**Gulf Times**

**QATAR** | Page 20

---

### In brief

**Zubarah's heritage listings hoped lift economic hopes**

More than 600 students from different schools in Qatar have visited the archaeological excavation and restoration project since January.

By Bernice James

![Image of students visiting the excavations in Al Zubarah.](image-url)

"This approach allows us to build relations with the people bringing to life sites and places that are already firmly rooted in the collective imagination," said Prof W almsley recalled.

Prof W almsley highlighted the need to foster a greater understanding of the past and its significance in today's society.

"Taking care of a nation's heritage equates to caring for its identity," said Prof W almsley.

The outcomes of the outreach activities are expected to be more effective in the future, as awareness campaigns continue to gain momentum.

---

**Qatar makes surprise bid for Asian Cup hockey**

By N Prakash

H eraldy gets to Qatar, keep your fingers crossed for the young and upcoming cricketers in the country. The Al Arabi lift cup in thrilling finale.

The first round of the competition started in November and ended in March 2024. Al Arabi lifted the cup, defeating Al Ahli in the final.

Although this was a surprise bid, it has given an opportunity to Qatar hockey teams to participate in international events, which will help in the overall development of the sport in the country.

---

**Oil prices on drop in Iranian exports**

Oil prices rallied yesterday on news that Iranian exports have fallen considerably since the talks over the nuclear deal began earlier this year.

The benchmark Brent crude oil hit a high of $82.00 per barrel, while the US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose to $79.90 per barrel.

However, some analysts believe that the recent gains could be short-lived, as the talks in Vienna are expected to end soon.

---

**Europe slaps travel ban and assets freeze on Assad’s wife**

European Union also targets the British-born Hana al-Assad, the wife of Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad.

The sanctions were imposed due to her involvement in the regime’s brutality and human rights abuses.

The sanctions also included a travel ban and an assets freeze.

---

**Emir holds talks with Pakistan’s prime minister**

The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, held high-level talks with Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the 20th World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

The talks focused on bilateral relations and regional developments.

---

**Four youths die in blast**

Four youths died in blast in a Shia stronghold in the south of Syria, near the city of Qamishli.

The blast was reportedly caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Islamic State (IS) militants.

The attack is the latest in a series of attacks targeting Shia communities in the region, highlighting the ongoing threat posed by extremist groups.

---

**Qatar to host Asia’s biggest hockey tournament**

Qatar hockey has already awarded Qatar a hosting nation for these two tournaments – the 2013 Asia Cup and the 2013 Asia Cup.

The hosting country will receive a financial boost as well as the opportunity to showcase the growth of the sport in the country.

---

**Qatar has topped all the criteria required by the IHF and we have full support from the Qatar Olympic Committee**

Qatar has been working hard to organize the World Hockey League (IHF) tournament, which will be held in Qatar in October 2024.

The tournament is expected to attract international teams, including Asia Cup champions.

---

**Al Arabi lift cup in thrilling finale**

The Al Arabi team won the Al Arabi lift cup in a thrilling finale against Al Ahli.

Al Arabi scored a dramatic goal in the final seconds of the game to secure the title, ending Al Ahli’s hopes of a third consecutive victory.

The victory will boost the confidence of the Qatar hockey team and could open up opportunities for the country to host more international tournaments.

---

**Qatar’s Hockey Federation has already awarded Qatar a hosting nation for these two tournaments**

The Qatar Hockey Federation is considering several venues across the country for the tournaments, including Al Gharrafa Sports Club, Al Sadd, and Al Rayyan Sports Club.

The venues will be chosen based on their infrastructure, accessibility, and capacity to host international events.
Pakistanis celebrate national day

By Ashraf Siddiqui

Large participation of families with children in traditional dresses was the highlight of Pakistan’s 72nd National Day celebrated yesterday at the embassy.

Pakistan ambassador Mohamed Sarfraz Khanzada hoisted the national flag in a ceremony in the morning. He congratulated the community and read messages from President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani.

Embassy’s consular section head conducted the ceremony. Official Mohamed Afzal recited prayers for the prosperity, strength and unity of the Pakistani nation and community members living in Qatar.

Guests were served a traditional breakfast with freshly prepared puri and chana, topped off with halwa.

Pakistan Day is not only an occasion of celebration but also an opportunity to reiterate pledge to keep working hard for the attainment of objectives contained in Pakistan Resolution.

Cables of congratulations

HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and HH the Heir Apparent Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani have sent cables of congratulations to the Pakistani president on the occasion of his country’s national day. HE the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor al-Thani has also sent a cable of congratulations to the president on the occasion.

Ambassador Khanzada addressing community members.

Fun and games at Spring Fair

By Fran Gillespie

The parents and teachers of Dutch-speaking students attending Compass International School in Gharafa held their annual “Lentefeest” Spring Fair yesterday morning in the grounds of the school.

As well as the usual fun and games on offer – bouncy castles, face painting, water games involving getting wet, such as water bowling, to the enjoyment of puppies and satellite dishes – the young children offered lively displays of disco and break dancing, gymnastics and performances on recorder and keyboard, received with enthusiastic applause from their friends and parents.

Silk paintings, jewelry and books were on offer at a small craft fair. The Lentefeest was attended by the ambassadors of Holland and Belgium, John Groffen and Luuk de Volder.

Young visitors to the Al Zubarah archaeological site are fascinated by a heavy, teardrop-shaped pearl diver's weight found during the excavations, right. The site is hopefully going to be Qatar’s first on the Unesco World Heritage List.

The Qatar Museums Authority and the University of Copenhagen have launched an outreach programme at the site to teach students about the archaeological heritage of Qatar. The project’s outreach officer, Nasreen Mohamed, explained that pearl divers in the 18th and 19th century hung these weights around their ankles, to help them descend quickly to the pearl banks on the sea bed. A corner tower of the palace in Al Zubarah is now conserved and partially restored after five months of intensive work, below.

Fascinating Zubarah