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Qatar hails Syria force integration, condemns attack in central Nigeria

Qatar has welcomed the integration of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) into the military institutions of the country, while separately condemning an attack in Nigeria's Niger State that left fatalities and dozens abducted. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the SDF integration as an important step towards consolidating civil peace, strengthening security and stability, and building a state governed by institutions and the rule of law. It reiterated Qatar's position that Syria's stability and prosperity require the state to hold a monopoly on the use of force through a single army representing all Syrians, thereby preserving the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. **(QNA)**

Iran says Hormuz deal with Oman not yet finalised

Iran and Oman are still working on the details of a deal on the Strait of Hormuz, a senior Iranian source said, even as Tehran's Revolutionary Guards said the two countries had agreed how to share the waterway and its revenues. "A final agreement with Oman over the Strait of Hormuz has not been finalised," the source told Reuters, adding that talks were continuing on the details of an accord. The Guards' spokesman, Hossein Mohebbi, said in comments carried by Iranian state media: "The Strait of Hormuz belongs to Iran and the country of Oman... We have been in negotiations with Oman for about a month, and we have reached results that are acceptable to both sides. **To Page 7**

PM flies to Tehran today in bid to revive dialogue

■ Visit caps months of Qatari diplomacy against all odds

By Kamran Rehmat
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani flies to Tehran today for talks with senior Iranian officials, carrying Doha's case for de-escalation directly to the Iranian capital at a moment when the Strait of Hormuz has been shut to normal traffic for close to six months.

Announcing this in a post on X yesterday, HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Spokesperson for Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed al-Ansari tweeted: "HE the Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani will arrive in Tehran tomorrow (Thursday), where he will meet with a number of Iranian officials to discuss ways to de-escalate tensions & create the conditions conducive to dialogue."

"The visit", he tweeted, "comes in



line with the State of Qatar's firm position that the diplomatic path is the best means of resolving differences & promoting security & stability in the region.

"The discussions will also address freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz & the need for it to return to the status quo prior to February 28"

The last clause fixes the yardstick for any maritime settlement not at a negotiated corridor or a supervised lane, but at the waterway as it operated before the war began.

The visit caps months of Qatari diplomacy against all odds. At the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs' weekly media briefing on Tuesday, Dr al-Ansari said Doha had kept its channels open across the region and beyond in an effort to coax Washington and Tehran back to the table, and had cautioned from the first days of the crisis that the damage from any escalation would not stop at the region's edge but would reach the world economy.

He set out what Qatar wants from a settlement: shipping moving normally through Hormuz again, energy and food supplies protected, and supply chains left intact.

None of it, he said, is reachable except through a comprehensive diplomatic solution – one that stabilises the region while leaving every party's core interests unharmed, with freedom of navigation restored under international law.

The diplomacy is running into a hardening backdrop. Washington has begun a fresh sanctions drive against Iran that reaches across aviation, shipping, technology, gold and digital assets, while US President Donald Trump has declared the strait clear of mines and vowed to sink any vessel that tries to lay more. "We are watching every square inch of the strait," he said.

To Page 7

PM stresses diplomacy in Saudi, Bahraini FMs calls

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held a phone call yesterday with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah al-Saud, during which they discussed bilateral co-operation and ways to enhance it, along with the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts and joint co-ordination to de-escalate tensions and bolster security and stability in the region. During the call, HE the Prime Minister reaffirmed Qatar's support for all diplomatic efforts and endeavours aimed at reaching a resolution that ensures freedom of maritime navigation and paves the way for a comprehensive agreement achieving lasting peace in the region.

In a separate call, the Prime Minister spoke with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain Dr Abdullah bin Rashid al-Zayani, during which they discussed bilateral co-operation and ways to advance it, as well as the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts and joint co-ordination to reduce tensions and enhance security and stability in the region. HE the Prime Minister stressed Qatar's full support for diplomatic efforts. **(QNA)**



Three new parks for Al Wakra, Al Wukair

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Municipality has thrown open the gates to three new parks in Al Wakra and Al Wukair, adding fresh green lungs to the two municipalities and giving residents new spaces to walk, play and unwind close to home.

The parks, Al Mashmoum and Al Khuzama in Al Wakra, and Al Arak in Al Wukair, were developed by the ministry's Public Parks Department in co-ordination with the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), built to international standards and designed to serve the community for years to come.

The projects support the Ministry of Municipal-

ity's 2024-2030 strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly their goals of expanding green spaces, improving quality of life and building sustainable, healthy environments for citizens and residents alike. The opening was attended by Mohamed bin Ali al-Athba, chairman of the Central Municipal Council; Abdullah Ahmed al-Karani,

assistant undersecretary for public services affairs at the Ministry of Municipality, alongside a number of senior ministry officials and representatives of Ashghal.

The three parks take their names, Al Mashmoum, Al Khuzama and Al Arak, from the local environment, a deliberate choice that reflects efforts to strengthen national identity. **To Page 7**

Nepal's nightmare



A frame grab shows floodwaters crashing through the Bhote Koshi River after flash floods in Nepal's Rasuwa district yesterday. It killed at least 160, left hundreds missing, including foreign tourists, and damaged roads and power infrastructure as authorities scrambled to assess the scale of the destruction. **(AFP) Page 9**

Cabinet posts real estate tokenisation draft on Sharek platform for feedback

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting at the Amiri Diwan yesterday, where members approved a draft bill regulating real estate tokenisation and the trading of real estate tokens, along with its draft executive regulations.

The bill, prepared by the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality, Qatar Central Bank, the Qatar Financial Markets Authority and the General Real Estate Regulatory Authority, establishes a comprehensive legal framework defining the nature of a real estate token and the rights of its owner, regulating its trading, and linking it directly to the Real Estate Registry to safeguard transactions and protect investors.

To Page 7

Draft Bill on Real Estate Tokenisation



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HE Minister of State for International Cooperation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with ambassador of Portugal to Qatar Ana Filomena da Costa Rocha. They discussed cooperation relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them, in addition to a number of topics of common interest. HE Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad also met with ambassador of Spain to Qatar Alvaro Renedo Zalba. The meeting discussed cooperation relations between the two countries and ways of further developing them, in addition to several topics of mutual interest. **(QNA)**

Minister meets ambassadors of Portugal and Spain



Jordanian speaker meets Qatar's envoy



Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Mazen Qadi, met with ambassador of Qatar to Jordan, Sheikh Saud bin Nasser bin Jassim al-Thani. They reviewed cooperation relations between the two countries and emphasized the deep-rooted fraternal and historical ties that bind Qatar and Jordan. The speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives affirmed the House's commitment to developing parliamentary relations with Qatar's Shura Council, strengthening communication, consultation, and the exchange of expertise and positions on issues of common interest. For his part, the ambassador affirmed Qatar's commitment to enhancing bilateral relations and developing parliamentary cooperation, expressing his appreciation for the role played by the House of Representatives in regional and international parliamentary forums. The meeting was attended by First Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Representatives, Dr Khamis Atieh, and Chair of the Jordanian-Qatari Parliamentary Brotherhood Committee, Abdulrauf Rbiehat. **(QNA)**

Qatar ready to host ITU Plenipotentiary Conference

Qatar confirmed it is ready to host the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference, which will be held in Doha from Nov 9 to 27, 2026. This came during the participation of HE Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva Dr Hend Abdulrahman al-Muftah in the extraordinary session of the ITU Council, held in Geneva to review the latest developments regarding ongoing preparations for the conference. HE Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva expressed her appreciation to the ITU Council for convening the important session at a time when preparations to host the conference were proceeding at full pace. She provided a comprehensive overview of the national efforts undertaken by the relevant authorities in Qatar, led by the Communications Regulatory Authority, to ensure the successful hosting of the conference, which is the ITU's highest decision-making body. **(QNA)**



'Sustainability pivotal to Qatar's national policy'

QNA
Ulaanbaatar

Assistant Undersecretary for Protection and Natural Resources Affairs at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Dr Ibrahim Abdul Latif al-Maslamani has said that Qatar attaches great importance to environmental protection, the preservation of natural resources, and the development of biodiversity, within its national policies aimed at achieving environmental sustainability and maintaining a balance between development needs and the protection of ecosystems.

His remarks came during a meeting with Secretary-General of the Middle East Green Initiative Eng Ibrahim bin Mohammed al-Turki on the sidelines of Qatar's participation in the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP17), held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed ways to strengthen regional cooperation in combating desertification, restoring degraded lands, and developing vegetation cover. They also discussed mechanisms for advancing joint action to address the challenges of land degradation and drought, in support of regional efforts to achieve environmental sustainability goals and enhance ecosystem resilience. The discussions also covered several topics of mutual interest, most notably the exchange of expertise and successful experiences among countries in the region, as well as the promotion of nature-based solutions for rehabilitating degraded lands and restoring ecosystems, alongside the use of modern technologies and scientific innovations to monitor land



degradation, develop vegetation cover, and improve the efficiency of natural resource management.

Dr al-Maslamani emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination among countries in the region to address shared environmental challenges, noting that combating desertification and restoring degraded lands require the integration of national and regional efforts, the adoption of best scientific practices and modern technologies, and the development of practical programs that reflect the environmental and climatic characteristics of each country.

He also highlighted Qatar's key efforts to protect the terrestrial environment, develop wildlife, and conserve natural resources, along with programs and initiatives aimed at expanding vegetation cover, rehabilitating natural habitats, and restoring ecosystems, in line with Qatar's national priorities and its commitments under international environmental agreements.

MoECC, IUCN discuss requirements for Khor Al Adaid's heritage inscription

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has held a series of meetings with a delegation from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) during the delegation's visit to Qatar from Aug 23-26. This is part of efforts related to the Khor Al Adaid Natural Reserve and discussions on the requirements and steps required to prepare a nomination dossier for the reserve's inscription on the Unesco World Heritage List. The visit marks the preliminary stage that offers Qatar an opportunity to capitalize on the IUCN's

expertise and technical consultations, with the latter being the consultative entity concerned with assessing global heritage sites. The move would obviously help identify aspects that require further work and upgrading and support a dossier that fulfills the approved requirements and standards. The meetings took stock of the visit objectives and agenda, in addition to discussing the foremost aspects pertinent to this dossier and exchanging views on the required steps throughout the upcoming phase. In addition, the

discussions covered Khor Al Adaid's distinctive natural characteristics, efforts to protect and manage the reserve, monitor its environmental condition, and document its natural features. The agenda covered a two-day field tour to the reserve, during which the delegation got familiarized with the salient natural and environmental characteristics and had a glimpse of the diverse landscape and unique natural configuration of this reserve, alongside Qatar's efforts to protect the reserve's components. **(QNA)**



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Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period Start Date	Tender Sale Period End Date	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	GT26104200	27.08.2026	02.09.2026	11.10.2026	360,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR

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Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : **To be advised if required**

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2	GT26104400	27.08.2026	02.09.2026	11.10.2026	1,500,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR

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Amir sends cables of condolences to president of Estonia

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of condolences to the President of the Republic of Estonia Alar Karis, on the death of former prime minister Siim Kallas.

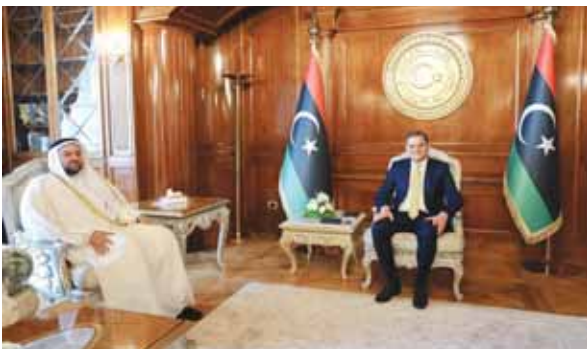
Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of condolences to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia Kristen Michal, on the death of former prime minister Siim Kallas. **(QNA)**

Libyan unity government PM meets Qatar’s minister

The Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity of the State of Libya Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibeh met yesterday in Tripoli with HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, as well as developments in the regional situation and a number of issues of mutual interest. Dr al-Khulaifi affirmed the State of Qatar's support for Libya's unity and stability, and its keenness to support the political process and peaceful solutions that respond to the aspirations of the Libyan people and preserve Libya's sovereignty.

HE Dr al-Khulaifi also highlighted the importance of continuing dialogue and supporting mediation and national



reconciliation efforts, in a manner that contributes to strengthening consensus among Libyans and creating conditions conducive to stability, affirming the State of Qatar’s continued engagement with various Libyan parties and leaders in support of UN efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement. **(QNA)**

Minister bids farewell to Libyan envoy

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with the ambassador of the State of Libya to the State of Qatar Mohammed Mustafa al-Saghir al-Lafi, on the occasion of the end of his tenure.

HE Dr al-Misnad expressed her appreciation to the ambassador for his efforts in supporting and strengthening bilateral relations, wishing him success in his new duties. **(QNA)**



Mol official meets Kuwaiti ambassador

HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Abdullah bin Khalaf bin Hattab al-Kaabi met with ambassador of Kuwait to Qatar Ahmed Abdulrahman al-Shuraim. They discussed co-operation relations in the security fields and ways to support and develop them, and a number of issues of mutual interest. **(QNA)**

Yunus Emre to launch cultural season in Sept

The Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Center of the Turkish embassy in the State of Qatar unveiled yesterday the launch of its new educational and cultural season on Sept 13, 2026.

The move is dedicated to projecting the Turkish language and culture in pursuit of strengthening the bridges of cultural engagement between the State of Qatar and Turkiye through a combination of a wide diversity of programs that showcase education, arts, patrimony, and cultural activities.

The centre highlighted that a range of Turkish language courses and workshops in traditional arts would be staged

throughout this new season, including oil painting, gilding, Arabic calligraphy, and Turkish marbling (Ebru), as well as wide-ranging cultural and artistic activities that provide participants with a practical, interactive experience of various aspects of Turkish culture.

The programme gives overriding priority to heritage and sports-related activities through conducting training in Turkish traditional marksmanship and courses in popular folks, in addition to holding professional workshops to promote a deeper appreciation of Turkish cuisine, culinary traditions, and culinary arts as an integral expression of

Turkiye’s cultural heritage.

In addition, the centre would keep organising artistic exhibitions and concerts, along with a variety of cultural events throughout the season, with the aim of projecting this culture to a broader spectrum of audiences and enhancing interaction and Qatar-Turkiye people-to-people cultural connections.

The centre director, Anwar Gidik, emphasised that the centre is committed to preparing a wide variety of programmes in terms of educational and artistic courses. He noted that the centre always welcomes all who wish to have a closer look at Turkish culture. **(QNA)**



Tender - Waseef

Waseef Asset Management (Waseef) would like to invite competent Service Providers for the below Open Tenders:

Tender Number	Subject	Bid Bond (QAR)	Non-refundable Tender Fee (QAR)	Last Date for Tender Collection	Bid Submission Closing Date
GTC/WSF/KCC/26/2026	TENDER FOR REMOVAL OF EXISTING, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF KITCHEN COUNTERTOP, KITCHEN CABINETS AND ALL ACCESSORIES INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS MANAGED BY WASEEF	18,000	500	September 16, 2026	September 24, 2026
GTC/WSF/ARG/RT/27/2026	TENDER FOR THE RECTIFICATION OF TOILET FLOOR REVERSE SLOPES, INCLUDING WATERPROOFING AND ASSOCIATED CIVIL WORKS AT ARGENTINE NEIGHBORHOOD	13,000	500	September 16, 2026	September 24, 2026
GTC/WSF/AKC/RTS/28/2026	TENDER FOR THE FABRICATION, SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNAGES AT AL KHOR COMMUNITY	8,000	500	September 16, 2026	September 23, 2026
GTC/WSF/WP/29/2026	TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF ROOF WATERPROOFING WORKS IN VARIOUS PROJECTS MANAGED BY WASEEF	17,000	500	September 16, 2026	September 23, 2026
GTC/WSF/BABLC/SC/31/2026	TENDER FOR REMEDIAL AND REPAIR WORKS FOR STRUCTURAL CRACKS, SOIL GROUTING, AND WATERPROOFING WORKS AT BARWA AL BARAHA LABOUR ACCOMODATION PROJECT	100,000	1,000	September 13, 2026	September 21, 2026

The Tender Document will be available from **August 27, 2026** onwards upon submission of the below documentation to tender@waseef.qa.

To collect please provide the following:

- Authorization Letter on Company letterhead, copy of Commercial Registration and valid Identification of the representative.
- Bank deposit slip carrying tender number and subject details. Tender fee shall be deposited to Account Name – Waseef Asset Management Co., Account Number **0002-105222-200** with Al Rayan Bank.

Minimum requirements to be eligible for obtaining the Tender Documents:

GTC/WSF/KCC/26/2026 | GTC/WSF/ARG/RT/27/2026 | GTC/WSF/WP/29/2026

- Valid Commercial Registration (CR): company must have valid CR in the state of Qatar
- Commercial Registration(CR): should hold General contracting or Building Maintenance

GTC/WSF/AKC/RTS/28/2026

- Commercial Registration (CR): A valid Qatar CR explicitly listing activities related to general contracting, road works, sign manufacturing, or traffic safety equipment.
- Trade License: A valid municipal trade license matching the company's operational address.

GTC/WSF/BABLC/SC/31/2026

- Valid Commercial Registration (CR): Company must have valid CR in the state of Qatar
- Commercial Registration (CR): should hold General Contracting or Building Maintenance
- The contractor shall hold a valid classification certificate (1st or 2nd Grades only) in the state of Qatar under the (Building / Buildings Maintenance), and shall provide evidence of previous experience in similar works, including structural rehabilitation, strengthening, and cracks repair in existing structures

Please note the following:

- Bidders should submit a bid bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar, valid for 120 days from the tender closing date, corresponding to an expiry date (162-22 Jan. 2027 ; 364 - 21 Jan. 2027 ; 5- 19 Jan. 2027)
- Technical and Commercial offers must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes and delivered to the below-mentioned address: GTC Secretary, 3rd floor, Waseef Head Office, New Waseef Tower (formerly Alaqaria Tower), Museum Park Street, Doha, Qatar



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Ooredoo Group has been certified as a Great Place to Work, reflecting a culture and employee experience deliberately built to help the brightest minds make tangible impact — reinforcing Ooredoo’s position as an employer of choice in the region. The Great Place to Work recognition was based entirely on confidential employee feedback, making it a direct reflection of how Ooredoo’s people experience the workplace every day. 89% of employees who completed the Trust Index Survey confirmed that Ooredoo is a great place to work, with over 92% expressing pride in working for Ooredoo. Chris James, Acting Group chief HR and Sustainability officer, Ooredoo, said: “Every achievement we’ve celebrated as a company has started with people. Technology evolves quickly, but curiosity, ambition, collaboration, and the will to keep evolving and progressing remain the foundations of lasting success.”

QMC chairman meets Spanish ambassador



HE the Chairman of Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani met yesterday with ambassador of Spain to Qatar, Alvaro Renedo Zalba. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries in the media field and ways to support and develop them, in addition to several topics of mutual interest. (QNA)

Sixth edition of ‘Lekhwiya’s Ashbal’ programme concludes



The Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) concluded the sixth edition of the “Lekhwiya’s Ashbal” Programme 2026, which was held from August 9 to 26, in the presence of Deputy Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Major General Staff Mohammed Misfer al-Shahwani. The programme was organised as part of Lekhwiya’s efforts to instil national values and strengthen the participants’ sense of loyalty and belonging through training programmes that contribute to building self-confidence, developing skills to face challenges, and dealing with difficult circumstances. (QNA)

Safari’s new outlet in Sheehaniya set to open today

Safari Hypermarket, which has been continuing its success story in Qatar for nearly two decades, will open its ninth outlet in Sheehaniya today. One of the key features of the new outlet is that it will remain open 24 hours a day for customers’ convenience. Safari Group, which launched its first Safari Hypermarket on Salwa Road on May 5, 2005, is a homegrown Qatar-based establishment that has flourished and is aimed at providing customers

with quality products while introducing distinctive promotions and activities from the very beginning. Safari, which pioneered prize promotions without requiring a purchase through its “Visit & Win” promotion, also offers visitors the chance to win without making a purchase whenever new outlets open. The highly popular “Visit & Win” mega promotion, recently introduced at Safari’s newly opened outlet in Logistic Vil-

lage, has now been extended to the new Sheehaniya outlet as well. Customers who visit the outlet can receive a free coupon without making a purchase and stand a chance to win one of two 2025 Chevrolet Captiva cars. The promotion runs from August 3 to November 4. The first draw will be held on September 17 at the Safari outlet in Logistic Village, while the second draw will take place on November 5 at the new Sheehaniya outlet. In addition, Safari’s widely

popular promotions such as the “10, 20, 30” promotion, “Items for 1–9 Qatar Riyals,” and “Safari Midnight Deals,” along with its active participation in celebrations across different nationalities, languages, and cultures, have always made Safari a favourite among customers. The new outlet is expected to provide residents of Sheehaniya and surrounding areas with a convenient and outstanding shopping experience. Along with fresh food, gro-

ceries, fruits, vegetables, meat, and fish, the outlet offers an extensive range of products across bakery and hot food counters, cosmetics, ready-made garments, electronics, stationery, and other categories at highly attractive prices. In addition to 24-hour service, the outlet offers fast billing and excellent customer service. Attractive offers and events have also been arranged in connection with the inauguration. Safari Group deputy chairman

and managing director Zainul Abideen stated in a press release that Safari remains committed to providing products at the lowest possible market prices without compromising on quality. He added that the new Sheehaniya outlet is part of Safari’s ongoing expansion strategy to increase the number of outlets and make Safari’s services easily accessible to customers across Qatar. He further stated that more Safari outlets are expected to open in the near future.



HBKU, Center for Wellbeing sign MoU to advance research, community development

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and The Center for Wellbeing have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen research and knowledge exchange in community development, and support evidence-based policies and programmes in Qatar. The agreement was signed by Prof Ahmed Abdulrahman al-Emadi, Acting CEO, The Center for Wellbeing, and Dr Maryam al-Mannai, Vice-President for Student Affairs Hamad Bin Khalifa University in the presence of executive leadership from both institutions. The university stated in a statement yesterday that this partnership will combine the research capabilities of HBKU and the community-focused expertise of The Center for Wellbeing to reinforce institutional capacity. It will support joint research, professional development, and specialised training, with opportunities for researchers, professionals and other members of both institutions to exchange expertise and engage in shared initiatives. A key area of the MoU will be the collection and analysis of data on well-being and quality-of-life indicators, contributing to the development of a scientific database for The Center’s Wellbe-

ing Observatory. By connecting research, data, and professional expertise with community needs, the partnership will help generate evidence that can inform community initiatives, policies, and programmes, reinforcing HBKU’s commitment to driving locally relevant, high-impact solutions for Qatar and the region. Commenting on the collaboration, Prof al-Emadi said: “This agreement with Hamad Bin Khalifa University marks a milestone in the journey of The Center for Wellbeing. We are confident that our efforts and the alignment of visions between our two institutions will serve as a cornerstone for advancing sustainability, benefiting our society while opening new horizons for integration, innovation, and collaboration.” Dr al-Mannai stated: “We are pleased to partner with The Center for Wellbeing, bringing together academic expertise and field experience to address issues central to the well-being and development of Qatari society. By connecting research with real-world needs, this collaboration will create opportunities for our researchers and students to contribute to meaningful research, enrich their understanding of community challenges, and translate knowledge into impact.” (QNA)

QC’s Integrated Development Programme phase II drives lasting change across Nepal

Qatar Charity Nepal’s Integrated Development Programme Phase II (2022–2026) demonstrates the value of integrated investment in essential services, economic resilience and emergency preparedness. With total grants of NPR1,264,255,804.31 and expenditure of NPR1,115,622,488.56 as of July 31, the programme combined long-term development with timely humanitarian action, helping vulnerable communities gain access to safer water, better education, stronger livelihoods, improved healthcare, and protection during crises. Implemented in co-ordination with Nepal’s Social Welfare Council, government authorities, local governments, community institutions and local partners, the programme delivered 3,003 development projects and nine emergency-response projects. Based on the sector figures reported, these interventions directly reached at least 119,693 people across education, livelihoods and social welfare, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, and disaster response. In education, 126 projects benefited 18,149 people. Support included school construction, scholarships, learning materials, bicycles and laptops for students in need, school furniture, transport assistance and sanitation facilities. Together, these measures improved access, attendance and the quality and safety of learning environments, particularly for disadvantaged children and young people. A further 899 projects reached 19,647 beneficiaries through social housing, women’s livelihood



initiatives, small-business and vocational support, agricultural inputs, livestock, poultry and beekeeping, irrigation, disability assistance, food aid and Eid

clothing distribution. The package strengthened household incomes, food security, self-reliance and social inclusion among women, persons

with disabilities and low-income families. The largest portfolio was WASH, health, and hygiene, with 1,969 interventions serving 62,837 people. Projects included shallow tube wells, deep-bore water and irrigation schemes, sanitation facilities in schools and hospitals, reverse-osmosis purification plants, cataract screening and surgery camps, health camps and ambulance support. These investments expanded access to safe drinking water, sanitation and healthcare while supporting water availability for domestic and agricultural use. Nine emergency-response projects assisted 19,060 people affected by climate and disaster risks. Activities covered heatwave preparedness in the Terai, earthquake dignity kits, winterisation assistance, dengue-prevention kits, flood and landslide response, food baskets, nutritional support and other in-kind relief. The interventions provided rapid, practical help while strengthening community resilience and complementing national preparedness and response systems. Across all sectors, the programme supported Nepal’s progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty reduction, health, quality education, clean water and sanitation, decent work, reduced inequalities, sustainable communities, climate action and partnerships. Through its community-centred approach, Qatar Charity Nepal translated substantial funding into practical services and lasting opportunities for underserved communities nationwide.

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NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, LYLE RUPERT SUNIL LOBO
holder of
INDIA Passport No. V8546328
QID No. 31235601398
hereby change my name
from
LYLE RUPERT SUNIL LOBO
to
LYLE NATHAN LOBO

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
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QF to host second Qiyada conference in Sept

Qatar Foundation (QF) will host the second edition of the Qiyada conference on September 25–26 under the theme “Guided by Faith: Thriving in a Changing World”, bringing together Muslim youth aged 17–24 from across Qatar alongside scholars, thought leaders, and inspirational figures at Multaqa (Education City Student Centre) in Education City. Sponsored by Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIB) as the official sponsor, and the Ministry of Sports and Youth as the participant sponsor, this year’s conference will aim to empower youth to tackle global challenges, explore Islamic values, foster leadership skills, and promote multi-cultural understanding through insightful keynote sessions and interactive workshops. In a statement issued yesterday, the QF said this year’s edition features a prominent lineup of speakers from diverse cultural backgrounds, including globally-renowned scholar and theological-

ly-driven activist for human rights Dr Omar Suleiman and Dr Hanan Ahmed al-Qattan, the founder and director of Etizan Centre for Psychological, Educational, and Shariah Consultation and Training. Commenting on the Ministry of Sports and Youth’s sponsorship of the conference, Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Affairs Ahmed Mohammed al-Harami said: “The Ministry of Sports and Youth support for the second edition of the Qiyada Conference stems from our belief in the importance of providing spaces that enable young people to engage in dialogue, learn, and exchange ideas, while enhancing their ability to consciously navigate the changes taking place in the world, while preserving their identity, values, and principles.” “Our support for this conference reflects our firm belief that investing in young people is one of the most meaningful investments we can make in the future of our nation,” said QIIB chief executive

Dr Abdulbasit Ahmed al-Shaibei. “It is also part of our commitment to empowering the next generation with the knowledge, values, and leadership skills needed to navigate today’s challenges with confidence, purpose, and resilience.” The annual Qiyada conference is intended for Muslim youth who are interested in issues of faith, identity, leadership, and community engagement – particularly high school and university students throughout Qatar. The conference is also open to non-Muslim students who are interested in participating in meaningful dialogues and exchanging new perspectives. Initiated by the Office of Wellness and Spiritual Life within the QF, this conference supports Qatar Foundation’s mission to promote education, leadership, and innovation. It also aligns with the QF’s overarching commitment to driving global impact and social advancement through collaboration, dialogue, and value-driven education. (QNA)

RACA Forum discusses challenges facing non-profit sector

QNA
Doha

The Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA) organised a forum to discuss the key results of updating the national assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing risks and its implications for the non-profit sector, with the aim of enhancing governance, transparency and financial integrity in these organisations, in line with local laws, international standards and the modern trends of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The forum discussed ways to enable non-profit organisations to understand the results of the updated national assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing risks and its implications for the non-profit sector, and to benefit from it in identifying and

managing the risks specific to each organisation, according to the nature of its activities, sources of funding and the geographical areas in which it operates.

In this context, Director of the Office of the Director General of the RACA Khalid Abdulrahman al-Musleh said that the forum is of particular importance as it coincides with the updating of the national assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing risks, as it is one of the important national tools for understanding the nature of the risks, challenges and aspects that require further strengthening at the state level and in the various sectors.

He indicated that the RACA was keen to include some of the results of the update of the National Risk Assessment in the context of the non-profit sector, in order to support the formation of an integrated picture of the nature of the challenges

that the sector may face.

In turn, Director of Policy and Risk Management at the National Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Committee (NAMLC) Ahmed Issa al-Mannai indicated that the importance of the forum lies in the fact that it does not only address the National Risk Assessment from a theoretical standpoint, but also focuses on the key updates and what the results of this process mean for the non-governmental organisations sector, and ways to benefit from them in developing its risk management.

He pointed out that the role of the NAMLC is to support co-ordination and co-operation between national authorities, and to promote joint action to address the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing, including supporting efforts related to reducing risks and achieving national priorities.

As part of the forum's activities, Ziad Sweidan, a risk management and compliance expert at the RACA, addressed two main topics. The first reviewed the results of updating the national assessment of money laundering, terrorist financing, and arms proliferation financing risks in the context of the non-profit sector, and risk-based self-regulation and its role in protecting non-profit organisations from the risks of exploitation.

The second topic addressed the key results and methodology of updating the national assessment of money laundering, terrorist financing and arms proliferation risks for 2020-2024, its implications for the non-profit sector and the required actions in light of it.

He also addressed the concept of risk-based self-regulation, the importance of linking national and sectoral risk assessments to the self-assessment of organisa-

tions, and the application of controls and measures proportionate to risks in a way that contributes to protecting organisations from exploitation without affecting their legitimate activities.

The third topic of the forum addressed the presentation of practical models for developing risk-based self-regulation, during which two practical experiences of Qatar Charity and the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) in the field of self-assessment of risks and designing appropriate preventive measures were reviewed.

On the other hand, Chief Governance and External Affairs Officer at Qatar Charity Mohammed Ali al-Ghamdi addressed the Qatar Charity's experience in employing artificial intelligence to enhance compliance and reduce risks in humanitarian and development work. In addition, Qatar Charity uses artificial intelligence to assess country risks, apply due

diligence procedures towards partners, examine suppliers and supply chains, monitor humanitarian projects, and prepare oversight reports.

He also highlighted controls for the safe and responsible use of AI, the application of a supervisory approach that is commensurate with the level of risk, and directing supervisory resources towards the highest risks, rather than distributing them equally.

For his part, Hajjaj Ibrahim, representative of QRCS, showcased QRCS's methodology for conducting self-assessments of money laundering and terrorist financing risks, addressing the risk factors and their assessment mechanisms, the methodology used in risk assessment, the key main risk factors, in addition to the general framework of supervisory measures adopted in accordance with the risk-based approach.



Three new parks for Al Wakrah, Al Wukair

From Page 1

It celebrates the country's environmental and cultural heritage, and preserve local names in public facilities for generations to come.

Al-Karani said the openings form part of the ministry's continued drive to improve public services and facilities and expand the development of parks and recreational areas that provide healthy and sustainable environments for all segments of society.

He noted that the parks were designed around residents' needs, blending green spaces with recreational, sports and leisure facilities intended to encourage outdoor physical activity and healthier lifestyles.

The projects also reflect the ministry's focus on spreading green and recreational facilities across different areas, bringing parks and their amenities closer to residents' doorsteps, he added.

Mohamed Ibrahim al-Sada, director of the Public Parks Department at the Ministry of Municipality, said the three projects are community neighbourhood parks designed to offer a range of services, including sports facilities, walking and running tracks, children's play areas and restrooms.

Al Mashmoum Park covers a total area of 4,394 square metres, including 2,396 square metres of agricultural and planted areas and 68 trees. The park also features 927 square metres of pedestrian walkways and a 204-metre running track, encouraging visitors to stay active. A 232-square-metre children's play area and a 45-square-metre outdoor fitness area round out the offering, along with restrooms and seating distributed throughout the park.

Al Khuzama Park spans 3,284 square metres, including 1,376 square metres of green spaces with 59 trees. The park has 900 square



metres of pedestrian walkways and a 178-metre running track, in addition to a 276-square-metre children's play area. Its 32-square-metre fitness area is equipped with modern exercise equipment, while restrooms and seating cater to visitors seeking relaxation and recreation.

Al Arak Park covers 3,936 square metres, with 2,126 square

metres of green spaces containing 56 trees. It includes 844 square metres of pedestrian walkways and a 164-metre running track, alongside a 222-square-metre children's play area. The park also features a 46-square-metre outdoor fitness area equipped with modern exercise equipment, as well as restrooms and seating areas for visitors.



Iran says Hormuz deal with Oman not finalised yet

From Page 1

Agreements have been reached regarding the share of each country in the waters of the Strait and the share of Iran and Oman in its revenues." It was not immediately clear at what stage of the talks the agreements had been reached. Iran said earlier this month that a deal was close.

Following talks between the two countries' foreign ministers in Tehran on Tuesday, Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi said he was "hopeful we will soon announce a temporary corridor for the Strait of Hormuz and practical arrangements to restore safe navigation". The two sides discussed a framework for a temporary transit corridor and a mine-clearing project in the waterway.

Mohebbi accused the United States of seeking to obstruct the negotiations and of delaying an accord. "If the United States stops obstructing and returns to the agreement, we can open the Strait of Hormuz within the framework of the agreement reached... If the United States does not accept our conditions, the Strait of Hormuz will not be opened under any circumstances," he said.

Tehran has insisted the strait will not fully reopen until Washington meets its demands, including lifting its naval blockade, removing oil sanctions and unfreezing assets abroad. A key point of contention is Tehran's demand to charge ships for passage through Hormuz - a demand flatly rejected by Washington. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told allies the US did not expect to launch new strikes against Iran for now, Axios reported. Oil prices fell for a third day, dropping more than 1.5%, on signs of renewed efforts to mediate an end to the war.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, in a letter to the United Nations, denounced the new US sanctions as collective punishment denying Iranians food and medicine, accusing Washington of "the unilateralism and bullying of a rogue state."

(Reuters, AFP)

PM flies to Tehran today in bid to revive dialogue

From Page 1

Gulf co-ordination has run alongside the Iranian track. Contacts and meetings among GCC states have not let up since February. The Gulf states are working closely together on reading threats and tracking the escalation and all six back a peaceful outcome. Qatar's own line to Iran is part of that mediation aimed squarely at getting negotiations restarted.

Today's arrival adds to a crowded few days in the Iranian capital, which has received a string of senior visitors including Oman's foreign minister and Pakistan's army chief.

An earlier truce brokered by Islamabad held from April 8, but the talks that followed never converted it into a durable settlement.

The argument Qatar has made throughout is the one the prime minister will take into his meetings: that diplomacy is the only route that holds, and that a channel carrying roughly a fifth of the world's oil cannot be left sitting on the table as a bargaining chip.

Cabinet posts real estate tokenisation draft on Sharek platform for feedback

From Page 1

The Cabinet agreed to post the draft on the "Sharek" platform of the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CGB) for 10 days to gather public feedback, ahead of referring it for legislative review.

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi briefed reporters on the outcomes.

At the outset of the meeting, the Cabinet was briefed on the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's completion of preparations for the 2026-2027 school year. They commended the sector's achievements,

particularly the construction of new schools in areas of population growth to international standards, and welcomed continued efforts to develop teaching staff and curricula. The Cabinet expressed hope that the new school year would mark a watershed moment for the education sector, in support of the Third National Development Strategy (NDS3) and Qatar National Vision 2030.

The Cabinet also approved updating the Official Gazette system, including a draft bill amending Law No. (12) of 2016 concerning the Official Gazette and a draft ministerial decision regulating its electronic publication, both prepared by the Ministry of Justice in coordination with the

Supreme Judicial Council and the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. The system is intended to provide immediate, legally authoritative publication alongside search, notification and verification services.

A proposal to organise the authorities responsible for managing and preserving official documents was also approved. Prepared by the National Archives of Qatar in coordination with CGB, it provides for a specialised unit to oversee records management in line with international best practice.

The Cabinet further approved a draft Memorandum of Understanding on financial co-operation between the governments of Qatar and Kuwait, along

with a draft amendment to the MOU among Arab members of the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force on combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Cabinet concluded by reviewing four reports, including on the Qatar Financial Markets Authority's Grievances Committee for the period July 1 to December 31, 2025; Qatar's participation in the Fifth Ministerial Conference "No Money for Terror" and the G7-GCC finance ministers' meeting in Paris in May; the seventh Qatar-Bangladesh Joint Committee on Labour Affairs in Dhaka in May; and the 79th session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May.

Brazilian narco violence spills over into tranquil Bolivia

AFP
Guayaramerin, Bolivia

A river port in the Amazon has emerged as a new battleground in the Latin American drug trade as Brazilian gangs cross into neighbouring Bolivia to battle for control of cocaine supply routes.

The Mamore river, one of the largest tributaries of the mighty Amazon, forms a natural border between Bolivia, the world's third-largest cocaine producer, and Brazil, a key exit point for drug shipments to Europe.

Travelers pour off boats cross-

ing from the Brazilian border city of Guajara-Mirim to the Bolivian town of Guayaramerin and stream past an immigration office in the port terminal without so much as giving it a second glance.

"Nobody ever checks (papers)," Donald Somoza, a 75-year-old retired bricklayer, mused as he relaxed in a nearby park.

Guayaramerin, a town of 40,000 people with dusty streets of red earth that contrast sharply with the vivid green of the jungle, survives off trade with Brazil.

It appears peaceful during the intense heat of the day, but residents say they are living in fear.

Guayaramerin, like other towns

along Bolivia's 3,423 km border with Brazil, has been infiltrated by Brazil's two most powerful organized crime groups: the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) and Comando Vermelho (CV).

A dozen murders on the Bolivian side of the border have been linked in recent weeks to the two groups, both designated terrorist organizations by the US.

The massacre of a family, the discovery of decapitated bodies and the murder of a police officer have shocked Bolivia, a country largely spared from mafia violence.

Somoza, the retiree, said he was a witness to the recent killing of a

Brazilian man in Guayaramerin's main square.

The man was shot more than 80 times, in what appeared to be score-settling between Brazilian drug traffickers.

This is "a fairly new phenomenon in Bolivia," a "very safe country until a few years ago," Joaquin Chacin, an investigator specializing in organised crime, told AFP.

In the past, the state largely turned a blind eye to drug trafficking, worried that by confronting them it could provoke an outbreak of violence.

A "mafia peace" prevailed, said Chacin. "And this has somehow been broken."

Between January and September 2025, 774 homicides were reported in Bolivia, compared to 325 during the same period of the previous year, according to official data — an increase of 138%.

Guayaramerin residents also report an increase in armed robberies, kidnappings, and other crimes. Currency trader Adhemar Zapata, who changes money on the sidewalk near the port, was attacked recently on the street by two men, one of them Brazilian.

"They pointed their gun at me to subdue me and to take the money I have for my work, along with my motorcycle, my cell phone, and all of that," he said.

China's Xi to attend SCO summit in Kyrgyzstan

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as part of a state visit there and then to Egypt from August 30 to September 3, China's foreign ministry said yesterday. At the Bishkek summit, Xi will discuss deepening co-operation as well as major international and regional issues. During the visit, the Chinese president will hold talks with his Kyrgyz counterpart Sadyr Japarov and will attend state events.

Xi's trip to Egypt will be his first state visit to the North African country in 10 years, where he will meet President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. **(Reuters)**

Saudi nuclear deal sent to Congress

Reuters
Washington

President Donald Trump has sent Congress a proposed agreement with Saudi Arabia on civil nuclear energy while insisting the pact will only be approved if the kingdom normalises relations with Israel, a US administration official told Reuters late on Tuesday.

The agreement, which was reached in July and would allow US companies to export civilian nuclear technology to the kingdom, was sent to Congress on Monday, according to the US official, who declined to be identified.

The Saudi embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

It was not clear how Trump expects sending the nuclear deal to Congress, which has 90 session days to consider it, will advance his objectives.

"The president's position has not changed that the agreement will only move forward if Saudi Arabia joins the Abraham Accords," the US official said in an email, referring to US-brokered agreements between Israel and



Donald Trump and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman walk down the Colonnade on the way to the Oval Office in this file picture. **(AFP)**

Arab and Muslim-majority nations to normalise relations.

Those accords, reached in 2020 and 2021, were between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan. Days after agreeing to the Saudi nuclear deal in July, Trump, who worked on a similar pact during his first term, set normalisation as a condition for it to go into effect.

Former President Joe Biden also pushed for a nuclear deal and wanted to tie it to the accords. Diplomats thought Riyadh was

close to normalising relations with Israel in 2023, but the start of Israel's war on Gaza in October 2023 changed the landscape.

Saudi Arabia has demanded an irreversible path to a Palestinian state before recognising Israel.

The 30-year nuclear deal calls for the construction of AP1000 reactors, a project worth tens of billions of dollars that would benefit Westinghouse, jointly owned by Canada-based Cameco and Brookfield Asset Management.

El Salvador, Panama sound alarm on drought fuelled by El Nino

Panama on Tuesday became the latest country, after Honduras and El Salvador, to declare an emergency over El Nino, which has already forced a reduction in shipping through the Panama Canal.

Panama's Interior Minister Dinoska Montalvo said the declaration will allow authorities to "to be prepared for what may come with El Nino," which has fuelled a severe drought that is ravaging harvests, sparking fears of famine. Meanwhile, El Salvador declared a state of maximum alert to activate monitoring, surveillance and aid efforts for affected communities. "We are declaring a red alert for meteorological and farming drought across the national territory," the Civil Protection department wrote on X. **(AFP)**

US disrupts platforms used allegedly by Chinese hackers

AFP
Washington

US law enforcement late on Tuesday announced the seizure of internet domains allegedly used by Chinese hackers to target government agencies and critical infrastructure.

The Justice Department and FBI said the seized domains were used by a Chinese state-sponsored hacking group known as "QTFY" and by hacking platforms known as "QScan" and "QTRouter."

Victims of QTFY computer intrusion activity included NASA, the Federal Reserve, the US Senate and the departments of energy, justice, and health and human services, they said.

Private sector targets allegedly included hospitals, universities, telecom providers, power companies, financial institutions and defence contractors.

"Federal law enforcement investigated and disabled the PRC's malicious software, the latest in a series of technical operations to dismantle indiscriminate hacking activities sponsored by the People's Republic of China," Attorney General Todd Blanche said in a statement.

FBI Director Kash Patel said the operation resulted in the disruption of a "global botnet and hacking platform used by Chinese state-sponsored hackers to target US critical infrastructure."

QTFY offers computer hacking services to paying customers, according to court documents, including the Chinese Ministry of State Security and People's Liberation Army.

The US and several other countries frequently condemn what they say is state-backed Chinese hacking activity of governments, militaries and businesses.

Beijing rejects the allegations.

Undeterred by pressure, Netanyahu vows more West Bank settlements

AFP
Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to keep establishing settlements in the West Bank despite mounting international pressure, promising a major wave of immigration to the occupied Palestinian territory.

Netanyahu, who is facing tight elections in October, leads one of the most right-wing governments in Israel's history that has rapidly approved construction and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, which are illegal under international law.

The outposts, often made up of just a few mobile homes or makeshift structures, are illegal even under Israeli law, but their approval and legalisation have surged in recent years.

"We cannot ignore the numbers: 104 communities that we established and legalised together, and 160 farms, with more to come," Netanyahu told an event for settlers late on Tuesday, according to a statement from his office.

He told attendees: "You are fulfilling the vision of the Land of Israel, and this is our land."

"You are preparing the ground for a very large wave of immigration that will come," he added, hailing "a tremendous effort by the government to fulfil the vision of



Boys ride bicycles past a Palestinian flag along a street in Turmus Ayya, north of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, with the Israeli settlement of Shilo visible in the background. **(AFP)**

generations".

Israel has faced growing international outrage over its settlement expansion, as violence by settlers against Palestinians soars.

Last week, key European leaders condemned a major settlement project after Israeli authorities opened bidding for more than 1,200 homes in the area.

The EI plan was given the green light by Israel last year and threatens the territorial contiguity of the northern and southern parts of the West Bank, further dimming prospects for a functioning independent

Palestinian state.

Israel has since 1967 occupied the West Bank, where more than 500,000 Israelis now live in settlements.

The territory is home to about three million Palestinians.

Netanyahu's government, which contains ministers who openly call for the territory's annexation, is advancing more construction ahead of October 27 elections.

Violence against Palestinians by Israeli settlers has increased dramatically since the war in Gaza began.

'No other option': Expats in Middle East hunker down between bouts of war

AFP
Dubai

Six months into the Middle East war, the army of foreign workers and expats in the Gulf has largely stayed put — hoping to ride out the uncertainty caused by conflict rather than return to dim prospects back home.

For most of the oil-rich Gulf states, foreigners from Global South countries make up the majority of the population, forming the bedrock of the economy as high-end consultants, manual labourers, healthcare professionals and everything in between.

Making it to the Gulf, where salaries are higher than at home, and untaxed, has long been a dream for those lucky enough to secure visas and employment. But the war, which has killed 41 people in the Gulf, has proven to be incredibly disruptive for many.

In the UAE, Dubai's service and tourism sectors have faced lay-

offs and salary cuts, and schools shifted to remote learning periodically, while in Kuwait many people skipped their summer holidays to avoid being trapped abroad due to air travel disruptions.

The ride has been bumpy but most people have chosen to see it through, come what may.

"I stayed because I had no other option," a Syrian woman in her thirties, who asked to remain anonymous, told AFP.

Even with the war and a salary cut, the options in Dubai are incomparable to those in Syria's shattered economy.

"Dubai is the place to be, to be secure, to hustle, to make money, to save — and that opportunity is not provided back home," she said.

"Most of us are here because... it was just unlivable where we came from."

Like many people from the Global South working in the Gulf, her parents in Syria rely on her monthly remittances to make ends meet.

In the early weeks of the war, the



Kuwaiti PM Sheikh Ahmad al-Abdullah al-Sabah inspecting the damaged airport after an Iranian attack, in Kuwait City. **(Kuna/AFP/File)**

UAE bore the brunt of Iran's wrath. Although the UAE shot down the large majority of the nearly 3,000 drones and missiles directed at the country, the war rattled its image as a haven of stability in a tumultuous Middle East.

More than 60,000 residents

left Dubai as it came under heavy attack in March, but the population nonetheless grew to 4.73mn by July, topping pre-war numbers, according to official data.

In Bahrain's capital Manama, Indian waiter Rabin Sharma said he was out of the country at the

onset of the war but raced towards the conflict, rather than away: he had to get back to his job.

Foreigners who have moved to the Gulf face a dilemma: leave their tax-free haven and face lower wages at home, or remain and hope for the best.

Some families have opted to move dependents back home while the breadwinner stays behind to continue earning money.

This was the case for an Egyptian engineer living in Kuwait — who also requested anonymity.

Sitting in a luxury cafe at a Kuwaiti mall, he told AFP his wife and daughter would be returning to Egypt while he stayed put. "I cannot risk their lives," he said. "The situation is too unstable."

Missiles and drones rained on the tiny Gulf nations of Kuwait and Bahrain in regular barrages throughout July as the US-Iran truce unravelled.

Kuwait reported repeated attacks on its only airport and on water desalination and power plants

that forced authorities to ask residents to ration energy.

Amro Hussein, another Egyptian, said he fled the country by land with his wife and two young daughters after they awoke in the middle of the night to the sound of a drone crashing into a nearby building. "It was a shock... especially for the children," he said.

But four months later, the family, which has lived in Kuwait for 12 years, decided to return together.

"It wasn't an easy decision," he told AFP, "but honestly, my wife encouraged me — she's a brave person... She said no, let's stay put and keep the family together."

They decided that they would stay even if more attacks targeted Kuwait.

Back in Dubai, Darly Lanzuela, 33, described going back to the Philippines as inconceivable, saying she makes "10 times" more working in a mall in the Gulf.

"To give my children a better future and secure their education, it's better to stay in Dubai."

Palestine Action designated as ‘terrorist group’ in US

AFP
Washington

The US yesterday named the UK-based Palestine Action group, which has been banned by the British government, as a “specially designated global terrorist” organisation.

The US also issued sanctions against the group, saying the move was for supporting “an act of terrorism.”

Set up in 2020, Palestine Action is appealing against the UK government ban which has led to thousands of arrests. Rights groups have decried the ban, saying it was aimed at criminalising dissent.

Palestine Action’s stated goal on its website is to end “global participation in Israel’s genocidal and apartheid regime.” It gained visibility after Israel launched a devastating military campaign in Gaza in October 2023.

Since coming to power for his second term, US President Donald Trump has issued orders for his government to designate what it terms “far-left” groups as terrorist organisations. Yesterday’s US action also designated Italy-based Autistici/Inventati (also known as A/I Collective) and pro-Palestinian group Masar Badil as “terrorist” organisations.

US State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigot declared all three groups, including Palestine Action, as being “violent far-left terrorist groups.” US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Washington would bring “the full weight of our economic tools to bear” against far-left groups.

Rescue scramble after Nepal-Tibet floods kill 160; hundreds missing

AFP
Nuwakot (Nepal)

Rescue teams rushed today to find hundreds of people missing on the Nepal-Tibet border in flash floods and landslides that killed at least 160.

Many of the missing are foreign tourists, officials said of the disaster that wiped out entire villages. The death toll appeared likely to rise.

One terrifying clip of surveillance video from the Chinese side of the frontier shows a raging wall of mud and debris crashing over a building several stories high last morning, engulfing it as dozens of people run for their lives below. The surge sweeps away buses and cars like they are toys.

Chinese state media reported “major casualties” from a mudslide at a Tibet border hub, reporting three dead and another 265 people missing.

Nepali police said they had recovered 157 bodies after “devastating floods”, with officers working to move families in flood-risk areas to safety.

Tibet government officials mobilised nearly 800 emergency workers and 150 vehicles as well as sniffer dogs and speed boats to help the rescue efforts, China’s official Xinhua news agency said.

In the area hit by the disaster, rescuers waded through mud and sludge to look for survivors after floodwaters buried the lower floors of multi-storey buildings.

Some 403 tourists — 341 of them foreigners — were unaccounted for several hours after the disaster struck, according to Nepal’s tourism ministry.

The missing foreigners included 142 Indians, and others from Australia, Britain, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea and the United States, the tourism board said.

“Entire villages and market areas have been wiped out,” said David Fisher, the Nepal head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

It said it was dispatching emergency



A video grab shows a military helicopter rescuing a young man stranded by massive floods and landslides along the Nepal-Tibet border. (AFP)

supplies including blankets, first aid kits, stretchers and body bags.

Locals were traumatised, while experts cautioned that a lingering blockage in a river could produce an additional flood.

“I got a call from (my brother-in-law) this morning, and they were crying and said

their entire house had been swept away. Three family members were rescued, but his brother is still missing,” said 56-year-old local Raju Bhadel.

The cause of the flooding was not immediately clear.

But Nepal’s Foreign Minister Shishir

Khanal said an earthquake likely triggered a landslide, which in turn blocked a river, sending water gushing downstream.

Nepal’s disaster authority said that satellite data indicated that a “snow-rock landslide” on the Nepal-China border may have caused the flood.

Images shared by Nepali police showed floodwater surging through a river, sweeping away houses in its path, while AFP images depicted the top floor of a house sticking out from muddy soil.

The Nepali Army was carrying out flights and had rescued scores of people, while others living near the river in danger zones had been told to relocate.

Sarthak Shrestha, a remote sensing and geo information analyst at the Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), said a preliminary assessment showed “no anomalies” from China’s side of the border.

“We believe a rock-ice avalanche occurred in Nepal, blocking the Lhende river and causing the cascading flood event,” he told AFP.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported yesterday that “a mudslide disaster” on the Nepali side resulted in “major casualties and missing people” at the Gyirong Port in Tibet.

China’s leader Xi Jinping said that “the most urgent task is doing everything possible to search for and rescue the missing people”, according to CCTV.

Traffic authorities in Tibet’s Shigatse said roads in the area were “at risk of mudslides and unsafe for passage”.

Monsoon rains from June to September regularly trigger deadly floods and landslides across South Asia.

Scientists say climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events in the region.

Qiangong Zhang, head of climate and environmental risks at ICIMOD, warned of the potential for a second flood.

“With a blockage still lodged upstream on the Nepal-China border river, authorities warn a second flood may occur,” he told AFP.

CIA director was on ‘semi-routine’ mission in Moscow

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that CIA Director John Ratcliffe’s visit to Moscow was “semi-routine,” while implying that he was in Moscow to discuss the Ukraine war. “He’s there, very sort of semi-routine. I hate to disappoint people. We would like to see the war with Ukraine end,” Trump said in an interview with conservative radio host Glenn Beck. Ratcliffe is one of the highest-ranking US officials to visit Russia since its war with Ukraine started in 2022. His Tuesday visit came amid an escalation in Moscow’s offensive in Ukraine, with attacks this summer increasing the civilian death toll, while US-brokered peace talks have stalled.

The Kremlin said yesterday that Ratcliffe had “contacts” with Russia’s special services on his visit to Moscow but did not meet President Vladimir Putin. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin was briefed on the talks but refused to say whether the Ukraine war was raised. “Contacts through



John Ratcliffe

the intelligence services are a positive development in and of themselves. It is too early to say how this will affect the process of resolving the crisis in our relations,” Peskov said.

The last time a CIA director visited Moscow was in November 2021 — when William Burns warned Russia against sending troops into Ukraine. Weeks later, the Kremlin launched its attack that turned into Europe’s worst conflict since World War II.

The CIA has also been involved in prisoner swap deals with Russia. The war in Ukraine has killed hundreds of thousands and the Kremlin has refused to ease its maximalist demands of seizing the rest of eastern Ukraine and keeping Crimea. Trump dismissed suggestions that Ratcliffe was discussing issues such as Russia testing the resolve of Nato or the US campaign to ramp up economic pressure on Iran. “He is not in there for any of the things,” Trump said, adding, “We’re working very hard to get that war ended, and frankly, they both want to see it ended at this point.” (AFP)

WHO says Ebola outbreak in Uganda is over

The outbreak of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola in Uganda is over but it is not under control in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, a World Health Organisation official told a briefing yesterday. The all-clear for Uganda follows a declaration on July 28 from the Ugandan government that it was free of the disease, which caused 20

cases and two deaths in the country. The WHO monitored the situation until this week to ensure that no chains of transmission had been missed. But Dr Marie Roseline Belizaire, director of emergency preparedness for the WHO African region, told a WHO regional meeting that cases in Democratic Republic of Congo

continued to rise despite some progress. The outbreak there is the second-deadliest in history, and outpacing containment efforts. According to the Congolese government, as of Tuesday there have been more than 2,700 deaths and more than 5,600 cases. “Transmission remains very active,” said Belizaire. (Reuters)

Meta, US states agree \$16.7bn settlement

AFP
Oakland, US

Meta agreed to pay a coalition of US states as much as \$16.7bn and to impose sweeping new limits on how teenagers use Facebook and Instagram, according to a court filing yesterday that ends a landmark trial in California.

The proposed settlement, filed in federal court, would resolve claims by 29 states that Meta deliberately engineered its platforms to hook young users, misled the public about the risks and unlawfully collected data from children under 13. The changes to how young people use its apps go further than anything Meta has accepted before, and follow years of criticism from parents and experts over the effects of the world’s biggest social media platforms on children.

Anger over the impact of Instagram and Facebook — as well as rival apps like Snapchat and TikTok — has driven the spread of age limits and school phone bans around the world. In the US, Meta still faces thousands of personal injury claims and litigation from school districts, none of which the agreement covers.

The case by the 29 states was



among the most far-reaching, with Meta warning that a courtroom loss could have exposed it to more than \$1tn in penalties.

“Meta has agreed to make massive transformations that will reduce the risk of harm from its platforms — and will do it within months,” California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement.

The filing states that the agreement does not amount to an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Meta, which has consistently denied the allegations. It requires court approval to take effect.

Meta has agreed to a long list of new safeguards that will substantially change how the apps work for young people. One

change is an automatic nighttime block that locks teenagers out of Facebook and Instagram between midnight and 6:00am local time. Teenage accounts will also be capped by default at two hours of cumulative daily use across Meta’s apps, though excluding time spent messaging or watching long-form video. Both restrictions tighten if the rest of the industry follows suit.

Meta framed the deal as a template for the rest of the industry. “Because teens move fluidly across dozens of apps, we need an industry-wide solution,” said CJ Mahoney, Meta’s chief legal officer. “We therefore call on our industry peers, TikTok and YouTube, to implement this new framework, right away.”

‘Black smoke’ chokes Pakistan maternity ward as hospital fire kills 14 infants

AFP
Islamabad

A fire erupted in a hospital maternity ward in Islamabad yesterday killing 14 infants, Pakistan authorities said, blaming a faulty air conditioner for the blaze.

The dawn fire broke out on the third floor of the Mother and Child Health Ward at the capital’s premier public hospital Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), the Islamabad district office said in a statement.

The statement gave a death toll of 14, all of whom were infants, according to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Nineteen people, including seven children, were rescued, Deputy Interior Minister Talal Chaudhry said.

Health Minister Mustafa Kamal told reporters outside the hospital that CCTV footage showed that a “spark from the air conditioner fell, and the fire spread within a minute”.

He said 26 fire extinguishers were used to try to extinguish the flames but that there were no

water sprinklers in the ward.

Witnesses described chaotic and harrowing scenes, including intense smoke and broken glass, a slow response from emergency services and guards reportedly preventing people from leaving the building.

Khurram Mehmood, 40, told AFP he lost his three-day-old daughter in the blaze and that rescuers took hours to arrive.

“My wife was in the ward. They took everyone out. We were sitting on the road waiting for help,” he said.

The door to the neonatal intensive care unit was locked, according to Jaweria, a woman who said she also lost her infant.

“I do not believe this. Give me my child back... Why did the doctors leave the children there?”

Witness Abdul Ghafoor told AFP that he went into the hospital to save patients but could not reach the maternity ward.

“The fire spread very quickly. There were babies as young as one day old,” he said.

“There was thick black smoke inside and patients were trapped...



A mother who lost her child in the fire at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital in Islamabad yesterday. (AFP)

Rescue teams arrived after almost two hours (after the fire started)."

Another witness, who did not give her name, said hospital security “were not letting them out and the guards were stopping them”.

“People had to break the door down and rescue teams had to break the windows to control the fire,” she added.

The Islamabad chief commissioner, Sohail Ashraf, said the emer-

gency call was made just before 7:00am, and emergency responders reached the scene “immediately” and brought the fire under control.

AFP reporters saw a nurse call out the names of babies who had perished in the fire as families gathered outside.

Other patients streamed outside, their faces covered in soot, with one man holding a newborn in his arms.

A mother with black residue from the smoke on her hands stood crying outside the hospital as she held her 10-day-old baby in her arms.

“People were screaming. There was black smoke. We ran for our lives. Thank God my baby is safe,” Shagufta Parveen, the mother, told AFP. Funerals already started to take place yesterday afternoon, as Islamic burials usually happen within 24 hours of death.

AFP journalists saw a tiny body shrouded in white being carried through the streets of the nearby city of Rawalpindi, followed by a solemn line of mourners, before a funeral prayer.

Prime Minister Sharif called for an investigation and said the “strictest possible action” should be taken against those found to be responsible.

He sacked Health Secretary Aslam Ghori, the country’s top civil servant for the department, a statement from his office said.

Chaudhry, the deputy interior minister, told media outside the hospital that authorities would launch a probe, and the bodies of the

14 babies were handed over to their parents. But he denied that rescuers did not arrive quickly enough on the public holiday, as multiple parents and witnesses said.

“What happened is sad, but there was no negligence when it came to the rescue operations,” he said, adding that teams reached the hospital in six minutes.

“What happened is to be inquired, where the hospital lacked facilities.”

The UN children’s agency Unicef said it was “deeply saddened” by the deaths, and called for an “urgent review and strengthening of fire prevention and safety standards across health facilities”.

Fires in large buildings are frequent in Pakistan, often due to poor safety laws and building codes as well as lax enforcement.

In January, more than 65 people were killed in a shopping centre fire in the port city of Karachi.

At least 11 people were killed in another shopping mall fire in Karachi in 2023.

In 2012, at least 250 labourers died at a garment factory in Karachi.



Fuel agenda and carbon footprint

President Donald Trump's fossil fuel agenda will result in the loss of \$700bn in clean energy investments over the next decade while doubling the power sector's climate footprint, according to analysis published this week. The report by the nonprofit Natural Resources Defence Council examined the cumulative impact of policies passed by Trump — who campaigned on cutting utility bills in half within 18 months in office, though in reality they rose 16 percent as of May 2026, according to Energy Information Administration data. These actions include the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act in July 2025, which gutted tax credits on clean energy, and the global tariff war that has strained supply chains and raised the cost of electricity generation technologies as a whole.

Trump's policies have also focused on propping up the fossil fuel industry — including forcing utilities to keep old, expensive fossil fuel plants beyond their planned retirement, and restarting or building new coal plants, while stalling federal permits for wind development. In all, Trump's agenda will result in \$700bn in lost investment between now and 2035, and the loss of between 390 to 540 gigawatts of new wind, solar and energy storage, the report found. By comparison, India's

total installed capacity is currently around 520 gigawatts. By 2035, US consumers will spend up to \$30bn a year more on electricity, with household bills increasing by up to 25 percent in some parts of the country. "From day one of this term, the Trump administration has waged war on clean energy, destroying new investments, while owners of old, polluting coal plants get handouts and free passes to pollute," said Amanda Levin, director of policy analysis at NRDC. "As a result, utility bills are on the rise, projects are cancelled, jobs are lost and more pollution is endangering the health of our families and the climate."

Titled 'An Affordability Crisis of Trump's Making,' the report used an energy model to compare the impact on the electricity sector of Trump's policies to those before he took office.

These included the planned repeal of power plant emission standards, tariffs, the end of tax credits for wind and solar, and permitting delays and cancellations. Both scenarios included the rapid growth in demand for electricity driven by data centers. The report found that power sector carbon dioxide emissions could be twice as high by 2035, up to more than a billion metric tons compared to just over 500mn metric tonnes in the counterfactual scenario. — AFP



‘EU-GCC ties advancing to strategic partnership’



By Rory Miller

This month, Dr Cristian Tudor completed his term as the first resident ambassador of the European Union to the State of Qatar. A Romanian career diplomat, he has lived a total of eight years in Qatar, previously serving as Romania's ambassador to Qatar from 2015 to 2019. He also served as the EU Ambassador to Kuwait from 2019 to 2022, during which time he established and led the EU's first delegation in the country.

Dr Tudor who is an Arabic speaker with more than two decades of professional experience in Syria and Iraq, as well as Kuwait and Qatar, is the only ambassador in the history of the European Union to establish two diplomatic missions from the ground up. His tenure also saw the first EU-GCC Summit in 2024 and the preparations for a second one scheduled for October 2026 in Saudi Arabia.

I spoke with him recently about his time in charge of the EU delegation since September 2022. I was particularly interested on his thoughts on the future of EU-Qatar and EU-GCC relations in an emerging multipolar order, where middle powers and regional organisations will have greater room — and greater responsibility — to shape outcomes.

What is the role of an EU ambassador and what characteristics do you need to be a good EU ambassador?

An EU ambassador represents more than an institution: he or she must turn the perspectives of 27 Member States into a coherent European position and then translate that position into influence in the host country. That requires political judgment, disciplined coordination and a clear sense of where European and national competencies meet. The task is not simply to communicate policy, but to create the conditions in which Europe can act with credibility and purpose.

It is also a deeply human role. Trust is built over time — with government, business, universities, civil society, the media and young people. In Qatar, we have made our diplomacy more people-centered, because a partnership becomes resilient only when it is understood and supported beyond official circles.

The essential quality of an ambassador is the ability to listen with attention and without preconceptions. Many years in the Arab world, and knowledge of Arabic, have taught the importance for diplomacy of cultural understanding. Openness and adaptability must be matched by consistency: you must respect the host country's perspective while remaining clear about the principles and interests that you represent. That is how trust is earned - in person, over time — in the Majlis as much as in the Ministry.

What are the main areas of bilateral relations between the EU and Qatar that you have developed as ambassador?

Since 2022, our central objective has been to move EU-Qatar relations beyond traditional pillars towards a broader strategic partnership - while making Europe more visible and relevant to Qatari society through political dialogue, business, education, culture, youth engagement, and sports diplomacy.

Energy remains vital, especially for Europe's security and diversification, but the agenda now extends across trade and investment, digital transformation, research and innovation, education, culture, youth, human rights and regional security. The December 2025 launch of negotiations on an EU-Qatar Strategic Partnership Agreement provides the political framework for these moves, and signals the willingness of both sides to organise their cooperation around clearer and more ambitious long-term priorities.

The EU delegation has also worked to widen the social base of relations. Sports-diplomacy, youth initiatives and media programmes foster



Ambassador Dr Cristian Tudor

connections with people who may never interact with diplomats in a more formal setting. This makes our partnership tangible to a new generation.

How has the current conflict between Iran and the US impacted on relations between Brussels and the GCC countries?

The crisis and the attacks against the GCC have accelerated a mutual understanding, already underway, of the interdependence of Gulf and European security. Instability in one region impacts on stability in the other. This is due to interconnected energy flows, trade routes, investment, and migration.

The EU's solidarity with the GCC countries, its insistence on de-escalation, respect for sovereignty and international law topped the agenda at the extraordinary EU-GCC ministerial meeting in March 2026. It also set the basis for more real time consultations and coordination based on trusted political channels built in advance. The present crisis has therefore strengthened the case for a more structured EU-GCC security partnership and for closer cooperation. Firstly, Europe has an important role to play in creating space for dialogue, conflict prevention and negotiated outcomes. Qatar is indispensable in that effort because it combines access, credibility and a proven capacity to mediate.

What are your fondest memories of your time as the first EU ambassador in Doha?

Arriving in Doha in September 2022 as the first resident EU ambassador is one of my proudest professional memories. Few diplomats have the privilege of creating an institution. It is a demanding but exciting experience, as is earning the confidence of Qatari partners.

But there were many more informal memories: seeing European and Qatari communities come together through sport, culture, education and youth programmes; watching young people discover common interests; and seeing local audiences become more familiar with the EU, what it does and why it matters.

What are the main opportunities for EU-Gulf relations going forward?

The greatest opportunity is for EU-Gulf relations to continue to develop towards a strategic partnership. Energy security and the clean transition remain central, but the future must also encompass defence, AI, digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, R&D, industry, trade and investment.

The EU's strategic investment plan - Global Gateway - can provide some of the capital to support these goals. But we also need to build deeper and wider connectivity between universities, researchers, entrepreneurs, youth and cultural institutions.

A final pillar will be security and diplomacy. Gulf states are increasingly influential in mediation and crisis management, and Qatar has been leading on this; Europe brings diplomatic reach, economic weight and regulatory capacity. Combined, those strengths can make both regions more effective in a fragmented international system.

• The writer is professor of International Politics and director of the Small States and Energy Studies Programs at Georgetown University in Qatar @RoryDavidMiller

Israel is losing by excess

By Jamil K Mroue



Israel is moving. Not its borders, which it keeps trying to move, but its ground. The country that enters the October 27 election is not the country that voted in November 2022. Three years of war have done what no opposition could do: they have shaken the identity the state wore for 15 years. That identity had three parts. A permanent war. A permanent prime minister. And a story about itself as the start-up nation, the small clever state that turned siege into software. All three are cracking at once, and the cracking is fast.

The man and the war

Benjamin Netanyahu built a political method on one idea: the enemy is everywhere, and only he stands between it and you. In 2015 the enemy was Arab citizens "coming out in droves" to vote. In 2026 the Likud billboards say that Khamenei, Erdogan, Naim Qassem and the mayor of New York all "want Netanyahu to lose." The circle of enemies has widened to include a Muslim American who won an election.

This is not a strategy. It is a habit that has outlived its purpose. The war it feeds has produced no decisive result in Gaza, a new front in Lebanon that was closed by a framework agreement Israel did not want to sign, Turkey asking Interpol to act on an arrest warrant against the prime minister, and eight Arab and Muslim states condemning the EI settlement plan in one voice. Netanyahu's answer is more of the same: no Palestinian state "controlled by Iran," and a Makkah defence pact between Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan that Israel did not want and cannot stop.

The voters have noticed. The Kan poll of August 23 gives the coalition 51 seats and the bloc led by Gadi Eisenkot 57. Likud is no longer the largest party. That has not happened in a generation.

The right is eating itself

The most telling fight of this campaign is not between Netanyahu and Eisenkot. It is between Amit Segal, the most influential right-wing journalist in the country, and Itamar Ben-Gvir, the minister who runs the police. Segal wrote that Ben-Gvir is a danger. Ben-Gvir answered with a long letter of wounded pride: he had distributed 300,000 guns, demolished thousands of Bedouin homes, filled the prisons, and still the religious-Zionist elite looks down on him as "a repentant, an Easterner." He is right about one thing. The campaign against him is the opening move of a unity government without him. The right that governed with him for three years now wants to deny it ever did.

Meanwhile 252 Arab citizens were murdered last year under Ben-Gvir's police, the highest

number ever recorded, and this year is running higher. Twelve percent of those cases are solved. The minister who counts guns and demolitions as achievements does not count these bodies at all.

The mosaic is rearranging

The deeper movement is in the Jewish mosaic itself. Eisenkot is the son of Moroccan immigrants from a working-class home. If he wins, he will be the first prime minister of Mizrahi origin. For 50 years the Mizrahim, 40 percent of Israeli Jews, gave Likud its base because Likud gave them respect and the Ashkenazi left gave them contempt. Ben-Gvir's letter is that same grievance turned into a weapon and pointed at Arabs. Now a Mizrahi general from the centre is bidding for the same voters with a different offer: competence instead of frenzy. Whether the offer works will decide the election.

Above and below this, the other tectonic plates are shifting. The Haredim, who Netanyahu shielded from the draft, are losing the country's patience while their sons stay in yeshiva and other sons are buried. The Arab minority, a fifth of the population, has its women entering the workforce faster than any group in Israel — faster than Haredi men are leaving it. A quarter of the country's doctors and half its pharmacists are Arab. This is the real Israel of 2026, and no party is describing it.

The start-up state is being buried

The economy that gave Israel its confidence is now a war economy. Real wages fell in 2025. High-tech workers earn three times what other Israelis earn, and the gap keeps growing, while two percent of Arab men and one percent of Arab women work in the sector at all. Emigration set records in 2024 and the migration balance stayed negative in 2025. The judicial overhaul that Yariv Levin and Simcha Rothman began, with the Kohellet Forum's money behind it, is still grinding through the courts — judges froze his latest law on police investigations only days ago. The people who built the start-up nation are the same people who filled the streets against that overhaul, and many of them have left. A state cannot be Sparta and

Silicon Valley at the same time. Netanyahu chose Sparta.

The fixed point

And then there is the number nobody will say. 12 seats. That is what the revived Joint List and Ra'am together are polling. Eisenkot's bloc is four seats short of a majority without them. Every commentator counts those seats. No candidate will name them. When Mansour Abbas, the most accommodating Arab politician in the country's history, said that a Palestinian state exists and should be recognized, Eisenkot answered within hours: no Palestinian state, "not in a government we form." Within a day Abbas withdrew the condition. He asked for nothing and was refused anyway.

This is the asymmetry that defines the moment. A minister may propose emptying Gaza of its people and remain a coalition option. A citizen may propose a Palestinian state and become a security question. More than 400 Arab citizens have been arrested for social media posts since October 7. No Jewish minister has been arrested for anything he said.

Losing by excess

Israel is not losing on the battlefield. It is losing by excess. Excess of bravado, which turned every neighbour into an enemy and every ally into a critic. Excess of blood, which no longer buys deterrence, only isolation. Excess of messianic frenzy, which put the Temple Mount and the hilltops above the state. And a total absence of policy: no plan for Gaza, no plan for the West Bank, no plan for the Haredim, no plan for the fifth of citizens who keep the hospitals running.

The tectonic movement is real. The landscape is changing. But a changed landscape is not yet a new map. Eisenkot promises to remove Netanyahu, not the identity Netanyahu built. He wants a "Zionist majority," a minority government if necessary, and no Palestinian state. If that is the alternative, Israel will bury the man and keep the war. The question of October 27 is not who wins. It is whether anyone on the ballot has noticed that the ground has moved.

• Jamil K Mroue is Lebanese writer and previous editor of Al Hayat newspaper in London and The Daily Star in Beirut.



This photo taken from the southern Lebanese city of Tyre shows smoke rising following an Israeli strike that targeted the village of Biout es Sayed. (AFP)

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Fire Station to host panel on creative spaces and Qatar’s cultural landscape

Fire Station: Artist in Residence will host a panel discussion on September 1 titled “Creative Infrastructure: Spaces for Experimentation”, exploring how cultural institutions can support artists and creative professionals through spaces, programmes and opportunities for long-term development.

The discussion will coincide with the opening of applications for Fire Station’s intensive artist studies programme and will bring together cultural practitioners and academics to examine the role of creative institutions in strengthening Qatar’s cultural landscape.

The panel will explore how cultural programmes can provide supportive environments for experimentation, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and create sustainable opportunities for artists, designers and other creative professionals to develop their practices and careers.

It will also examine the role of multidisciplinary initiatives in creating spaces for dialogue and the exchange of knowledge and experiences among practitioners from different creative fields.

The panellists are Dr Elena Seranin, museologist at Katara Art Centre; Marrakech Eliza-

beth Arbuckle, head of Public Programmes at M7; and artist and Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar, Mariam al-Hamid.

The session will be moderated by Rose Legney, head of Academic and Community Programs at Fire Station.

The discussion is intended to connect broader conversations about creative infrastructure with the practical experiences and programmes offered by cultural institutions to artists and other creative individuals. It will also consider how such initiatives can help attract talent and foster new artistic experiences in Qatar.

The panel discussion will take place on September 1, from 6pm-7:30pm at the Fire Station Auditorium in Doha.



Fire Station Artists building.



UDST, Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation sign MoU

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services to expand access to quality higher education for sponsored students from underserved backgrounds in Qatar.

The partnership aims to empower Qatari and non-Qatari youth through quality academic programmes, capacity development, and financial support, enabling them to make meaningful contributions in Qatar and globally.

The agreement is signed by Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of

UDST and Dr Ayedh bin Dabsan al-Qahtani, CEO of Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services.

The memorandum of understanding establishes a framework for co-operation in supporting sponsored students throughout their academic journey, including developing mechanisms for financial assistance with tuition fees, providing academic support, and creating an enabling environment that promotes student success and educational achievement.

Dr Al-Naemi said: “This memorandum of understanding reflects our commitment to expanding access to quality edu-

cation and creating meaningful opportunities for students to achieve their academic aspirations. Through our collaboration with the Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services, we aim to empower sponsored students by providing the support they need to pursue higher education while contributing to the development of highly qualified graduates who support Qatar’s national priorities and future aspirations.”

Dr al-Qahtani, CEO of Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services, said: “This partnership reflects our shared commitment to investing in people through education and

empowering young individuals to realise their full potential. By supporting sponsored students throughout their academic journey, we seek to create lasting opportunities that contribute to building capable generations equipped to serve their communities and support Qatar’s continued development.”

The MoU further strengthens cooperation between the two institutions and reflects their mutual commitment to supporting education, human development, and social responsibility by expanding educational opportunities and empowering students to build a brighter future through knowledge and lifelong learning.



QM’s Ektashif: Uzbekistan to open on Sept 3 at MIA

The exhibition features new works by seven Qatari artists inspired by their travels through Uzbekistan

Qatar Museums (QM) announced yesterday new details about Ektashif: Uzbekistan, opening on Sept 3 at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA).

Featuring new works by seven Qatari artists inspired by their travels through Uzbekistan, the exhibition is organised by MIA in collaboration with Qatar’s Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs and will be on view through Nov 28.

Ektashif: Uzbekistan presents new works by Aisha al-Muhanadi, Abdulla Fakhroo, Leena al-Aali, Maryam Abel, Ameena al-Boinin, The Nourah, and Hameed al-Qahtani, each of whom participated in MIA’s ongoing Ektashif programme (meaning “discover” in Arabic), which provides international travel opportunities to artists looking to more fully understand the diversity of the Islamic world’s artistic traditions.

Previous iterations of the programme sent Qatari artists to India, Turkiye, Spain, and Morocco to develop new skills in traditional Islamic arts.

Through visits to historical sites and hands-on workshops with master craftsmen, the artists in this year’s program were immersed in the traditional arts and architecture of Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara, strengthening cultural ties between Qatar and the wider Islamic world.

Each work in Ektashif: Uzbekistan draws from these travel experiences, reflecting the enduring influence of Uzbekistan, a country whose Timurid monuments, ceramic traditions, and living craft practices have long shaped the visual language of Islamic art across Central Asia.

Marking the occasion, Director of the Museum of Islamic

Art Shaika al-Nassr said: “The mission of Ektashif is to provide Qatari artists the opportunity to engage directly with the places, traditions, and living heritage of Islamic art, which spans thirteen centuries of history and stretches across multiple continents. Uzbekistan’s distinct Islamic heritage, from the brickwork of Samarkand to the ikat fabric workshops of Bukhara, is not only an essential part of this cultural past, but also a source of thriving contemporary practice. The artworks in Ektashif: Uzbekistan suggest how these deeply rooted traditions continue to animate new ways of thinking and new ways of seeing the world.” (QNA)

Katara book traces Qatar’s Arabic calligraphy heritage

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Katara Publishing House has released *Calligraphy in Qatar*, a documentary study by Dr Ali Afifi Ali Ghazi charting the development of Arabic calligraphy and its place in the country’s cultural identity.

The book examines the art’s historical progress, identifies major stages in its development and profiles calligraphers who helped build Qatar’s artistic and cultural legacy. By bringing together their careers, techniques, and surviving works, the publication presents calligraphy not only as a decorative practice but also as a record of education, faith, and public life.

A central figure is Sheikh Hamed al-Marwani, described as one of the field’s prominent pioneers. Around 1888, he opened a school in his home in Al Jasra, where pupils studied the Holy Qur’an, the foundations of Arabic, reading, writing and calligraphy. The initiative linked the written arts with the wider spread of learning in Qatar.

Sheikh al-Marwani was known for his command of several Arabic scripts, notably *Naskh*, *Ruq’ah* and *Jali Naskh*. Examples and manuscripts attributed to him demonstrate his technical standing and provide tangible evidence of an early calligraphic tradition in the country.

The study also documents numerous other practitioners whose work enriched Arabic calligraphy in Qatar. Their collective contribution, the book argues, helped shape an artistic heritage that remains closely connected to language, scholarship and cultural memory. The profiles give readers a broader view of the individuals

behind the development, rather than treating the art solely in terms of styles and dates.

The author is a writer, journalist and academic. He began his career in 1999 as a librarian of the Al-Amal Senior Citizens’ Club in Shubrahkhit, Beheira Governorate, Egypt, before moving into journalism. He joined Akhbar (Arabic for news) *Al-Beheira Wal-Aqalim* as an editor in 2002 and served as its general manager from 2004-2007.

He later served as director of the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Sharq Al-Arabi* and was appointed general supervisor of *Akhbar Kafr El-Sheikh* in 2008. That background in research, publishing and journalism informs the book’s documentary approach to cultural history.

Katara Publishing House, a cultural project of the Katara Cultural Village, offers a platform for literary and cultural production. Its programme includes Arabic fiction, cultural studies and research intended to expand knowledge, support writers and strengthen engagement with Arab and Islamic heritage. Through publications such as this volume, the house seeks to make specialist research accessible to a wider local and international readership.



A sample of an old Arabic calligraphy.

Qatar’s new curriculum turns focus on future-ready skills

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Stronger focus on artificial intelligence (AI), data science, entrepreneurship and practical skills in Qatar’s new school curriculum is expected to give students earlier exposure to the knowledge and capabilities increasingly demanded by the labour market, parents say.

The new curriculum for the 2026-2027 academic year expands learning beyond traditional academic subjects, with greater emphasis on AI, economics, commerce, entrepreneurship, data science and practical life and vocational skills across the primary, preparatory and secondary stages.

Many parents have welcomed the Ministry of Education and Higher Education’s curriculum development, describing it as an important step towards preparing

a generation that combines academic knowledge with practical and digital capabilities.

Parents said the introduction of AI in schools would help students understand technologies that are becoming increasingly embedded in everyday life while promoting their responsible use. They stressed that students should view AI as a supporting tool rather than a substitute for independent thinking, research and effort.

Engineer Saleh al-Dosari said the new programmes would give students early exposure to emerging fields and help them make more informed decisions about their future university studies and careers.

He also stressed the importance of teaching students about the risks associated with AI. Cooperation between schools and families, he said, would be essential to ensuring that students use search engines and AI-powered tools

Many parents have welcomed the ministry’s curriculum development, describing it as an important step towards preparing a generation that combines academic knowledge with practical and digital capabilities

safely and responsibly without becoming overly dependent on them.

Abdulaziz al-Emadi said that introducing AI education reflected a global shift in education systems and would give students an early understanding of technologies that are likely to play an increasingly important role in their education and professional lives.

He stressed that students need to learn how to question and verify information generated by AI tools, noting that such systems can sometimes produce inaccurate or misleading content.

The curriculum’s focus, however, extends beyond technology. Economics, commerce and

entrepreneurship are expected to strengthen students’ understanding of markets, money and business while encouraging innovation and entrepreneurial thinking. Parents said these skills could help prepare young Qataris for a more diversified, knowledge-based economy.

Yousef Abdullah highlighted the flexibility of self-learning programmes that cover areas such as AI, social responsibility, money management, entrepreneurship, life management, personal development, home economics, and first aid.

Such programmes, he said, can help students discover their interests and abilities while developing

a greater sense of responsibility towards their families and communities.

Data science is another key addition, with parents highlighting its potential to strengthen analytical and critical-thinking skills. Learning how to interpret information and make evidence-based decisions could better equip students to navigate the growing volume of data generated by the digital economy.

The expansion of life and vocational skills is also intended to strengthen abilities beyond academic achievement, including communication, time management, problem-solving and teamwork.

Masoud al-Sulaiti said integrating technology and AI into the curriculum would help align education with Qatar’s digital transformation, labour-market requirements and the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

He also stressed the importance of giving students opportunities to participate in activities and initiatives outside traditional classroom learning.

Waheeb Ahmed al-Wuhaibi highlighted the flexibility of self-learning, which allows students to engage with educational content at their own pace. He also welcomed programmes that address family culture and social responsibility, saying they could strengthen students’ awareness of family and broader social issues.

Parents, however, said the success of the expanded curriculum would ultimately depend on how effectively it is implemented. Qualified teachers, effective guidance from schools and families, and practical projects that allow students to apply what they learn will be crucial to turning the new subjects into meaningful skills.



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