



Qatar's best car marketplace



qic • market



*Non-insurance services are provided by Anoud Tech, a subsidiary of QIC

GULF TIMES





0 668039 136499

MONDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13849

August 31, 2026
Rabia I 18, 1448 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

published in **QATAR** since 1978



The all-new
Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra | Fold8
Galaxy AI

The next evolution of inspiration

Buy now







Interior Paint with Low VOC
Exceptional Washability
Superior Stain Resistant
Obtained **Qatar Quality Mark**
Obtained International Green Mark



تمتص بخرقك
NATIONAL PAINTS FACTORIES CO., LLC - Qatar
Tel: 446016023

THE PERFECT GIFT?

THE ONE THEY CHOOSE



Thaha Festival City

SPORT | Page 1

Qatar to send 243 athletes to Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games



Ready to **GUAC** AND **ROLL?** Only on **talabat**

6THSTREET.COM
IS NOW

AIVI

Authentic Fashion & Lifestyle Destination

Delivering In
90
Minutes



Scan the QR code & download the AIVI app

Ministry adds 11 new maritime e-services

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) has automated 11 additional maritime transport services covering transactions related to large vessels and seafarers, raising the total number of e-services available on its official website to 21.

The new services comprise the Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR), Certificate of Specification Amendment, Ship Deletion, Transfer of Ownership, Certificate of Non-Encumbrance, Lost Replacement, Mortgage Request, Mortgage Release, Safety Insurance for Oil Pollution Damage Request, To Whom It May Concern Certificate and Sea Protest Service.

MoT Ship Registry and Seafarers Affairs Department Acting Director Mohamed Mohsen al-Hajaji said the launch was aligned with the ministry's strategy to advance digital transformation and service automation across its sectors by adopting the latest technologies. **(QNA)**

US forces strike 2 Iranian launchers

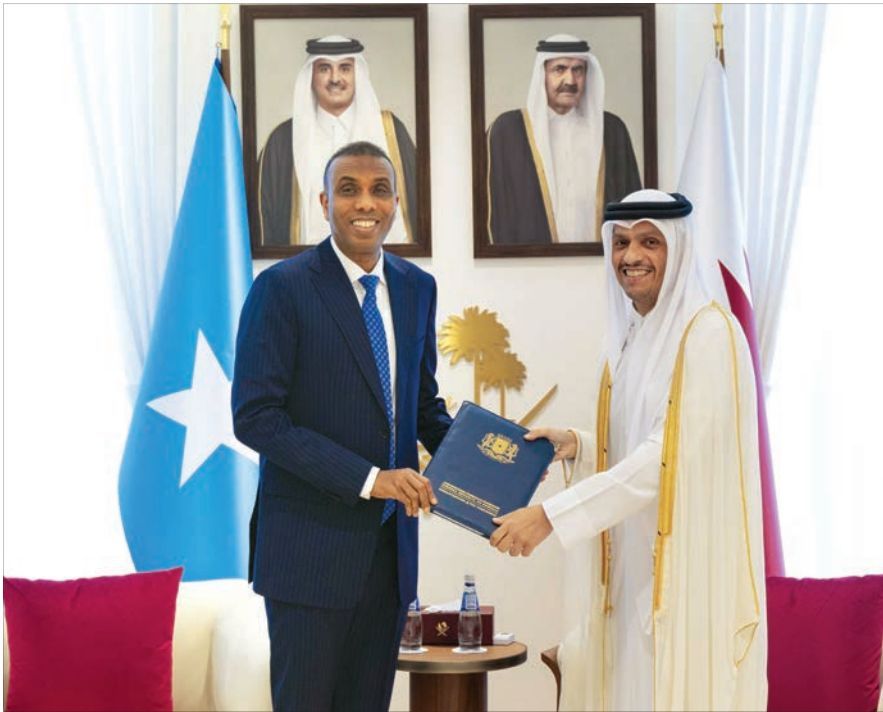
US forces struck two Iranian launchers on Iran's Larak island yesterday, a US official said, marking the first known American strikes on Iran since late July.

"I can confirm that earlier today US forces struck two Iranian launchers on Larak Island. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps forces were observed preparing to launch rockets with sea mines into Strait of Hormuz," the US official said.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the attack killed and wounded several soldiers and citizens and would be met with a "response and punishment" from Tehran, Iranian state media reported.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported the US carried out a drone strike on the island. **(Reuters)**

Amir receives messages from Somalia, Yemen leaders



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received written messages from Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Chairman of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council Dr Rashad Mohammed al-Alimi concerning bilateral relations and ways to further strengthen them. The messages were handed to HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani during separate meetings yesterday with Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre and Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Dr Afrah al-Zouba, who are visiting Qatar. **(QNA) Page 2**



Ministry launches 'First Step' initiative for new students

By Tawfik Lamari
Doha

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) launched the "Awal Khutwa – First Step" initiative yesterday, targeting 10,700 new first-grade students across 103 government primary schools as part of the Back to School campaign for the 2026-2027 academic year, coinciding with the first day of term.

Run in co-operation with Rafeeq company, the initiative provides welcome gifts and school supplies accompanied by messages of encouragement, aiming to make the first day of school a positive and stimulating experience for every child.

The launch came during a

visit by HE Undersecretary of the MoEHE Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi to Al Rashad Model School for Boys and Al Bayan First Primary School for Girls, where he reviewed the arrangements for welcoming new first-grade students.

He toured a number of classrooms, shared in the students' first moments at school, and presented them with gifts from the initiative, in an atmosphere reflecting the children's joy and enthusiasm at the start of their educational journey.

In remarks marking the occasion, Dr al-Nuaimi said the MoEHE places the student at the heart of its priorities and is keen to provide an attractive and stimulating educational environment that embraces students from their first day. **To Page 2**

Strong first day attendance heralds new academic year

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Schools across the country reopened yesterday and welcomed the students, marking the beginning of the 2026-2027 academic year while marking good percentage of attendance on the first day.

From early morning school premises were buzzing with the arrival of students and some of the parents who had accompanied the students to see them off on the first day of the new school year. While government and individual school transport carried most of the students, many had been dropped at the school by their parents.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education confirmed that it had completed all preparations, from staffing and educational resources to logistical support, to ensure a smooth and inspiring start for the new academic year. Various government entities such as the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Transport also had made elaborate preparations with all the support and assistance for a smooth start of the new academic year.

While the schools registered good attendance on the first day, the traffic was quite smooth and moderate without any major traffic congestion. Roads were



Students during a class at a government school. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

more or less free in the morning peak hours and the commuters did not face any major issues or delay. The afternoon peak hours also were free of any major congestions. Personnel from the Traffic Department had been deployed at various school premises to monitor and control the traffic. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education had launched the tagline "Our schools are more beautiful with your return. Welcome back, our sons and daughters, and may you have a school year filled with learning and achievement", to welcome the students to the new academic year. The ministry had announced that approximately 420,000 male and female students in 649 government and private schools and kindergartens are starting the academic session this year.

HE Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Naimi, undersecretary at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in a video message had welcomed the students highlighting that it was an occasion of "a new beginning and renewed ambitions" wishing everyone a year filled with giving and excellence. Several other officials from the ministry also had greeted the students with words of encouragement. The ministry also has launched an initiative "First Step" in collaboration with Rafeeq Company to welcome the first grade primary students.

The Ministry of Interior announced that as the new academic year starts the General Directorate of Traffic is intensifying its field efforts around the schools to ensure the safety of the students as well to provide smooth traffic flow. **To Page 2**



Today's **GULF TIMES** includes a 32-page special supplement on

TANZANIA

THE LAND OF KILIMANJARO, SERENGETI AND ZANZIBAR

Scan here To Read ONLINE





Himyan now integrated into Samsung Wallet: QCB

In line with the Third Financial Sector Strategy and the Third National Development Strategy 2024-30, the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) announced yesterday its collaboration with Samsung Gulf Electronics to integrate Himyan, Qatar's national payment scheme, into Samsung Wallet, enabling eligible cardholders to make fast, secure and contactless payments directly from their compatible Galaxy smartphones and smartwatches.

The Himyan scheme is Qatar's first national payment card brand designed to drive the adoption of secure, efficient, and locally managed digital transactions.

By bringing Himyan to Samsung Wallet, users can now tap into the full convenience of mobile payments by adding eligible debit and prepaid bank cards.

This eliminates the need to carry physical cards while allowing consumers to execute swift contactless transactions at point-of-sale (POS) terminals and retail environments across the country.

"The integration of Himyan into Samsung Wallet marks a pivotal milestone in establishing Himyan as the leading digital payment option in Qatar," said QCB Deputy Governor Sheikh Ahmed bin Khalid bin Ahmed al-Thani.

"It also represents a tangible demonstration of the Qatar Central Bank's commitment to delivering secure, locally managed payment solutions, in line with our vision of building an advanced and inclusive digital financial ecosystem," he said. "At the Qatar Central Bank, we prioritise investment in technologies that create tangible value and strengthen the efficiency of the national financial infrastructure, recognising this as a strategic pillar for advancing digital transformation across the financial sector."

"Through this integration, Galaxy users can now directly

benefit from the trusted features and capabilities offered by Himyan through a more seamless and secure payment experience," Sheikh Ahmed added. "This reflects QCB's ongoing commitment to advancing digital payments, expanding access to secure, seamless, and convenient financial services, and supporting the development of a robust and inclusive digital payments ecosystem in Qatar."

"At Samsung, we place a major focus on delivering innovations that make everyday life simpler and more secure," said vice-president and head of the Mobile eXperience Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics, Fadi Abu Shamah.

"Customers in Qatar expect the same seamless experience from their digital wallet that they get everywhere else in their Galaxy ecosystem, and Himyan's integration into Samsung Wallet delivers that," he said. "By combining Himyan's trusted local infrastructure with the security of Samsung Knox, we're giving local cardholders a faster and safer way to pay without ever reaching for a physical card."

The addition of Himyan significantly enhances the Samsung Wallet experience by expanding compatibility with Qatar's local banking ecosystem and increasing accessibility for domestic cardholders.

The integration also introduces advanced security features backed by the same standards used across Samsung's global wallet ecosystem, such as device tokenization via Samsung Knox and biometric authentication (fingerprint or PIN verification), to keep user financial data completely isolated and secure.

To add a Himyan card to Samsung Wallet, users simply open the Samsung Wallet app on a compatible Galaxy device, select "Add Card", and complete a quick verification process through their card-issuing bank. - QNA

Amir receives written message from Yemen's leader



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a written message from the chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council of the Republic of Yemen, Dr Rashad Mohammed al-Aimi, concerning bilateral relations and ways to further strengthen them. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received the message during a meeting yesterday with Yemen's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Dr Afrah al-Zouba, who is currently visiting Qatar. - QNA

MoECC reaffirms commitment to protect marine biodiversity, whale sharks

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting marine biodiversity and whale sharks in Qatari waters, considering the species one of the foremost components of marine biodiversity.

In a statement marking International Whale Shark Day, which falls annually on August 30, the ministry highlighted the key research and studies that the Wildlife Development Department has been leading since 2010, focusing on examining whale shark population structure and identifying individual whale sharks through the efforts of a sophisticated team comprising scientists and researchers specialising in marine biology and whale shark research.

The MoECC underlined that enhanced scientific knowledge of whale sharks in Qatar's waters is an outgrowth of years-long research efforts, noting that aerial survey operations have resulted in tracking approximately 700 sharks in a single day.

The ministry deemed this a scientific feat that demonstrates the paramount importance of Qatar's waters as one of the world's foremost congregation points for whale sharks.

The ministry added that these efforts culminated in the publication of Qatar's first whale shark catalogue, providing an important scientific database to

support the tracking of the species and inform future research.

It noted that professional studies and research provide accurate scientific data on whale shark numbers, population characteristics, and movement patterns, thereby strengthening the MoECC's capability to develop and implement programmes to conserve the species and its natural habitats while sustaining marine biodiversity in Qatar.

As such, the ministry called on all community members at home to help shield this unique species by keeping the marine environment clean, preventing sources of pollution, and refraining from disturbing marine species in their natural habitats.

It also urged community members to contribute to strengthening awareness of the importance of preserving biodiversity and marine treasures for generations to come.

In addition, the MoECC assured that monitoring and scientific research efforts would continue, culminating in further promoting Qatar's stature as one of the world's most important territories hosting whale shark congregations.

It pointed out that these efforts would help protect the species and its habitats, as well as foster the sustainability of the marine ecosystem for generations to come. - QNA

Qatar Charity rolls out innovative water solutions in Somaliland

With support from donors and in co-operation with Somaliland's ministry of water development, Qatar Charity (QC) has launched the first seawater desalination plant in northwestern Somaliland.

The project aims to provide a sustainable source of drinking water and enhance water security as the city continues to face persistent challenges in accessing clean water.

Valued at approximately \$500,000, the project offers a practical model for innovative responses to water scarcity.

It is expected to improve regular access to safe drinking water, reduce reliance on unsafe or remote water sources, and strengthen water security, with positive implications for public health, living conditions, and economic activity in the coastal city.



Somaliland's Minister of Water Development Mohamed Abdulmalik Ahmed described the project as a major milestone for Zeila, saying that it would help mitigate the impact of water shortages and improve residents' access to safe drinking water.

He noted that the plant will produce around 150 cubic metres of desalinated water per day, sup-

ported by storage tanks with a total capacity of 250 cubic metres.

The facility is also equipped with a solar-powered system to ensure sustainable operation and reduce operating costs.

The minister thanked the donors for their support and praised Qatar Charity's efforts to complete the project, stressing that the plant addresses an urgent need among the city's residents.

Somaliland's Minister of Youth and Sports Ahmed Yasin Mohamed Farah said the project marks an important step in addressing water challenges.

Ahmed Abdullah Mohamed, the governor of the Salal Region, welcomed the project on behalf of the local community.

Qatar Charity's representative in Somaliland, Mohamed Aidid, said the project is part of the organisation's efforts to implement sustainable development initiatives that address the actual needs of local communities.



Qatar, Japan sign exchange of official memorandum on air services accord

Qatar and Japan have signed an exchange of official memorandum concerning the amendment of the Air Services Agreement, with an annex amending the air route schedule.

The exchange of official memorandum was signed by Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA)'s Mohammed bin Faleh al-Hajri and Japan's ambassador to Qatar Naoto Hisajima. The signing comes within the framework of strengthening bilateral co-operation in civil aviation, developing air services and connectivity between Qatar and Japan, and further enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries. - QNA

Ministry launches 'First Step' initiative for new students

From Page 1

The official said that the ministry wants every boy and girl crossing the school gate for the first time to feel they are the object of attention, care and appreciation, and to realise that school is their second home, opening its doors with love and safety be-

fore science and knowledge.

The undersecretary commended the partnership with the private sector, stressing that the "First Step" initiative reflects the integration of roles between national institutions and the private sector in supporting education and promoting social responsibility, contributing to raising a

qualified generation capable of continuing Qatar's path of development and progress.

The initiative stems from the MoEHE's keenness to prepare students for the school environment in an atmosphere of reassurance and joy, and to enhance their sense of belonging from the first day, helping form a positive image of school as a safe, support-

ive and stimulating learning environment.

Its importance also stems from the belief that early beginnings leave a deep impression on a child's memory, strengthening self-confidence, connection to school and psychological stability - all reflected positively in their educational experience in its early stages.

Strong first day attendance heralds new academic year

From Page 1

Meanwhile, the private schools had made elaborate preparations for the new academic year and there were special arrangements to make sure that the students felt home especially the tiny toddlers for the pre-primary and primary classes.

While for most international schools it was the beginning of a new academic year, for Indian schools in the country that account for a significant number of students, it was the resumption of the academic year that had started in April this year.

An official from a private school said that almost 85 to 90% of the students were present on the first day.

"We had a very good attendance on the opening day. Most students have returned to school while some of the students who are on vacation may not have reached back. They will join in the coming days and we hope that they will have a fruitful and productive academic year," he added.



Students from a private school. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Awqaf ministry launches app offering over 50 online services

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has launched the "Meshka" digital services application as a unified online platform that enables the public to access a wide diversity of religious and guidance services through a modern and user-friendly experience.

The ministry said in a statement yesterday that the application is a monolithic digital platform that streamlines procedures for the public by having more than 50 online services in place to cover a number of sectors and domains considered critical to the ministry's operations, chiefly mosque services, Dawah and guidance, Hajj and Umrah, as well as Holy Qur'an contests.

The statement further noted that this utility helps strengthen awareness of the ministry's digital services by combining an easy-to-use platform offering services and mechanisms for their utilisation, along with information and procedures linked to the application in a direct manner.

For mosque services, the ministry said that the application enables users to locate nearby mosques accurately through interactive maps, providing information on each mosque, including available facilities and related services, thereby facilitating easy access.

For Qur'anic competitions, the application provides a combined system that enables students to participate and train in a virtual environment that simulates real examinations, better preparing participants for the actual tests.

Regarding services related to religious outreach and guidance, the statement said the application facilitates users' access to religious awareness materials, licenced Qur'anic healers, and religious inquiries.

In addition, the statement noted that this utility offers meritorious services when it comes to Hajj and Umrah by expediting registration procedures and following up on submissions, along with providing regulatory instructions, as well as relevant preventive and health tips for those who wish to perform the rites. - QNA



Qatar Philatelic Centre wins five medals at Asian Stamp Exhibition in Indonesia

The Qatar Philatelic and Numismatic Centre of the Ministry of Culture won several medals at the Asian Stamp Exhibition currently held in Bandung, Indonesia, under the umbrella of the Inter-Asia Philatelic Federation (FIAP).

Following evaluations by a panel of international jurors, the centre achieved outstanding results across several exhibition categories.

The entry "The First Regular Stamps of Qatar" won a gold medal (G), while "The Postal History of Kuwait" received a large gold medal (LV).

The entries "The Postal History of Oman", "The History of Aden Stamps", and "Detained Mail During World War II (USA and Switzerland)" also received gold medals (V). The Qatar Philatelic and Numismatic Centre is a member of both the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) and FIAP, and serves on FIAP's Executive Committee. - QNA

QU's College of Nursing welcomes new students at Fall 2026 orientation

Qatar University (QU)'s College of Nursing organised an orientation session for new students admitted in the fall 2026 semester, welcoming first-year students and congratulating them on beginning their academic journey.

The session introduced students to the college's academic requirements, services and opportunities, helping facilitate their transition to university life and strengthen their integration into the college community.

The session was attended by 56 new students admitted for Fall 2026, who learned about the College of Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing programme, the study plan, and the requirements for transitioning from the General Nursing track to the Nursing specialisation, in addition to key academic policies, academic advising services, and the services provided by Student Affairs to support their university journey.

Dr Magda al-Banna, the dean of the College of Nursing at Qatar University, said: "The joining of our new students to the



Dr Ghada Saif al-Kuwari



Dr Magda al-Banna



Alia Nizar Sheikh

College of Nursing marks the beginning of an important stage in their academic and professional journey."

"Nursing is a profession that combines science, clinical excellence, ethics, and compassion, and plays an essential role in advancing the health of individuals and communities," she said. "We are commit-

ted to supporting our students and equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and professional values that enable them to contribute effectively to the future of healthcare in Qatar."

Dr Ghada Saif al-Kuwari, associate dean for Student Affairs at the College of Nursing, said: "We also work to strengthen

their sense of belonging to the college and introduce them to the opportunities and services available, contributing to preparing nursing professionals capable of meeting the needs of the healthcare sector in Qatar and supporting the human development goals of Qatar National Vision 2030"

To foster communication between new

and current students, the orientation featured a session on "Beginning Your Nursing Journey: A Student's Perspective".

During the session, a College of Nursing student shared her academic and clinical experiences with the new students, along with key lessons and advice gained throughout her time at the college.

Alia Nizar Sheikh, a fourth-year student at the College of Nursing, said: "Nursing is not merely lectures and examinations; it is a journey through which we build our knowledge, skills, and self-confidence through study, clinical training, and different experiences."

"I advise new students to make use of the support provided by faculty members and the opportunities offered by the college, and to remember that what they learn today will make a difference in the lives of their patients in the future," she said.

The College of Nursing Student Representative Board actively participated in the New Student Orientation by welcoming newly admitted students and introducing them to the Board's role within the college.



VCUarts Qatar welcomes record student enrolment

The Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar), a Qatar Foundation (QF) partner university, has welcomed new and returning students to campus for the start of the 2026-27 academic year, with record enrolment across several measures.

VCUarts Qatar has enrolled 376 undergraduate and graduate degree-seeking students this fall – the largest student body in the school's history and an 8.35% increase over fall 2025.

An additional 33 students from other Education City universities are taking courses at VCUarts Qatar through the cross-registration programme, bringing the total number of students studying at the university this fall to 409.

The university also welcomed a record 105 new students, a 7% increase over fall 2025.

In a press statement, VCUarts Qatar dean Amir Berbic said: "These record enrolment numbers reflect the growing interest in the distinctive education we offer and, more broadly, in the role that artists, designers and scholars

can play in shaping the future of Qatar and the region."

"More importantly, they represent hundreds of individual students bringing their own ideas, perspectives and ambitions to our community," he said. "We look forward to seeing where their creativity and hard work will lead."

New students began their university experience with an orientation programme designed to introduce them to VCUarts Qatar's academic programmes, creative facilities, student services, and the wider campus community.

The programme culminated in the New Student Convocation, which formally welcomed the incoming Class of 2030.

The new academic year will bring opportunities for students to learn across disciplines, take part in research and creative practice, connect with visiting artists, designers and scholars, and engage with VCUarts Qatar's growing network of partners in Qatar and internationally.

It will also mark an important milestone for the university, as the inaugural cohort of stu-

dents in the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Kinetic Imaging prepares to graduate in spring 2027.

VCUarts Qatar offers undergraduate programmes in Art History, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Kinetic Imaging, and Painting + Printmaking, as well as an MFA (Master of Fine Arts) in Design.

Through Education City's cross-registration programme, students from partner universities can also enrol in selected courses at VCUarts Qatar, contributing to an active exchange of knowledge and perspectives across the multi-university community.

Established in 1998 through a partnership between Virginia Commonwealth University and the QF, VCUarts Qatar was the first international university to open in Education City.

Today, its students, faculty and alumni contribute to Qatar's creative and cultural landscape and to an increasingly connected international community of artists, designers, researchers and scholars.

Sidra Medicine, The Pearl International Hospital sign pact on cord blood banking

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, and The Pearl International Hospital have signed an agreement to provide expectant parents with access to Sidra Medicine's cord blood banking services.

The agreement will provide expectant parents the choice to store their baby's umbilical cord blood with Sidra Medicine, as part of their maternity care journey with The Pearl International Hospital.

Sidra Medicine will collect, process and store the samples at its specialised GMP (good manufacturing practice) facility, which houses Qatar's only Cord Blood Bank.

"This agreement expands access to an important innovative and specialised service for expectant parents in Qatar," said Sidra Medicine chief research officer Prof Khalid Fakhro.

"By making clinical-grade cord blood and tissue banking services available to families receiving maternity care at The Pearl International Hospital, we are providing them with the information and support they need to make informed decisions about preserving these valuable biological resources," he said. "It also reflects Sidra Medicine's continued commitment to advancing specialised healthcare services for as many patients and families across the country."

The Pearl International Hospital chief medical officer Dr Cem Emir Guldogan expressed the hospital's pride in this significant achievement, highlighting the hospital's role in providing advanced medical care to the community and reaffirming its continued commitment to enhancing high-quality healthcare services.

"This agreement represents an important milestone in our journey to elevate healthcare standards in Qatar," he said.

"The Pearl International Hospital has been developed to offer world-class medical expertise, innovative technologies, and an environment that promotes holistic well-being," Dr Guldogan added. "Our commitment is to provide high-quality, compassionate care that aligns with international best practices while respecting the values of our community." – QNA



UDST celebrates graduation of Uzbek trainees as certified vocational trainers

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) celebrated the successful completion of a 10-month vocational training programme for 15 professionals from Uzbekistan's Namangan region, marking an important milestone in the pioneering collaboration between Qatar and Uzbekistan to strengthen vocational education and workforce development.

The programme forms part of a pioneering effort jointly advanced by the Centre for Progressive Reforms (CPR) and the embassy of Uzbekistan in Qatar, in close partnership with the UDST.

It is designed to develop a new generation of highly qualified vocational instructors and establish a sustainable system for preparing skilled professionals in Uzbekistan for domestic and international labour markets.

The collaboration builds on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the CPR and UDST, which established a framework for trainer development and support for an internationally accredited training centre in Uzbekistan.

At the UDST, the Uzbek professionals received intensive training and instructor development in four high-demand trades: Electrical, Welding, Plumbing, and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning).

The 10-month programme combined classroom instruction, extensive hands-on practice, and instructor preparation, equipping the participants to transfer their newly acquired knowledge, skills, and teaching methodologies to future trainees in Uzbekistan.

Training was delivered through the UDST's Professional Skills Centre with the involvement of the university's faculty, master instructors, and technical specialists.

Participants were also exposed to internationally recognised training and assessment practices, including those aligned with the National Centre for Construction Education and Research (NCCER).

Following graduation, the 15 professionals will return to Uzbekistan to support the launch of the Uzbek-Qatari Vocational Skills Centre in the Namangan region, where they will serve as vocational instructors and technical specialists.

The centre will initially focus on the same four trades – Electrical, Welding, Plumbing, and HVAC – and serve as a platform for developing an internationally competitive skilled workforce.

Once fully operational and expanded to its planned capacity, the centre is expected to train more than



1,000 skilled professionals annually, supporting Uzbekistan's workforce development priorities and creating stronger pathways to employment both at home and in international labour markets.

Throughout their training at the UDST, the participants developed specialised technical knowledge and hands-on competencies through the university's industry-driven curricula, strengthening their readiness to deliver high-quality vocational training and transfer practical expertise within Uzbekistan.

"We are proud to celebrate our graduates as they complete this important training journey and prepare to carry their knowledge and expertise back to Uzbekistan," said UDST president Dr Salem al-Naemi.

"At UDST, we believe applied education is the future: it equips people with the practical capabilities required by evolving industries and creates direct value for communities and economies," he said. "This collaboration demonstrates how education can serve national priorities locally while contributing to skills development globally. We congratulate our graduates and look forward to the contribution they will make through the Uzbek-Qatari Vocational Skills Centre."

"The graduation of these 15 professionals represents much more than the completion of a training programme," said Mirshohid Aslanov, chief executive and co-founder of the Centre for Progressive Reforms. "They are the first generation of instructors who will carry the knowledge, standards, and practical experience gained at UDST back to Uzbekistan and help us build a new model of internationally aligned vocational education."

"We are deeply grateful to the University of Doha for Science and Technology, its leadership, faculty, and instructors, as well as the embassy of Uzbekistan in Qatar, for their commitment to this pioneering partnership."

ISP schools in Qatar welcome students for 2026-27 academic year

Park House English School, The Hamilton International School and Durham School for Girls Doha, part of the International Schools Partnership (ISP), opened their doors today to students and families as the 2026-27 academic year began across the group's schools in Qatar.

The first day of term brought together returning learners and new joiners in a carefully planned start to the year, with each school focused on helping students transition smoothly into their classrooms, routines and wider school communities.

Across the three schools, staff members have designed the return to campus around belonging, readiness, and reassurance, ensuring that students can reconnect with peers and teachers.

At the same time, families receive the guidance and communication they need at the start of a new academic journey.

"We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to Park House for the start of another exciting academic year," said Park House English School principal John Smith.



"We return following another outstanding set of examination results, which once again confirm Park House's position firmly among the top two British schools in Doha," he said. "We are immensely proud of what our students and staff continue to achieve and look forward to building on these and many other successes in the year ahead."

"As we begin a new academic year at The Hamilton International School, there is a real sense of excitement and optimism across our community," said Hamilton International School principal Terry Senior.

"I am incredibly proud of what our students achieved last year, including our exceptional examination results, which reflect their hard work, the dedication of our staff and the tremendous support of our families," he said. "This year, I am particularly looking forward to welcoming our students back and watching them continue to grow in confidence, character and ambition."

"At Hamilton, our focus is not simply on academic success, but on ensuring every child feels known, supported and inspired to achieve more than they thought possible," Senior added. "We have so much to celebrate and even more to look forward to, and I am excited about the year ahead for our entire Hamilton community."

The new year also reinforces the ISP's emphasis on learning that extends beyond academic results.

Each campus will continue to combine strong teaching with pastoral care, creating school environments where students are encouraged to be ambitious, supported in their well-being and guided to grow as confident individuals.



"As we begin a new academic year, we want every student to feel excited about learning and confident about what they can achieve," said Rory Galvin, the director of learning at ISP Middle East.

"Across our schools, that means combining strong academic learning with opportunities to develop curiosity, resilience and the life competencies that will support students well beyond the classroom," he said. "Through our Learning First approach, we want students to be challenged, supported and inspired to keep growing, while developing the skills and confidence they need for the future."

ISP schools seek to prepare students not only for the academic year ahead, but also for the wider opportunities, challenges and choices they will encounter in the future.

The ISP recently announced that it will award 100 scholarships of up to 100% on annual tuition fees for the 2026-27 academic year, across 10 ISP schools in the UAE and Qatar.

The programme will support both existing and new secondary students from Year 7 to Year 12, recognising achievement and potential across the ISP Middle East community.

QIC ushers its customers into the new season with integrated digital solutions

As the summer holidays draw to a close and daily routines resume, families and individuals once again find themselves in need of essential services to ensure a confident, worry-free start to their new season at home, school, and on the road.

To support the community through this transition, Qatar Insurance (QIC) brings together a full suite of insurance and everyday services through its all-in-one digital ecosystem.

From a single interface, users can access everything they need to start their season with confidence, eliminating the need to manage disparate providers or switch between platforms.

The QIC's digital ecosystem brings together a wide range of insurance products and everyday services within a single, seamless experience designed to meet customers' needs across different aspects of daily life.

From protecting homes and securing children's educational journeys, to managing vehicle insurance, maintenance and mobility needs, the ecosystem also features an integrated car marketplace and a loyalty programme that turns everyday digital interactions into exclusive rewards.

This integrated approach has established the QIC's digital ecosystem as a one-stop destination for insurance and non-insurance services, with a 4.8 rating on both the App Store and Google Play.

Recognising that reassurance begins at home, the QIC's digital ecosystem offers a swift way to in-



sure household contents and safeguard family property.

Available entirely online in under two minutes, the QIC's home contents coverage protects furniture, jewellery, artwork, and other valuables against theft or damage caused by fire, flood, and unforeseen incidents.

The policy also covers medical costs for bodily injuries sustained by family members or domestic workers in home accidents, as well as temporary accommodation cover should an insured property, whether owned or rented, become uninhabitable.

To give parents greater peace of mind about the continuity of their children's education, the QIC offers Qatar's first school fees insurance.

This solution provides parents with financial support to cover their children's tuition fees should they become unable to pay due to involuntary job loss, permanent disability, or death during the academic year.

For students, this coverage offers added reassurance, allowing

them to start the school year with confidence and stay focused on their studies and academic excellence, free from worry about unexpected circumstances that could disrupt their learning journey.

As regular traffic returns, drivers must fulfil several legal requirements in Qatar, including renewing vehicle registrations and ensuring their vehicles are roadworthy.

The QIC's digital ecosystem eliminates the friction of managing these tasks across separate offices and locations.

Through the QIC App, customers can renew car insurance, book vehicle maintenance, or rent a car when needed, all from one place.

For those looking to start the season with a new vehicle, the QIC's integrated Car Market connects buyers directly with leading showrooms, authorised dealers, and top auto brands, making it easy to find their dream car in Qatar.

The service also allows individuals to list their used vehicles for sale free of charge, with complimentary tools to calculate fair market value and digitally transfer insurance ownership to the buyer.

To elevate every touchpoint across the ecosystem, the QIC "Coins" loyalty programme rewards customers for their digital interactions.

Customers earn Coins on every eligible transaction.

Earned Coins can be redeemed for a curated suite of lifestyle benefits, ranging from travel essentials and automotive care to hospitality, fitness vouchers, and premium electronics.

QAS welcomes students in a new building

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar Academy Sidra (QAS), part of Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education (PUE), has moved into a new building, welcoming more than 1,100 students this academic year.

"The move to our new building marks an important milestone in the QAS's journey," QAS director Mirna Raslan told *Gulf Times*. "It is not simply a move to a larger and more modern facility, but the beginning of a new phase of growth and ambition."

She said the new building is designed to support the academy's growth and provide an integrated learning environment for students from age three through to secondary school.

"After years of progress and achievement, we now have an environment specifically designed to support our vision for the future and provide an integrated

learning experience for our students," Raslan noted.

The new building has a capacity of around 1,800 students and is welcoming approximately 1,100 students this academic year.

"We wanted the building to support the academy's long-term growth without compromising the quality of education or the individual attention we give to every student," Raslan said. "We wanted a space that can grow with us and give us the flexibility to develop our programmes and respond to our students' evolving needs."

She mentioned that the building features modern, flexible learning spaces, sports facilities, and areas dedicated to collaborative and creative learning, as well as environments that support the active, inquiry-based learning at the heart of International Baccalaureate programmes.

"The building itself has become part of the learning experience," Raslan underlined. "The spaces give teachers greater flexibility to



Students at the new facility.

design interactive learning experiences and provide students with more opportunities for hands-on learning, collaboration, and interdisciplinary projects, making learning more connected to the real world."

She stated that the building has also been designed to maximise natural light throughout its facilities, while incorporating solutions that enhance energy efficiency, reduce water consumption, and make use of environmentally friendly materials.

"We wanted to create an environment where students feel comfortable and have a strong sense of belonging, because we believe the learning environment has a direct impact on a student's experience, well-being, and confidence," Raslan explained.

"When students feel that a space has been designed with them in mind, they are more likely to engage, explore, and create."

"When I saw the students enter the building for the first time, I thought about the opportunities ahead of them, the dreams that will begin here, and the memories and achievements they will create in the years to come," she continued.

"For us, this building is not simply about walls and spaces; it is a place where future success stories will take shape."

According to Raslan, the significance of the new building extends beyond its facilities, supporting the academy's vision of developing confident and creative students who are capable of making a positive impact.



Mirna Raslan

"Our vision is not only about what students learn in the classroom, but also about who they become," she said. "We want to provide an environment that encourages inquiry, collaboration, and innovation, while giving every student a genuine sense of belonging and the confidence to succeed."

Raslan said the academy aims to build a strong sense of community in its new home.

"We hope this first year will lay the foundation for a strong culture in our new home, where every student, staff member, and parent feels that they are part of it," she said. "We want the building to become a second home for the QAS community – a place that brings together learning, passion, curiosity, and creativity."

Registration opens for falconry course at Nomas Centre

The Nomas Centre, an educational institution affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, has opened registration for a falconry course that introduces young people to one of the country's best-known heritage traditions.

The initiative aims to strengthen participants' connection to Qatari customs while developing practical skills, self-reliance and responsibility.

The course will run from September 6-9 at the centre's Dafna branch.

It is open to Qatari children and children of Qatari mothers aged 8-14 and forms part of a wider programme of structured, age-appropriate heritage education that combines instruction with practical learning.

Participants will explore falconry's place in Qatari folk heritage, including the customs, terminology and etiquette associated with caring for and handling falcons.

They will also learn about the bird's parts, the tools used in its care, safe interaction and respect for the surrounding environment.

Beyond technical knowledge, the course is designed to cultivate patience, concentration, co-operation and responsible treatment of wildlife.

By presenting these lessons through a familiar tradition, the programme connects practical learning with national identity, belonging and environmental stewardship.

Falconry is one part of Nomas Centre's broader youth programme, which introduces children to customs and activities associated with life in Qatar, both on land and at sea.

Other offerings include majlis etiquette, traditional dance, archery, horsemanship, swimming, fishing and traditional diving, reflecting the centre's role as a school and incubator for Qatari culture.

Families can register through the designated online link, subject to the stated age and nationality requirements.

The course gives participants a direct encounter with living heritage, extending learning beyond books and classroom discussion.

Fire Station to host panel on the future of creative development in Qatar

Fire Station, in partnership with Qatar Creates Talks, will host "Creative Infrastructures: Spaces for Experimentation" tomorrow, a public panel discussion considering how creative development programmes can support artists, designers and other practitioners as they build sustainable creative careers in Qatar.

Taking place from 6pm to 7.30pm at the Fire Station Auditorium, the discussion will examine how creative development programmes support artists and designers beyond the production of finished work, from providing mentorship and peer learning to creating opportunities for research, experimentation and collaboration across disciplines.

The talk is part of Qatar Museums' Fall/Winter 2026 season, which features a programme of exhibitions, talks and cultural

events across its museums and creative hubs.

Rose Lejeune, head of Academic and Community Programmes at Fire Station, said: "While Artists Intensive Study Programme (AISP) is the starting point for this conversation, the bigger question is what artists and creatives actually need around them to experiment and grow."

"I'm looking forward to hearing from others working across education and the creative sector here in Doha, and thinking together about how these different spaces can support artists in ever better ways," she said.

The panel features Katara Art Centre museologist Dr Elina Sairanen, acting head of Public Programmes Section at M7 Marackech Elizabeth Arbuckle, and Maryam al-Homaid, artist and associate professor

at VCUarts Qatar, with Lejeune moderating.

Held during the open call for Fire Station's AISP, which closes on September 5, the panel considers the broader significance of creative development initiatives within Qatar's evolving cultural landscape.

The panel will also address how continued investment in people, knowledge and creative exchange can contribute to a more connected, resilient and sustainable cultural ecosystem, while creating stronger opportunities for artists and practitioners to develop their work over the long term.

"Creative Infrastructures: Spaces for Experimentation" will be held in English and is open to audiences aged 18 and above.

Interested attendees can register free of charge via Qatar Creates website.

This panel is presented in partnership with Qatar Creates Talks.



Activities of 63rd Damascus International Fair reflects Syria's diversity: minister



Hind Kabawat

The 63rd Damascus International Fair was inaugurated in the Syrian capital under the slogan *Syria Shines Again*, with the participation of around 1,000 local, Arab, and foreign companies from 60 countries, amid a broad economic, commercial, and cultural presence.

Syria's Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Hind Kabawat told the Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the fair serves as a platform for economic and trade co-operation, in addition to hosting a variety of social and cultural activities.

She noted that daily performances are

being held by musical groups representing different regions and cultures, contributing to the promotion of social cohesion.

Kabawat added that children are taking part in a number of activities organised by the fair in co-operation with the Scouts, giving them an opportunity to participate in the economic and cultural event.

Meanwhile, the director of media communications at Syria's ministry of economy and industry, Abdullah Hallaq, told the QNA that the Damascus International Fair reflects Syria's renewed openness to the world.

He emphasised the importance of the

fair and its role in supporting the national economy and stimulating economic and commercial activity.

Hallaq said that the current edition differs from previous ones by dedicating the first three days to business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) activities, focusing on investment discussions and negotiations over contracts and agreements, particularly those related to industry and trade.

The fair will continue until September 4, featuring a diverse programme of economic, commercial, cultural, and social meetings and activities. – QNA



Abdullah Hallaq

IT'S BACK

10 Items @ 2030 PROMOTION

Safari 10, 20, 30 promotion starts today

Safari has launched its highly popular 10, 20, 30 promotion, which starts today.

This promotion, one of Safari's most widely acclaimed and a customer favourite, features a wide range of daily essential items, including fruits, vegetables, fish, meat, bakery items, hot food, cosmetics, household items, readymade garments, footwear, electronics, computer accessories, food grains, and textiles.

In addition to thousands of products priced at QR10, QR20, and QR30, numerous items are also available for QR15 and QR25.

Key highlights of the promotion include Lux Soap (120g x 6 pieces) for just QR10, Colour House Dinner Set (12 pcs) for just QR20, and Lenovo Airpods for just QR30.

As part of the promotion, a vast array of delicious dishes is available in the Safari Bakery and Hot Food section.

Along with South Indian, North Indian, Western, Arabic, and Chinese flavours, exciting combo offers are also available.

Featured items include Chicken Biryani, Chicken Machboos, and Pizza, while the Fresh Food Deli section offers Roumy Cheese, Butter Block, Awafi Pizza Cheese, and Cheddar Cheese.

Furthermore, the Frozen section features a wide range of juices, soft drinks, ice creams, chicken parts, chicken nuggets, milk, and dairy products for QR10, QR20, and QR30.

The Grocery section is fully stocked with grains, snacks, and other essential food items.

In the Household section, a variety of multipurpose items are available.

The Cosmetics department features top brands such as Enchanter, Dove, Sebamed, Pantene, Lux,

and Olay, as well as perfumes, body sprays, make-up sets, soaps, face washes, body lotions, and other health and beauty care products.

The Stationery section offers a vast selection of school and office items, including Faber-Castell and Maped school kits, as well as a variety of stationery sets.

Beyond expectations, the Toys and Sports sections also showcase an impressive range of products available at QR10, QR20, and QR30.

The Garments and Readymade section presents a large, high-quality collection available for just QR10, QR20, and QR30, including menswear, ladies' churidars, churidar materials, ladies' denim jackets, kidswear, footwear, ladies' bags, and newborn baby items.

The Electronics category features an exciting variety of devices at heavily discounted prices, including emergency lights, trimmers, flashlights, headsets, smartwatches, and much more.

Additionally, Safari's mega promotion "Shop & Drive" offers customers a chance to win 30 Best-tune cars.

Customers receive an e-affle coupon for every 50 QAR spent at any Safari outlet.

The final draw for this promotion will take place on September 13.

The "Visit & Win" promotion was launched to mark the opening of Safari Hypermarket's new outlets, and it is receiving a good response.

The promotion gives visitors to the Logistics Village and Al Sheehaniya outlets a chance to win one of two Chevrolet Captiva cars, with no purchase required.

The first draw of the promotion will be on September 17 at the Safari outlet in Logistics Village.

Libya’s rival groups sign UN-backed election agreement

AFP
Tripoli

Representatives of Libya’s rival political groups signed yesterday a UN-backed agreement that was presented as a step towards holding much delayed national elections in the deeply divided country.

The two sides signed the text, a result of talks held in recent months in Rome and Tunis, in the capital Tripoli at the headquarters of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), with its chief Hanna Tetteh in attendance.

Moussa al-Koni, vice-president of the Libyan presidential council, welcomed “an opportunity that will move Libya from managing division to ending it”,

while Abdul Rahman al-Abbar, a representative from the east, said they had “agreed to major mutual compromises”.

The oil-rich North African country has struggled to recover from the chaos that followed the 2011 Nato-backed uprising that toppled longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi.

Two governments are currently vying for power: the UN-recognised administration in Tripoli and a rival in the east backed by military commander Khalifa Haftar.

TV channel al-Masar reported that Haftar welcomed progress “in addressing issues that have remained unresolved for years and that have contributed to hindering the will of Libyans to move forward towards holding presi-



People wave Libyan flags in Benghazi. (Reuters/File Photo)

dential and legislative elections”.

Tetteh hailed yesterday’s agreement, which notably covers the restructuring of the High National Electoral Commission,

while calling for it to be translated into concrete action. Presidential elections aiming to unify the fractured country were scheduled for late 2021, but were postponed

indefinitely over disputes.

In recent years the sides have disagreed over whether military personnel and dual nationals should be eligible to run, as well as whether the presidential and legislative ballots should be held simultaneously or separately.

In August 2025, the UN proposed a roadmap for general elections and the unification of institutions in Libya that looked to implement a “politically viable electoral framework” and “a new unified government”.

The UN-backed agreement is separate from another initiative led by Massad Boulos, US President Donald Trump’s senior adviser on Arab and African affairs, which aims for a rapprochement between Libya’s eastern and western authorities.

Khamenei urges Muslim nations to unite against US, Israel

AFP
Tehran

Iran’s Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei (pictured) yesterday called on Muslim countries in the region to unite against the US and Israel, in a written message issued six months on from the start of the Middle East war. Khamenei has yet to be seen in public since his appointment, and authorities have not released any video or audio of him.



“The solution to the problems of the Islamic nations is unity of words, friendship, and co-operation on the path of goodness,” he said yesterday as Shia Muslims marked the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed.

“Anyone, in any position, who does anything that leads to division among Muslims and creates conflict in the Muslim community, knowingly or unknowingly, intentionally or unintentionally, has served the purpose of the enemies of Islam,” he added, according to his official website.

The supreme leader called on the rulers of regional countries to “recognise your real enemy, understand its plan, and confront it”, referring to the US and Israel.

During the war, Iran targeted US military bases across the Middle East. Relations with several Gulf nations have since soured.

Khamenei, who has the final say on major state policies, also called on Iranian officials and citizens to put aside differences. “Again, this servant’s advice to the Iranian people is to not allow any differences to arise among themselves in any way,” he said.

“I firmly declare that doing anything detrimental to social cohesion is prohibited,” he had said in Friday’s message. He also called Friday for the gradual de-dollarisation of the Iranian economy and for boosting economic production to support growth following months of a US naval blockade and years of crippling sanctions that have hit livelihoods.

Over 80% of Gaza’s water and drainage networks decimated

QNA
Gaza

The Gaza Strip could be plagued by an aggravated environmental disaster amid the devastation of over 80% of its water and drainage networks, warned Saeed Al-Aklouk, the Palestinian official responsible for water and wastewater monitoring at the Ministry of Health in Gaza.

In remarks cited by the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) yesterday, al-Aklouk was quoted as saying water production has fallen from approximately 300,000 to 123,000 cubic meters per day, while per capita water availability has declined to between 21 and 22 liters per day.

He added that the infiltration of wastewater into the groundwater is causing higher levels of contamination.

He warned of grave consequences for public health and the environment, particularly amid shortages of disinfectants and limited capacity to test water quality.

Al-Aklouk contended that the persistent crumbling of the water and drainage system would ominously exacerbate the humanitarian and environmental crisis in the enclave, threatening further contamination and the prevalence of health risks.

Alarming surge in children killed by Israel in West Bank

AFP
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Alia al-Hallaq’s son Mohammed was nine when he was killed by an Israeli army bullet last October, but the Palestinian homemaker still speaks of herself as a mother of five, not four.

“I still haven’t accepted the idea of the loss. I often sit in the courtyard of the house and look at Mohammed’s grave below, and I cry while making sure that my children don’t see me,” she told AFP. She said Mohammed was killed after running away from soldiers patrolling their village of Al-Rihiya, in the south of the occupied West Bank.

Hallaq’s uncle, also named Mohammed Hallaqa, told AFP that his nephew was killed by a stray bullet during a confrontation between the army patrol and a group of older youths.

The bullet travelled through Mohammed’s abdomen, according to emergency services.

“Mohammed’s killing was the end,” his mother said.

The Israeli military, contacted by AFP for comment on Mohammed’s death, said at the time that soldiers opened fire during an altercation while deployed in Al-Rihaya. “Soldiers responded with fire towards the suspects in the rock-hurling. Hits were identified,” it said, using language it generally employs to say troops shot and hit someone.

The killing of Palestinian chil-



Armed Israeli soldiers carrying out a patrol through the market, in the Old City of Nablus, in the northern Israeli-occupied West Bank. (AFP)

dren and teenagers by Israel has become increasingly common since the start of the war in Gaza.

B’Tselem, an Israeli rights group, reported 235 children and teenagers killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank since the war through June 2026, including five killed by Israeli settlers.

The Palestinian Authority’s Colonisation and Wall Resistance Commission, a Palestinian government institution, reported 250 such deaths over the same time period. In the 17 years between 2005 and 2021, an average of roughly one Palestinian child or teenager was killed by Israeli forces every month, according to B’Tselem, a frequent but much lower rate. For the period since the Gaza war began, the average using B’Tselem figures is around seven killed per month.

AFP spoke to 12 women who lost children since then.

Although the details of each case differ, all spoke of family life stopped in its tracks and a lack of accountability.

Last year, of the 54 Palestinian children or teenagers killed according to B’Tselem, the youngest was just two years old, while the majority were aged between 14 and 17. Teenagers are often killed when Israeli forces engage with Palestinian youths throwing rocks, whom they routinely label terrorists, and shoot them.

The Israeli military commander for the West Bank, Major General Avi Bluth, said in early 2026 that the army had killed 42 Palestinians for throwing stones in 2025, not specifying how many were minors. In several other cases, usually involving younger chil-

dren such as Mohammed, witnesses said the army had fired indiscriminately at Palestinians and killed children who were present.

One such casualty was seven-month-old Sam Abu Haikal, shot in the face by Israeli troops in the West Bank city of Hebron in June 2026.

His mother, Dania Abu Haikal, 28, told AFP she was also wounded when the troops fired at their car while Sam was on her lap, with a bullet entering through her cheek and exiting through her ear.

She bore a large scar on her face when she met with AFP at her home in Bethlehem, holding a stuffed fox that had belonged to her son. “Why would anyone shoot an infant? What did a little baby, a seven-month-old infant, do to harm the soldiers?” Abu Haikal, a university lecturer, said.

After a preliminary investigation, the army said one of its soldiers had opened fire on “uninvolved civilians” after their vehicle accelerated in the direction of the troops. Abu Haikal disputes this, and said her husband had brought their car to a stop before the soldiers started shooting.

She carries the agony of losing her only child on top of the physical pain from the shooting.

“I cry every day; now my life is empty without him,” she said.

Like others whom AFP spoke to, Abu Haikal consulted a lawyer to push the army to investigate the incident fully.

“Palestinians don’t get justice for being killed by Israelis. But we hope that we get justice.”

Israeli airstrike kills two Palestinians in Gaza, including three-year-old child

Reuters
Cairo

An Israeli airstrike killed two Palestinians, including a three-year-old child, in the central Gaza Strip yesterday, health officials said.

Gaza medics said the Israeli airstrike near a bakery in Deir Al-Balah killed one man, Hussam Nusair, a three-year-old boy, Tayyem Hamdan, and wounded several others. The Israeli military said it attacked and killed a Hamas fighter. The military said that Nusair advanced attacks against Israeli forces and civilians.

Hamas did not immediately comment on the allegation made



Mother of three-year-old Palestinian child Tayyem Hamdan, who was killed in an Israeli strike at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, reacts during his funeral in central Gaza Strip. (Reuters)

by the Israeli military.

An October 2025 US-backed ceasefire halted major fighting in the shattered territory, but it failed to end strikes by the Israeli military, which it said aimed to thwart attacks by Hamas and other Gaza fighters. Hamas accuses Israel of violating the ceasefire and undermining efforts to implement a broader plan by US President Donald Trump to end the Gaza conflict, which also includes Israeli withdrawals and Hamas disarmament.

More than 1,300 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire took effect last October, according to Gazan health officials, while the Israeli military says four Israeli soldiers have been killed during this period.

Iraq imprisons US-sanctioned official

AFP
Baghdad

Iraq sentenced a US-sanctioned oil official to seven years in prison after he was arrested as part of a government-led anti-corruption campaign, the country’s anti-graft body said yesterday.

Deputy oil minister for distribution affairs Ali al-Bahadli is among dozens of officials who were detained in June during anti-graft raids that took place in several areas, mostly in Baghdad’s fortified Green Zone.

The Commission of Integrity said in a statement that an anti-corruption court sentenced al-Bahadli to seven years in prison for “illicit gains”. The ruling requires Bahadli to return to the

The Commission of Integrity said in a statement that an anti-corruption court sentenced Bahadli to seven years in prison for “illicit gains”

state an amount equivalent to more than \$20mn in ill-gotten gains, in addition to paying a fine of the same amount.

The US imposed sanctions on Bahadli in May, accusing him of fraudulently mixing Iraqi and Iranian oil as part of a scheme to help Iran avoid sanctions.

At the time, Iraq’s oil ministry denied the accusations against al-Bahadli, who was then arrested during the anti-graft raids.

Iraqi authorities said that the

raids were part of new Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi’s campaign to fight the corruption that has plagued Iraq for decades.

But several Iraqi officials told AFP that the raids were also part of al-Zaidi’s campaign against funding for pro-Iran armed groups and the smuggling of Iranian oil. Iraq has been under mounting pressure from the US to curb Tehran’s influence.

Al-Zaidi, who took office this year with the blessing of the US, has pledged to ensure the armed factions that emerged after the US-led invasion hand over their weapons to the state.

In Iraq, corruption is especially rampant across public institutions, but convictions typically target mid-level officials or minor players and rarely those at the top of the power hierarchy.

Two killed near Druze-majority Sweida in Syria: sources

AFP
Sweida, Syria

Two civilians were killed near the Druze-majority city of Sweida in southern Syria yesterday, two local security sources told AFP, during suspected clashes between local armed groups and government forces.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor reported the same death toll, adding that government forces and armed groups from the Druze minority group had been exchanging fire since Saturday night.

Tensions have been high in Sweida province since clashes between Druze and government-aligned forces last

year led to some of the worst communal violence since the fall of longtime Syrian ruler Bashar al-Assad in 2024.

A Druze security source told AFP on condition of anonymity that a shell launched from a government-controlled area “targeted the outskirts of the city of Sweida, striking a tractor and killing two people on board, the driver and a woman who was with him”.

Sweida city and other parts of the surrounding Druze-majority province are run by armed groups and are the last major areas outside the grasp of Syria’s new authorities, who have been trying to unite the country after toppling al-Assad.

The Druze are an Arabic-speaking religious minority in Syria comprising

around 3% of the country’s population.

The security source, requesting anonymity, also said that “intermittent clashes have been taking place between the National Guard and government forces since Saturday night”, referring to prominent Druze leader Hikmat al-Hijri’s armed group.

A second source who inspected the missile strike site said that “the tractor was completely burned”, adding that the two victims were farmers. Druze armed groups’ latest row with Damascus came on Saturday when they refused to allow students to head to government-controlled areas to sit for official exams.

In July 2025, clashes erupted in Sweida between Druze factions and

Bedouin fighters, with government security forces intervening on the side of the Bedouins along with other tribal groups. More than 2,000 people were killed, including 789 Druze civilians, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor.

A committee formed by the Syrian government said it had documented the killing of 1,760 people. Government forces and their allies were accused at the time of executing civilians and other abuses, and Damascus last month said it began trying suspects over the violence. Israel, which also has a Druze population, intervened militarily during the clashes with strikes in Sweida and Damascus, saying it was defending the minority community.

USED VEHICLES FOR SALE

- Big Bus – 13 Nos (Tata, Ashok Leyland & Eicher)
- Double Cabin Pickup – 5 Nos (Mitsubishi, Toyota & Hyundai)
- Pickup – 4 Nos (Foton – 2015 Model)
- Forklift 7 Ton– 1 No (Dalian)
- Forklift 10 Ton – 2 Nos (Manitou)
- Telehandler – 1 No (Manitou)
- Man Mixers – 4 Nos (2011 model)

For site visit, please contact: 6691 5214
Offer to be submitted by email to: -
businessqatar2024@gmail.com

Trump wants reporter punished over his endorsement record characterisation

AFP
Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday threatened a prominent NBC broadcast journalist with possible punishment by US media regulators as the Republican expressed disappointment with coverage of his candidate endorsements ahead of November's midterm elections.

Trump took to his Truth Social platform to attack Kristen Welker as the "unpopular 'hostess' of the once great Meet the Press" talk show for stating that the president had "mixed results" on his endorsement of political candidates in party primaries, insisting the results went his way 98% to 100% of the time.

"Because of this purposeful inaccuracy, she will be reported to the FCC for rebuke or punishment," he said, referring to the Federal Communications Commission, which assigns and oversees licenses for radio and television broadcast frequencies.

"Unfortunately, she is not the only one. The Radical Left News

The Republican billionaire used American media to his advantage over the years as a provocative real estate developer in New York. But as president he dramatically turned against the press and what he called "fake news"

is going out of their way to harass, demean, and libel anything "TRUMP!"

The Republican billionaire used American media to his advantage over the years as a provocative real estate developer in New York. But as president he dramatically turned against the press and what he called "fake news."

He has sued several newspapers including the *Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*, and ordered federal funding slashed for public media.

His administration, from the Pentagon to the FBI, has ramped up restrictions and attempts to in-



President Donald Trump dismisses a question from NBC News correspondent Kristen Welker during an Oval Office meeting with Slovakia's Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini at the White House. (Reuters/File Photo)

timidate journalists, and the FCC — headed by a close Trump associate — has pressured broadcasters to toe the line.

"I hope that Chairman Brendan Carr, and the fine people of his Commission, will take this Threat to our Country very seri-

ously," the US President said. The latest attack is part of the Trump administration's months-long offensive against media out-

lets it deems overly critical. Such efforts are facing growing resistance from news organisations and major broadcast networks.

Several of them have filed lawsuits against the FCC, arguing such pressure constitutes political retaliation that violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution, which protects freedom of speech.

Relations between Trump and Welker have been under pressure for months.

In June the president abruptly cut short an interview with her following a tense exchange, during which he grew irritated by Welker's questioning, particularly on the war against Iran.

NBC News did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Experts argue the FCC lacks the legal authority to punish broadcasters or reporters for their viewpoints.

According to a 2025 paper by the Yale Journal on Regulation, the US Supreme Court has confirmed that US law "does not grant the FCC the power to ban controversial speech."

Space mysteries: Nasa on a mapping mission

AFP
Washington

Nasa launched its new flagship space telescope yesterday, embarking on a multi-year mission to create an unprecedented map of the cosmos and shed light on some of the biggest mysteries in physics.

Designed to take a panoramic view of the vast reaches of space, the Roman Space Telescope "will help unlock the secrets of the universe," US President Donald Trump said Friday during a ceremony at NASA headquarters in Houston, Texas.

Standing over 12 meters tall, the state-of-the-art observatory launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 7:26am aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.

Developed over more than a decade at a cost topping \$4bn, the telescope is named after pioneering US astronomer Nancy Grace Roman, who became known as the "Mother of Hubble," another of Nasa's flagship telescopes.

While Hubble revealed that the universe is expanding faster than previously thought, Roman will seek to answer some of the other unsolved mysteries, including those of dark matter and dark energy. "Roman will give the Earth a new atlas of the universe," NASA administrator Jared Isaacman said in April when he unveiled the project to the press.

With a field of view more than 100 times larger than Hubble's — and significantly wider than James Webb's — Roman will survey vast swaths of the sky from a vantage point 1.5 mn kilometers from Earth, which it will take about 100 days to reach.

Designed to work in tandem with other observatories such as Webb, which offers greater power and precision, Roman aims to discover thousands of exoplanets as well as tens of thousands of supernovae, the explosive deaths of massive stars.

"It will be the biggest catalog



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket lifts off carrying Nasa's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope at the Kennedy Space Centre. (Reuters)

of astronomical objects anybody's ever produced, and it will help us understand how common are solar systems like our own," Dave Content, Roman's technical manager, told AFP. The new telescope will also shed light on two of the biggest mysteries in physics: dark matter and dark energy. Their origins remain unknown, but together they are believed to make up about 95% of the universe.

Dark matter is thought to act as a kind of gravitational glue, while dark energy is believed to be a repulsive force driving the universe's expansion.

With its infrared vision, Roman will be able to detect light emitted by celestial objects billions of years ago, effectively looking back in time and offering scientists a glimpse into the universe's distant past and helping them better understand these two mysterious phenomena.

Roman's observations will complement the work of the Rubin Observatory in Chile and the European Space Agency's (ESA) Euclid probe, and are highly anticipated because they could challenge scientists' understanding of the universe's structure.

Julie McEnery, Roman's senior

project scientist, said recent research suggests the way scientists have been thinking about the universe's early expansion, based on the predictions of existing models, may be wrong.

"Recent observations hint that our standard model of the universe is incorrect," she told a press conference on Saturday, adding that Roman will help clear that up.

"It will definitively say, 'Yeah, the model works, or it doesn't.' And if it doesn't, it's going to provide us with the precision and quality of data that will allow us to start to distinguish between those options."

Scientists and the general public will have access to all of Roman's data. But the sheer volume will be daunting, Content warned.

The telescope will be generating about 1.3 terabytes of data a day, "which means you basically can't download the data to anybody's laptop," he said. For McEnery, the more data, the better.

"I very much hope, and in fact expect, that the most exciting science from Roman will be a surprise, something we couldn't predict, and that will set the stage for the next deeper set of questions for future missions to address."

Opposition leader in Zambia charged with treason

AFP
Lusaka

Zambia's detained opposition leader Brian Mundubile has been charged with treason, his lawyer said yesterday, deepening concerns over the government's treatment of political dissent.

Mundubile, who finished second to President Hakainde Hichilema in the August 13 election, was taken into custody on Thursday after more than two weeks in hiding.

Police accuse him of posing a national security threat after security forces raided his home a day after the vote and said they found rifles and other military equipment.

"I can confirm that Brian Mundubile and Makebi Zulu have been formally charged... with the offence of treason," lawyer Kambwa Aongola told AFP.

They were charged on Saturday and have remained in custody at Lusaka Central Police Station, Aongola said.

Zulu, Mundubile's running mate, is a former lawmaker and a spokesman for the family of late former president Edgar Lungu.

The pair have denied the allegations, dismissing claims of an armed insurgency as fabricated.

It was not immediately clear when they would appear in court to take plea. Hichilema is due to be sworn in for a second term on Tuesday.

Rights groups have warned that recent opposition arrests risk further narrowing political space in Zambia.

Hichilema's first term was also marked by concerns over political freedoms, with opposition parties and civil society groups accusing his government of attempting to curb dissent. However, these allegations the government has rejected.

Guinea-Bissau votes in referendum on giving president more powers

AFP
Bissau

Voters in military-run Guinea-Bissau cast their ballots yesterday in a referendum that could give the president more powers ahead of a general election meant to restore civilian rule later this year.

Security was stepped up at strategic points in the capital, with members of the national guard and the police stationed at key locations.

Voting closes at 1700 GMT, with the first provisional results due from Tuesday.

The referendum came less than 10 months after a coup in which the military seized power in the impoverished Portuguese-speaking west African country.

Shopkeeper Halimatou Traore told AFP she hoped the new constitution would bring positive changes.

"The successive crises the country has gone through have had a very negative impact on my earnings. If everything goes well, Guinea-Bissau will set off on new paths," she said as she waited to vote.

Braima Seidy, 76, a veteran of the war of independence against Portugal, emerged smiling from the polling booth.

"I truly believe that this new Constitution can bring stability to the country," he told AFP.

The junta says the change seeks to stabilise institutions before new presidential and parliamentary elections designed to hand power back to civilians scheduled for December 6.

But the political climate is tense in the coup-prone coastal nation, where the opposition has urged voters to boycott the referendum "in a context of restrictions on public freedoms".

The head of the junta, and transitional president, General Horta N'Tam, called on "young people to massively vote" as he cast his own ballot yesterday.

"What we want after this referendum is to allow whoever wins the elections to see out their mandate without hindrance," he said.

Under the transitional charter he upholds, the general is barred from running for election.

The junta has unanimously approved a constitutional amendment for the country to switch to a presidential system from a parliamentary one, and was asking the public to back it.

The new text proposes abandoning the old system whereby the prime minister came from the parliamentary majority, which has led to uncomfortable power-sharing.

It would also allow the head of state to appoint and dismiss the prime minister and members of the government, and to dissolve parliament.

Yesterday, voters had to answer "yes" or "no" to the question: "Do you agree with the entry into force of the new constitution approved by the National Transitional Council?"

The army took over power just days after a presidential election, overthrowing then-president Umaro Sissoco Embalo and suspending the electoral process.

Following 2023 legislative elections, Embalo himself dissolved the opposition-dominated parliament in response to what he described as an attempted coup.

He then ruled by decree until he was ousted by the army.

In a news conference held as voting was going on, the head of the country's electoral commission, Idrissa Djalo, said "no incident" has been reported.

Turnout was "significant... in some regions, reasonable in others," he said.

In five Bissau polling stations visited by AFP in the afternoon, voters were turning up irregularly in small numbers. Intense rain in the morning had dissuaded some.

Calm after the storm: Niamey back to normal after soldier mutiny

AFP
Abidjan

Life returned to normal in Niger's capital Niamey yesterday, after the military regime and its Russian paramilitary partners put down a mutiny by soldiers.

Intense fighting took place overnight from Friday to Saturday, with the army and its Russian Africa Corps allies managing to take back control late in the day.

Mutineers notably tried to storm the presidential compound. Several were killed, according to a security source, while others were arrested.

Television pictures showed soldiers surrendering.

Niger has been led by General Abdourahmane Tiani since a coup in July 2023. He has moved the country closer to Russia and away from Western partners, notably

former colonial power France.

Yesterday, access to the airbase at the airport, where the mutineers had barricaded themselves in, and to the presidency, was open again, residents said.

Local people were going about their business and shops that were shut on Saturday had reopened, as had Niamey's main market.

"We had a hellish night on Friday. This morning, it's like paradise because yesterday evening (Saturday) was very pleasant," said one resident in the Talladje area near the airbase.

A major security operation was nonetheless being maintained with soldiers screening people entering the presidency with metal detectors.

Vehicles mounted with machine guns and soldiers were also posted along approach roads to the presidency. A similar deployment was seen around the airport.

"What happened was between



Passengers arrive at the Diori Hamani International airport in Niamey on September 22, 2023. (AFP/FilePhoto)

us Nigeriens," said one shopkeeper from the Route Tchanga neighbourhood near the airport.

"From now on, such serious events must never happen again. The country is already facing terrorism."

The exchange of fire was the third such incident this year, but the incidents in January and June involved militants attacking the international airport and airbase.

They were pushed back within hours. Russian troops helped in the first incident.

Niger has been hit by violence for more than a decade and, like its neighbours Burkina Faso and Mali, is struggling to contain it.

Both countries are also run by military juntas and have close links to Russia. Although Niger has turned its back on almost all previous Western allies, Italy maintains a couple of hundred soldiers in the country to train Nigerien forces.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio

Tajani yesterday said on X that he was "closely following developments in Niger following the attacks".

He added that the Italian military personnel there "are well" and continued to do their work.

"The stability of Niger is fundamental to the security of the entire Sahel region, crucial also for countering illicit trafficking and irregular migratory flows," Tajani said.

Neighbouring Nigeria views the situation "with deep concern" and urged "the government and people of Niger to work together towards an inclusive and participatory return to stability and constitutional order," according to a statement from the foreign ministry.

Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry issued a statement on X yesterday voicing the kingdom's "solidarity with the government and the people of brotherly Niger against any attempt to undermine the country's security and stability".

Google Maps renames Lake Ontario ‘Lake America’ in US

AFP
Washington

Google redesignated Lake Ontario as “Lake America” on maps seen by US users yesterday after President Donald Trump announced he was renaming the body of water, with a Canadian official slamming the cross-border tensions as “absolutely backwards.”

People in Canada will still see Lake Ontario, the Indigenous-rooted name used for the lake since the 17th century, on their devices and computers, the US-based tech giant said.

The shock nomenclatural spat erupted as the latest element of Trump’s “America First” narrative, with longtime allies the US and Canada ramping up a trade war that has seen Washington and Ottawa slap tit-for-tat tariffs on each other.

Apple’s Maps app that comes installed on all iPhones makes no



A lighthouse along the shore of Lake Ontario in St Catharines, Canada. (AFP)

mention of “Lake America” on its maps as of yesterday morning.

Google said the company made

its change in line with the US Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the official federal da-

tabase for geographic names.

“Since we update Google Maps to reflect name changes in official government sources, which is GNIS for the US, people using Maps in the US will see ‘Lake America,’ those in Canada will continue to see ‘Lake Ontario,’ and those outside of the US and Canada will see both names,” Google said on its blog.

The change mirrors Trump’s unilateral altering of the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America in January 2025 — a move Mexico has also rejected.

Ontario is the smallest by surface area of the five Great Lakes, which straddle the Canada-US border between Ontario province and the US state of New York.

The province’s premier, Doug Ford, offered fresh criticism Sunday of the trade dispute and Trump’s lake name change.

“It’s absolutely backwards. It was like something out of (US comedy TV show) ‘Saturday Night Live’ when he signed a document

saying — changed to ‘Lake America.’ No one’s going to call it Lake of America,” Ford told ABC talk show “This Week.”

“It’s just so disappointing.”

Ford also warned that while a trade war would harm both countries, “it’d be definitely devastating on the US” given that Canada has been by far the largest purchaser of US vehicles. Should those buys dry up, US auto factories would be hit hard.

“A tariff on Canada is nothing more than a tax on American people,” he said. “It’s probably the worst move you could ever do.”

Canada and the US have a deeply interconnected auto manufacturing sector, and a sizeable portion of parts for US vehicles are made in Canada.

Trump himself waded in yesterday to say Americans “want to make our own cars.”

“Canada has been ripping us off for years — NO LONGER!” Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Ecuador declares emergency over El Nino

Ecuador became the latest Latin American country to declare an emergency over the El Nino climate phenomenon on Saturday, which could be strongest on record, officials said.

This year’s El Nino is already wreaking havoc in Central America, which is in the throes of a severe drought, and in Indonesia, where it is exacerbating wildfires. Scientists predict the current occurrence will reach its peak by the end of the year and cause record global heat in 2027. Ecuador’s Ministry of Risk Management “declared a red alert throughout the country in response to the El Nino episode.” The alert activates emergency committees tasked with co-ordinating preventive evacuations and other measures. El Nino causes surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean to rise. (AFP)

‘We are standing firm,’ Maduro says in a post from prison

AFP
Caracas

Venezuela’s deposed leader Nicolas Maduro said on social media yesterday that he was “standing firm,” while posting photographs from the New York prison where he has been held since his capture by US forces in a mission dubbed “Operation Absolute Resolve” which saw elite troops breach the president’s fortified compound.

Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were seized in Caracas during a US military operation in January. They are being detained in a Brooklyn, New York jail on drug trafficking and firearms possession charges, which they deny.

“I am sending these photos as a small gift to all my grandchildren, to the boys and girls, and to all the good people who love us,” he wrote on the Telegram messaging service.

“I want you to know that we are standing firm, with our hearts full of your love,” he added.

In the two photographs, Maduro is wearing a gray tracksuit and making peace signs with his hands. He appears to have lost considerable weight since his capture.

Although the photographs emerged yesterday, camera data indicates they were taken on June 25, a day after twin deadly earthquakes killed more than 6,500 people and caused widespread destruction in northern Venezuela.

“We will remain strong, calm and confident: God is with us. God



A mural depicting ousted president Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores in Caraballeda, La Guaira state, Venezuela. (AFP)

will provide. Venezuela will rise again,” he concluded.

The message was posted two days after his successor, interim President Delcy Rodriguez, announced a “historic” oil agreement allowing the US to operate oil fields in Venezuela.

Rodriguez is governing under intense pressure from Washington and says she has “chosen the path of diplomacy” with the US because she wants Venezuela to become an “energy powerhouse.”

Maduro does not have access

to newspapers or the internet in prison, but he is allowed to speak by telephone with his family and lawyers for approximately 300 minutes a month, with a maximum of 15 minutes per call, according to a source close to the former leader.

His son, Nicolas Maduro Guerra, says he is in good shape and spends his time studying the Bible.

Maduro and his wife’s trial in the US will begin on June 1, 2027, a federal court in New York announced.

85 citizens remain missing Nepal flood: US

About 85 Americans remain missing after a devastating flood swept through a remote region of the Himalayas, the State Department said yesterday.

The US figure is just a small fraction of the more than 3,000 people that remain missing after the disaster. At least 797 people have been confirmed dead by authorities in Nepal and China after the wall of water, mud and debris tore through the region and overwhelmed entire villages early Wednesday.

Spokesman Tommy Pigott for State Department told ABC talk show that nine Americans have been evacuated and that he was unaware of any death of US nationals. “The remoteness of this location makes getting reliable information difficult. But our dedication remains, our commitment remains,” he said.

The US and Canada said they would each provide \$3.6mn in aid, while the UK has offered \$6.8mn. The UN released \$2.5mn in emergency funding.

Part of the US funding will go towards road repairs and “mobilising specialised transport options” to reach remote areas with food and other aid, Pigott said. The onslaught was prompted by a glacial collapse, the US Geological Survey said, with Chinese experts pointing to a “glacier on the southern slope of Lirung Peak in Nepal”. (AFP)

Kurdish families honour their dead on road to peace with Turkiye

AFP
Istanbul

Menal Konak’s brother, Mahmut, was 18 when he left to join the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) in Syria in 2014. He died six years ago but she only found out this week.

The Turkish authorities have now begun publishing lists of “martyrs” to the PKK cause, after parliament this month passed a law to reintegrate Kurdish fighters into civilian life.

“He (Mahmut) fell in 2020. We’re only finding out now. We spoke to him just once, in 2017. We thought he was alive,” Konak, 31 said tearfully, her face etched with grief.

“There are so many others like him. They fell so that we could live free. They sacrificed themselves for us.”

Like many Kurdish families, Konak doesn’t know where her brother’s remains are.

In the absence of funerals, places of remembrance have been set up in several parts of Istanbul and in the southeast of the country, which is home to large Kurdish communities.

At one, in a nondescript apartment block in the Kucukcekmece area of Istanbul, Vasilie Uskas, her head draped in white, mourned her daughter, who also left to join the PKK in 2014.

“We still had hope that she would come home, alive or dead,” she said. “We were waiting for a sign, we didn’t know where she was. We wanted to know what her life was like, how she was doing, but we understood nothing, knew nothing.”

The places of remembrance al-

low families and relatives to gather and pay their respects, despite the lack of a grave.

Associations like the NGO Mebya Der have helped to set up the spaces.

At Kucukcekmece on Saturday, Mebya Der vice-president Ilhami Kurt said they were “honouring eight martyrs”.

“The news arrived recently. Until now the families were waiting, they held on to hope. With this peace process, even if it’s only the gravestones of their children, people want to find them,” he said.

“The fact that peace is at the heart of the process (initiated by the Turkish authorities at the end of 2024), that people sit down around a table, that gives meaning to the struggle.”

Between speeches, photos of the fallen fighters and videos in which they explain to the camera why they joined the PKK are shown.

Slogans in Kurdish and peace signs accompanied the images.

Latif Kol has known since 1994 that his younger brother was dead. He left at the start of the guerrilla war against the Turkish state in the early 1990s. But he has only just received confirmation.

“It’s thanks to them that we can speak Kurdish today. Before, we couldn’t even listen to music cassettes,” he said.

“Our mother had even hidden his photo, she buried it. We never found it. Peace will come, that’s certain,” added Menal.

“May there be no more bloodshed, neither on their side (the Turkish side) nor on ours.”

“May all this blood not have been shed in vain.”

Four decades of fighting have left nearly 50,000 dead, according to the government in Ankara.

US Treasury’s Bessent faces G20 diplomacy test amid persisting turmoil

Reuters
Asheville, North Carolina

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent faces a major test of his economic diplomacy skills this week as he presses finance leaders from the G20 major economies to shrink global trade imbalances, boost growth and sever business ties to Iran, while trying to calm worries about rising US debt and bond yields.

After shunning the Group of 20 process last year in South Africa, Bessent is seeking to revamp it under US leadership to push the Trump administration’s worldview in the Blue Ridge Mountains city of Asheville, North Carolina.

The meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors to-day and tomorrow comes at a time of massive uncertainty over the Trump administration’s next tariff moves, its festering trade war with close ally Canada, and high energy and commodity prices due to the Iran war.

The unresolved conflict has kept the Strait of Hormuz closed, sapping growth from nearly all G20 economies. And Bessent has warned that countries face secondary US sanctions if they continue to buy Iranian oil or facilitate other transactions with Tehran. On Friday he imposed curbs on a bank based in G20 member Egypt over

links to Iran through its branches in the United Arab Emirates.

The combination of pressures adds up to potentially more discord in the widely diverse forum that includes China and Russia and has a hard time agreeing on any collective action while largely ignoring geopolitical tensions such as the war in Ukraine.

“Secretary Bessent will want to put Iran front and centre and talk about tightening sanctions on Iran, and many countries around the G20 table will want to talk about anything else,” said Josh Lipsky, international economics chair at the Atlantic Council. “They’ll want to talk about tariffs.”

After the Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump’s broad global tariffs in February under a national emergencies law, his administration has been rebuilding the levies under different legal authorities.

All of the G20 countries and the European Union were among 60 economies hit in July with 10% or 12.5% US tariffs for allegedly lax enforcement of forced labour bans. Sixteen top US trading partners — more than half of them G20 members — are in line for more tariffs to counteract alleged excess industrial capacity under a separate trade probe.

The tariffs are central to the Trump administration’s effort to reduce global trade imbalances,



People wave Palestinian flags and hold a sign reading “US-Israel is an evil empire” on a freeway overpass as they protest ahead of the G20 Finance ministers and central bank governors meeting on Friday. (AFP)

which a senior Treasury official said were the result of distortive government economic policies “that prevent fair competition” and that would be a major discussion topic at the Asheville meetings.

European officials are keen to discuss the growing flood of Chinese exports that is threatening their industries, including autos, a European official due to attend the meetings said.

With chronically weak domestic demand, China has doubled down on exports of electric vehicles, semiconductors and other goods,

and its total exports rose 23.9% in July year-on-year. With high US tariffs and an outright ban on Chinese vehicles, China’s exports have flooded into Europe, prompting growing calls in the EU for tougher curbs on Chinese imports.

But G20 member China has shown little interest in longstanding calls for it to reduce industrial subsidies and rebalance its economy away from exports to internal consumer demand, while the International Monetary Fund estimates that China’s yuan is undervalued by 21%.

But economists say that the US

has shown little interest in the other side of the equation: a major reduction in fiscal deficits that would help quell demand for imports.

Total US public debt crossed the \$40tn mark on August 19 after doubling since 2017 during Trump’s two terms and the intervening presidency of Joe Biden, and markets are growing edgy about the future US debt trajectory.

Yields on 30-year debt reached their highest levels in 19 years this month, but Bessent surprised markets by announcing a doubling of scheduled buybacks of longer-dated Treasuries to \$4bn per operation, which cooled yields briefly.

The move drew criticism from Bessent’s former Wall Street mentor, Stanley Druckenmiller, and has raised concerns among central bankers the Treasury may make more interventionist moves in a massive market known for its “regular and predictable” debt issuance.

Asked how Bessent would discuss the debt market concerns with G20 counterparts, a senior US Treasury official said that the long-bond yields had “risen above what we consider fair value” and the Treasury was committed to bringing yields lower.

Bessent’s corrective market tactics also have extended to G20 currencies, with an August 1 joint US intervention with Japan to support

the yen and October 2025 purchases of Argentine pesos.

G20 ministers attending the meeting “won’t buy into soothing words,” said Mark Sobel, a former US Treasury official who negotiated G20 communiques during both Republican and Democratic administrations.

“Further, their economies are being adversely hit by Trump’s war on Iran, which their countries don’t support,” said Sobel, now US chair of the OMFIF monetary policy think tank. “No amount of US diplomacy can change those realities.”

The US push for more global growth, which the Treasury official said was anchored by reduced regulation, more energy production and private sector innovation, is part of an effort to return the G20 to its roots after focussing on issues promoted by host countries in recent years.

South Africa pressed G20 countries to address the climate crisis last year, while Brazil in 2024 pushed proposals to raise taxes on the wealthy. The G20 got its start as a leaders-level forum during the 2008 global financial crisis to unleash measures to end the deepest recession since the 1930s.

Its last major collective action came in 2020, when member countries agreed to inject another \$5tn into the global economy to combat job and income losses.



China says 16 dead, 546 missing in Tibet mudslide: state media

China said the death toll from a mudslide that struck Tibet rose to 16 and 546 people were still missing, state media reported yesterday, citing local officials. Chinese authorities increased the death toll on their side of the border from seven to 16 yesterday and said 546 people were still missing, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Of those missing, 261 were foreign nationals, CCTV said, including 104 from Nepal, 49 from India, 33 from Latvia, and 18 from the United States. "Chinese authorities have notified the respective embassies and consulates of these countries in China," CCTV said, citing officials. "Following multiple rounds of comprehensive region-wide surveys, site-specific checks, and individual verifications at the border crossing", there are no foreign tourists stranded in Gyirong County, CCTV added. Chinese officials also identified yesterday the cause of the disaster. Experts "concluded that at approximately 10:52am (Beijing Time) on August 26, a glacier on the southern slope of Lirung Peak in Nepal" fractured, triggering an ice-rock avalanche, Xinhua news agency said. **(AFP)**

Korea reshuffles cabinet

Reuters
Seoul

Republic of Korea unveiled a major cabinet reshuffle yesterday, naming First Vice-Finance Minister Lee Hyoung-il as the new deputy prime minister and minister of economy and finance.

The administration also tapped ruling Democratic Party lawmaker Kim Seung-won to lead the Ministry of Justice, and named Kang Shin-chul, former deputy commander of the Korea-US Combined Forces Command, as the new defence minister, presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik said in a televised address.

The reshuffle of the cabinet comes as President Lee Jae Myung's administration seeks to revitalise its international policy momentum as it enters its second year, at a time when analysts are questioning the sustainability of his expansionary fiscal policies amid a rout in the local bond market.

Lee Hyoung-il, a career technocrat who has held the vice finance minister position since June last year, inherits an economy running hotter than expected and will be working with a central bank that is now tightening policy as the government is expected to boost fiscal spending for the year ahead. The government is expected to roll out its 2027 budget next week.

Orangutan rescued from Indonesia's fire zone

Reuters

Ketapang, Indonesia

Jais, a farmer in Ketapang, West Kalimantan on Borneo island, yesterday morning - the province hardest-hit by raging forest fires - was en route to his farm when he found an orangutan writhing on the ground in a weak state on a palm-oil plantation near the fire site.

"It was very weak, then I gave it water," said Jais, who only goes by one name.

Indonesia has intensified efforts to contain haze from forest and land fires across six provinces in Borneo and Sumatra islands after smoke triggered respiratory illnesses and forced thousands of schools to move classes online, including in neighbouring Malaysia.

Wildfires burned at least 202,010 hectares (499,177.58 acres) of land from January to July, according to Indonesia's Forestry Ministry, increasing from 107,465 burned hectares from January to June.

After finding the orangutan, Jais and other residents immediately called for help.

Some two hours later, a wildlife foundation - Yayasan Inisiasi Alam Rehabilitasi Indonesia - arrived with a veterinarian to provide the animal with treat-



Rescuers observe the conditions of an orangutan named Sampurna at a palm-oil plantation near an area affected by wildfires, in Kuala Satong village, Ketapang regency, West Kalimantan province, Indonesia, yesterday. **(Reuters)**

ment. It had fainted by then.

The orangutan was then named Sampurna, after the village where it was found.

Foundation CEO Karmele Llano Sanchez said the orangutan fainted because it did not get enough oxygen.

"The orangutan got hypoxia because of the very thick smoke in the area," Sanchez told Reuters.

Komara, the veterinarian, said the orangutan did not have any severe burn-related injuries. But

it had breathing problems and had vomited.

"We suspected it was suffering from an acute respiratory infection," he said, adding that the orangutan is around 20 years old.

At the palm-oil plantation, the orangutan lay on a net, appearing weak with its eyes closed. The veterinarian gave the orangutan oxygen through small tubes placed in its nose.

Sampurna received fluids through an intravenous drip, with

a makeshift infusion bag hanging from a palm-oil frond.

The animal will be moved to a rehabilitation center to get more treatment, she said. It will be released back into the wild once it recovers, said Komara, adding that they have rescued seven orangutans due to fires so far.

Sanchez warned that the government must not only focus on containing fires, but prepare for the long-term effects on public health, forests and wildlife.

North Korea defence minister dismissed, says state media

Kim Jong-un names new defence minister

AFP
Seoul

North Korea's defence minister has been dismissed as part of a reshuffle of the country's military leadership, state media reported yesterday.

The "structural reorganisation plans" were decided during a meeting on Saturday led by Kim Jong-un, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

No Kwang Chol was not only dismissed as defence minister but also demoted in the ruling party leadership to "first vice-director of the Munitions Industry Department," KCNA said.

Kim Song Gi, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, was named as the new defence minister.

Another senior official, defence adviser Pak Jong Chon, was given the position of vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and named to the ruling party's Political Bureau.

Several other promotions were also announced.

In a separate report, KCNA said Kim had lauded scientists, researchers and officials at a ceremony on Saturday for their advances in defence technology, giving them top national honours.

The honourees greatly contributed to "resolving scientific and technological problems of epochal significance in developing new combat weapon systems", KCNA



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un attends the 2nd Plenary Meeting of the 9th Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, North Korea, on Saturday. **(Reuters)**

said, without specifying the type of system.

A photo released by KCNA shows Kim pinning a medal on a recipient.

The nuclear-armed state's weapons research centre "has recently developed exclusive technologies, to be regarded as an event in strengthening the capability for fighting a war", it added without giving details.

With such technologies, it has shown "the course of unique development of the country's military and technological capabilities", it said.

In late June, Kim oversaw tests of a new extended-range multiple rocket launcher and artillery.

The leadership shuffle comes shortly after joint annual drills

between Republic of Korea and the US wrapped up.

The drills, which are regularly denounced by Pyongyang as preparations for an invasion, were closely watched this year after US President Donald Trump ordered them to be cut short.

Trump criticised the drills as provocative towards the North and bashed Seoul for not supporting his war against Iran.

The US president also praised North Korean leader Kim, whom he met twice during his first term in office, as he eyes a new meeting, potentially this year.

Despite Trump's overtures, North Korea has shown little sign of reciprocating, firing missiles and condemning the scaled-down drills.

Pyeongyang has also slammed Washington's approval of arms sales to Korea and plans to fund programmes documenting human rights abuses in the North.

Military cooperation among Washington and its regional allies is meanwhile set to continue, with South Korea, the US and Japan due to hold trilateral joint exercises - called Freedom Edge - from September 7-11 in international waters east and south of Korea's Jeju Island.

"This exercise is a defensive drill conducted annually by the three countries to respond to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and safeguard peace and stability in the region," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said on Friday.

China's record robotic strides highlight the limits of human speed

A made-in-China humanoid shattered Usain Bolt's world record time in the 100m sprint this week, a milestone in the development of robots that can match, and even surpass, human achievements.

But the robot did not beat Bolt by running like him, or like any human, sport science experts say.

In its final and fastest run, China's Tiangong Ultra humanoid ran 100m in 8.64 seconds, blazing past Bolt's 9.58-second human world record. That amounts to an average speed for the robot of almost 42kph (26mph).

"It is a remarkable advancement in technology where humanoids can keep balance and sprint at a speed that humans can't catch up with," said Jung Moon-hyun, a sports science professor at South Korea's Chungnam National University.

But the differences between Bolt's closely studied 2009 world-record run in Berlin and the humanoid runs in Beijing also highlight both the power of robots - and the areas, like decision making and perception, where they still lag, other experts said.

Take the start. Bolt burst from the blocks in Berlin with a lightning-fast reaction time of 0.146 seconds. Starting blocks allow human sprinters to generate horizontal force at the start of the race to build speed.

Tiangong, by contrast, starts from a clunky, upright posture. In its first world record run, it also waited almost a full second to begin moving at the start, after apparently failing to register the signal.

"If they could use starting blocks, I could see them getting a lot faster," said Iain Hunter, professor of exercise science at Brigham Young University and a sport scientist with USA Track and Field.

Hunter estimates that Bolt would have hit the five-metre mark almost 2 seconds ahead of Tiangong.

But then the robot's advantages start to kick in. Tiangong Ultra's developer said it had redesigned parts of the robot's torso and waist to cut weight and reduce the effort needed to move its body while running.

It also improved the robots' motors, range of movement and control software, according to Guo Yijie, a manager in its humanoid innovation department.

The result: an almost super-human cadence of shorter steps. Bolt finished 100 metres in 41 steps. Tiangong appears to take more than 50 steps to finish in its first world-record-breaking run but those steps are far faster than Bolt's, a Reuters review of the race video shows.

Park Suhan, a robotics professor at South Korea's Kwang-woon University, said the robot's gait appeared to reflect what its motors can do best, rather than an effort to mimic human sprinting.

Parunchaya Jamkrajang, a sports scientist at Thailand's Mahidol University, said the smaller, choppy steps could help robots balance. "They try to increase speed, but if the stride becomes too wide, they will fall," she said. **(Reuters)**

Vietnamese coffee farmers ride China's durian wave

AFP

Dak Lak, Vietnam

Vietnam's Central Highlands produces around one sixth of the world's coffee, but farmers are switching their traditional crop for durian to cash in on surging Chinese demand for the pungent "king of fruits".

"You can live okay with coffee, but it's durian that makes you rich," said Pham Xuan Lan, as he showed AFP journalists around his farm.

Blessed with a tropical climate and rich basalt soil, the lush Central Highlands produces vast quantities of robusta beans, and Vietnam trails only Brazil in coffee output.

But the area dedicated to durian has soared more than fivefold to 200,000 hectares (494,000 acres) nationwide over the past decade, according to the agriculture ministry.

Vietnam only officially entered the Chinese durian market after a 2022 trade protocol but last year became the country's biggest sup-

plier by volume, ending Thailand's near two-decade dominance.

Lan was an early adopter, diversifying his crop two decades ago and now boasting 400 durian trees in Ea Knuec commune, part of Dak Lak province.

They produce 60 tonnes of the sweet yet smelly fruit, which is driven in frozen containers thousands of kilometres north into China.

The 56-year-old expects to make \$76,000 this year - against \$10,000 had he stayed with just coffee.

"With durian, I bought a car, houses for my children and built a villa for my family," he said, his affluence evident around him.

Other local farmers have followed suit, focusing on the premium Ri6, Musang King and Dona varieties.

During the August-October harvest, Dak Lak's roads are packed with trucks loaded with the spiky fruit, and at a durian festival this month, 525 vehicles formed what the Guinness World Records declared the largest ever parade of fruit-carrying vehicles.

The boom is driven by demand from China, fuelled by a combination of expanding supply and growing popularity on social media, particularly among young people.

On Douyin, China's equivalent of TikTok, videos of users cracking open fruit with their bare hands have been watched billions of times.

"This tastes really sweet. It's almost like it's been coated in sugar," said Douyin influencer Liulianzi in a clip liked more than 17,000 times.

Once a luxury food, increased competition between Thailand and Vietnam and improved transport links have helped cut prices and make the fruit more affordable.

At a durian tasting event in Beijing last month, Ada Song told AFP that she had spent almost 1,000 yuan (\$150) on the fruit in recent weeks.

"I have tried nearly 20 different varieties," Song said.

Durian "tastes just as sweet as cake, without the greasiness and heaviness".

China imported almost \$7.5bn worth of fresh durian last year, a near 12-fold rise from 2015.

Now Beijing is seeking to boost its homegrown produce, with more than 3,000 hectares of plantations on the southern island province of Hainan, which has a similar climate to northern Vietnam.

But "our Hainan durians will always be just a supplement to Southeast Asian durians", acknowledged Feng Xuejie, a durian expert at the Hainan Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

"It's not even a competition."

Vietnam's durian exports are expected to reach \$4bn this year, up from \$180mn in 2021 - 90% of them going to its northern neighbour.

But in the Central Highlands there are concerns about the reliance on China, as well as the risks of oversupply as more farmers join the rush.

Many anxiously eyed a recent price crash in Malaysia, blamed on an unusually bumper harvest.

Many farmers there have also switched to durian, focusing



A man loading durians onto a cart in Ea Knuec commune, Vietnam's Dak Lak province, Vietnam. **(AFP)**

on premium varieties and fresh fruit, although the country has only a small slice of the Chinese market.

Vietnam's government warned in early August of the "risks of oversupply and loss of quality control as the planted area is increasing rapidly".

Farmers warn durian is not a one-way bet, requiring a strict mix of humidity, water and fertilisers.

Lan likened growing it to "raising a child - I can give you all the tricks

but I cannot guarantee you similar success". He still grows coffee as his land is leased from a coffee company, allowing him to hedge his bets.

For some, the durian dream has already turned sour.

Hung, a farmer who gave only one name, switched entirely from coffee to durian five years ago, but switched back two years ago, admitting it was too hard to produce the quality required.

"I could not do it. I failed," the 42-year-old said. "So I would never go back to durian again."



Police personnel place number-tags over the graves of unidentified flood victims, at a mass burial site in Devghat, in Nepal's Chitwan district, yesterday. (AFP)

Nepal begins mass burials as morgues overflow

Reuters
Chitwan

Nepal's scenic Chitwan district, known for its forests and rivers, has become the site of mass burials for hundreds of unidentified victims whose bodies were swept away by the torrent that devastated the Himalayan region days ago.

In the plains, nearly 200km from the flood-ravaged valleys of Rasuwa where the disaster struck on Wednesday, authorities have dug hundreds of graves in Chitwan's Devghat forest.

Until recently, the forest trails were a popular spot for morning walks. They now serve as a temporary burial ground for bodies too badly decomposed to be identified.

"We were left with no other option and had to take this step. Our concern was the risk to public health posed by the rapid decomposition of the bodies," said Ganesh Aryal, chief district officer of Baratpur, Chitwan.

Authorities buried 96 unidentified bodies in the forest on Saturday and planned to bury more than 100 others yesterday, as recovery teams continue to retrieve victims from rivers and piles of debris.

About 750 people have been killed and more than 3,000 are reported missing after a flash flood triggered by a glacial collapse swept through valleys along Nepal's border with China, causing catastrophic damage.

Around 100 rescue workers, police officers and other officials were helping to document the dead, photographing remains, helping relatives with identification and preparing bodies for burial.

Authorities said every burial site was carefully recorded, with identification markers placed both above and below ground and precise location data logged.

DNA samples were collected from the unidentified dead by the Nepali authorities, allowing them to locate and exhume remains if victims are identified later through family claims, official records or genetic testing.

India has already sent a forensic team that will be working with their Nepali counterparts to support the analysis of DNA samples. Nepal is also liaising with a team from China.

Officials briefly allowed a Reuters reporter to view the facility from the entrance.

About 125 bodies lay inside on the floor, with many showing advanced decomposition after days in floodwaters, overwhelming a mortuary designed to handle just 50 bodies.

"The bodies are decaying fast," said Inspector Anil Thapa, who is overseeing one of several facilities handling the dead in the disaster-stricken district.

"Of the bodies we have recovered so far, more than half are beyond recognition," Thapa told Reuters. "Many have no visible faces."

Rescuers battle floods, debris as Nepal disaster toll nears 800

Reuters
Chitwan, Nepal/Beijing

Rescuers in Nepal and China raced yesterday to find thousands of people missing after a glaciophic mudslide unleashed a catastrophic mudslide across the Himalayas, as they faced challenging weather conditions and rising water levels.

Authorities said the death toll rose to nearly 800 yesterday, with more than 3,000 people missing on both sides of the Nepal-China border after a torrent of ice, rock, mud and debris swept through mountain valleys and rivers on Wednesday, causing widespread devastation.

The Red Cross has estimated that more than 90,000 people are likely to have been affected by the disaster, which China has linked to the effects of climate change.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Nepalese counterpart during a Saturday telephone call that the mudslide was their "most severe cross-border disaster" in recent years and that rescue operations had risen to an unprecedented level of difficulty and complexity, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Nepal's disaster authority said 781 people had died, with 2,502 missing. On the Chinese side, authorities said 16 people were killed in Gyirong County and 546 were missing.

Beijing said 261 foreign nationals from 23 countries were unaccounted for in Tibet, near a key border crossing with Nepal.

The scale of the disaster has complicated rescue efforts across the rugged Himalayan terrain.

Local police in Nepal told Reuters that residents and rescue workers had moved to higher ground after the Trishuli River's water levels rose in recent hours following fresh rainfall, raising fears of additional flooding.

Rescue operations have been suspended several times since



A drone view shows people walking on a mud-covered road next to damaged houses following deadly flash floods and mudslides, in Devghat, Nuwakot district, Nepal, yesterday. (Reuters)

Friday because of bad weather and concerns that a lake formed across the Nepal-China border by the disaster could trigger fresh flooding after it began overflowing into Nepal's Lhende Khola and Trishuli Rivers.

In Nepal, rescue efforts have increasingly focused on five hydropower projects inundated by the floods, including the Upper Trishuli complex, where authorities said on Friday they received information that around 350 people could be trapped inside a tunnel. About 10,000 Nepali troops have been deployed alongside specialist teams from China and India.

Nepal's military airlifted heavy machinery to the remote site yesterday and rescuers reached the entrance of one tunnel, beginning to clear debris blocking access. Authorities said teams carrying oxygen supplies and cameras would enter once access was secured.

"It's very tough because there's a lot of debris and we cannot blast things to make our way through," said Dharam Raj Uprety, chief of Nepal's national disaster management authority.

Lok Bahadur Chhetri, a spokesperson for Nepal's foreign ministry, said Nepal required inter-



An undated handout photo of rescue workers taking part in a rescue operation near the tunnel of the Trishuli 3A Hydropower Project, following deadly flash floods and mudslides, in Rasuwa, Nepal. (Reuters)

national assistance in specialised areas, including tunnel rescue operations, DNA testing, refrigerated storage for bodies and forensic identification of decomposed remains.

The flood was "caused by glacier instability under the long-term effects of global warming", CCTV reported, saying it was a "new and prominent feature of cryosphere disasters" on the Tibetan plateau.

The mudslide from the Nepalese side took six to seven minutes to reach the Gyirong border cross-

ing, CCTV said, citing the findings of Chinese scientists. Dramatic surveillance footage shared worldwide showed torrents of water and debris engulfing buildings while people tried to flee.

The state-run TV channel reported China has mobilised more than 2,100 rescue workers and allocated at least 220mn yuan (\$32.7mn) to support relief efforts and has been airdropping equipment and supplies to frontline rescuers, while its soldiers used life-detection equipment to look for the missing.

Remembering Diana



People look at the memorial to the late Diana, Princess of Wales, at Althorp House, the Spencer family's ancestral home and Diana's childhood home, a day before the 29th anniversary of her death, near Northampton, Britain, yesterday. (Reuters)

Australia's far-right party makes further gains in western state

Reuters
Sydney

Australia's far-right One Nation party won a seat in a state parliament long held by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's centre-left Labor Party, continuing a surge that had gained the populist group its first seat in the national lower house.

Gym owner Luke Herdegen scored One Nation's first lower house seat in the Western Australia parliament, an official tally showed yesterday, taking a seat in the state capital Perth that had been held by Labor for decades.

One Nation, led by Senator Pauline Hanson, overtook Labor in a national opinion poll for the first time in June, a month after

winning its first elected seat in the federal House of Representatives.

Founded in 1997, One Nation long occupied the political fringe, but its hard line on immigration has drawn more support amid public frustration over housing shortages, high living costs and a general decline in support for Australia's major parties.

The result underscores the challenge One Nation poses to Australia's main centre-left and centre-right parties as it converts rising poll numbers into seats, raising the stakes ahead of an election in Victoria state later this year.

Tanya Plibersek, a senior federal Labor minister, said in televised remarks that Herdegen's win meant her party should "think about what more we need

to do to communicate the fact that the Labor Party is the only party focused on real delivery to take pressure off ordinary Australians".

Herdegen said late on Saturday that his win in the Perth suburb of Secret Harbour represented a "huge message" to Labor in Western Australia and nationally.

"It sends a message that there are no safe Labor seats in this state or in this country," he said in remarks broadcast by News24.

Herdegen beat a Labor newcomer with 57% of the vote in the by-election after longtime incumbent Paul Papalia resigned, citing a family medical issue. The constituency, which changed boundaries and names over the years, had been held by Labor since 1989.

Pacific leaders to meet in Palau amid China-Taiwan tension

AFP
Koror, Palau

Pacific island leaders will tackle transnational drug crime as they meet in Palau from today for a summit where tensions between Taiwan and China risk overshadowing regional priorities like climate change.

Palau, this year's host of the 18-member Pacific Islands Forum, is among three members holding diplomatic ties with Taiwan and not China, a large creditor to many island states.

China, Taiwan and the US are among the aid partners invited to the forum, although not the leaders' meeting. Beijing has protested Taiwan's invitation.

Yesterday, Taiwan's foreign minister Lin Chia-lung cut the ribbon with Palau President Surangel Whipps at a ceremony handing over a fleet of electric buses donated by Taipei.

China retaliated against Lin's arrival in Palau by declaring the tourism-dependent island an "unsafe" place for travellers, Whipps later told reporters.

Chinese tourists are the larg-

est group of visitors to Palau, data shows.

The US embassy issued a statement accusing China of attempting to "weaponise tourism to coerce Palau".

"The Pacific is our home, not a theatre for geopolitical competition," Whipps said in an interview yesterday.

Tensions between the Pacific's partners should not detract from island priorities of action on renewable energy, drug crime, food security and climate change, which had real impact on lives, he urged.

Island populations are struggling with rising fuel and food costs caused by the Middle East war.

Around 110 police drawn from various Pacific islands will provide security at the forum, the first large-scale demonstration of Pacific-wide cooperation on policing.

Australia, the biggest forum member and aid donor, has led efforts for the Pacific to provide its own security, arguing there is no need for China to have police in Kiribati and the Solomons.

Whipps said the Pacific leaders would seek to build on policing ties to tackle drug crime.



Leaders of the Pacific Islands attend the Ocean Partnership Roundtable in Koror, Palau, yesterday, ahead of the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting. (AFP)

Fiji, a major transport hub for the Pacific, is experiencing the world's fastest HIV outbreak, driven by what health authorities say is risky injecting of methamphetamine.

Police seizures of cocaine and methamphetamine in Fiji, the discovery of abandoned "narco subs" in the Solomon Islands and drug packages washing to shore in remote islands have reinforced fears of drug cartels forming a Pacific

Ocean trafficking highway.

A regional maritime response to rising drug crime will be discussed by the leaders, with Australia and Fiji expected to be major contributors if it is approved, Australian officials told AFP.

Whipps gave the example of a Chinese drug gang that had operated in Palau before moving to Fiji.

"Clearly the same people are roaming around the whole Pacific and is evidence of why we need to

collaborate and share information. They are destroying our youth and destabilising our nations," he said.

Australian National University Pacific expert Graeme Smith told AFP "climate change is at the top of the Pacific priority list, but the challenge of transnational crime is growing with the outbreak of HIV in Fiji".

Fourteen island leaders are expected in Palau, after pro-Beijing Kiribati said its leader could

not attend and the Solomon Islands prime minister Matthew Wale left unexpectedly on Sunday, returning home to deal with a political crisis — a no confidence motion lodged against his leadership.

Solomon Islands had been China's closest partner in the Pacific until Wale was recently elected, vowing to review a secret security pact and repairing ties with the US and Australia.

US deputy secretary of state Christopher Landau and US Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Kevin Lunday will arrive in Palau on Monday to strengthen ties with Pacific countries before travelling to Solomon Islands and Kiribati.

The East-West Center's Henry Puna, previously the forum's secretary general, told AFP that climate change should be the most important issue for Pacific leaders.

But the impact of China's ballistic missile test into the region last month was still being felt.

The forum has been unable to issue a joint statement of condemnation after Kiribati and Nauru held out and leaders will continue to discuss it in Palau, Whipps said.

What is visual verification and why does Reuters practice it?

Smartphones and social media have transformed journalism by producing a torrent of photos and videos of almost anything that happens where people are present, from holidays to hurricanes, celebrations to crises.

The swift rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has tainted that flow, mixing in highly realistic video and still images of events that never happened or alternate versions of things that did happen but not in the way depicted.

Reuters confronts this reality with a team of journalists specialising in “visual verification”, who search the Internet for images of breaking news events and go through the painstaking process of confirming that those images do depict real events in the times and places they occurred.

Videos and photos taken by people who are eyewitnesses to history, verified by Reuters journalists, have become an indispensable part of the file produced by Reuters.

AI’s ability to generate realistic videos, photos and audio has grown increasingly sophisticated over the past few years.

Beyond the technological advances, people who

want to use AI to create misleading imagery can feed data into it – photos of real-world people, places and events that the AI can then alter to produce far more convincing images.

The Reuters global visual verification team follows a systematic process to assess whether images found on social media are real, unaltered versions of the events that they purport to portray.

There are a few critical steps in the process.

One is to find the person who took the photo or video and confirm their identity.

Many images also carry metadata that can confirm where and when they were made and on what device; if that is present it can play an important role in verification.

Reuters journalists on the verification team also compare what a photo or video shows to other known publicly available data and imagery.

Each photo and video is also scanned with several AI detection tools. These tools are not foolproof, but such filters are important in spotting traces of AI that may not be visible to the naked eye.

The journalists make a judgement call, which gets more challenging by the day. – Reuters



Theatre, threats and tremors: Washington’s Iran gambit is increasingly meeting its limits

By Jasim al-Azzawi

Six months into the shooting war between Washington, Israel, and Tehran, the loudest weapon on either side isn’t a missile.

It’s a message.

Donald Trump posts on Truth Social. Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) posts through Press TV.

Both sides fight for the narrative as hard as they fight for the Strait of Hormuz. And increasingly, the narrative is all that either side can still control.

Trump has never needed a battlefield to declare victory.

In mid-August, even as ship traffic through Hormuz sank to a one-week low, he insisted the United States held “total control” over the waterway, boasting that his blockade of Iranian ports “is being called, by everyone, ‘A WALL OF STEEL’”

Days later, addressing law enforcement officers on Long Island, he went further: “After we finish defeating Iran, which is being very badly defeated – pretty soon, I’ll be declaring the Hormuz Strait a territory of the United States.”

Tehran didn’t blink.

Iran’s deputy foreign minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, answered within hours: “The Strait of Hormuz has been Iranian, is Iranian, and will remain Iranian.”

He added a line that captured the mood in Tehran precisely – the strait, he said, “cannot be seized by tweet, nor by aircraft carrier, nor by issuing an order, nor by an election speech”.

That exchange is the war in miniature.

Washington announces sovereignty that it cannot enforce.

Tehran answers with defiance it cannot fully back either – because the numbers on the water tell a messier story than either capital admits.

Kpler’s ship-tracking data shows a strait limping, not sealed and not open.

A 60-day US-Iran memorandum of understanding (MoU) this summer briefly eased the blockade, clearing roughly 374mn barrels of crude – but even that surge left Hormuz running at only 40% of its 2025 throughput.

By late August, weekly crossings hovered near 121, more than half of them logged as “Route Undetermined”.

Kpler’s own maritime risk manager, Dimitris Ampatzidis, put it bluntly: “Route uncertainty remains the key feature” of the current environment.

On some days that August, only five vessels passed where 15 once did.

This is not the picture of a chokepoint under American command, nor of one under Iranian siege.

It is a waterway both sides claim and neither control – precisely the kind of ambiguity that lets both governments narrate the outcome however they like.

The wreckage of that ambiguity is measured in dollars, not just barrels.

Insurers have priced Hormuz transits at war-risk premiums for six straight months.

Shippers reroute around the Cape when they can afford the delay and gamble on the strait when they cannot.

Every ship that switches off its transponder to avoid becoming a target adds another blind spot to an already fractured picture – and another reason for analysts on both sides to fill the gap with whichever story suits them best.

Inside Iran, the war has hardened the state rather than split it.

The old reformist wing – never more than a fringe current – has gone quiet.

Command has consolidated instead around the IRGC’s wartime leadership, installed after Israeli and American strikes killed a string of senior commanders.

The new IRGC commander-in-chief, Ahmad Vahidi, took over after his predecessor was killed in



February and has pushed a harder line in every internal deliberation since.

Tehran’s rhetoric has stiffened to match.

The IRGC’s chief commander recently described deterrence as “the only prudent and effective means” of navigating “difficult historical junctures” and of thwarting “enemy conspiracies both today and in the future”.

IRGC spokesman Hossein Mohebbi was blunter still, warning that Iran would deploy “significantly more destructive and advanced weapons” than in previous rounds if a new war erupts.

Whatever else has changed in Tehran, the appetite for compromise has not grown. It has shrunk.

If Iran’s leadership has found unity through war, Israel’s has found the opposite.

Benjamin Netanyahu heads into a October 27 election – Israel’s first since the Gaza war began – atop a coalition that is fraying at its most combustible edge.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, the settler movement’s standard-bearer, is polling below the 3.5% threshold needed to enter the Knesset at all, after alienating his own base over ultra-Orthodox conscription.

Analysts expect Netanyahu to engineer a merger to save him.

Israeli political analyst Nimrod Flaschenberg said it would be “hard to imagine” Netanyahu failing to find “some kind of imaginative ploy” to keep the far-right on the ticket, given Smotrich’s enduring pull “within the settlements and the ideological far-right”.

That pull matters far beyond Israeli politics.

The same period has seen settler violence and settlement expansion in the West Bank reach what the United Nations calls “an all-time high”.

A coalition partner fighting for survival, backed by an emboldened settler movement, has every incentive to manufacture a crisis rather than avert one.

Netanyahu himself has shown no appetite for de-escalation, vowing after earlier strikes on IRGC commanders that Israel would press its campaign “with full force on all fronts until the threat is removed”.

An accidental spark – in Gaza, the West Bank, or at a holy site – could do the rest.

Underneath the military theatre sits a financial one, and it favours no one outright.

JP Morgan’s own research desk has documented the dollar’s share of global reserves sliding to a two-decade low, with foreign holdings of US Treasuries falling for 15 straight years.

Gold, not the yuan or the euro, has been the chief beneficiary – a sign that the retreat from the dollar is driven less by rival currencies than by eroding confidence in Washington’s own fiscal trajectory.

That erosion gives Tehran’s leadership a reason to read US economic pressure as bluster rather than strength, reinforcing precisely the hardline instinct now running Iran’s war cabinet.

None of this means Washington’s sanctions regime has lost its bite entirely.

Iranian oil exports remain constrained, and the financial isolation is real enough to hurt.

However, sanctions work best when the target believes the sender’s position is strong and durable.

A Federal Reserve leaning on short-term debt to cover long-term obligations, and a Treasury market slowly losing foreign buyers, is not the image of strength Washington needs Tehran to believe.

Perception, once again, is doing work that policy alone cannot.

None of these points toward resolution.

Washington narrates a half-won war. Tehran narrates a siege it has survived. Israel’s leadership needs a crisis it cannot admit to wanting.

And the financial architecture underwriting all three positions is quietly less stable than any of them will say aloud.

The Strait of Hormuz remains the region’s most honest instrument – a waterway that, unlike the men fighting over it, cannot lie about how full or empty it really is.

• The writer is a prominent news anchor, programme presenter and media instructor.

Six months later, ongoing Iran war is not an outcome the US president expected



By Kristian Coates Ulrichsen

The Iran War reached its six-month milestone on August 28 with little seeming prospect of a political resolution.

A conflict which US President Donald Trump declared would be over within four to six weeks when the US and Israel launched military operations on February 28 now risks dragging him into the type of quagmire he campaigned so vocally against in 2016.

A decade ago, Trump’s criticism of the “Forever Wars” in Afghanistan and Iraq resonated with his base of political support within the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement.

The pledge to end the open-ended conflicts which had defined so much of the post-September 11 landscape also generated a rare issue of bipartisan consensus in Washington in the late-2010s.

It is therefore a matter of considerable irony that Trump now faces a similar predicament in Iran.

It is just 15 months since Trump gave one of the most honest speeches ever delivered by a US president in the Middle East.

In Riyadh in May 2025, Trump lambasted his predecessors in office who “spent trillions failing to develop Kabul and Baghdad” and “wrecked far more nations than they built”. For good measure, Trump added that “the interventionists were intervening in complex societies that they did not even understand themselves”.

His remarks displayed a degree of reflection and self-awareness that few had previously associated with the president and were very well received across the region.

And yet, within weeks of his visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, the sense of optimism engendered by Trump’s trip to the Gulf – of the prospects of a stable, secure and prosperous region – were punctured by the 12-Day War between Israel and Iran.

Trump not only approved of the Israeli action and sought to take credit for it but also involved the US directly in airstrikes against Iranian nuclear facilities.

The seeming success of the 12-Day War, followed by the stunningly quick removal of Nicholas Maduro from Venezuela in early-January this year, appeared to instill in the president a feeling of over-confidence in the ability of military force to bring about

swift and decisive outcomes on the ground.

Six months later, Trump finds himself, possibly for the first time in his political career, facing an implacable foe which will not bow to intimidation or bluster.

For a man who proclaimed in 2016 that “I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn’t lose any voters” the decade since those comments demonstrated, time and again, how there was more than a grain of truth to the sense of invincibility, that the normal laws of political gravity did not apply to him and that he was different from all other politicians.

After so long, it must be disorienting to come up against an issue that defies easy resolution and to feel a certain loss of control over developments and an inability to deliver an outcome.

Analysts have reached for historical analogies and more than a few have started to compare Trump with Jimmy Carter, whose presidency and bid for re-election in 1980 was gravely undermined by his failure to resolve the hostage crisis on terms favourable to the US.

Carter had a very distinguished post-presidential career that spanned decades and earned him a Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, but his time in office will be remembered for the way the Iranian leadership used the hostages to inflict maximum political pain on the White House, to the extent that the hostages were only released on 20 January 1981, while the swearing in ceremony of Ronald Reagan was taking place and as the new president was giving his inaugural address.

The Iranian leadership may be calculating that they can impose a similar political humiliation on Trump as the Congressional midterm elections draw ever closer.

Another historical comparison is with the Suez Crisis of 1956 which sounded the final death-knell for European colonialist designs in the Middle East.

Britain and France were militarily exhausted and economically weakened after World War II and Suez was a desperate last spasm of an era of gunboat diplomacy that had long since passed.

It may be argued that, for the US, the Suez equivalent began with the decision to invade Iraq in 2003 and the subsequent mismanagement of the eight-year occupation which followed. In this regard, the weaknesses and limitations exposed by the Iran War in 2026 are part of a continuum whose endpoint has not yet been reached and is still not entirely clear.

After all, while Suez is today remembered as the endgame for the British in the region, it took a further 15 years for the final withdrawal from all positions East of Suez to take place, in 1971.

Historians of the future may look back at the Iran War as a final act of hubris that sealed the end of a regional order that began in response to Saddam Hussain’s invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The subsequent buildup of US and coalition forces represented a significant departure from the “over-the-horizon” deployments hitherto favoured by the US and culminated in the network of military facilities across the region that lasted to this day.

It is this network that has been targeted and hit by Iranian missiles and drones over the past six months which may prompt future US administrations to reassess basing priorities. Any shift in regional order will be momentous and consequential and there are many in the Gulf who recall that it was neither preordained nor inevitable that the US would eventually supplant the British role in the region, albeit with a nearly-20-year gap between 1971 and 1990.

In the end, a president who was so vocal in his criticism of George W Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden may find that his own legacy is as defined by a signature foreign policy misstep as Bush in Iraq and Biden for the chaotic nature of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

This is not the outcome a bullish president anticipated six months ago.

• The writer is a leading scholar specialising in Gulf politics and international political economy, and a fellow at the Baker Institute and co-director of the Middle East Energy Roundtable.



Trump may find that his own legacy defined by a signature foreign policy misstep. (Reuters)

Iceland votes ‘No’ to resuming EU talks

AFP
Reykjavik

Iceland voted ‘No’ to resuming membership negotiations with the European Union (EU), referendum results showed yesterday, dealing a blow to Brussels which had been keen to welcome a new wealthy member.

Almost 53% of Icelanders rejected the resumption of EU entry talks suspended 13 years ago, while some 47% voted in favour in Saturday’s referendum.

Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir, who favoured a ‘Yes’, stressed she didn’t “see this as a setback”.

“I see this as a victory for democracy,” she told reporters, pointing to voter turnout of over 80%.

“I want to make it absolutely clear, this government is not going forward with the accession talks this term.”

This means any discussions of Icelandic accession are frozen at least until 2028 – an apparent disappointment to Brussels, which had appeared willing to compromise on thorny issues to facilitate Iceland’s accession.

EU chief Antonio Costa none-



Leader of Iceland’s People’s party and Minister of Social Affairs and Housing Inga Saeland (left), Iceland Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir (centre) and Iceland’s Foreign Minister Thorgerdur Katrin Gunnarsdottir address a press conference in Reykjavik, yesterday. (AFP)

theless told Frostadottir the bloc “fully respects the democratic choice” made by voters, a spokesperson said.

“Iceland remains one of the EU’s closest and most trusted partners,” said the spokesperson.

Far-right, eurosceptic leaders in Britain and France hailed the result.

“At a time when some are pushing for greater federalism and the transfer of sovereignty to the European Commission, this vote re-

minds us that another Europe is possible, a Europe of free, sovereign nations co-operating voluntarily on matters of common interest,” France’s Marine Le Pen wrote on X.

“Congratulations to Iceland on voting to keep their independence,” Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, who was one of the faces of Britain’s Brexit, wrote on the same platform.

Iceland, a country of just under 400,000 people applied to join

the EU in the wake of the 2009 financial crisis that devastated its economy.

Membership talks were then suspended in 2013 when a eurosceptic government came to power.

The island is, however, already closely linked to the EU as a member of the European Economic Area and the free-movement Schengen zone, ties which will remain unchanged.

The referendum result was non-binding but the government had vowed to respect it.

Debates ahead of the vote had mainly revolved around domestic and economic issues, though the war in Ukraine and US President Donald Trump’s ambitions for neighbouring Greenland – which he has mixed up with Iceland on several occasions – also featured.

The campaign had “lifted discussions about the EU, about Iceland’s place in the world, about our general geopolitical situation and status, to a higher level”, Frostadottir said after casting her ballot on Saturday.

Political analysts had said it was unlikely the government would resign in the event of a ‘No’ victory, though it could emerge weakened by the rejection.

According to RUV, voter turn-

EU respects people’s choice: Costa

EU chief Antonio Costa told Icelandic Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir yesterday the bloc “fully respects the democratic choice” of the island’s voters not to resume EU membership talks, a spokesperson said. “Iceland remains one of the EU’s closest and most trusted partners,” said the spokesperson for the European Council president, who represents the bloc’s member states, adding that “both leaders expressed their desire to continue to strengthen the relationship between the EU and Iceland”. (AFP)

out was 82.5%, the highest participation in any Icelandic vote since April 2009 parliamentary elections during its crippling financial crisis.

The campaign divided Icelanders.

“It’s hard to grasp that it’s a ‘No’” 37-year-old artist Elisabet Anna Kristjansdottir told AFP.

“It’s quite sad that the Icelandic people don’t even want to see the possibilities of joining the EU.”

Anna Maria Bogadottir said meanwhile she was “really happy”, but acknowledged it would now “be a challenge to unite 50% on each side.”

A ‘Yes’ vote would have given the government a mandate to resume negotiations with Brussels, including on the hotly contested issue of fishing – a pillar of Iceland’s economy and part of its national identity, and over which Reykjavik wants to retain exclusive control.

Any accession agreement would then have then been put to another referendum in Iceland.

The fisheries sector has been fiercely opposed to joining the bloc – 90% of companies in the industry are against the idea – and the EU had tried to woo it with a conciliatory approach ahead of the vote.

EU Enlargement Commissioner Marta Kos had said Brussels and EU member states would be willing to “find creative solutions” to Iceland’s “unique specificities on fisheries and agriculture”.

An EU source in Brussels told AFP: “I don’t think anyone (in the EU) wants to block an accession over a question of fish.”

Brussels had hoped to be able to present wealthy Iceland as an example of positive enlargement that could also make it more palatable for member states to agree to take in poorer countries like Montenegro.

It would also have enabled it to enlarge its presence in the strategic Arctic region, and perhaps helped change some minds in ultra-wealthy non-EU member Norway.

Trilateral meeting in Istanbul today

Turkiye will host top officials from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in Istanbul today for the first ministerial meeting under their new regional defence grouping, formed under a pact that commits the three countries to mutual defence if any of them is attacked, Turkish foreign ministry sources said yesterday.

The “Makkah Joint Defence Agreement”, signed on August 7, unites Nato’s second-largest army, Turkiye, with the Islamic world’s only nuclear-armed state, Pakistan, and the leading Gulf power, Saudi Arabia. It stipulates that an armed attack on any of the three would be treated as an attack on all, similar to Nato’s Article 5 collective defence clause.

The pact emerged against the backdrop of the war between the United States and Iran and attacks in the region by Tehran-backed Houthi rebels, with the three Sunni Muslim US allies voicing shared concern over the conflict and Iranian missile fire on Gulf oil exporters.

Today’s meeting will set up a “political and defence strategic committee” involving foreign and defence ministers and military chiefs from the three countries. It will be chaired by the Turkish foreign and defence

ministers along with the chief of the general staff.

Pakistan is sending Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, the defence minister and the commander of the defence forces. Saudi Arabia will be represented by its foreign minister, defence minister and chief of the general staff, Turkish sources said.

“International security issues will be on the agenda,” a Turkish foreign ministry source said, with talks expected to cover boosting defence capabilities, interoperability between the armed forces of the three countries, and deepening co-operation in the defence industry, including joint production and development.

The three nations share concerns over the military stances of Israel and Iran as the United States struggles to contain regional upheaval that has triggered a global energy crisis. Six months into the US-Israel war against Iran, negotiations remain at an impasse, with President Donald Trump’s administration stepping up efforts to squeeze Iran financially through what it has billed an “economic D-Day”.

Turkiye has said the pact is open to expansion – with Egypt seen as a potential candidate – and does not seek to replace existing alliances. (AFP, Reuters)

Manhunt underway after one killed in Swiss shooting

Reuters
Aarau, Switzerland

A 22-year-old woman has been killed and five people injured, one seriously, in a shooting overnight at a rave in the Swiss town of Aarau which local police said could have been an act of terrorism.

Local police said all victims are residents of Switzerland and in their 20s. Italy’s foreign ministry said Swiss authorities had informed them that an Italian woman had died, and Italy offered its support with the investigation.

Swiss President Guy Parmelin offered condolences to the family of the victim. “In these difficult hours, my full sympathy goes to all people affected by this tragic event,” he said on social media.

A manhunt is underway and large areas of the town have been cordoned off, police said, appealing to the public for any images of the incident.

But police admitted that they were at the early stages of the investigation, and that they did not yet know how many attackers there were, nor their motives.

“The end is not in sight,” Aargau’s Police Commander



Flowers are left in tribute to victims, following a deadly shooting at a rave party, according to the police, in Aarau, yesterday. (Reuters)

Michael Leupold told reporters.

“Where an active shooter is firing into a crowd of thousands of people at an event, it’s perfectly clear that we consider terrorism as a motive,” he said, adding that investigators were also considering a mass shooting or an unknown criminal motive for the attack.

“We are treating all three possibilities as equally likely.”

A 34-year-old witness who asked for anonymity told Reuters he heard shots shortly after the music stopped at 2:30am on Sunday, which he initially mistook for fireworks.

Some took cover behind a DJ booth and one woman hid behind a refrigerator, but was hit in the back by a bullet and bled to death despite efforts to revive her, he said.

“It’s just incredibly tragic. She was young,” he told Reuters. “That something like this could happen in Aarau, at a local event, is simply unimaginable. I still can’t really process it.”

Police said a 22-year-old woman had died from her injuries at the scene and that one other person was seriously injured, but not in a life-threatening situation.

Police have increased their

presence beyond the town – about 50km west of Zurich and 30km south of the German border – as a precaution, although police spokesperson Bernhard Graser said there were indications the shooter or shooters were no longer in the immediate area.

“But (we) still have a lot of police here in the area, in the town of Aarau, in the whole state (canton) to make sure that we could get them if they’re still around,” he said.

“Currently the extensive manhunt is running tirelessly throughout Switzerland.”

Reuters footage showed armed officers patrolling the area, police convoys moving through the streets, and armoured vehicles parked near the crime scene.

Cartridges found at the crime scene indicated two calibres of bullets, possibly from a pistol and a second, larger weapon, potentially an assault rifle or machine gun, police said.

The organisers’ website advertised the event as a techno party at a covered horse racetrack, with 3,500 people expected to attend.

Organisers said they were shocked and heartbroken by the incident.

Pakistan suspends eight officials after deadly infant ward fire

Pakistan’s prime minister said eight officials were suspended and called for criminal proceedings against them, after 14 infants were killed in a fire in the maternity ward of a hospital in the country’s capital.

A preliminary report conducted by a four-person committee formed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif found the deadly blaze had engulfed the unit “within approximately two minutes” just after 6:30am (0130 GMT) on Wednesday, with a nurse only able to save one of the 15 infants in the hospital’s care.

Among those suspended were hospital staff including its executive director and the head of the neonatal department, as well as the direc-

tor-general of Islamabad’s emergency services.

Sharif said late Saturday “those responsible for criminal negligence do not deserve any concession” and that they will be “brought to justice”.

He also approved taking action against the company responsible for the hospital’s security, without naming them.

Emergency services were called within six minutes of the fire breaking out, with the first rescue services arriving at the scene 15 minutes later, the report said.

Parents and other witnesses told AFP the response had been slow and guards had reportedly prevented people from leaving the building.

The hospital did not have detailed operating

procedures or fire and emergency training, according to the preliminary report.

Two nurses, a woman security guard and another officer were in the ward when the fire started, but there were no supervising staff, the report stated.

Earlier Health Minister Mustafa Kamal said that a spark from an air conditioner is believed to have caused the fire. The report clarified an ignition source is yet to be determined as the investigation continues.

Health Secretary Aslam Ghori, the country’s top civil servant for the department, was sacked on Wednesday following the devastating incident.. (AFP)

Funeral of Norway’s late King Harald set for September 9

The funeral for Norway’s late King Harald, will be held on September 9, the royal palace announced yesterday.

Presiding Bishop of the Church of Norway Olav Fykse Tveit will lead next Wednesday’s funeral ceremony in Oslo Cathedral from 1:00pm, the palace added.

Just before the funeral announcement, the palace said the king’s casket, which was moved from the hospital to the Royal Palace’s Red Salon Friday evening, would be moved to the palace’s chapel on Monday afternoon.

Then from 2:00pm (1200 GMT) on Tuesday, members of the public “who wish may walk slowly past the casket to say farewell to King Harald” until the day before his funeral. Norway’s new king, Haakon VIII, will also swear an oath of allegiance in parliament on Tuesday. (AFP)

Ukraine defence chief to outline war plan as Kyiv seeks more funds

Reuters
Kyiv

Ukraine’s new defence minister said he would outline a “clear vision” for Kyiv’s partners of how his country plans to fight Russia, as the government tries to bring forward part of a European Union loan to help cover a \$27bn military budget deficit.

Ukraine relies heavily on foreign funds to continue its war effort, now in its fifth year, with the EU committing €90bn in financing through 2027.

In comments to reporters released on Sunday, Yevhenii Khmara said Kyiv would seek to bring forward part of the €45bn loan planned for next year, as well as lobby allies for greater contributions and new countries that had not yet given.

“Ukraine will present partners with a clear vision and a clear plan: what tasks the Defence Forces face,

what projects are needed for this, what results must be achieved, and within what timeframes,” he said.

The EU has earmarked €45bn each for 2026 and 2027, allowing Ukraine to channel record funds toward defence. President Volodymyr Zelensky said last week that Kyiv had spent more than expected in the first half of the year.

Khmara took over as defence minister last month from Mykhailo Fedorov, whose dismissal sparked rare wartime protests that prompted Zelensky to also fire his unpopular military chief.

A former special-forces commander who led Ukraine’s deep-strike campaign against Russia, Khmara said he shared a “common vision” with new top general Mykhailo Drapatyv. He pledged to be receptive to front-line troops and commanders.

“It is the soldiers on the ground who best see what needs to change,” he said.

Kyiv region strike toll rises to 38

The death toll from a Russian strike on an ammunition depot in Ukraine’s Kyiv region has risen to 38 and the search continues for four people who are still missing, President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday.

Friday’s blast hit a military facility that held artillery shells, mines, drones and other ammunition.

Zelensky said on Telegram that first responders had managed to extinguish most of the fires. However, the scale of contamination in the area was significant, and this work would continue for as long as necessary. (Reuters)

Kyiv is seeking to seize the initiative from Moscow, partly by stepping up long-range drone strikes on Russian oil infrastructure, defence manufacturing and logistics.

But it faces a critical shortage of manpower and air defences to fend off Russian air attacks on Ukrainian cities. Kyiv’s military has also faced controversy over abuses and mismanagement in recruitment and on the battlefield.

Khmara also said Ukraine needs “proper decisions” to preserve lives and a clear vision throughout the ranks for how to fight and end the war.

“This vision must be communicated down the chain to commanders and units carrying out missions at the front every day,” he said.

Khmara said Ukraine has tested four potential interceptors to shoot



Firefighters work at a site of a building of an outpatient clinic hit by a Russian drone strike in the frontline city of Kramatorsk in Donetsk region, yesterday. (Reuters)

down the jet-powered drones Russia is increasingly firing at Ukraine. The goal, he added, is to eventually be able to produce thousands of units.

Swarms of the high-speed

drones have plagued the capital Kyiv for four consecutive days, killing residents, damaging homes and warehouses and upending daily life.



Five decades on, Malaysia-Qatar partnership gains new momentum

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

As Malaysia and Qatar prepare to mark 52 years of diplomatic relations, both countries are poised to deepen co-operation in trade, technology and food security, Malaysian ambassador Faizal Razali has said.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* as Malaysia marks its 69th Independence Day today, and Malaysia Day on September 16, the envoy said bilateral ties had entered a strategic phase.

He described the relationship as developing through three stages: establishing diplomatic connectivity, building economic and people-to-people links, and creating a strategic partnership capable of addressing shared international challenges.

"Malaysia is a gateway for Qatar to tap into the Asean market," Razali said, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. "In the same way, Malaysia looks at Qatar as a hub to expand in this region."

He said strong political engagement between the two leaderships had helped establish a solid foundation for economic ties, with energy, food products, and services among the areas connecting the two markets.

Independence was not only freedom from colonial rule, Razali elaborated, but also "liberating your mind from being colonised", allowing Malaysians to guide their own development and progress.

The Malaysia MADANI values, which incorporate sustainability, prosperity, innovation, respect, trust and compassion, place inclusive progress at the heart of that national journey, he added.

That outlook is also shaping Malaysia's priorities with Qatar.

Around 30 Malaysian companies are registered and operate in Qatar across construction, infrastructure, information technology, and services, with support from engagement with Qatari institutions and the Malaysia Business Executive Council - Qatar (MBEC) in Doha, he noted.

Razali identified Islamic finance as an



Ambassador Faizal Razali

additional growth area, including sukuk, fintech and Shariah-compliant digital products.

He also pointed to the halal economy, noting that Malaysia will host the Malaysia International Halal Showcase from September 23-26.

"Halal is about sustainable develop-

ment," he said, explaining that co-operation could extend beyond food into logistics, services and other responsible business sectors.

Food security presents another opportunity.

Razali proposed stronger supply connectivity, including a possible "green corridor" to ensure the continuous movement of essential food products between Malaysia and Qatar during periods of disruption.

Malaysia could contribute through palm oil, agricultural products, food manufacturing and related technologies, while Qatar could serve as a regional distribution hub.

He also highlighted semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, port management and tourism as areas with room for closer collaboration.

Malaysia's semiconductor experience, he said, could support joint training, research and higher-value manufacturing.

Beyond government and business, some 6,500 Malaysians working in key

sectors in Qatar give the relationship a deeply personal dimension.

Razali said community organisations promote Malaysian culture through food, language, sport, education and public events.

He cited the recent 5km Merdeka walkathon at Doha Festival City and a blood donation drive in May, when around 100 Malaysians donated through Hamad Medical Corporation as a gesture of giving back to Qatar.

The envoy urged Malaysians abroad to maintain "professionalism, integrity and pride" while remaining united across their cultural diversity.

"To our Qatari friends, we must say a sincere thank you for hosting us," he said, lauding the warmth and respect extended to Malaysians over the decades.

He said the task ahead is to carry the relationship into a new phase through stronger trade, investment, education, tourism, technology and lasting connections between the two peoples.

Malaysia, he stressed, remains a trusted friend and partner of Qatar.

Run the Dome, two days of excitement and challenge

The Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) successfully concluded the first edition of Run the Dome 2026, held on August 28-29 at Aspire Dome, with strong participation from community members of different ages and nationalities.

The two-day sporting event brought together participants in an energetic atmosphere filled with excitement, challenge, fun, and a

strong spirit of competition.

The event featured four main categories: Open Women, Open Men, Qatari Women, and Qatari Men.

Each group consisted of 20 participants who competed over a 4.8km course covering five laps inside Aspire Dome.

Each race lasted 30 minutes, followed by a 10-minute break between groups, preparing partici-

pants for the next race.

The races continued throughout the day until 8pm, with winners in each category determined based on the fastest recorded times.

The event was designed as an inclusive community sporting experience, welcoming participants of varying fitness levels and offering a unique opportunity to take on a sporting challenge within one of the world's leading indoor sports facilities.

Success was not limited to securing a podium finish, as completing the race and crossing the finish line was an achievement in itself.

All participants who completed the race received commemorative medals in recognition of their participation in the inaugural edition of the event.

A total of QR60,000 in prizes was awarded across the four categories.

The winner in each category received QR7,000, while the second-

place finisher received QR5,000 and the third-place finisher received QR3,000.

The winners across the four categories were Nicole Mollvany, Jawaher Araki and Malak Shadi Mohammed in the Open Women's category; Muhammad Khamis, Shaker Afli and Mohammed Amin Qasbi in the Open Men's category; Nora Yousef al-Mutawa, Amina al-Maarefi and Amal Khalifa al-Harbi in the Qatari Women's category; and Tammim al-Kuwari, Abdullah Mohammed al-Minhali and Khalid Faraj al-Ali in the Qatari Men's category.

"We congratulate all the winners and participants of the inaugural edition of Run the Dome and commend the outstanding performances and competitive spirit demonstrated by all participants," Aspire Logistics acting director-general Nasser Abdullah al-Hajri said in a press statement.

"The race concluded on a remarkable note, reflecting the tre-



mendous efforts and collaboration among all the teams and stakeholders involved in delivering a successful event," he said.

"We are proud of this achievement and of our contribution to providing an exceptional and safe sporting experience for all participants," al-Hajri added. "We wish everyone continued success and achievement in future editions."

With the conclusion of its inaugural edition, Run the Dome brought the community together over two exciting days of running, competition, and celebration inside Aspire Dome.

AZF events and venues director Ahmed Mohammed al-Hassan, who was also director of Run the Dome, said: "The inaugural edition of Run the Dome represents

a valuable addition to Aspire Zone Foundation's sporting calendar."

"We were delighted with the strong turnout and enthusiastic participation from different segments of the community," he said. "Through this event, we aim to promote a culture of sport and physical activity, and we look forward to continuing to develop the event in future editions in a way that reflects Aspire Dome's position as a world-class sporting destination."

"The diverse coverage helped showcase the atmosphere of the event, while highlighting the strong community participation and competitive spirit throughout the race," said AZF communications manager Fahad Ahmed al-Mana.

العرض الترويجي من ٢٨-٠٨-٢٠٢٦ إلى ١٣-٠٩-٢٠٢٦
في جميع فروع سفاري في قطر
Promotion Starts From: 31-08-2026 to 13-09-2026
at all Safari outlets across Qatar

It's Back

قد يكون هناك حدود للمشتريات العرض ساري حتى نفاذ الكمية
Purchase limit may apply. Offer valid until stocks last.

10 Items @ 2030 PROMOTION

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Color House Dinner Set 12 pcs Asrtd.
QR 20
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Lux Soap 120 gm Asrtd. x 6 pcs
QR 10
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 2 Set only

WOW!
Royaalford Nonstick Frypan 30Cm
QR 25
Valid From: 31st Aug. to 3rd Sep. 2026
Per Customer 1 Set only

WOW!
Perdix Chicken Griller 1100 gm x 1 pc