series at Msheireb event

Vodafone Qatar has officially launched the new iPhone 13 range, including the iPhone 13 Pro, iPhone 13 Pro Max, iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini.

At a midnight event held at Barahat Square, Msheireb Downtown Doha, Vodafone customers who had pre-ordered their new devices were among the first in the country to receive and use the latest in Apple's lineup. Users will be able to experience the most advanced pro camera system ever on an iPhone, Super Retina XDR display with ProMotion, improved battery life, the A15 Bionic chip with 5-core GPU, and an advanced 5G experience to take advantage of Vodafone's GigaNet network on iPhone 13 Pro and iPhone 13 Pro Max, Vodafone Qatar said in a statement. The iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini feature the most advanced dual-camera system ever on an iPhone and the powerhouse A15 Bionic chip.

"Vodafone is the perfect partner for the new iPhone 13 due to its extensive 5G network, which is bigger, faster and stronger than ever before and gives Gigafast 5G speeds. Vodafone also offers a second-year warranty worth QR295 with every iPhone 13 purchase," the statement added. Vodafone 5G is in prime locations such as Hamad International Airport, the first airport in the region to offer 5G service to its passengers; Mall of Qatar, one of the first malls in the region with 5G service; several hotels, including Park Hyatt and Mandarin Oriental; popular destinations such as Katara and Souq Waqif; and dozens of residential locations, including Al Waab, Umm Slal, Al Rayyan, Gharrafa, Abu Hamour, Mamoura, Al Sadd, Bin Mahmoud, Muntazah, Bin Omran, Madinat Khalifa, Al Aziziyah and Msheireb.

In addition to covering 75% of Doha with 5G, Vodafone Qatar has extended 5G coverage to other areas outside Doha, such as Al Khor, Al Wakra and a number of camping areas in Sealine.



For more information on Vodafone and to order the iPhone 13, visit <https://www.vodafone.qa/en/shop/v2/Smartphones-Tablets#smartphones-tablets>.

Total Covid-19 recoveries increase to 236,341:MoPH

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported yesterday, 44 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the community and 25 among travellers, QNA reported.

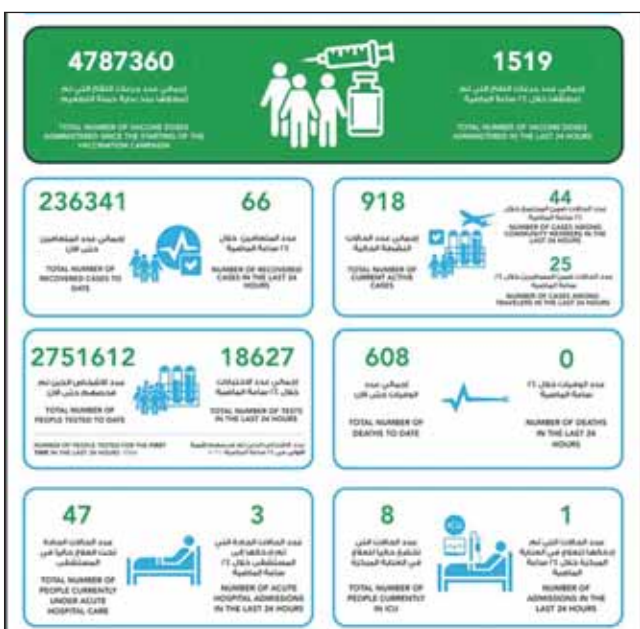
The MoPH recorded 66 recoveries from the virus during the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of cases recovered in Qatar to 236,341.

National Vaccination Programme Data:

- 4,787,360 vaccine doses have been administered since the start of the programme
- 1,519 vaccine doses have been administered in the past 24 hours
- 83.1% of the total population are now fully vaccinated with two doses.

In recent weeks, the combined impact of Covid-19 restrictions and increasing vaccination rates, and the overwhelming support of the community, has resulted in a consistent reduction in the number of new daily infections in the country.

However, it is still important to be cautious as the second wave is not yet over



and there are still two highly contagious and highly virulent strains of the virus that are actively circulating in the community.

The fourth phase of the gradual lifting of precautionary restrictions began

on October 3, and is part of a four-stage plan to gradually lift the precautionary restrictions imposed in Qatar due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. One can visit the MoPH website for regular updates and new information.

Stars of Science reveals finalists of Season 13

■ Online voting now open to crown winner of QF's edutainment show

Four contestants have emerged from *Stars of Science* Season 13 to secure their places in the Grand Finale taking place on October 22, where they will compete to win the title of Top Arab Innovator.

Along the way, these young Arab inventors overcame significant hurdles, winning votes from the show's jury to progress through the multiple elimination phases, Qatar Foundation said in a press statement.

Mohamed al-Qassabi, Qatari Information Systems student at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, hopes to contribute to the sports world with his Football Offside Detection System. The innovation uses ultra-wide band tags embedded inside players' uniforms and the ball to track their positions in real-time throughout the entirety of a match to ensure that offside calls are made accurately.

During the engineering phase of the show, the university student had to expand the scope of his project significantly, when the footballing organisations he worked with asked if the system could also track player performance.

"All of a sudden, I had to conduct much more research than I had already planned to and test a revamped system. I had to prove that everything worked - every single part - or it would not pass the engineering phase," said al-Qassabi.

Joining al-Qassabi is Yemeni biomedical engineer Mugeb Al-Harosh, the inventor of a Portable Renal Blood Flowmeter. The device functions via non-invasive biosensors attached to the skin, diagnosing preliminary kidney damage. With data uploaded to physicians through wireless networks, the benefits include more efficient utilisation of resources by minimising face-



The *Stars of Science* Season 13 finalists.

to-face consultations. However, the development process of this ambitious technology was not the most difficult challenge AlHarosh had to face during the season. He tested positive for Covid-19 right before the season started, forcing him to join his *Stars of Science* peers in Qatar a month late.

"During quarantine, I had major doubts about many of my decisions, including my decision to participate in this season. However, my wife encouraged me to follow this longtime dream of mine and thanks to her, I was able to bring my Portable Renal Blood Flowmeter to life on *Stars of Science*," said AlHarosh.

Ousama Kanawati, a finalist hailing from Lebanon, earned a spot in the Top 4 with his invention, the Wearable Omni Stethoscope Vest. The device drastically impacts the way we monitor chronic respiratory diseases - a threat posed to millions of patients globally.

This invention monitors pa-

tients' lungs by combining numerous digital stethoscopes and wireless technology, conducting analyses that it then sends to the attending physician's phone with a warning if abnormalities are detected.

Majoring in computer science and engineering, with little background in biomedical engineering, Kanawati's project pushed his boundaries all season long. However, he seemed to thrive under pressure.

"My comfort zone lies in engineering and being surrounded by engineers. I wanted to push myself and explore something different to what I am used to. That's why my invention focuses on biomedical engineering while utilising the computer science and engineering skills I am familiar with," said Kanawati.

Rounding off the group is Riadh Abdelhedi, Tunisian PhD holder in electrical and electronic engineering. He designed a Hybrid Power Bank, portable power storage system that

combines lithium-ion batteries and supercapacitor technology, enabling it to charge up to full capacity in a matter of minutes.

The uniqueness of the device presented several hurdles for him, due to its compact nature and hybrid system of dual technologies. "I needed many experiments to prove the reliability of my innovation. *Stars of Science* provided me with all the support I needed to undergo my invention testing, from experts to labs, facilities and equipment," said Abdelhedi.

The Top 4 innovators of *Stars of Science* will make the case for their inventions in the Grand Finale, set to air on October 22, where the jury deliberation and online voting will determine the ranking and final share of the \$600,000 prize (terms and conditions apply).

Online voting is now open for the public at www.starsof-science.com and ends on October 21, at 2pm GMT (5pm Doha time).

Jaguar Land Rover set to provide fleet of all-electric vehicles for COP26 world leaders

Jaguar Land Rover will be providing a fleet of electrified vehicles to world leaders and delegates attending the summit, including the multi-award-winning all-electric performance SUV, Jaguar I-PACE, as leaders and their teams travel to and from the venue.

As part of its new global strategy, 'Reimagine', Jaguar Land Rover aims to achieve zero tailpipe emissions by 2036, and net zero carbon emissions across its supply chain, products and operations by 2039, according to a press statement issued in Doha by Alfordan Premier Motors Co, the official retailer of Jaguar Land Rover vehicles in Qatar.

The company has committed to a 1.5-degree aligned science-based target to reduce emissions in line with the Paris Agreement and supporting the UNFCCC Race to Zero, the statement noted.

Jaguar Land Rover has a successful history in similar events, including the recent G7 summit in the UK. The vehicles have all been sourced from existing fleets in the UK, helping ensure that the carbon footprint remains low.

Welcoming them to the COP26 family,



Jaguar Land Rover will be providing a fleet of electrified vehicles to world leaders and delegates attending the summit, including the multi-award-winning all-electric performance SUV, Jaguar I-PACE.

COP26 president-designate Alok Sharma said: "Jaguar Land Rover is an iconic British brand with a proven track record. They are showing climate leadership in their field with award-winning electric vehicles, and I am delighted these will be used by world leaders in Glasgow."

"I look forward to working with Jaguar Land Rover and all our partners ahead of the summit as we ensure a successful and inclusive COP26."

Thierry Bollere, Jaguar Land Rover CEO, added: "We are delighted to partner with COP26 and provide a fleet of all-electric vehicles, including Jaguar I-PACE performance SUVs, to deliver zero-emission transport at the summit."

"Sustainability is at the core of our business strategy, 'Reimagine', which enables us to focus on becoming net carbon zero by 2039, as the creator of the world's most desirable modern luxury vehicles."

Carnegie Mellon Qatar welcomes new faculty

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), a Qatar Foundation partner, has five new experts joining the faculty in 2021, teaching in the areas of business administration, computer science, and arts and sciences.

The new faculty members are: Iman Adeinat, assistant professor of operations management; Eduardo Feo Flushing, visiting assistant teaching professor of computer science; Samaneh Hamidi, visiting assistant professor of

mathematical sciences; Ekaterini Klepousiotou, visiting associate professor of psychology; and Sameer Mathur, associate teaching professor of marketing and business technologies.

CMU-Q offers undergraduate programmes in biological sciences, business administration, computer science and information systems. Faculty members in the arts and sciences teach both mandatory and elective courses in a variety of fields.



The new faculty members.



A view from the College of Engineering and College of Education graduation.

Over 2,800 female students graduate from nine QU colleges

• The ceremonies included a video screening produced by QU, where the public learned about the university's vision and the most important achievements of its students

Qatar University (QU) last week held graduation ceremonies for more than 2,800 Class of 2021 female students from nine individual colleges.

The ceremonies were held for the 44th batch of graduates from the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, College of Law, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Pharmacy, College of Health Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences (mass communications, history, psychology, social work and sociology programmes) in the first group, College of Arts and Sciences (graduate studies, biology, environmental sciences, statistics, chemistry, sports sciences, mathematics, Arabic language, English literature and linguistics, international affairs, policy planning and development programmes) in the second group and lastly College of Business and Economics.

The College of Sharia and Islamic Studies and College of Law at QU held a graduation ceremony for the 44th batch of graduates in the presence of Yousef Ahmed al-Zaman, chairman of the Board of Directors at Qatar Bar Association, the guest of honour at the ceremony held on October 12 evening. During the ceremony, 242 female graduates were honoured from the College of Law and 105 female graduates from the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies.

The College of Education and College of Engineering organised a graduation ceremony on October 13 morning.

It featured 422 graduates from the College of Education and 232 graduates from the College of Engineering in the presence of Ibrahim Mohamed al-Jaidah, CEO of Arab Engineering Bureau (AEB) as the guest of honour.

QU's College of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy and College of Medicine organised a graduation ceremony for graduates of the three colleges on October 13 evening in the presence of Dr Abdullatif al-Khal, Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) deputy chief medical officer and director of Medical Edu-

cation, as the guest of honour. The ceremony included 91 female graduates from the College of Health Sciences, 54 from the College of Pharmacy and 31 from the College of Medicine.

The largest college of the university, the College of Arts and Sciences, organised a graduation ceremony for its students, which included 942 graduates, in two ceremonies, one in the morning and another in the evening on October 14. The first ceremony was graced by Faleh bin Hussein al-Hajri, director of the Research and Cultural Studies Department at the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

The second ceremony was held in the presence of Dr Jabr al-Nuaimi, owner and founder of Newton International Schools, as a guest of honour.

In the presence of Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa, CEO of Qatar Development Bank, the College of Business and Economics held its graduation ceremony on October 16 morning. A total of 701 graduates were honoured during the ceremony.

"As QU graduates its 44th cohort of graduates, the university continues to chronicle a long history spanning decades in which it contributes heavily to Qatar's development and prosperity, through boosting the labour market with qualified graduates," the university said in a statement. "QU's new strategy places an emphasis on elevating the student experience by placing QU as a pioneer and a leading educational institution in the higher education sector in Qatar and abroad. QU is committed to providing quality education in areas of national priority, moving towards building a knowledge-based society."

The ceremonies included a video screening produced by QU, where the public learned about the university's vision and the most important achievements of its students. In consideration of the health and safety of the attendees, the university ensured that safety and precautionary measures approved by the State were fully implemented during the event.



Dignitaries at the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies and College of Law graduation.



A view from the College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy and College of Health Sciences graduation.



A view from the College of Arts and Sciences graduation.



Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa at the College of Business and Economics graduation.



Participants in the College of Business and Economics graduation.



College of Arts and Sciences students at their graduation ceremony.



Students of the College of Engineering and College of Education during their graduation ceremony.



Snapshots from the concluding night of the Qatari Song Festival.



Qatari Song Fest ends on a successful note

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Qatari Song Festival 2021, on its third night at Qatar National Theatre yesterday, enthralled music lovers as they sang along and craved for more such musical treats in the future.

The concluding night of the festival was held under the theme 'The trip of the star, Ali Abdel Sattar', a popular Qatari singer.

Held under the patronage and in the presence of HE the Minister of Culture and Sports Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali, yesterday's event was attended by a large audience and described as a major success by a good number of spectators. The festival opened with a video clip of artiste Salah al-Mulla's 'Hanit Li Sidra (I Miss the Sidra Tree)', followed by testimonials by Abdel Sattar's contemporary artistes and companions.

TV and radio presenter Tayseer Abdullah, a Qatari journalist, drama and song writer as well as poet, who is also known for his articles in *Zahrat Al Khaleej* magazine, presented the show. He stressed the importance of the Sidra tree in the popular Qatari culture wherein every traditional home had a Sidra tree in its courtyard and it was well protected by the local people who have always respected the environment



and will do so in the future.

A number of VIP guests, officials from the Ministry of Culture and Sports (MCS), dignitaries and leading Qatari artists were present on the occasion. The event was held under the management of the Music Affairs Centre at the ministry and saw the participation of famous Qatari and other Arab singers, musicians and songwriters.

The orchestra was led by Dr Ahmad Hindan, and accompanied by 40 Qatari, Kuwaiti and Turkish musicians.

Qatari singer Mansour al-Mohannadi performed 'Al youm ya shouq (Today's Longing)', a popular song of Abdel Sattar.

After that, the following singers separately presented the songs of Abdel Sattar: Badr al-Rayes - 'Yanas Ahibah (Oh People, I Love Him)'; Anwar - 'Al Barha Ya Khal (Yesterday,

Oh Uncle); Saud Jassim - 'Dahn Al Oud (Al Oud Perfume)', and Khalid Salem Turki - 'Ya Shihbih Bil Hala (You Look Like A Sweet)'

Spectators from different age groups packed the theatre, all of whom were appreciative of the efforts of the MCS in organising the festival to encourage Qatari musical innovation and promising talents.

Then, presenter Abdullah commented on a video show recalling Abdel Sattar's artistic achievements. At that moment, Abdel Sattar appeared on stage with his song 'Nour Al Dounya (Light Of The Universe)', and was accompanied later by Saqr Salah for a duet performance of 'Rah Illi Rah (Let Bygones Be Bygones)'. Abdel Sattar then again went solo with some memorable renditions. Shortly after, a closing song was presented by Abdel Sattar, together with

Aseel and all the stars who performed yesterday. They sang 'Ishi Ya Qatar (Long Live Qatar)', which was the concluding song of the festival. The audience sang along with the stars, resulting in one big melodious chorus inside the theatre. The event provided an opportunity for talented Qatari singers and musicians to display their skills and develop their ability to showcase the original Qatari heritage to the audience. At the same time, the audience appreciated the success of the festival, stressing that it was an exceptional event that entertained them to a great extent.

In recognition, HE the Minister of Culture and Sports honoured Qatari singers Ali Abdel Sattar, a group of senior artistes and the late poet Mohamed al-Aswad al-Marri on the closing night of the festival.

WCM-Q Dean's Honour List recognises academic excellence

The Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) Dean's Honour List has recognised the academic performance of 63 high-achieving pre-medical and foundation students.

Students who achieved a grade point average of 3.75 or higher during the Spring or Fall Semester of the 2020-21 academic year were included on the list. Forty-five students scored a double victory by making it onto the list in both semesters.

"Making it onto the Dean's Honour List takes a great deal of dedication and perseverance; it is not an easy feat by any means"

The achievements of the students were acknowledged in a ceremony held at the college and online. Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Javadi Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q, said: "Making it onto the Dean's Honour List takes a great deal of dedication and perseverance; it is not an easy feat by any means. You should all feel very proud of yourselves, as we do of you. I offer my sincere congratulations to our wonderful students and my heartfelt thanks to our faculty for helping them achieve their potential. Well done to all!"

Dr Sean Holroyd, WCM-Q associate dean for student affairs, said: "Our students have shown remarkable resilience to continue to excel academically during the upheaval and uncertainty of the pandemic. It is extremely gratifying to be able to congratulate those students who have overcome the difficult circumstances and met the very high standards required to make it onto the Dean's Honour List."

WCM-Q alumna Dr Mashael al-Khelaifi of the Class of 2008, now a senior consultant anaesthesiologist, gave the keynote speech at the ceremony, saying: "We are here to recognise this achievement, knowing that it is as a result of long-standing hard work on your part. This achievement, which signifies a striving for scientific and clinical excellence, is of utmost importance - especially now. So, congratulations - be proud of yourselves, and keep up the hard work."



Twin sisters Alia (left) and Ghalya Ashkanani celebrate their inclusion on the WCM-Q Dean's Honour List.



Dr Mashael al-Khelaifi speaking at a ceremony to recognise the achievements of WCM-Q students included on the Dean's Honour List.



Dr Javadi Sheikh has congratulated the students who made it onto the Dean's Honour List.

Dean's Honour List 2020-21

Foundation Programme

Manar al-Shukri, Nawaf al-Muhannadi, Maryam al-Hamadi, Shahd AlMughanni and Maryam al-Musleh

Pre-medical Programme

Amal AlNaemi, Lina Ahmed, Maryam Arabi, Yazan Kaddorah, Ibtihal H Kamal, Kareem Aly, Aparajita Sarkar, Yousef al-Najjar, Leena Aboldris, Leena Syed, Haya al-Kuwari, AlDana al-Khalaf, Aqib Abdul Rahman, Anam Ehtesham, Ibrahim al-Mutawa, Mohamed al-Ansari, Ahmad Hamza, Haueon Kim, Azwa Dilawar, Surin Lee, Younggyu Ahn, Kareem Fanous, Jawaher Alemadi, Ahmad al-Ansari, Aimen Javed, Omar

Mourad, Mohamed Yaghmour, Aisha Serpedin, Kevin Zhai, Mohamed Khalid, Ahamed Abdul Rahman Lebbe, Imane Bouhaili, Nuran Bayraktar, Alia Ashkanani, Sara Mohamed, Pradipta Paul, Siddhant Nair, Ghalya Ashkanani, Momina Tareen, Safaa Elmoh, Aya Khalil, Lina al-Ani, Farha Shaikh, Bushra Alfakhri, Asma al-Kaabi, Hubaib Haider, Deema al-Abdulla, Maryam al-Kuwari, Ahmad Altamimi, Mohamed al-Mohamed, Zoha Baig, Hala Fouad, Beshr Mushannan, Fatima al-Kubaisi, Latifa Mahmoud, Abdulrahman Tahir, Abdelrahman Mostafa and Fatema Falamrz.

Land Transport Sector sees 1,967 transactions during Q3 2021

The Land Transport Sector recorded a total of 1,967 transactions in the third quarter of 2021, the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) said. According to figures released by the MoTC on social media, a total of 929 transactions were carried out for services related to Land Transport Licensing. These transactions covered various services, including the issuance of preliminary approvals for adding a branch to commercial registrations, modifying registers and licences data, adding an activity to commercial registers, issuing commercial licences and issuing commercial registers.

A total of 926 transactions were completed for services related to Land Transport Planning, which included studying and carrying out co-ordination works for building permit cases, rural access road

requests and the review of traffic impact studies. Meanwhile, the Traffic Engineering and Road Safety sector saw a total of 112 transactions in the said period. The services covered several requests related to access requests, directional and advertisement signs, parking requests, traffic safety and traffic flow improvement. The mission of the MoTC consists of building an integrated and effective transport system that uses advanced technologies serving all local sectors while linking Qatar to the wider regional and international economy. The ministry said it continues its extensive efforts to develop reliable, efficient and sustainable transport planning and ensure a safe and effective nationwide network of roads and highways constructed according to international standards and best practices.

Maritime Transport Affairs records 3,443 services during third quarter of the year

The Maritime Transport Affairs recorded 3,443 transactions during the third quarter of 2021.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) tweeted that these transactions covered Maritime Vessels' main services, Maritime Licences' services, sailor affairs' main services and maritime system services.

The number of services dipped during the third quarter by 939 as against 4,382 during the second quarter. During the first quarter of 2021, a total of 3,537 transactions were carried out by the department with an increase of 845 transactions.

A total of 2,988 services were rendered in maritime vessels' main services section while maritime licenses' services, sailor affairs' main services and maritime system services marked 45, 253 and 157 services, respectively, during the third quarter.

During the second quarter, the figures stood at 3,848, 22, 217 and 295 respectively while these sections recorded 3,111, 24, 172 and 228 respectively during the first quarter of 2021.

Maritime vessels' main services include registration, renewal, ownership transfer, duplicate of lost document and deletion while maritime licences' services provide renewal and data



modifying services to foreign vessels engaged in operations in Qatari waters.

Sailor affairs' main services provide issuance and accreditation of certificates of competency for marine officers, naval architects and safe manning while maritime system services feature ownership transfer and certificate of seaworthiness. These services are provided to big vessels.

MoTC is providing various services to small and large ves-

sels in order to develop the maritime transport sector.

They are also designed to facilitate operations and procedures and keep pace with technological advancements through the automation of all ships services.

The various services are provided through integration with MoTC's national documentation and archiving system to ensure business procedures are facilitated and completed through the mobile app application or portal.

Demand for used SUVs rises as camping season set to begin

The impending start of the winter camping season have led to an increased demand for used vehicles, particularly 4x4s, it is learnt.

A number of owners and operators of car showrooms in Mawater City have told local Arabic daily *Arrayah* that the demand has risen by over 80% of late compared to the previous months. The easing of Covid-19 travel restrictions has also helped as the operators said they have started receiving a good number of customers from neighbouring GCC countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman, who mostly seek 4x4 vehicles that are generally no more than six years old.

The sellers pointed out that the demand for Japanese and American pickups and SUVs exceeds the vehicles on display, which has led to a rise in the prices of such vehicles by around 12-15% as compared to the summer months.

They observed that Mawater City sees more customers after 4pm every day from various sections of society, including citizens, expatriates and visitors from other GCC countries.

Meanwhile, a number of people who frequent Mawater City described it as an "excellent" destination and appreciated the efforts of the entities concerned for creating such



Mawater City offers a wide range of used 4x4 options. PICTURES: Shemeer Rasheed



a successful place, especially because it includes a variety of showrooms that display both used and new vehicles of different types.

Besides, customers from other GCC countries said the used vehicles they see on display at Mawater City have done fewer miles compared to similar vehicles sold in their countries, in addition to being in good condition as they have not been involved in major road accidents.

Salem al-Yafei, a Qatari cus-

tommer, said he recently visited Mawater City looking for a Japanese 4x4 vehicle made between 2012 and 2015 for use during the winter camping season. He said such models usually cost between QR90,000 and QR110,000, which are reasonable prices depending on the overall condition of the vehicle. Al-Yafei added that he would sell the vehicle after the conclusion of the winter camping season.

Ahmed Deyan Ahmed, an employee at a showroom in

Mawater City, stressed that the demand is growing for advanced SUVs as many customers prefer to buy them ahead of the camping season. He explained that while new vehicles have almost stable prices, the prices of used vehicles can drop or increase according to the season. This season, the prices have gone up by almost up to 15%, he added.

Saad al-Otaibi, a customer from Kuwait, said he came to Mawater to buy a used 4x4 vehicle and take it back to Kuwait for desert and beach trips there. He added that the vehicles sold in Qatar are in much better shape than those sold elsewhere in this segment.

Faraj al-Dalmani, another customer from Kuwait, said visitors to Mawater City can find various types of good SUVs and 4x4s with low mileage and excellent prices that are hard to find anywhere else.



Security review after British MP stabbed to death in 'terror' attack

AFP
Leigh-on-Sea

The fatal stabbing of British lawmaker David Amess was a terrorist incident with possible links to extremism, police said yesterday, as the government ordered a review of safety measures to protect MPs. Veteran Conservative MP David Amess, 69, was talking with voters at a church in the small town of Leigh-on-Sea, east of London, when he was stabbed to death on Friday.

Police said they arrested a 25-year-old suspect and were investigating "a potential motivation linked to Islamist ex-

tremism." The fatal stabbing has "been declared as a terrorist incident, with the investigation being led by Counter Terrorism Policing," the police said in a statement, adding that the investigation is in the "very early stages".

Multiple UK media outlets, citing sources, reported that the suspect was believed to be a British national with Somali heritage. *The Sun* tabloid reported that the attacker stabbed Amess multiple times in the presence of two women staff, before sitting down and waiting for police to arrive. Police said they believed the attacker acted alone and they carried out searches at two addresses in the London area.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited the crime scene to pay his respects yesterday, laying floral wreaths outside the church with the leader of the opposition, Labour leader Keir Starmer in a rare show of unity. Johnson tweeted a photo of the note he left calling Amess, MP for Southend West since 1997, a "fine parliamentarian and a much loved colleague and friend".

Local residents including members of the Muslim community also came, heaping bouquets next to the police tape. Britain's politicians were stunned by the highly public attack, which recalled the murder of a pro-EU lawmaker ahead of the Brexit referendum. In June 2016, La-

bour MP Jo Cox was killed by a far-right extremist, prompting demands for action against what lawmakers said was "a rising tide" of public abuse and threats against elected representatives.

Home Secretary Priti Patel on Friday ordered police across the country to review security arrangements for all 650 MPs. "We live in an open society, a democracy. We cannot be cowed by any individual," she told journalists after laying a wreath for her fellow Essex MP. House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle promised no "knee-jerk reactions" but told Sky News: "We will take further measures if we need to".

Tobias Ellwood, a Conserva-

tive MP who tried to save a stabbed police officer during a 2017 terror attack near the Houses of Parliament, on Twitter urged "a temporary pause in face-to-face meetings" until the security review is complete. Labour MP Harriet Harman also urged greater protection for MPs, telling the BBC: "We cannot have the death of an MP being a price worth paying for our democracy".

Conservative MP David Davis, however, told Sky News that pausing meetings with constituents "would be the wrong thing to do", calling them "critical to the operation of British democracy". MPs and their staff have been attacked before, al-

though it is rare. But their safety was thrown into sharp focus by Brexit, which stoked deep political divisions and has led to often angry, partisan rhetoric. Cox's killer repeatedly shouted "Britain first" before shooting and stabbing the 41-year-old MP outside her constituency meeting near Leeds, northern England.

Amess was at the other end of the political spectrum and backed Brexit. A specialist police unit set up to investigate threats against MPs in the aftermath said 678 crimes against lawmakers were reported between 2016 and 2020. Most (582) were for malicious communications, although other crimes including harassment (46), terrorism

(nine), threats (seven), and common assault (three). Separate figures indicated a sharp rise in reports since 2018, including three threats to kill. Amess himself wrote about public harassment and online abuse in his book *Ayes & Ears: A Survivor's Guide to Westminster*, published last year. "These increasing attacks have rather spoiled the great British tradition of the people openly meeting their elected politicians," he said. MPs have had to install security cameras and only meet constituents by appointment, he added. Unlike some MPs, Amess publicised meeting times for constituents on Twitter and held them in public places, while asking people to book ahead.

China's astronauts enter space station

Reuters
Jiuquan

China yesterday launched a rocket carrying three astronauts — two men and one woman — to the core module of a future space station where they will live and work for six months, the longest orbit for Chinese astronauts. A Long March-2F rocket carrying the Shenzhou-13 spacecraft, which means "Divine Vessel", blasted off from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the northwestern province of Gansu at 12:23am.

The vessel successfully docked to the port of the space station on at 6:56am, and the astronauts entered the space station's core module at 10:03am, the China Manned Space Agency

said. China began constructing the space station in April with the launch of Tianhe — the first and largest of the station's three modules. Slightly bigger than a city bus, Tianhe will be the living quarters of the completed space station.

Shenzhou-13 is the second of four crewed missions needed to complete the space station by the end of 2022. During the first crewed mission that concluded in September, three other astronauts stayed on Tianhe for 90 days.

In the latest mission, astronauts will carry out tests of the key technologies and robotics on Tianhe needed to assemble the space station, verify onboard life support systems and conduct a host of scientific experiments. The mission commander is Zhai Zhigang, 55, from China's first

batch of astronaut trainees in the late 1990s. Born to a rural family with six children, Zhai carried out China's first spacewalk in 2008. Shenzhou-13 was his second space mission.

"The most challenging task will be the long-term stay in orbit for six months," Zhai told a news conference on Thursday. "It will exact higher demands (on us), both physically and psychologically."

He was accompanied by Wang Yaping and Ye Guangfu, both 41. Wang, also born to a rural family, is known among colleagues for her tenacity. The former air force pilot first travelled to space in 2013, to Tiangong-1, a prototype space lab. She is China's second female astronaut in space, following Liu Yang in 2012.

Shenzhou-13 is the first space mission for the third astronaut,

Ye. After the crew returns to Earth in April, China plans to deploy six more missions, including deliveries of the second and third space station modules and two final crewed missions. China, barred by US law from working with Nasa and by extension on the International Space Station (ISS), has spent the past decade developing technologies to build its own.

With the ISS set to retire in a few years, China's space station will become the only one in Earth's orbit. China's space programme has come far since late leader Mao Zedong lamented that the country could not even launch a potato into space. China became the third country to put a man in space with its own rocket, in October 2003, following the former Soviet Union and the United States.

Myanmar junta chief excluded from Asean summit

AFP
Brunei

Myanmar's junta chief will be excluded from an upcoming Asean summit, the group said yesterday, a rare rebuke as concerns rise over the military government's commitment to defusing a bloody crisis.

Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) agreed at an emergency meeting late Friday that a "non-political representative" for Myanmar would be invited to the October 26-28 summit, current Asean chair Brunei said in a statement. The decision effectively excluded junta leader Min Aung Hlaing. The Myanmar junta slammed the decision yesterday evening, accusing Asean of breaching its policy of non-interference in the domestic affairs of member states.

"Myanmar is extremely disappointed and strongly objected (to) the outcomes of the emergency foreign ministers meeting, as the discussions and decision on Myanmar's representation issue was done without consensus and was against the objectives of Asean," the Myanmar Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Earlier, junta spokesman brigadier general Zaw Min Tun told the BBC Burmese section that "interference" from non-Asean countries had also been a factor. He seized on talks between



General Min Aung Hlaing

the US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Asean special envoy, Brunei's Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof, ahead of the meeting and also singled out EU pressure.

The bloc took a strong stand after the junta rebuffed requests that a special envoy meet with "all stakeholders" in Myanmar — a phrase seen to include ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The statement noted "insufficient progress" in the implementation of a five-point plan agreed by Asean leaders in April to end turmoil following a coup in February. It also said that the situation in Myanmar "was having an impact on regional security as well as the unity, credibility and centrality of Asean".

Richard Horsey, Myanmar adviser to Crisis Group, predicted the "non-political" representative would be someone below the level of minister or deputy minister. Singapore's foreign ministry described the move as a

"difficult but necessary decision to uphold Asean's credibility". And independent Myanmar analyst David Mathieson said that "in Asean terms this is a real slap in the face". Myanmar, mostly ruled by the military since a 1962 coup, has been a thorn in Asean's side since it joined in 1997.

Elections in 2015 overwhelmingly won by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party ushered in the start of civilian rule — but this was cut short by the coup.

Asean has been under international pressure to address unrest that erupted after the putsch, including massive protests; renewed clashes between the military and ethnic rebel armies in border regions; and an economy spiralling into freefall.

The bloc has expressed disappointment at a lack of cooperation from the junta, which continues to crack down brutally on dissent.

Almost 1,200 civilians have been killed, according to a local monitoring group. Part of the consensus was to allow a long-delayed visit by a special envoy, Brunei Second Foreign Minister Yusof. Asean has insisted that he meets with all parties concerned, but the junta rejected any proposed meetings with people on trial, among them Suu Kyi, who is facing various charges.

A senior US administration official, commenting on media reports about the exclusion before the official statement was

released, said "it seems perfectly appropriate and, in fact, completely justified... for Asean to downgrade Burma's participation", using Myanmar's former name.

Member nations had already voiced their disappointment at the path the junta has chosen. "If there is no real progress then Malaysia's stance will remain: that we will not want the general to be attending the summit. No compromise on that," Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah said Friday ahead of the meeting.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said in a tweet after the meeting that her country had proposed that Myanmar "should not be represented at the political level" at the summit until it restores "its democracy through an inclusive process". Aung Myo Min, the human rights minister of a shadow government of ousted Myanmar lawmakers called the NUG, praised the exclusion as "a very strong action" and voiced hope Asean would recognise the NUG as Myanmar's legitimate government.

Political activist Minn Khant Kyaw Linn, 23, who organised a protest in Mandalay where the Asean flag was burnt in June, said it was time for the bloc to allow NUG representatives to its meetings. The junta — officially known as the State Administration Council — has promised to hold elections and lift a state of emergency by August 2023.

Back on the beach



People visit the newly reopened portion of Manila Bay filled with artificial white sand as the country's capital region loosens coronavirus disease (Covid-19) restrictions, in Manila.

Indian police probe murder at farmers' protest site, one held

Reuters
Mumbai

Police investigating the killing of a Sikh man at the site of an ongoing farmers' protest in New Delhi said yesterday they had arrested a suspect from a Sikh warrior sect, after the mutilated body was found strung up on a police barricade.

The 35-year-old victim was beaten to death on Friday by a group of men who had accused him of desecrating Sikh holy texts, according to media reports. One of the man's hands was hacked off, the reports said.

Police superintendent Jasandeep Singh Randhawa said a member of a Sikh warrior sect called the Nihangs had been taken into custody after the attack close to Singhu village, on the northwest border of the capital. "We are probing his role in the murder," the police officer said. "The claim of desecration of holy book at the Singhu border is yet to be verified. It is a matter of investigation."

Thousands of farmers, mainly from the Sikh-dominated state of Punjab, have been camped out on the borders of capital since last year demanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government withdraw laws to liberalise the agricultural economy. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella group for farmers organisations, issued a statement condemning the killing.

"The Morcha is against sacrilege of any religious text or symbol but that does not give anyone the right to take the law into their hands," it said.

The farmers' protests have largely been peaceful since January, when a large group tried to enter the capital and hoist a flag at the historic Red Fort to embarrass the government. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party said Friday's murder showed that farm leaders were losing control of their campaign.

"It's time saner elements, if any, among them apologise and engage with the government unconditionally," BJP general secretary B.L. Santhosh said in a tweet.

Bali earthquake kills three, injures seven

AFP
Jakarta

Three people were killed yesterday when an earthquake struck the Indonesian tourist island Bali, the disaster agency said.

The 4.8-magnitude quake struck at a relatively shallow depth of 10km northeast of the town of Banjar Wanasari. Shallow quakes tend to do more damage than deep tremors.

Two people died when the quake triggered a landslide that buried their house in Bangli regency while another person was killed in the port town of Karangasem, officials said.

The death toll was not expected to rise, they added. "The quake was felt strongly for five seconds," said disaster agency spokesman Abdul Muhari. "People were panicking and

ran from their houses when the quake hit." The tremor's epicentre was far from the main tourist hub in Bali, which is slowly reopening to international visitors after a pandemic shutdown.

Indonesia experiences frequent quakes due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity where tectonic plates collide that stretches from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin.

In January, more than 100 people were killed and thousands left homeless by a 6.2-magnitude quake that struck Sulawesi island, reducing buildings to a tangled mass of twisted metal and chunks of concrete in the seaside city of Mamuju.

A 7.5-magnitude quake and a subsequent tsunami in Palu three years ago left more than 4,300 people dead or missing.

Hindu group calls for curbs on streaming platforms

Reuters
Mumbai

A powerful right-wing Hindu group linked to India's ruling party has called for curbs on streaming platforms and cryptocurrencies, saying regulation was essential.

"There is a need to regularise these things for the larger good of the society," said Mohan Bhagwat, head of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological parent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party.

Streaming platforms like Netflix and Amazon's Prime Video have faced lawsuits and police investigations, mostly in BJP-ruled states, for content deemed inflammatory and offensive to the country's majority Hindu population.

Netflix, Amazon and Walt Disney Co, another major streaming platform in India, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Bitcoin and India's Association of Blockchain & Crypto Entrepreneurs could not immediately be reached.

"A currency like bitcoin — I don't know which country controls it or which rules govern it," Bhagwat said in a speech to followers marking the Hindu festival of Dussehra on Friday. "The government should do it. It has to do it."

Modi's government often looks to the Hindu group for policy guidance, but has refrained from regulating streaming platforms. Movies and TV shows, however, must go through a censor board.

The government prepared but did not submit a bill to parliament earlier this year that would have banned trading and holding cryptocurrencies. Local media has reported the government was looking to tax cryptocurrency trades and the exchanges, traders and lawyers that support them in the country.

Horse race marks Sydney's emergence from long Covid lockdown

Thousands of Sydney residents flocked to a prominent horse race yesterday, as Australia's biggest city emerges from a strict Covid-19 lockdown and the nation begins to live with the coronavirus through extensive vaccination.

Up to 10,000 fully vaccinated spectators can now attend races such as The Everest in Sydney, Australia's richest turf horse race, and the country's most famous, Melbourne Cup Day, on Nov. 2.

New South Wales state, of which Sydney is the capital,

reached its target of 80% of people fully vaccinated yesterday, well ahead of the rest of Australia.

"80% in NSW! Been a long wait but we've done it," New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet said on Twitter. The state reported 319 new coronavirus cases, all of the Delta variant, and two deaths on Saturday. Many restrictions were eased in New South Wales on Monday, when it reached 70% double vaccinations. Neighbouring Victoria, where the capital Melbourne has been in lockdown

for weeks, reported 1,993 new cases and seven deaths, including the state's youngest victim, a 15-year-old girl.

Victoria is expected to reach 70% double vaccination before Oct. 26 and ease its restrictions more slowly than New South Wales has, drawing criticism from the federal government yesterday. "It is really sad that Victorians are being held back," said Treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

Australia is set to gradually lift its 18-month ban on international travel from next month for some states when 80% of people

aged 16 and over are fully vaccinated.

As of Friday, 67.2% Australians were fully inoculated, and 84.4% had received at least one shot. The country closed its international borders in March 2020, since then allowing only a limited number of people to leave or citizens and permanent residents abroad to return, requiring them to quarantine for two weeks. Australia's overall coronavirus numbers are low compared to many other developed countries, with just over 140,000 cases and 1,513 deaths.



CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
 editor@gulf-times.com
 44350478 (News),
 44466404 (Sport),
 44466636 (Home delivery)
 44350474
 facebook.com/gulftimes
 twitter.com/gulftimes_Qatar

GULF TIMES

IMF raises vigil on inflation, supply chain bottlenecks

A familiar word in economics is inflation, which has plunged many countries into long periods of instability. Central bankers often aspire to be known as “inflation hawks” who believe that monetary policies should maintain high-interest rates to curb inflation.

Long-lasting phases of high inflation are often the result of lax monetary policy. If the money supply grows too big relative to the size of an economy, the unit value of the currency diminishes; in other words, its purchasing power falls and prices rise.

While presenting its semi-annual World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said central banks should prepare to tighten policy in case inflation gets out of control.

The Washington, DC-based IMF, however, expects high inflation to recede in most advanced economies by the middle of next year. But it warns there is tremendous uncertainty around the outlook for both economic growth and inflation due to supply chain disruptions that have convulsed the global economy and pushed up consumer prices around the world.

IMF downgraded the fund's global growth forecast for the year and emphasised the need for a more equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines from wealthy countries to developing and middle-income countries.

Recently, the IMF cut its global growth forecast for 2021 to 5.9% from 6% in its July report, a result of a reduction in its projection for advanced economies to 5.2% from 5.6%. The reduction mostly reflected problems with a global supply chain that caused a mismatch between supply and demand.

A key theme of the IMF's report was the 'dangerous divergence' between advanced economies and the rest of the world

For emerging markets and developing economies, the outlook improved. Growth in these economies is pegged at 6.4% for 2021, up from an estimate of 6.3% in July. The uptick reflected stronger performances by some commodity-exporting countries amid rising energy prices.

The group maintained its view that the global growth will moderate to 4.9% in 2022.

A key theme of the IMF's report was the “dangerous divergence” between advanced economies and the rest of the world. The IMF expects output in advanced economies to return to pre-pandemic forecasts by next year, and exceed them by 2024.

By contrast, emerging markets and developing economies, excluding China, are expected to remain 5.5% below the pre-pandemic forecast in 2024.

The biggest driver of this divergence is the “great vaccine divide.” The IMF estimates that over 60% of people in high-income countries are fully vaccinated. In low-income countries, by contrast, around 96% of the population remains unvaccinated.

The warning was part of the IMF's quarterly update on global economic conditions. The fund slightly downgraded the outlook for global growth this year, but slashed the US GDP forecast by a full percentage point from its July outlook, albeit to a still robust 6% that is ahead of the 5.2% forecast for all developed economies.

Central banks including Fed (US Federal Reserve) believe that the primary weapon to fight inflation is hiking interest rates. The central bank in the United States has not raised rates since 2018.

Undoubtedly, pressures on the supply or demand side of the economy can be inflationary.

Therefore, supply chain issues need to be addressed on a war footing to avoid price spikes from becoming a major threat to global economic recovery.

To Advertise

advr@gulf-times.com

Display

44466621 44418811

Classified

44466609 44418811

Subscription

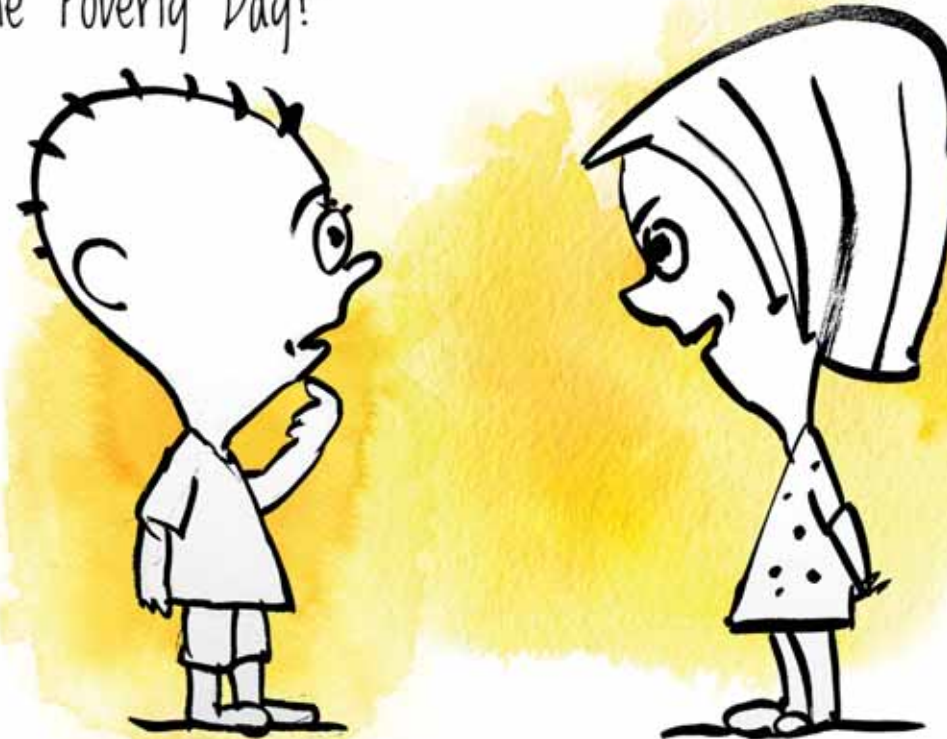
circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2021 Gulf Times. All rights reserved



"Why do they observe the Food Day just before the Poverty Day?"

"Food for thought."



Ending hunger sustainably

Policymakers seeking to eradicate hunger today face a difficult dilemma: preventing billions from going hungry while also saving the planet

By Maximo Torero
Rome

In 2015, 193 countries gathered at the United Nations and pledged to end global hunger by 2030 as part of the Agenda for Sustainable Development. With less than a decade to go, prospects for achieving this goal appear bleak. Improving them will require governments and the private sector to address the global food and environmental crises simultaneously.

Food insecurity has increased in recent years as a result of conflicts and climate change, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic and the accompanying global economic crisis. Today, up to 811mn people suffer from hunger, including 132mn additional people who were classified as undernourished during the pandemic. Another 3bn people are too poor to afford a healthy diet.

Efforts to fight hunger have traditionally focused on producing more food – but this has come at a high environmental cost. Agriculture depletes 70% of the world's fresh water and 40% of its land. It has contributed to the near-extinction of around 1mn species. Food production generates 30% of global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions and is the leading cause of deforestation in the Amazon.

Policymakers seeking to eradicate hunger today thus face a difficult dilemma: preventing billions from going hungry while also saving the planet. For example, a fertiliser subsidy could boost crop yields and reduce hunger, but it could also lead to excessive nitrogen

use, thus ruining the soil.

Similarly, cattle and rice farms emit methane, a more potent GHG than carbon dioxide. The most effective way to reduce methane emissions is to tax them. But this would cause food prices to rise, affect poor consumers' access to nutrition, and threaten the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers.

Countries must therefore establish an optimal level of environmental pollution that doesn't reduce agricultural productivity or undermine the social and economic well-being of the poor. We need a solution that feeds the most mouths without endangering the planet.

Finding a workable plan requires looking at food systems holistically – a major departure from the current siloed approach. To avoid unintended consequences, it is essential to quantify any trade-offs with data. And to turn data-driven strategies into action demands a coordinated effort to boost public and private investments.

No one intervention alone can solve the hunger problem. But studies suggest that a mix of key measures aimed at increasing farm productivity and cutting food loss and waste could reduce the number of chronically hungry people by 314mn in the next decade, and also make healthy diets available for 568mn people. Expanding countries' national safety nets, including school-feeding programmes, could give an additional 2.4bn people access to a healthy diet by 2030.

Another study shows how a series of low-cost initiatives can end hunger for 500mn people by 2030 while also

limiting agricultural GHG emissions in line with the goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. These initiatives include agricultural research and development to produce food more efficiently, information services that provide farmers with weather forecasts and crop prices, literacy programs for women – who account for almost half of small farmers in developing countries – and scaling up social protection. This can be accomplished if rich countries double their food-security aid to \$26bn per year until 2030, and poorer countries maintain their annual investment of \$19bn.

Automation can help to manage the trade-offs between food production and environmental protection. For example, “AgBots” that resemble small farm vehicles can identify and remove weeds. Because they don't use expensive chemical herbicides, robots can reduce the cost of weeding by 90% and protect the soil from potentially harmful chemicals. Likewise, artificial intelligence and cloud solutions can detect pest-infested areas using drone imaging. The data collected can help to guide farmers' irrigation, planting, and fertilisation decisions, and indicate the best time of the year to sell a given crop.

Governments must now work with the private sector to make these high-tech, precision-farming systems available at lower costs, especially for small farmers. The good news is that private firms are increasingly keen to promote sustainability – including through “blended finance” schemes, which combine an initial investment from governments or multilateral

financial institutions with subsequent commercial financing. This kind of approach can effectively de-risk private finance and encourage investment in improving food systems.

For example, the US and Dutch governments have been working with the German coffee company Neumann Kaffee Gruppe and three European banks to provide a \$25mn loan to small farmers in Colombia, Kenya, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, and Uganda for sustainable coffee production. The banks initially rejected the proposal because small farmers are usually shut out of financial services and thus unable to prove their creditworthiness, making them a high-risk group for commercial lenders. But the banks signed on to the scheme after the Dutch government and Neumann Kaffee Gruppe agreed to cover the first 10% of losses should it not pan out, with the US government absorbing 40% of the remaining losses.

Detractors will argue that individual countries should be responsible for reversing the trend of rising hunger through domestic policies. While this may be true, other problems such as GHG emissions cannot be tackled by a country or a region on its own, and must be addressed and funded globally.

Saving the planet does not have to come at the expense of feeding the poor, and vice versa. If governments get their act together, it's still not too late to wipe out hunger by 2030. – Project Syndicate

● Maximo Torero is Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.



BOTTOM-LINE: Saving the planet does not have to come at the expense of feeding the poor, and vice versa. If governments get their act together, it's still not too late to wipe out hunger by 2030.

Nasa launches first space probe to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids

Reuters
Washington

Nasa launched a first-of-its-kind mission yesterday to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids, two large clusters of space rocks that scientists believe are remnants of primordial material that formed the solar system's outer planets.

The space probe, dubbed Lucy and packed inside a special cargo capsule, lifted off on schedule from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida at 5:34am EDT (0934 GMT), Nasa said. It was carried aloft by an Atlas V rocket from United Launch Alliance (UAL), a joint venture of Boeing Co and Lockheed Martin Corp.

Lucy's mission is a 12-year expedition to study a record number of asteroids. It will be the first to explore the Trojans, thousands of rocky objects orbiting the sun in two swarms — one ahead of the path of giant gas

planet Jupiter and one behind it.

The largest known Trojan asteroids, named for the warriors of Greek mythology, are believed to measure as much as 225km (140 miles) in diameter.

Scientists hope Lucy's close-up fly-by of seven Trojans will yield new clues to how the solar system's planets came to be formed some 4.5 billion years ago and what shaped their present configuration.

Believed to be rich in carbon compounds, the asteroids may even provide new insights into the origin of organic materials and life on Earth, Nasa said.

"The Trojan asteroids are leftovers from the early days of our solar system, effectively the fossils of planet formation," principal mission investigator Harold Levison of the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado, was quoted by Nasa as saying.

No other single science mission has been designed to visit as many different objects independently orbiting

the sun in the history of space exploration, Nasa said.

As well as the Trojans, Lucy will do a fly-by of an asteroid in the solar system's main asteroid belt, called DonaldJohanson in honour of the lead discoverer of the fossilised human ancestor known as Lucy, from which the Nasa mission takes its name. The Lucy fossil, unearthed in Ethiopia in 1974, was in turn named for the Beatles hit *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*.

Lucy the asteroid probe will make spaceflight history in another way. Following a route that circles back to Earth three times for gravitational assists, it will be the first spacecraft ever to return to Earth's vicinity from the outer solar system, according to Nasa.

The probe will use rocket thrusters to manoeuvre in space and two rounded solar arrays, each the width of a school bus, to recharge batteries that will power the instruments contained in the much smaller central body of the spacecraft.



Nasa's Lucy spacecraft, atop a United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket, launches from Pad-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, in Cape Canaveral, Florida, yesterday. (Reuters)

Russia tops 1,000 daily virus deaths for the first time

Russia yesterday recorded 1,000 deaths over 24 hours for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, with the country's job drive at a standstill and few restrictions in place. An official government tally showed 1,002 deaths and 33,208 new infections, setting a high for both fatalities and cases for the third day in a row.

The surge comes with just 32 percent of Russians fully inoculated, according to official statistics published for the first time yesterday.

A lack of tough restrictions has allowed the virus to spread unchecked, though a number of regions have re-introduced QR codes for access to public places. The Kremlin has avoided re-introducing major measures despite calling the vaccination rate "unacceptably" low, and saying authorities have to ensure "the economy continues working". It also said Russia's medical system was not "overwhelmed" and prepared to take in the rising number of patients. Authorities have blamed Russians for the growing outbreak.

Health Minister Mikhail Murashko this week pointed to their "behaviour", while Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said everything had been done to give the public the chance to "save their lives by getting vaccinated".

Former Spanish minister indicted on murder charges

An Argentine judge investigating cases stemming from the Franco dictatorship in Spain has indicted a former Spanish minister on four counts of homicide, according to court papers seen by Reuters yesterday. Judge Maria Servini de Cuba, sitting in Buenos Aires, issued the ruling against Rodolfo Martin Villa, 87, interior minister between 1976 and 1979. The judge wrote that she considered Martin Villa "the prima facie perpetrator criminally responsible for the crime of aggravated homicide, repeated on at least four occasions, of which Pedro Maria Martinez Ocio, Romualdo Barroso Chaparro, Francisco Aznar Clemente and German Rodriguez Saiz were victims". Martin Villa told the Spanish newspaper ABC: "I am calm. I will appeal."

Macron condemns 'inexcusable' Paris massacre of Algerians

Tells relatives of victims on 60th anniversary of bloodshed that 'crimes' were committed with 'bodies thrown into River Seine'

AFP
Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday condemned as "inexcusable" a deadly crackdown by Paris police on a 1961 protest by Algerians whose scale was covered up for decades, disappointing activists who hoped for an even stronger recognition of responsibility.

Macron told relatives of victims on the 60th anniversary of the bloodshed that "crimes" were committed on the night of October 17, 1961 under the command of the notorious Paris police chief Maurice Papon.

He acknowledged that several dozen protesters had been killed, "their bodies thrown into the River Seine" and paid tribute to their memory.

The precise number of victims has never been made clear and some activists fear several hundred could have been killed.

Macron "recognised the facts: that the crimes committed that night under Maurice Papon are inexcusable for the Republic", the Elysee said.

"This tragedy was long hushed-up, denied or concealed," it added in a statement.

The rally was called in the final year of France's increasingly violent attempt to reclaim Algeria as a north African colony, and in the middle of a bombing campaign targeting mainland France by pro-independence militants.

Papon was in the 1980s revealed to have been a collaborator with the occupying Nazis in World War II. He was con-



French President Emmanuel Macron stands at attention after laying a wreath near the Pont de Bezons (Bezons Bridge) in Colombes, near Paris, yesterday. (AFP)

victed of crimes against humanity but later released.

Macron, the first French president to attend a memorial ceremony for those killed, observed a minute of silence in their memory at the Bezons bridge over the Seine on the outskirts of Paris where the protest started.

His comments that crimes were committed went further than predecessor Francois Hollande, who acknowledged in 2012 that the protesting Algerians had been "killed during a bloody repression".

However he did not issue a formal apology. He also did not give a public speech, with the Elysee issuing only the written statement.

The president, France's first leader born after the colonial

era, has made a priority of historical reconciliation and forging a modern relationship with former colonies.

But Macron, who is expected to seek re-election next year, is wary about provoking a backlash from political opponents.

His far-right electoral opponents, nationalists Marine Le Pen and Eric Zemmour, are outspoken critics of efforts to acknowledge or show repentance for past crimes.

Historian Emmanuel Blanchard told AFP that Macron's comments represented "progress" and had gone "much further" than those made by Hollande in 2012.

But he took issue with the decision to pin responsibility on Papon alone, saying that then prime minister Michel

Debre and president Charles de Gaulle had not been held to account over the ensuing cover-up or the fact Papon would remain Paris police chief until 1967.

The statement by Macron "is progress but not complete. We hoped for more," Mimouna Hadjam of the Africa93 anti-racism association told AFP.

"Papon did not act alone. People were tortured, massacred in the heart of Paris and those high up knew," Hadjam added, calling for recognition of a "state crime".

Domonique Sopo, the head of SOS Racism, said while the comments were welcome, Macron was showing a tendency of taking "small steps" on such issues by reducing responsibility to Papon alone.

UN says Taliban to announce plans for girls' education 'soon'

The Taliban will announce a framework that allows girls to attend school in Afghanistan "soon," a senior United Nations official said, after four weeks in which Afghan boys have been allowed a secondary education but girls have not.

"The de facto minister of education told us that they are working on a framework, which they will announce soon, that will allow all girls to go to secondary school, and we are expecting that to happen very soon," Unicef deputy executive director Omar Abdi said at the United Nations in New York on Friday.

For weeks now, the Taliban have been saying that they will allow girls to return to school as soon as possible.

The group, notorious for its brutal and oppressive rule from 1996-2001, has faced international fury after effectively excluding women and girls from schools and work across the country, while incrementally stripping away Afghans' freedoms. The Taliban permitted girls to attend primary school from the start, but have maintained that neither the girls nor their female teachers could return to secondary school yet.

Taliban officials have said that can happen only once the girls' security and strict gender segregation can be ensured under the group's restrictive interpretation of sharia law, adding that more time is needed to put this framework in place. Abdi noted that, as he spoke, "millions of girls of secondary school age are missing out on education for the 27th consecutive day."

He said the UN has urged the Taliban authorities now governing Afghanistan "not to wait" on educating girls.

Abdi said he had visited Afghanistan the week before and met with Taliban authorities.

"In all my meetings, the education of girls was the first issue that I raised."

He said he had received "affirmations" of the Taliban's commitments to allow all girls to attend school.

As for secondary school, he said they were allowed "only in five provinces," but added that the UN is pushing for the right to be implemented throughout the country.

A 14-year-old girl identified as Asma this week expressed both her frustration with the situation and her determination to pursue an education.

"Will I be able to go to school or not? This is my biggest concern. I want to learn everything, from the easiest to the hardest subjects. I want to be an astronaut, or an engineer or architect... This is my dream," she told Amnesty International. "Education is not a crime," she added. "If the Taliban announce that getting an education is a crime, then we will commit this crime. We will not give up."

Sudan protest calls for military coup as political crisis deepens

Thousands of demonstrators gathered in front of the presidential palace in Khartoum yesterday calling for the military to seize power as Sudan grapples with the biggest political crisis in its two-year-old transition. The military and civilian groups have been sharing power in the east African country in an uneasy alliance since the toppling of long-standing President Omar al-Bashir in 2019. But following a failed coup attempt in September attributed to forces loyal to Bashir, military leaders have been demanding reforms to the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) coalition and the replacement of the cabinet. Civilian leaders, however, have accused them of aiming for a power grab. A military-aligned faction of the FFC, including armed groups that rebelled against Bashir, called for yesterday's protests and held a short event in a nearby convention hall. The protesters chanted "down with the hunger government" and called for General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head of the armed forces and Sudan's joint military-civilian Sovereign Council, to initiate a coup and overthrow the government.

America feels your pain, Biden says at memorial for law enforcement officers



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden at the 40th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service at the US Capitol yesterday. (Reuters)

Reuters
Washington

President Joe Biden spoke to hundreds of uniformed officers at a memorial service yesterday to honour law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The event, which took place in front of the Capitol with guests including FBI Director Christopher Wray, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and first lady Jill Biden, honoured 491 law enforcement officers who lost their lives at work in 2019 and 2020.

"Being a cop today is one hell of a lot harder than it's ever been," Biden said in the 22-minute remarks.

"And to the families of the fallen: you've suffered an enormous loss. But understand, your loss is also America's

loss ... and your pain is America's pain," he said in his comments, which also connected his grief over the loss of two of his children to that of the families at the service.

Biden credited law enforcement agencies with upholding the US political system during the January 6 riot at the Capitol, called for more resources to be allocated to law enforcement officers, who he said were currently being asked to do too much, and expressed sorrow for the shooting earlier yesterday of three deputies in Houston, Texas.

The White House has also issued a proclamation ordering flags to be flown at half-staff at public buildings yesterday.

The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service began in 1982 as a small gathering in Washington's Senate Park of approximately 120 survivors and

supporters of law enforcement. It has since turned into a series of events, attracting thousands of survivors and officers to the nation's capital each year.

Biden has been a loyal ally to law enforcement, dating back to his days in the Senate when he crafted the 1994 crime bill with their help. Earlier this year, the president visited the Capitol to pay his respects to Brian Sicknick, a police officer who died of multiple strokes after being sprayed with a chemical during the January 6 riot.

However, the president's efforts to pass a police reform bill to tighten practices following the 2020 murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis failed in September. That marked a setback for the Democratic president, who campaigned on the need for policing reforms.

Biden's agenda on gun reform has

also largely stalled, with insufficient support in the Congressional chambers his Democratic party controls by only narrow margins. Biden's initial pick to run the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms withered under opposition; he has yet to name another candidate.

More recently, Biden has expressed hope that he can still sign a comprehensive police reform bill into law, and indicated in statements at the time that Democrats might have to do that on their own.

Biden has also said he will look into further executive actions he can take to help hold police officers accountable for breaking the law.

The National Fraternal Order of Police, a major officers' union which sponsored the event, endorsed Biden's Republican opponent Donald Trump in the 2020 election.



Put your business on the fast-track to success as a Doha Metro Station Retailer

Qatar Rail is offering exciting opportunities at Doha Metro Station network for retailers who want to join a new success journey.

Permitted Trades

- Services
- General Retail
- Food & Beverages
- Convenience
- ATM & Vending Machine



Book Now

Get up to 12 months of license fee free period.

- Flexible agreement duration 3 years or 5 years
- License fee includes water & electricity cost