Gulf Times

OMAN

The 25th anniversary of the official opening of the Asaila site was celebrated on Tuesday, marking the beginning of new archaeological remains in Asaila, located west of Qatar, about 12km north of Doha. QM (Qatar Museums) through the Asaila team, under the leadership of Ahmed Musa al-Namla, vice president and deputy director of the Asaila site, opened the archaeological site for public visits after extensive and rigorous archaeological research. The Asaila site is one of the most important archaeological sites in Qatar, with a long history of human occupation and habitation. The site is known for its rich cultural heritage and its potential to provide insights into the lives of early humans in the region. The Asaila site was first discovered in the 1970s, and since then, extensive archaeological research has been conducted to understand the site's history and the lives of those who lived there.

QM’s statement yesterday.

QM noted that the process is ambitious and requires a lot of work, but also that it is important to ensure that the site is protected and preserved for future generations. The Asaila site is part of a larger initiative to develop a network of archaeological sites across Qatar, as part of the government’s efforts to promote Qatar’s cultural heritage and to establish the country as a cultural and tourist destination. The Asaila site is expected to be one of the key sites in this network, and it is hoped that it will attract visitors from around the world to learn about Qatar’s rich cultural heritage and to appreciate the site’s significance.

Oman’s sultan’s eldest son becomes first crown prince

The appointment of the sultan of Oman’s eldest son as the new crown prince has been confirmed by the Ministry of Information and Culture. Al-Sabah is the eldest son of Oman’s sultan, Hamad bin Ali al-Sabah, and he has been appointed as the new crown prince after the death of the previous crown prince, who passed away earlier this year.

The ministry said in a statement that the appointment was made in accordance with the will of the late crown prince and in line with the principles of the royal family. The statement also said that the appointment was made in order to ensure a smooth transition of power and to maintain stability and security in the country.

Qatar Airways earns highest Diamond Standard status in global Covid-19 audit

Qatar Airways has been named the world’s best airline in the 2021 World Airline Awards, the airline announced today. This is the seventh consecutive year that Qatar Airways has been named the best airline in the world, and it is the first time that the airline has been named the best airline in the world in the category of “Best Airline in the World”.

The award is based on a global survey of more than 28 million travelers, and it is given to the airline with the highest scores in a number of categories, including overall satisfaction, in-flight entertainment, and inflight services.

Qatar Airways has been praised for its innovative and customer-friendly services, including its onboard meals, in-flight entertainment, and comfortable seating. The airline has also been recognized for its commitment to safety and health measures, which have been implemented on board and at airports.

QM makes new discovery in Asaila archaeological site

Qatar Museums (QM) has announced the discovery of a new archaeological remains in the Asaila site, located west of Qatar, about 12km north of Doha. QM has decided to open the archaeological site for public visits after extensive and rigorous archaeological research.

The discovery was made through the extensive and rigorous archaeological research conducted at the Asaila site. The research involved the study of ancient human remains and artifacts found in the site, as well as the analysis of geological and environmental data.

The discovery is significant because it provides new insights into the history and culture of the region. It is hoped that the discovery will attract visitors from around the world to learn about Qatar’s rich cultural heritage and to appreciate the site’s significance.

QM chief during the excavation of Asaila.
MoTC collecting data to develop Freight Master Plan

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) is at the stage of collecting data and conducting relevant surveys and questionnaires.

Field surveys are being conducted to collect data needed to develop the QFMP. Extensive data will be collected through traffic counts on roads, traffic counts on junctions using cameras, monitoring trip durations on existing roads, characterizing the vehicles – including all types of trucks, and collecting surveys and questionnaire information on employers, operators and drivers of freight movements. Based on this information, a traffic model that simulates the mobility can be developed supported by a real-time traffic management system. The data will also be useful for developers and freight companies, as well as for hardware manufacturers and Harald International Airport.

The QFMP aims to establish modern infrastructure for freight industry across the country as part of an integrated transportation system in such a way that upgrades the culture and environment of developers and freight companies. It also contributes to economic and social growth and improves freight transport and logistics. The project is expected to last for 20 years and will be completed in stages.

It is also preparing a freight route development guidebook and setting up assistive smart applications to be established an electronic GIS and systems and policies relating to the possible environmental imprint, in terms of traffic safety and least impact on well-considered routes in such a way that meets the expectations of developers and freight companies.

Additionally, the project is establishing an electronic GIS and assistive smart applications to be used in the future.

The MoTC is at the stage of collecting data and conducting relevant surveys and questionnaires.
Qatar Airways has achieved the highest Diamond standard from the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX), the world’s leading airline passenger experience organization, following a rigorous assessment that included passenger feedback, onboard and in-flight safety, technology and customer engagement. This announcement adds to the rapidly growing list of awards and accolades received by Qatar Airways since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and reinforces the fact that Qatar Airways continues to provide a world-class experience to its customers.

In addition, the airline has introduced a new passenger service for the Middle East, Middle East and Africa – ‘Voice ID’. The new service was launched by the airline’s CEO, Mr. Akbar Al Baker, at the official opening of the new Al Bidda Terminal at Doha International Airport.

Mr. Al Baker said: ‘‘Qatar Airways is committed to providing the highest levels of service to our passengers. The introduction of Voice ID is a significant step forward in our efforts to improve the passenger experience and make air travel simpler, safer and more convenient for our customers around the world. We believe that this technology will revolutionize the way passengers interact with us and will help us to continue to lead the way in passenger experience.’’

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National carrier achieves APEX Airline Passenger Experience Association’s latest safety benchmark following assessment of its robust Covid-19 hygiene, safety standards

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Hilal Bank has launched its new campaign ‘Voice ID’ in Qatar, offering customers a more convenient and secure way of accessing their bank accounts. The campaign is part of the bank’s ongoing efforts to digitize its operations and provide customers with a more personalized and efficient banking experience.

The ‘Voice ID’ service allows customers to access their bank accounts by simply using their voice, eliminating the need to remember passwords or use other identification methods. This innovation is particularly useful for customers who may struggle with traditional password-based authentication methods.

Hilal Bank’s ‘Voice ID’ service is a testament to the bank’s commitment to adopting innovative technology and providing customers with a seamless and secure banking experience. The bank has been at the forefront of digital banking in Qatar, and this latest initiative is another step in its ongoing efforts to improve customer satisfaction and convenience.

MoC announces recall of Ferrari 812 Superfast models of 2017-2020 due to restandarising equipment

HSBC launches ‘Voice ID’ in Qatar

Qatar Airways’ travel industry poised for strong recovery

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Kahramaa in deal to benefit from Qeeri laboratories

The Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) and Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) signed a co-operation framework to enhance their efforts to develop the water sector, improve environment projects and contribute to building a sustainable society.

The agreement, which was signed by Kahramaa's technical affairs president Dr. Ahmad M. Hasnah and HBKU's president, Dr. Essa bin Hilal Al-Kuwari, was held in the presence of Kahramaa's board president Ibraheem bin Saleh Al-Hashim, and HBKU's executive vice president Dr. Matty Vermeulen. The ceremony took place in both institutions' headquarters, with the presence of Kahramaa president Dr. Ahmed al-Nasr and Dr. Hasnah.

The agreement is to establish a co-operation to develop joint projects in relation to research laboratories and materials, especially those related to the field of water and its quality. It also includes service agreements for Kahramaa to benefit from the expertise and resources of HBKU's technical affairs department. As Kahramaa and the Qeeri aim to increase their efforts to develop the water sector, improve environment projects and contribute to building a sustainable society in line with national goals and objectives.

"Our joint activities will no longer be restricted to one of the institutions, and will benefit from the expertise and resources of both institutions, especially those related to the field of water and its quality. It also includes service agreements for Kahramaa to benefit from the expertise and resources of HBKU's technical affairs department," Al-Kuwari said.

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Qatar Charity provides medical equipment for Palestine hospitals

The organization said it has supplied medical and laboratory equipment to the orthopaedic department operated by Doctors without Borders at Nasser Medical Complex in southern Gaza Strip to enhance medical services provided to Palestinian patients.

The project aims to improve the quality of medical services, healthcare and surgery provided by medical facilities and reduce pressure on healthcare providers in the Gaza Strip, QC has said in a statement.

"The project aims to reduce the healthcare costs for Palestinian patients. Qatar Charity works to promote medical services in the Gaza Strip amid the deteriorating living conditions of the Palestinian people due to the severe shortages and economic challenges that health facilities are suffering from," said Mohamed Al-Laham, director-general of International Co-operation at the Ministry of Health in Palestine.

The project would greatly contribute to serving patients in the Gaza Strip, he added.

"Qatar Charity's health projects, particularly providing medical supplies, medicine and protective gear, significantly improve the services provided to Palestinian patients by hospitals and the Ministry of Health," he added.

More than 160,000 people and families have benefited from the humanitarian projects carried out by QRCS in Palestine in the last year, with the centre distributing food and non-food items, sanitation facilities and collective mechanisms and method of interaction with the centre’s beneficiaries.

Al-Emadi praised the solidarity of the Qatari community and its great investments in the humanitarian projects carried out by QRCS in Palestine and Qatar in addition to the deployment of medical delegations in several vital specialties, emergency whirlwind aid relief for those affected by cold weather, flash floods or tropical storms, construction of medical facilities and distribution of food and non-food items, provision of safe shelters up to the Sphere Project standards, and installation of solar lighting systems, the statement noted.

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In cooperation with Doctors without Borders and the Health ministry

Qatar Charity provides medical equipment for hospitals in Palestine

Qatar Charity's office in Palestine has provided medical equipment and support to Doctors without Borders organization in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in Palestine.

The organization has supplied medical and laboratory equipment to the orthopedic department operated by Doctors without Borders at the Nasser Medical Complex in southern Gaza Strip to enhance medical services provided to Palestinian patients.

The project aims to improve the quality of medical services, health care, and surgery provided by medical facilities and reduce pressure on health care providers in the Gaza strip.

Economic challenges

This project aims to reduce the health care costs for Palestinian patients. Therefore, Qatar Charity works to promote medical services in the Gaza strip amid the dire humanitarian conditions that Palestinian people are witnessing due to the severe shortage and economic challenges that health facilities are suffering from. This negatively impacts the health of patients’ Eng. Mohamed Abu Halawe, head of Qatar Charity's regional office in Gaza strip.

"The medical equipment provided, including beds and laboratory devices, will help dozens of patients" said Mr. Frédéric Bownaut, head of MSF program in the Gaza strip.

High-quality medical services

Meanwhile, Dr. Abdulatif al-Haj, Director General of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, has praised the cooperation between the state of Qatar and the ministry and the continuous support dedicated to improving the health sector. "Qatar Charity's

health projects, particularly providing laboratory supplies, medicine, and protective gear, significantly improve the services provided for patients in such challenging circumstances" he added. Hospitals and health centers in Gaza suffer from a severe shortage of medical equipment, which jeopardizes many patients’ lives.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Qatar Charity office has previously provided necessary medicines, supplies, and protective gear to quarantine centers and hospitals to curb the Coronavirus in various governorates.

Qatar Charity Launches Initiative to Alleviate Suffering of Refugees in Winter

Qatar Charity launched an initiative under the hashtag #Million_Smiles, through social media platforms, as part of its winter campaign entitled “Warmth and Peace”, with the participation of a number of media professionals, athletes, advocates and activists.

Qatar Charity initiative aims to reach the displaced and refugees in countries that witness exceptional conditions and face a harsh winter, by providing them with winter needs such as food, heating materials, non-food items, health and education.

The launch of the “Million Smiles” initiative comes at a time when refugees and displaced persons live in harsh conditions, and their suffering is multiplied as well as their needs for food, medicine, blankets and shelter is increased, which requires philanthropists to come together and join hands to help these displaced persons and refugees who migrated from their homes because of the conditions under which they live.

Qatar Charity called on benevolent people in Qatar to donate for the campaign and provide urgent aid to their brothers in order to alleviate the harsh conditions they face. It also urged activists on social media networks and the public in general to interact with its campaign and support it in all possible ways in order to achieve its humanitarian goals.

The charity also identified ways and means of donation and participation in the initiative, noting that the winter campaign will be implemented in 19 countries around the world, while the value of its targeted projects is more than QR 66 million, and the number of those targeted is expected to reach more than one million people, depending on the donations and support received.
MME signs deal to set up self-storage container city

Qatari faculty at Tamuq publishes second edition of textbook

The researchers of the project.

WCM-Q research reviews implications of Covid telehealth surge

Blended learning planned at CNA-Q for winter semester

Qatari students to welcome all new and returning students for winter semester
**Iran wants 'snapback' erased from N-deal**

Iran denies US President Donald Trump leaves occupied West Bank in a move to cement F Trump's base.

The US President-elect Joe Biden has vowed to reverse Trump's policies on Iran and other key issues.

The move is seen as a bid to isolate Iran internationally and revive the 2015 nuclear deal, which Trump abandoned in 2018.

**The great Beirut rush**

Lebanese police have been deployed in Beirut to prevent a rush of dead bodies to the city's overwhelmed hospitals.

The explosion at the city's port on August 4 left more than 150 people dead and thousands injured.

**Plan for Riyadh airport expansion 'put on hold'**

Saudi Arabia has put on hold its plans to build a new $10 billion airport in Saudi Arabia, the country's biggest economic project.

The decision comes as the country faces a slowdown in the global oil market and uncertainty over the coronavirus pandemic.
India FM expects vaccine exports to be determined in few weeks

India begins distribution of Covid-19 vaccines

Ugandan opposition candidate says soldiers raided his home

India tope court orders stay on new farm laws

Indonesia recovers first black box from crashed plane debris

Women to be inducted as Army pilots: chief

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GULF & TIMES

Rights over data: WhatsApp’s new privacy rules

Just as 2bn-plus active users wake up and go to sleep on WhatsApp across the world, the messaging behemoth has more than a quarter of the global population in its fold.

For a year and a bit, WhatsApp has been tight-lipped about its stance towards the 10-day grace period offered by Facebook to integrate WhatsApp data into its broader parent network, Facebook, which includes Instagram, around 20mn monthly active users.

Annual subscriptions offered by Facebook, WhatsApp now reserves the right to share data of its users with its broader parent network. Facebook has bought Instagram, regardless of whether you have accounts or profiles there. Facebook now mandates default on-premises and improves its respective services.

But more broadly, it’s about monetising WhatsApp data in the ledger of the social media giant. Almost all of the $21.5bn in offerings.

Ledgers of the social media giant. Almost all of the $21.5bn in offerings.

The fallout, for sure, is widening.

To address the growing global concerns, WhatsApp says the

"Now the fly is on the wall"
German authorities take world's largest darknet marketplace offline

New York

By Deborah Cole, AFP

German authorities took down the world’s largest darknet marketplace, whose Australian users made more than 2,400 violent threats, prosecutors said yesterday.

As the coronavirus pandemic raged around the world, especially in Europe, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) law enforcement divisions and Bioshield Revenue Services (BSR) law enforcement took part in the operation dubbed “Untangle”.

A 34-year-old Australian national alleged to be the darknet marketplace’s “owner” was arrested. He allegedly ran the German-based forum, just as more than 20 servers used in it was seized in Ukraine, the Netherlands, the US and Germany.

The German prosecutors said they used the data saved there to launch new probes against the alleged operator in Germany.

At current exchange rates, that represented turnover valued at €400 million.

The marketplace offered for sale “contraband, money laundering, stolen credit and debit card information, fake IDs, malware and much more”.

A total of at least 320,100 transactions were carried out via the marketplace, with more than 23,000 orders in terms of drugs – two of the most common cryptocurrencies – changing hands, prosecutors said yesterday.

“Investigation expert used to the marketplace, whose Australian users and more than 2,400 violent threats, prosecutors said yesterday.

Trump rejects blame

By Deborah Cole, AFP

Washington

President Donald Trump, who has been under increasing pressure from lawmakers to resign or be removed from office since last week’s storming of the Capitol by pro-Republican demonstrators, has repeatedly said he will carry on as normal.

If we don’t manage to stop this surge, it’s going to be very difficult to control it,” he told a news conference in the White House.

In an interview yesterday on 60 Minutes, Russian President Vladimir Putin told the host, Scott Pelley, that Trump has “a very strong stomach for violence”.

Mr Putin lamented that the pandemic was “failing to bring about herd immunity to our people”.

“I have seen right now, “ he said.

“I've spoken on my way in and my way out (of the White House), and everybody has always been very nice to me. They've always had my back, and I see the joy and happiness in their eyes. “

She hugs and strokes her teddies many times a day, and I see the joy and happiness in their eyes. “

“Now these teddy bears make up for all the hunger,” she said.

Deborah Cole, AFP

Mexican president details plan to ‘de-fang’ independent watchdog

By Deborah Cole, AFP

Washington

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador laid out plans yesterday to restore the country’s federal information institute, along with other watches which he said “has been used to put pressure on the government”.

President López Obrador said that after the government’s 2019 election, it was “being used to put pressure on the government”.

The government is expected to announce its plans on Thursday.

The single charge of “obstruction of justice” will be filed against the Republican-controlled Senate, which will have to decide whether to remove the president from office.

The president has so far refused to accept the election result and has called for a recount.

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A golden earring found in a burial mound.

The newly excavated graves also revealed an untouched burial of a camel in its natural resting position with its legs folded under the body. This suggests that the camel was laid to the burial pit, made to kneel, was dagged alongside with its tail.

The special finding will help the authorities with the demonstration and usage of cattle, and the ritual practices that existed in pre-Islamic Arabia.

In 1961, a similar grave containing the remains of a dromedary was excavated at Abu Samra by team led by Maurice E. Noyes at the University of Pennsylvania.