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Haj registration opens today

Online registration for the 1448 AH Haj season opens today through hajj.gov.qa and will remain open until October 20. The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs' Department of Haj and Umrah Affairs said the early start would give approved Haj operators time to complete operational preparations and contractual arrangements. This would help improve services for pilgrims travelling from Qatar. **To Page 5**

Qatar supply chain braving the odds amid Hormuz crisis

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

Gulf supply chains have demonstrated strong operational agility through re-routing and improvisation during geopolitical shocks, yet critical structural vulnerabilities persist across the region, according to an industry expert.

Speaking on the impact of the ongoing conflict, Dr Iman Adeinat, an expert in logistics and supply chain management at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), explained that the fundamental exposures evident six months ago remain unresolved despite successful operational workarounds.

Dr Adeinat noted that while essential commodities continue to reach Qatari markets through alternative routes, the core structural dependency on the Strait of Hormuz presents an enduring challenge for the energy sector.

"The agility was real. Within days of the February closure, goods moved overland through Saudi Arabia, transhipped through Red Sea and Omani ports, and drew on Qatar's reserves. Even now, half a year on,

essential goods still reach Qatari shelves.

"The structural vulnerability is equally real and has not gone away. A fifth of the world's oil and gas, and effectively all of Qatar's LNG, still depends on a single channel that remains largely closed. No amount of agility manufactures a second Strait of Hormuz. That is the exposure the war laid bare, and it persists," Dr Adeinat told *Gulf Times* in an exclusive interview.

Dr Adeinat stressed that trade flows have split significantly, with import logistics maintaining stability while energy exports bear the brunt of the maritime closure.

"Exports and imports have behaved completely differently and conflating them has been the main source of public anxiety. Six months on, that divergence is starker than ever," she noted.

Regarding the export environment, infrastructure damage alongside restricted vessel movement has severely affected gas shipments out of the country. "On exports, the damage is severe and ongoing. Iranian strikes on Ras Laffan in March destroyed two production trains, taking roughly 17% of Qatar's LNG capacity offline for what QatarEnergy says could be three to five years. **To Page 5**

Qatar, France discuss defence ties



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani met French Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Catherine Vautrin and her accompanying delegation during her visit to Qatar. They discussed issues of mutual interest and ways to strengthen bilateral co-operation. Senior officers and officials from both sides attended. (QNA)

Smoke, flames seen near Riyadh airport as Houthis claim attack

Reuters
Riyadh

Yemen's Houthis said they attacked "sensitive" sites in the Saudi capital Riyadh yesterday with missiles and drones, hours after flames and a large plume of smoke were seen near the city's main airport.

Saudi Arabia had sent alerts overnight warning of potential danger around Riyadh, amid an escalation in attacks by the Houthis in the kingdom.

Reuters video and photographs showed a huge pillar of black smoke rising in the area, with the airport highway, main terminal building and other facilities in the foreground. At one point in the video, flames were visible rising from behind what appeared to be fuel tanks.

The Houthis did not specify what they had targeted in Riyadh, but said they had also attacked an Aramco facility in the Red Sea city of Yanbu, a key Saudi oil export hub.

The Houthis said the opera-

tion came as a response to an attack in the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

The Saudi-led military coalition fighting the Houthis said its air defences had destroyed a missile fired by the Yemeni group toward Riyadh early yesterday.

In a statement, the coalition also said it had foiled attacks targeting civilians in the Saudi cities of Bish and Farasan in the southwest and Taif in the west, as well as Yanbu on the Red Sea coast. It did not say whether there was any damage. **To Page 5**

«ARIANE» LAUNCHES A NEW CHAPTER UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF «SK HOLDING»

Doha, Qatar – Ariane has officially launched a new chapter in its journey, which began in 2013, during a special ceremony held at Rosewood Doha. The event was attended by His Excellency Sheikh Suhaim bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani, Chairman of SK Holding and Ariane, along with distinguished guests, representatives of regulatory bodies and authorities, chief executives of leading real estate companies, senior banking and investment executives, and strategic partners.

The evening marked the announcement of a new institutional phase for Ariane under the umbrella of SK Holding, founded on a unified vision, strengthened governance, enhanced alignment between planning and execution, and a commitment to building upon more than thirteen years of expertise, successful projects, and a strong presence in Qatar's real estate market.

During the ceremony, Ariane unveiled its new corporate identity, reflecting the company's growth, evolution, and future ambitions while preserving the values, legacy, and trust that have long been associated with its name. The company also launched its new website as part of an integrated strategy to enhance its corporate and digital presence and further improve the experience of its clients and partners.

His Excellency Sheikh Jassim bin Jabor Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer of Ariane, emphasized that the current phase is driven by clear decision making,

effective oversight, and stronger alignment between planning and execution. He stressed the importance of building an operational framework capable of translating the company's vision into tangible performance while maintaining a balance between ambition and execution capabilities.

This transformation represents a natural extension of Ariane's journey since its establishment in 2013 and marks the beginning of a new phase that builds on the company's achievements, expertise, projects, and market position. It is guided by a vision focused on growth, innovation, sustainable value creation, and the strengthening of long term partnerships across the real estate ecosystem.



أريان

ARIANE

فصل جديد يبدأ الآن
A New Chapter Begins





Ministry of Labour organises second roundtable for construction sector

The Ministry of Labour, in co-operation with Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI), held the second roundtable for the construction, building materials and wood sectors, building on the discussions and outcomes of the inaugural roundtable in December last year.

The roundtable forms part of Qatar's continued efforts to further develop its labour relations framework and promote constructive social dialogue across key economic sectors.

It brought together representatives of government entities, employers and workers to discuss challenges facing the sectors, exchange expertise and good practices, and explore practical approaches to strengthening labour relations and co-operation between employers and workers.

The discussions were focused on the implementation of the new framework for joint committees, with participants examining ways to strengthen worker participation and establish effective channels of communication be-

tween workers and employers.

Other key areas included wage protection, occupational safety and health, social dialogue, and measures to further enhance co-operation at sector level.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to review progress since the first construction sector roundtable in December 2025 and to build on the recommendations and priorities identified during that engagement.

A delegation from Building and Wood Workers' International participated in the discussions alongside representatives of the ministry, relevant government entities, employers and companies operating in the construction and related sectors.

The exchange drew on international experience and practical expertise, while exploring approaches that are consistent with Qatar's national legislation and relevant international standards.

Speaking at the meeting, the assistant undersecretary for migrant labour affairs, Hamed Faraj Dalmouk, said emphasised Qatar's commitment to social dia-

logue as a fundamental pillar of labour market development, noting that sustained engagement between employers and workers provides an effective platform for addressing challenges, sharing expertise and developing practical solutions.

He highlighted the importance of joint worker committees as a key mechanism for strengthening worker participation and establishing direct channels of communication between workers and employers, and noted that such committees provide a structured forum for raising concerns and addressing workplace challenges, helping to facilitate practical solutions that contribute to better working conditions, greater stability and improved productivity.

The official also stressed that improving working conditions requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond regulatory and legislative measures.

This, he said, includes ensuring safe and healthy workplaces and strengthening awareness of occupational safety and health procedures, particularly in sectors where



the nature of work requires a high level of adherence to preventative and protective measures.

Dalmouk reaffirmed the Ministry of Labour's commitment to maintaining open and sustained dialogue with its partners, taking their observations and proposals into consideration and continuing to develop policies and practices that strengthen worker protection and improve working conditions.

He also highlighted the importance of supporting employers and contributing to the efficiency, competitiveness and productivity of various economic sectors. – QNA

Amir congratulates St Kitts and Nevis governor-general

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations yestrey to Saint Kitts and Nevis Governor-General Marcella Althea Liburd on the occasion of her country's Independence Day.

HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations Liburd on the occasion. Meanwhile, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Saint Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Terrance Michael Drew. – QNA



Rehabilitation initiative at Rawdat Hawtan

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)'s Wildlife Development Department has organised a rehabilitation initiative at Rawdat Hawtan in the northern region as part of its ongoing efforts to restore Qatar's *rawd*as (meadows), enhance natural vegetation cover, and conserve biodiversity and land ecosystems.

The rehabilitation works included planting 300 seedlings of native wild plants and scattering around 5,000 seeds of wild species suited to the site to increase vegetation density, support the natural regeneration of wild plants, and improve the ecological condition of the place.

Adel Mohamed al-Yafei, head of the department's Plant Wildlife Section, said that the ministry continues to implement plans and initiatives aimed at rehabilitating Qatar's *rawd*as and strengthening their natural vegetation cover.

He noted that planting native species and dispersing their seeds form part of national efforts to conserve land ecosystems and protect biodiversity.

Al-Yafei explained that cultivating local wild plants and spreading their seeds contribute to the natural regeneration of vegetation, improve natural habitats, and enhance ecosystem stability.

He stressed that selecting plant species suited to the characteristics of each site is an important factor in the success and sustainability of rehabilitation programmes.



Somalia's Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre (second right) with the three competition winners and an official.

QC-sponsored orphans sweep top three places in Qur'an competition

Somalia's Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre has hailed three Qatar Charity (QC)-sponsored Somali orphans after they swept the top three places in the international "Rofaqa" category of the Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani Qur'an Competition.

He also praised the QC's longstanding support for orphan care and education in Somalia.

The event, held recently in Qatar, drew hundreds of orphaned contestants from around the world.

The prime minister made the remarks while receiving the winners at his office in Mogadishu.

Competing in the full Qur'an memorisation category, Abdulghani Abdulqadir Sheikh Hussein claimed first place, Abdulrahman Qasim Mohammed took second, and Abdulrahman Ahmed Mahmoud secured third.

Barre commended Qatar Charity for combining orphan care with education and empowerment, helping young people excel academically and in Qur'anic studies.

He said the students' success underscores the respected status of Qur'an memorisers in Somali society and highlights the country's promising talent in Islamic and Qur'anic studies.

Describing the clean sweep as "a source of pride for the Somali people", the prime minister urged the winners to continue memorising and teaching the Qur'an and promoting its values in their communities.

He also announced that the three winners would receive free

Qatar a 'trusted mediator and active partner in multilateral action system'

HE the Permanent Representative of the Qatar to the United Nations Office in Geneva Dr Hend Abdulrahman al-Muftah (**pictured**) has affirmed that the role Qatar plays in the field of mediation reflects a well-established approach in its foreign policy, built on prioritising dialogue grounded in trust and peaceful solutions, and belief in the importance of keeping communication channels open even in the most complex crises.

This approach, she said, is also founded on a clear constitutional foundation of promoting international peace and security and encouraging peaceful settlement of disputes as key pillars of the state's foreign policy.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE Dr al-Muftah said that Qatar, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, continued developing its expertise in mediation and expanding the scope of its diplomatic efforts across various regions of the world, until it became a trusted mediator regionally and internationally.

This development, she continued, is supported by Qatar's accumulated experience and its ability to communicate with all parties, even the most complex and challenging cases, maintain channels of dialogue, and work with strategic patience and continuity.

Qatar continues 'to strengthen partnership with UN and support multilateral action'

The director of the International Organisations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Sheikha Hanouf bint Abdulrahman al-Thani (**pictured**), has affirmed that Qatar's participation in the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) aligns with its policy of supporting international multilateral action, enhancing the UN's role as a comprehensive umbrella for joint global efforts, and contributing to international responses to political, humanitarian, and development challenges.

In remarks to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), she noted that Qatar views the UNGA as a primary platform for dialogue and consultation among nations.

Sheikha Hanouf emphasised that Qatar's participation extends beyond presenting national positions to fostering mutual understanding, building strategic partnerships, and advancing initiatives that strengthen global responses to political, humanitarian, and development issues.

She said that the relationship between Qatar and the UN has evolved into a multi-faceted strategic and institutional partnership, encompassing the Secretariat, UN agencies, funds, programmes, and various offices.

In recent years, Sheikha Hanouf continued, this partnership has experienced significant institutional growth through enhanced strategic dialogue, co-operation frameworks, joint agreements, expanded financial contributions,

The envoy clarified further that Qatar does not view mediation as a matter of media visibility or international competition, but rather a matter of moral responsibility and effectiveness in preserving international peace and security.

She added that Qatar's guiding principle is whether there is an opportunity to contribute effectively to reducing tensions and helping the parties move forward toward a political solution, and to find common ground that would enable them to reach understandings and peaceful solutions, while the decision regarding the outcomes of the process remains in the hands of the parties concerned.

Qatar's foreign policy approach is founded on prioritising dialogue and belief in keeping communication channels open

Regarding the evolution of the Qatar-UN relationship from a traditional member relationship into an effective strategic partnership for the past two decades, HE Dr al-Muftah affirmed that this relationship has evolved gradually from engagement within the framework of membership into a broad, long-term strategic partnership.

Over the years, she said, Qatar's contribution to the work of the United Nations has expanded to include support for UN initiatives and programmes, participation in peace and mediation efforts, humanitarian and development work, and co-operation in ad-

ressing international challenges.

Among these was the signing of agreements between Qatar and the UN on the sidelines of the 2018 Doha Forum with the attendance of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, where Qatar has provided support to the financing of UN organisations with \$500mn.

HE Dr al-Muftah noted that one of the most prominent manifestations of this evolution has been the growing institutional presence of the UN in Doha, with Qatar hosting a number of UN offices and

programmes and organising dozens of UN events.

This was further reinforced by the opening of the UN House in Doha, which brings together a number of UN entities, strengthening the institutional character of this partnership and expanding areas of joint co-operation.

HE Dr al-Muftah added that, in Geneva, the evolution of this partnership was reflected in Qatar's active engagement in the multilateral system, particularly in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), where Qatar led three draft resolutions for the first time in its membership during 2025 and 2026



joint programme implementation, and the hosting of major international conferences.

She added that the United Nations House in Doha, which opened in 2023 and houses 14 UN offices, solidifies this close partnership and Qatar's firm belief in multilateralism.

The relationship between Qatar and the United Nations has evolved over the years into a multi-faceted strategic and institutional partnership

nership and Qatar's firm belief in multilateralism.

This is achieved, Sheikha Hanouf stated, by strengthening co-ordination, co-operation, and the exchange of expertise, and by supporting the work of the UN in Qatar and the region, noting that the state is working to expand the scope of UN offices and entities it hosts, further enhancing the organisation's presence and the effectiveness of its work in the region.

She highlighted 2025 as a milestone year in this partnership, during which Doha hosted the Second World Summit for Social Development with broad participation



addressing priority issues, all of which were adopted by consensus without a vote.

Resolution 59/17, entitled "Empowering Women and Girls in and through Sport", was tabled by Qatar on behalf of the core group comprising Qatar, Indonesia and Morocco, and was adopted in July 2025.

The second, Resolution 60/19, entitled "Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Women and Children in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations: Ensuring Justice, Remedies and Reparation for Victims", was tabled by Qatar on behalf of the core group comprising Qatar and Costa Rica, and was adopted in October 2025.

HE Dr al-Muftah pointed that the third resolution, entitled "Protecting Healthcare in Armed Conflicts" and adopted in July 2026, represented a distinctive experience for Qatar in the UNHRC, as nation took the lead in drafting the resolution, conducting the related consultations and negotiations, and submitting it independently to council.

The resolution received broad support, with 62 countries from across the different regional groups co-sponsoring it.

to help LDCs address structural challenges, including food security, climate change, and economic shocks, while improving access to finance and technology.

Sheikha Hanouf added that the High-Level Comprehensive Midterm Review of the Doha Programme of Action, scheduled to take place in Doha in March 2027, will serve as a vital milestone to assess progress, identify remaining challenges, and accelerate implementation during the second half of the decade.

She emphasised that the partnership with the UN is closely aligned with Qatar's foreign policy priorities, which supports dialogue and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, driven by its conviction that conflict prevention and addressing their root causes are essential to building sustainable peace.

Upholding the principles of the UN Charter, she noted that Qatar utilised the organisation's institutional mechanisms since the outset of the Iranian attacks against Qatari territory by constantly updating the UN secretary-general and the UN Security Council (UNSC) president of relevant developments through official correspondence, reflecting its commitment to international frameworks and enabling the UNSC to fulfill its mandate in maintaining international peace and security, particularly in light of Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), which strongly condemned the attacks on Qatar and neighbouring countries and demanded their immediate cessation. – QNA

Doha Festival City hosting ‘RunFest 2026’ next week

Doha Festival City will host “RunFest 2026”, an indoor running festival for participants of all ages and fitness levels, on September 25.

RunFest 2026 underscores the mall’s long-standing commitment to fostering community wellness and championing healthy lifestyles for all, encouraging every member of the community to set a personal health goal and take a step towards it.

RunFest 2026 will transform Doha Festival City into a dynamic running track from 7am-10am, with a professionally managed, chip-timed race taking place on a bespoke 1.3km circuit.

Participants can register across five distinct race categories: a 10km race, a 5km race, a 1km Fun Run, a 1km Kids Run for children aged 8-12, and a 500m Mini Kids Run for children aged under eight.

Beyond the track, the festival will feature a vibrant Event Village designed to entertain both participants and spectators. The hub will boast a main stage with live

entertainment, dedicated spectator viewing areas, expert-led warm-up sessions, exhibitor booths, and engaging activities for visitors of all ages.

The event will culminate with an official podium presentation, where top performers will be recognised and awarded exclusive Doha Festival City Gift Cards.

“Our goal has always been to make Doha Festival City a vibrant hub where people can connect, thrive, and prioritise their wellbeing in a welcoming environment,” said Doha Festival City asset management director Tugrul Comert. “Guest experience is at the heart of everything we do, and our community wellbeing becomes our priority, from the moment they step inside the mall. RunFest 2026 is the latest and most ambitious milestone on that mission.”

As part of this strategy, Doha Festival City signed a memorandum of understanding with the Qatar Sports For All Federation (QSFA) in June, under the um-

brella of the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

The joint-led weekly Friday Community Run recorded more than 6,000 cumulative participations between May and August 2026.

This was followed by the debut of the 5K Steps Challenge, an inclusive step-tracking initiative encouraging visitors to stay active while walking inside the mall via a live leaderboard on the QSFA app.

“Our mission is to make physical activity accessible to the different segments of our communities and to weave sport into everyday life across Qatar,” said QSFA executive director Abdullah al-Dosari. “RunFest 2026 invites everyone to set a personal goal and work towards it, which encapsulates the QSFA’s mission and aligns with the country’s socioeconomic development agenda.”

Aspiring racers interested in the festival are encouraged to register at: runthroughqatar.com/event/doha-festival-city-run-fest-2026



PHCC concludes 2026-27 ‘Back-to-School’ campaign with nearly 95% coverage

The School Health Programme & Services Department at the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has concluded the Back-to-School Campaign for the 2026-27 academic year.

The campaign was implemented over 12 days, from August 30 to September 10, under the theme *Healthy Bodies Build Strong Nations*.

The campaign achieved 94.9% coverage of targeted government schools, reaching 299 government schools.

School Health teams also documented 1,811 implementations of campaign activities, interactive interventions, and follow-up tools.

Campaign messages and activities generated 926,708 audience engagements across the school community: 496,536 student engagements, 365,644 parent engagements, and 64,528 school staff engagements.

These results reflect the cam-

paign’s broad reach and the effective partnership among schools, families, and School Health teams in supporting student health and wellbeing.

Student participation in campaign activities reached 77.47%, compared with a target of 70% and achievement of 7.47% points above target.

This result demonstrates strong student engagement and the ability of schools and School Health teams to translate health messages into meaningful participation within the school environment.

Through the 1,811 documented implementations of activities and practical tools, the campaign moved beyond traditional health awareness.

It focused on enabling students to understand healthy behaviours, put them into practice, reflect on them, monitor their progress, and maintain them in everyday life.

The tracking and self-assessment tools addressed balanced



and responsible digital-device use, healthy sleep, hydration, nutrition, physical activity, and emotional regulation.

These tools were designed to strengthen students’ personal responsibility for their health by helping them observe daily habits, identify areas for improvement, and monitor their progress.

Through 496,536 student engagements, the campaign transformed health messages into practical experiences through health education sessions, workshops, skills-based activities, interactive awareness corners and stations, practical health activities, and tracking and self-assessment tools.

The student competition provided an additional platform for student participation and creativity.

Students translated their understanding of health and positive behaviours into innovative entries.

The competition included approved assessment criteria, evaluation of submissions, identifica-

tion of winners, and completion of recognition arrangements.

Winning schools will receive recognition shields, while winning students will receive certificates of appreciation and symbolic gifts.

Dr Layla Abdullah al-Dahnaim, manager of the School Health Programme & Services Department and senior consultant in Community Medicine, stated that the campaign’s 94.9% school coverage, 926,708 audience engagements, and 77.47% student participation rate, reflect the strength of the partnership among students, families, schools, and School Health teams.

“Building generations that are healthy, aware, and responsible is fundamental to building a strong and prosperous nation,” she said. “The *Healthy Bodies Build Strong Nations* campaign translated this vision into practice by linking students’ everyday health behaviours to their wellbeing, their future, and their role in serving their country.”

New Qatar legislation on animal health draws support from livestock breeders

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Local livestock owners and breeders have welcomed the ratification of Law No. (12) of 2026 on Animal Health, describing it as an important step toward strengthening disease prevention, protecting national livestock resources and supporting food security.

The new legislation is intended to enhance the local animal-health, reinforce disease prevention and control, and bring national practices closer to international standards.

The country has been exerting great efforts to expand its livestock sector and veterinary infrastructure.

The local economically significant livestock stood at around 1.1mn head at the end of 2024, comprising around 60% sheep, 29% goats, 3% cattle and 8% camels.

The sector is increasingly viewed as an important component of national food security and domestic production.

Accordingly, some breeders noted that one of the key benefits of stronger animal-health regulation is the emphasis on early reporting and rapid intervention when disease is detected.

They said that prompt communication with veterinary authorities can help isolate infected animals, identify outbreaks at an early stage and prevent transmission within livestock holdings.

Rashid Ali al-Nuaimi, livestock owner, stressed the need for stringent veterinary controls on imported animals.

He said seasonal ailments are generally manageable when detected early, but diseases introduced through imported livestock could pose a wider threat if animals are not properly examined and quarantined.

Al-Nuaimi called for veterinary inspections at livestock markets, including informal trading locations, to prevent the sale and movement of infected animals.

The emphasis on biosecurity is consistent with the Ministry of Municipality’s ongoing efforts to strengthen disease surveillance and veterinary services.



The ministry said last year that it was developing an animal-disease monitoring and tracking programme, upgrading veterinary diagnostic laboratories and expanding veterinary services in major livestock concentrations.

It also reported plans for additional veterinary centres, including facilities in Al Wakra and Al Karaana.

Jabran al-Hababi, another breeder, stressed the importance of improving livestock mobility and access to natural grazing areas.

He said that prolonged confinement can limit the animals’ movement and called for greater opportunities for livestock to benefit from the natural pastures where conditions permit.

Al-Hababi also pointed to the potential benefits of natural vegetation as part of a diversified feeding system.

Barn owner Saad Khalid al-Kubaisi said that vaccination, regular monitoring and communication with veterinary authorities should remain central to livestock management.

He also called for broader availability of veterinary medicines and feed products through government centres, noting that breeders sometimes have to obtain certain medicines from private clinics.

Feed costs remain an important consideration for the sector.

According to the Ministry of

Municipality, government support covers up to 70% of feed components, alongside free vaccination campaigns against epidemic diseases.

The ministry has also been working to develop livestock complexes, improve veterinary laboratories and strengthen animal-health surveillance.

Qatar’s livestock sector has made measurable progress in domestic production.

In 2025, the Ministry of Municipality reported annual domestic production of around 202,000 tonnes of dairy products, 25,000 tonnes of fresh poultry meat, 16,000 tonnes of table eggs and 9,000 tonnes of red meat.

Self-sufficiency was reported at 100% for dairy and fresh poultry, 34% for table eggs and about 15% for red meat.

More recently, at AgriteQ 2026, the ministry reported self-sufficiency rates of 99% for dairy, 100% for poultry and 24% for sheep and goat meat.

Barn owner Jaberal-Marri stressed that continued investment in veterinary services would help breeders protect their herds and reduce losses from preventable disease.

He noted that early isolation, veterinary diagnosis and appropriate treatment can significantly limit the consequences of outbreaks.

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This activity is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Category 1) as defined by the Ministry of Public Health’s Department of Healthcare Professions-Accreditation Section and is approved for a maximum of 3.50 hours.

The scientific planning committee has reviewed all disclosed financial relationships of speakers, moderators, facilitators and/or authors in advance of this CPD activity and has implemented procedures to manage any potential or real conflicts of interest.

A glimpse of cooler days



As the weather gradually transitions towards cooler days, Ras Abu Aboud Park looked serene in the evening glow yesterday. A peaceful setting, gentle breeze, and the perfect touch of golden light to welcome the changing season. PICTURE: Thajudheen

Schools embrace preventive approach to pupil behaviour

By Ayman Adly Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has introduced a more integrated approach to student behaviour management, combining clear disciplinary procedures with prevention, counselling and early intervention under the Student Behaviour Management Policy and the preventive project “Hisn 2” for the 2026–2027 academic year. Many education, psychological and family specialists welcomed the approach, stressing that effective behaviour management should go beyond responding to misconduct after it occurs. They said schools need systems that identify early warning signs, understand the factors behind problematic behaviour and provide appropriate educational and psychological support while maintaining clear standards of discipline. The launch of Hisn 2 reflects the ministry’s wider

focus on strengthening students’ psychological and social wellbeing. The project was formally launched for government schools, kindergartens and specialised schools, with more than 400 psychological and social specialists attending its launch. According to the ministry, Hisn 2 seeks to enhance psychological and social health, develop protective factors and life skills, reduce risk factors and contribute to a safe, supportive learning environment. Experts said the new policy can provide schools with a clearer and more consistent framework for handling different types of behaviour. Hussein al-Yafei, education expert, said the emphasis should be on balancing school discipline with appropriate educational support, ensuring that preventive awareness becomes part of everyday school practice rather than remaining a stand-alone programme. Education expert Rashid al-Awda al-Fadli noted that schools need to distinguish

between ordinary disagreements and behaviour requiring formal intervention. He stressed that cases should be assessed individually, taking account of psychological, social and family circumstances, while disciplinary measures should be objective, gradual and proportionate. A major focus is the early identification of aggression, bullying and other harmful behaviour. Specialists also highlighted the importance of school social workers and psychologists. Their role extends from responding to incidents to monitoring behavioural changes, speaking with students, assessing family and social circumstances and coordinating with teachers and parents to develop appropriate support plans. Education expert Khalifa al-Mannai said the policy gives schools a common reference for dealing with behaviour while maintaining a balance between discipline and student support. Psychological specialists pointed to several factors

that may contribute to aggressive or disruptive behaviour, including academic pressure, fear of failure, family difficulties, bullying, anxiety and challenges associated with adolescence. Dr Hussein al-Ajmi, education expert, stressed that understanding the roots of aggressive behaviour is an essential part of intervention, while Dr Asmaa Amin, psychiatrist highlighted the importance of identifying behavioural indicators early and coordinating school-based support with families. The family-school partnership was repeatedly identified as another key element. Experts called for regular communication with parents, consistent guidance between home and school, and approaches that teach students accountability, emotional regulation and constructive conflict resolution. They also stressed that teachers must be protected from verbal or physical abuse, while ensuring that students are treated with dignity and fairness.

QNL examines role of early maritime trade in shaping British diplomacy

Qatar National Library (QNL) hosted a panel discussion examining the role of early maritime trade networks in shaping British diplomacy in the region. Titled “Diplomacy and Influence: A Reading of the British Presence in the Gulf”, the dynamic session gathered academics, students, and researchers for an

in-depth exploration of the historical footprint of the East India Company. The discussion illustrated how the Company’s trade routes across the Arabian Gulf and its close links with British-Indian trade networks laid the foundation for broader regional engagement. The panel examined how the conclusion of maritime treaties and commer-



cial activities generated essential geopolitical knowledge, ultimately expanding British influence far beyond direct trade, particularly amid competition with other regional powers. Assistant Dean for Social Sciences and Humanities at Qatar University’s College of Arts and Sciences, Dr Aisha Hadi al-Rashdi offered expert insights into the diplomatic tools that strengthened British-Gulf relations through soft power. Commenting on the panel and the relevance of its theme, Dr Aisha Hadi al-Rashdi, Assistant Dean for Social Sciences and Humanities at Qatar University, said: “This panel creates an important space for dialogue and the exchange of perspectives on the history of British-Gulf relations, while examining the diplomatic and cultural forces that shaped their development over time.” She added: “Conversations of this kind also allow us to revisit history from different angles and enrich our understanding by bringing a wider range of experiences and perspectives into the discussion, including those from the Gulf. They also help connect historical sources and events with questions that remain relevant today, while encouraging thoughtful research, responsible dialogue and greater awareness of the region’s history and international relations among the public, researchers and younger generations.” Moderated by Community Engagement Specialist at the Heritage Library, Ikhlas Ahmed, the engaging panel connected these historical insights with the Library’s extensive archival resources. The session highlighted the Heritage Library’s collections, providing attendees with a tangible link to the rich history of Qatari-British relations and regional diplomacy.

Qatar Boat Show 2026 tickets now on sale

Old Doha Port has announced that tickets are now on sale for Qatar Boat Show 2026. The event returns for its third edition from November 4-7 under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani. Across four days, Qatar Boat Show 2026 invites visitors to experience a world of yachting and maritime excellence, bringing together luxury, innovation and entertainment at Old Doha Port. The show will offer visitors the opportunity to explore the latest yachts alongside leading local and international brands from across the maritime sector. Qatar Boat Show continues to strengthen its position as one of the region’s premier maritime event, bringing together the world’s leading yacht and boat manufacturers, marine companies, industry profes-

sionals and enthusiasts. The event supports the growth of Qatar’s maritime sector while strengthening the country’s position as an international destination for yachting, marine innovation and waterfront experiences. The third edition builds on the success of previous years. Qatar Boat Show 2025 welcomed more than 27,000 visitors, showcased 505 brands and featured more than 65 yachts and marine vessels, further establishing the event as a leading platform for the global and regional maritime community. Through Qatar Boat Show, Old Doha Port celebrates Qatar’s rich maritime heritage while spotlighting the latest innovations and craftsmanship shaping the industry today. The 2026 edition runs under the campaign platform “Crafting Wonderful,” reflecting the show’s focus on craft, creativity and maritime excellence.



The Diplomatic Club Tender Committee invites qualified contractors and vendors for the following tender:

S. No.	Tender No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Tender Bond	Closing Date
1	TDC-CP-ITT-2026-012	Supply & Delivery of General Store Items and Swimming Pool Chemicals for One (1) Year.	As per Below table	Five percent (5%) of the total bid value	08 Oct 2026 at 2 PM
2	TDC-CP-ITT-2026-018	Provision of Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Services for The Diplomatic Club and Staff Accommodation for 2 Years (One year base period + one year renewal option)	QR. 500.00	Five percent (5%) of the total bid value	08 Oct 2026 at 2 PM

Tender Fees for S. No. 2 (TDC-CP-ITT-2026-012- Supply & Delivery of General Store Items and Swimming Pool Chemicals for One Year)

S/N	Group	Subject	Fees QR.
1	A	Cleaning Items & Chemicals	300-
2	B	Office Stationeries & Printer Cartridge	300-
3	C	Plastic & Polythene Bags	300-
4	D	Paper Products	500-
5	E	Aluminum & Plastic Products	300-
6	F	Operating Supplies	300-
7	G	Swimming Pool Chemicals	100-

CONDITIONS:

- Tender Documents may be obtained from The Diplomatic Club Contracts & Procurement Department upon presentation of **Authorization Letter to collect tender documents with valid Commercial Registration, Computer Card, trade license Certificate, Tax Card and payment of the non-refundable tender fee. Payment by CASH, DEBIT, CREDIT CARD to the cashier at the Diplomatic Club.**
- Tender Bond - Five percent (5%) of the total bid value, valid for ninety (90) days from the tender closing date.
- Performance Bond - Ten percent (10%) of the contract value, valid for thirty (30) days after the contract completion date. At the award of contract, if the bidder’s payment terms require an advance payment, an advance payment guaranty valid for 90 days from scheduled completion date issued by a bank operating in Qatar must be submitted to the Tender Committee.
- Offers should be valid for 90 days commencing from the closing date.
- The Diplomatic Club’s shall have the right to increase or decrease the quantity by 20% of the contract quantity or value, as per its condition & price
- The Diplomatic Club reserves absolute discretion in awarding in full to one supplier or partially to different suppliers.
- The Diplomatic Club’s is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender and is under no obligation to show reason thereof.
- Tenders should be submitted not later than **2:00PM on 08 October 2026** (closing date) and must be deposited into the Tender Box provided in Contracts & Procurement Department, located at The Diplomatic Club, West Bay Dafna. Late submissions will not be accepted.

CONTRACT VALIDITY

- Laundry Services:** Two Years (One year base period + one year renewal option at club’s discretion)
- General Store Items:** Prices shall remain firm and valid from **01 January 2027 to 31 December 2027.**

CHAIRMAN - TENDERS COMMITTEE

Tel: 44847443 / 44847506 - Fax: 44839001 - Email: tendercommittee@dclub.com.qa

شركة قطر للإضافات البترولية المحدودة
QAFAC
QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

NO.	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	COLLECTION FEE Qrs.	TENDER BOND Qrs.	BID CLOSING DATE
1.	QTC/074/26	Four (4) Year Call-off Contract for the Maintenance Services of Trane HVAC Unit at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed	300/-	15,000/-	12 th October 2026
2.	QTC/083/26	Supply of Oil Analyzer for QAFAC Laboratory along with Installation, Commissioning and Training	300/-	15,000/-	12 th October 2026

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender documents as follows:

- Collection Date :** From **Sunday, 20th September 2026** (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time :** 08:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m
- Location :** The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Tender Fees :** As shown above, (**Non- refundable**) can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- Validity :** Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond :** Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Authorization :** Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 - Official authorization on Company Letter Head.
 - Proper Identification.
 - Copy of valid Company’s Commercial Registration.
 - Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)

QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY
INVITATION TO TENDER

QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ 6000006353	Frame Contract for Supply of Mobile Equipment and Associated Services for Maintenance - 5 Years	500/- (Non-refundable)	QAR 2,363,167.80 / (Two Million Three Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Seven Qatar Riyals and Eighty Dirhams Only)	20.09.2026 21.09.2026 22.09.2026 23.09.2026 24.09.2026 27.09.2026 28.09.2026	15.11.2026

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company’s following Account at any QNB branch:
 - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
 - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
 - IBAN : **QA51QNB0000000000013025828058**
 - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company’s name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder’s name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important!**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to purchase@qafco.com.qa and rpostrero@qafco.com.qa on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately within five (05) working days, after the last date of the Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date.
- Bidders shall ensure that SAP Ariba Registration is completed prior to last date of Tender Fee Submission Date, otherwise Tender Document cannot be released.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date, you may contact at purchase@qafco.com.qa and rpostrero@qafco.com.qa or on 44227797
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- The Tender shall be strictly submitted using QAFCO’s Supply Chain Portal – SAP / Ariba,** on or before the “Tender Closing Date”. Tenderers who fail to adhere to this requirement will result in disqualification of their Tender.

Qatar Charity to participate in UNGA81

Qatar Charity (QC) will participate in the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81) as part of its continued engagement with the international humanitarian and development community and its efforts to strengthen partnerships, amplify the perspectives of the Global South, and advance more inclusive and effective approaches to international cooperation.

The UNGA81 will bring world leaders, international organisations, civil society and other stakeholders to New York for a high-level week of dialogue on some of the world's most pressing challenges. Taking place at a time of mounting humanitarian needs, declining aid resources and profound geopolitical and technological shifts, this year's session will provide an important platform for renewed international

cooperation and collective action.

The Qatar Charity delegation will be headed by Yousuf AlKuware, chief executive officer, accompanied by members of the organisation's senior management. The delegation will participate in a series of high-level discussions, roundtables and parallel events addressing issues spanning humanitarian action, the right to development, the use of artificial intelligence in humanitarian work, refugee protection, and the evolving international development landscape.

The delegation will also hold a series of high-level bilateral meetings with representatives of governments, United Nations agencies, international and national NGOs, and private-sector partners. These engagements will provide an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the mounting challenges facing the humani-

tarian and development sectors, including shrinking aid budgets, widening funding gaps, protracted crises, growing humanitarian needs and the need for more sustainable and equitable models of international cooperation.

Qatar Charity will also seek to highlight the potential of Islamic philanthropy as an important source of financing and partnership for sustainable development, particularly at a time when traditional aid resources are increasingly constrained. Drawing on its experience in aligning faith-based giving with the SDGs, Qatar Charity will engage partners on how instruments of Islamic philanthropy and community-based giving can complement traditional development financing, mobilise additional resources, and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



AlKuware, said: "At a time when humanitarian needs continue to grow while resources are increasingly constrained, strengthening cooperation and building effective partnerships is more important than ever. UNGA provides an important opportunity to listen, exchange perspectives and explore solutions together. Qatar Charity looks forward to contributing the experience and perspectives of the Global South, strengthening the voice of communities and local actors, and building alliances that can translate our shared priorities into meaningful action."

LIC brings back 'F1 Family Friday' for Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2026



Lusail International Circuit (LIC) has announced the return of 'F1 Family Friday' for the Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2026, scheduled from November 27-29. This initiative is designed to offer families an accessible entry point to experience world class Formula 1 racing at the circuit. Taking place on November 27, F1 Family Friday offers families an opportunity to experience the thrill of Formula 1 together. With the purchase of every General Admission ticket priced at QR200 up to four children under the age of 12 can attend free of charge. Accompanying parents or legal guardians must secure these complimentary

child passes in advance via the official LIC online ticketing platform prior to attending the event. F1 Family Friday attendees will enjoy access to the thrilling wheel-to-wheel action of Formula 1 free practice sessions, as the world's top drivers showcase high-speed manoeuvres around the circuit. Ticket holders will also have access to the Fan Zone where the F1 Fan Forum will take place, as well as other activities featuring dedicated cultural activations, a kids area, interactive simulators, entertainment, food and beverage options, merchandise, and activities for all ages.

Israeli strikes kill 3 in Gaza

Reuters

Cairo

Israeli airstrikes killed at least three Palestinians in the Gaza Strip yesterday, health officials said.

One strike near Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza killed Basir al-Bursh, the son of Munir al-Bursh, the territory's health ministry director-general, medics and family members said.

The Israeli military said it had struck several militants yesterday, including Basir al-Bursh, without giving further information. Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that runs Gaza, did not immediately comment.

Munir al-Bursh lost a daughter in an Israeli airstrike in December 2023, according to family members and medics. He was wounded in that attack.

In video obtained by Reuters, al-Bursh was seen carrying his son's body, wrapped in a blanket, with other mourners as it was rushed to hospital by ambulance.

"I was with him in the tent, and he said, Dad, they will target us, you and me together, I said that is fine, we will go to heaven together," said al-Bursh in the video.

"He went outside the tent and they struck him and he was martyred, may God have mercy on him," added al-Bursh.

At Al Shifa Hospital, al-Bursh could barely stand as mourners arrived to pay their respects.

Elsewhere, a strike killed a man in Shejaia, east



Palestinians attempt to extinguish a fire following an Israeli air strike that hit a vehicle in Gaza City, yesterday. (Reuters)

of Gaza City, while another hit a vehicle in the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City, killing one person, the civil defence service and medics said, taking Saturday's death toll to at least three.

The Israeli military said the Sheikh Radwan strike targeted a Hamas militant. The blast reduced the vehicle to a mangled wreck.

Palestinian authorities say more than 73,000 people have been killed in Israel's assault on Gaza, launched after Hamas-led fighters killed about 1,200 people in

southern Israel in October 2023.

A US-brokered ceasefire agreed last year calls for the eventual reconstruction of the territory, but little progress has been made as negotiators have failed to agree terms for Hamas to disarm and Israel to withdraw its troops.

More than 1,300 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire took effect, according to the territory's health officials, while the Israeli military says four Israeli soldiers have been killed.

Qatar supply chain braving the odds amid Hormuz crisis

From Page 1

"Worse, the brief June reopening that let a few cargoes out has reversed: since the July breakdown, Qatar has again been largely unable to move LNG at anything near its normal three-shipments-a-day rhythm. This is now the longest sustained interruption to Qatari gas exports in the country's history," Dr Adeinat pointed out.

In contrast, consumer supply lines have avoided significant shortages owing to earlier infrastructure investments and strategic coordination with regional logistics hubs.

"On imports, the picture remains far more reassuring, and that contrast is the story worth telling. Qatar imports most of its food, yet after six months availability has held, because reserves were reinforced early and multi-route sourcing through Saudi Arabia and the Red Sea has been sustained," she explained.

Dr Adeinat noted that long-term strategic initiatives, including port expansions and agricultural self-sufficiency programmes



Dr Iman Adeinat, an expert in logistics and supply chain management at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar.

established over the past decade, provided the baseline security necessary to withstand current pressures.

"Qatar's most important diversification step was taken almost a decade ago, and that is the key to understanding why it has coped for six months. Within the last eight years, Qatar expanded Hamad Port, built domestic dairy and agriculture almost from scratch, diversified suppliers, and institutionalised food security as

national policy. The systems performing under sustained pressure today are the ones built then," she stressed.

She emphasised that land transport links through Saudi Arabia and Red Sea ports have emerged as key logistical substitutes for containerised cargo during the maritime blockade.

"What is new in this conflict is the overland dimension. With the sea contested, Qatar leaned on road corridors through Saudi Arabia and the kingdom's Red Sea logistics services, and those have become a durable part of the toolkit," she said.

However, Dr Adeinat stated that overland routes cannot replace maritime channels for bulk energy logistics, reinforcing the necessity of maintaining open international maritime corridors.

"Qatar has diversified how it feeds its people. It cannot, yet diversify how it sells its gas, which is why the prolonged closure has hit exports so much harder than imports, and why a secure strait remains a global interest, not just a Qatari one," Dr Adeinat added.

Smoke, flames seen near Riyadh airport as Houthis claim attack

From Page 1

Saudi civil defence sent the alerts by phone overnight for potential danger of aerial attacks in Riyadh and the city of Al-Kharj east of the capital, before issuing an all-clear yesterday morning. A Reuters journalist in Riyadh's Olaya area heard booms before the all-clear was sent.

Although some alerts had been issued in Riyadh this year after the start of the US-Iran war, these were the first since the escalation with the Houthis began in July.

The Houthis, who control the most populous parts of Yemen and much of the north, have been launching attacks against Saudi Arabia since declaring a naval blockade against Riyadh in July, with strikes targeting Saudi vessels in the Red Sea.

The attacks have targeted Saudi cities, energy infrastructure and shipping, creating new threats to global oil supplies and putting at risk the main alternative Red Sea

route for Gulf exports while traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remains blocked. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Saudi Arabia may have military needs due to the ongoing Houthi attacks and Turkiye was ready to help under a trilateral defence pact that also includes Pakistan. It was unclear what kind of support Turkiye might provide but Fidan, in an interview with broadcaster NTV, said Saudi needs could include "some technical issues." The trilateral agreement signed last month stipulates that an armed attack on any of the three countries would be regarded as an attack on all of them. On Friday Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said the group had foiled unspecified attempts in the Yemeni capital Sanaa and vowing a response. The Iran-aligned group, which seized Yemen's entire Red Sea coast in a lightning advance this month, says the Saudi Air Force

has conducted hundreds of airstrikes against it in recent days. The fighting between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia has developed as a new theatre of conflict in the wider war that began with US and Israeli strikes against Iran at the end of February. US President Donald Trump has rebuffed Saudi requests for direct US military intervention against the Houthis. Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told Al Jazeera in an interview aired yesterday that Tehran wanted the war between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis to end, adding that he believed Yemenis also wanted a settlement with Saudi Arabia. Rezaei also said Iran had conveyed its conditions to mediators for re-engaging in stalled negotiations with the United States, including "ending the war on all fronts". Consultations were continuing with Qatari and Pakistani mediators and Tehran was awaiting a response from Trump, Rezaei said.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **MOHAMMED JABED HOSSEN SAJIB**

holder of

BANGLADESH Passport No. EJ0660838
QID No. 29405025509

hereby change my name

from

MOHAMMED JABED HOSSEN SAJIB

to

MOHAMMAD JABED HOSSEN SAJIB

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **VAILAN ANUNCIA ROSARIO FERNANDES**

holder of

Indian Passport No. X8958268
QID No. 30435600475

hereby change my name

from

VAILAN ANUNCIA ROSARIO FERNANDES

to

VAILAN JOSHUA FERNANDES

Any objection, please contact
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.



الأولى
AL-AWALIA

Invitation to Tender

Tender / Auction Number	Subject	Tender / Auction Document Fees (Non-refundable)	Tender / Auction Bond	Tender/Auction Offer	Closing Date
AL-AWALIA/TD/2026/30	Call-Off Agreement for Quality Assurance, Quality Control and Testing of RCA, Al Kara'ana Sand Plant & Imported Aggregate Materials at the Port of Discharge in Mesa'ed for Qatar Primary Materials Company ("Services")	1,000 QAR	127,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	27 September 2026 02:00 PM

In accordance with the following conditions:

- Tender Documents can be collected online by sending email to tender.doc@qpmc.qa along with requested documents in point No.2.
- Tender Documents will be shared only after delivery of Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized person as per Computer ID. Copy of commercial Registration (CR) (printed within the last 30 days), Business License and Computer ID.
- Bids are to be submitted in two sealed (in red wax) envelopes (Technical & Commercial) and addressed to Tenderers and Auction Committee. Tender reference number and subject are to be clearly written on the envelopes, provided that the last date for submitting bids is one o'clock in the afternoon on the closing day. Any bids submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
- Tenderers shall submit the proposals to our head office located at Lusail, Building No. 108, St. No. 303, Burj Marina Tower, 17th Floor before the closing date. (To get the map of the new building, please scan the QR code below).
- Tender Fees are non-refundable and can be transferred online to Account of Qatar Primary Material Company- Bank A/C (4050-65111-006) at Commercial Bank of Qatar. **IBAN No. (QA 18 CBQA 0000 0000 4050 65111 006)** (Tender reference number and subject) are to be written on the deposit slip.
- Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee/ Manager Cheque) must be valid for 120 days after closing date and must be submitted in separate & sealed envelope along with technical bid and a photocopy is to be attached with commercial bid. Bids without tender bond will be rejected.
- Bids must be valid for 90 days after the closing date.
- Any queries relating to the Tender Documents must only be raised in writing, preferably by email, to the address specified in the respective Tender Document. Any response issued by Qatar Primary Material Company will be in the form of a question and answer and will be distributed to all Tenderers without revealing the identity of the originator of the queries) in the Form of Tender Bulletins. Queries must be received at the address specified in the respective ITT Documentation at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Tender closing date. Any queries received after such a date will be ignored.
- The amount of the Performance Bond to be provided by the awarded bidder is (10% of the contract value) and its validity period must remain valid under the contract implementation period and the guarantee period according to the terms of the tender.
- The Technical Bids shall be opened within one week of the closing date.
- Qatar Primary Material Company has the right, during the contract period, to request an increase or decrease in the amounts of the items, works or services by a percentage not exceeding (20%) of the contract value with the same conditions and prices, provided that the increase is of the same type of contracted items, works or services.
- Qatar Primary Material Company's tendering terms and conditions apply.
- For any inquiries about the tender except collecting the documents, please contact tender@qpmc.qa
- Location of the new building



For further Inquiry, please send your queries at Fax Number: **44479559** or email to tender@qpmc.qa or visit Qatar Primary Material Company website @ www.qpmc.qa

شركة قطر للمواد الأولية (ش.م.ع.ق) مقرها الرئيسي: الدوحة - قطر - منطقة لوسيل، برج مارينا، رقم 108، الطابق 17، مبنى 108، ج. 303، شارع 303، 22095 | هاتف: +974 4447 9411 | فاكس: +974 4447 9411 | بريد إلكتروني: tender.doc@qpmc.qa | موقع: www.qpmc.qa | رأس المال المصرح به: 200,000,000 ريال كويتي | رأس المال المدفوع: 200,000,000 ريال كويتي | رأس المال المدفوع: 200,000,000 ريال كويتي | رأس المال المدفوع: 200,000,000 ريال كويتي



Ariane enters new corporate

Ariane, one of Qatar's leading real estate companies, has embarked on a new corporate chapter, marked by a ceremony held last evening at Rosewood Doha in the presence of HE Sheikh Suhaim bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani, a number of Their Excellencies, representatives of regulatory authorities and government entities, CEOs of major real estate companies, banking and investment leaders, and strategic partners. The evening reflected the company's development and aspirations for the next phase.

The ceremony represented an important milestone in Ariane's journey, bringing together a review of the company's achievements since its establishment in 2013 and the announcement of a new corporate phase built on the experience, projects and market presence it has accumulated over the years. This comes as the company moves under the umbrella of SK Holding, a transition aimed at unifying its vision, strengthening governance and enhancing alignment between planning and execution in line with the scale of its real estate portfolio and the nature of the Qatari market.

The ceremony was hosted by media personality Khalid Jassim, who led the evening's programme, including speeches, visual presentations and corporate launches, culminating in the official unveiling of the company's new identity and website.

The evening marked Ariane's transition into a new chapter that builds on, rather than separates from, its previous years and achievements. It reflects an institutional vision focused on enhancing performance, maximising value, strengthening investment capabilities and improving the efficiency of portfolio management, while preserving the values associated with the company's name and its established position in the market.

A New Corporate Chapter

The ceremony opened with a welcome address by HE Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani, CEO of Ariane, who stressed that the evening was not merely a formal occasion, but an opportunity for direct dialogue away from meeting rooms, bringing together various stakeholders across the sector to strengthen professional trust and communication and facilitate an exchange of views on the current real estate market and its future prospects.

He emphasised that Ariane does not view itself simply as a real estate developer, but as an evolving experience in redefining the concept of urban development, based on a philosophy of turning vision into reality, translating ambition into tangible achievements on the ground and creating value that extends beyond the conventional real estate project.

He noted that the current phase requires greater clarity in decision-making and precise definition of responsibilities, achieving the necessary balance between ambition and execution capabilities while reinforcing the principles of seriousness, transparency and sustainable performance across all levels of the organisation.

HE Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani explained that Ariane's move under the umbrella of SK Holding represents primarily an organisational transition aimed at unifying the company's execution vision in



HE Sheikh Suhaim bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani
SK Holding & Ariane Chairman

line with the scale of its portfolio and the nature of the market. It also seeks to develop working mechanisms that enhance monitoring and execution capabilities and connect strategic directions with measurable practical outcomes.

He said that the current management's approach is based on clear decision-making, close follow-up and stronger alignment between planning and execution. He stressed that executive responsibility at this stage is not limited to administrative functions, but represents a full professional commitment to establishing clear working foundations capable of translating the corporate vision into actual performance.

In this context, he affirmed that Qatar's real estate sector is built on an integrated equation and a delicate balance among developers, financiers, regulators and the market. Achieving genuine and sustainable progress requires an aware and responsible partnership among all these stakeholders, based on a clear understanding of the facts, mutual respect and well-defined roles.

He noted that the presence of executive leaders, representatives of official institutions and regulatory bodies, banking and investment sectors, and strategic partners at the evening reflected the importance of this integration and demonstrated the commitment of different stakeholders to strengthening professional relationships that contribute to supporting and developing the sector.

Ariane in Numbers

During the evening, Ariane presented an overview of its journey and the scale of its real estate portfolio through a set of indicators reflecting the breadth of its operations, the diversity of its projects and its presence across several strategic locations in Qatar.

The company currently manages more than 23 projects across 13 strategic locations in the country, reflecting a carefully planned geographical presence across several urban areas and highlighting the diversity of its portfolio in terms of project types and real estate products.



HE Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani
CEO of Ariane Projects & Ariane Properties

Ariane's total development has exceeded 1 million square metres of built-up area, within a portfolio comprising more than 4,000 diverse residential units, including more than 550 villas and townhouses, more than 4,000 apartments and studios, in addition to more than 300 commercial units.

These indicators reflect the scale of Ariane's journey since its establishment, as well as the diversity of its real estate products and the breadth of its customer base, projects and locations. The presentation highlighted that these figures should not be viewed solely in quantitative terms, but also in terms of product diversity, geographical reach, customer base and the trust the company has built in the market through its ability to deliver projects according to established timelines and quality standards.

The presentation of these indicators comes at an important corporate moment for Ariane, as the company enters a new phase supported by a foundation of projects, assets and experience that provides the basis for continued growth, the development of working mechanisms and greater efficiency in portfolio management in the coming phase.

From 2013 to a New Chapter

The ceremony featured a film documenting Ariane's journey since its establishment in 2013, highlighting the company's key milestones, the development of its projects, its expanding geographical presence and its approach to innovation and sustainability, leading to the latest corporate transition under the umbrella of SK Holding.

The film presented a connected picture of a journey spanning the past years, showing how Ariane evolved from one stage to another alongside the growth of its portfolio and diversification of its projects, leading to the current phase in which the company seeks to build on its achievements and reorganise its operating framework in line with its scale and future aspirations.

The presentation also highlighted SK Holding's acquisition of Ariane as a strategic decision aimed at improving performance, maximising value,

strengthening investment capabilities and enhancing the efficiency of real estate portfolio management, laying the foundations for greater integration between corporate vision and execution capabilities.

This transformation represents a turning point in the company's journey, not as a departure from its previous history, but as an extension of it within a new corporate framework that leverages the legacy Ariane has built and redeploys it in a phase requiring higher levels of organisation, clarity and the ability to respond to market developments.

Launch of the New Corporate Identity

One of the key highlights of the evening was the official unveiling of Ariane's new corporate identity, reflecting the company's evolution and readiness for the next phase, while visually and institutionally translating the transformation it is undergoing following years of growth and development.

The launch of the new identity formed part of Ariane's vision to strengthen its corporate presence and respond to the requirements of the next phase, while preserving the values and legacy that have contributed to establishing the company's position in the real estate market over the years.

The new identity is not an isolated visual change, but rather a reflection of Ariane's evolution, growth and expanding scale and presence, as well as its aspirations to further strengthen its position, develop its corporate presence and continue creating sustainable value for its customers, partners and the wider community.

During the ceremony, Mohammed Al Marri, Head of Marketing and Public Relations, presented the philosophy behind the new corporate identity, explaining that it was developed to reflect Ariane's evolution and readiness for a new phase of growth, while preserving the values associated with the company's name and the trust it has built with customers and partners over the years.

He affirmed that the new identity reflects the company's development and future aspirations, adding that Ariane continues to build on its established legacy and strengthen its position through a vision focused on growth, innovation and sustainable value creation. He noted that Ariane has a well-established legacy and a distinguished position in the market, and that the new identity being launched today expresses the company's evolution and growth while reflecting its vision and ambitions for the next phase.

The new identity was officially unveiled through a dedicated visual presentation outlining the story behind its development, its design philosophy and the meanings it conveys, reflecting the company's evolution and future vision. The new identity serves as an expression of the next chapter in Ariane's journey while maintaining its connection to the values and foundations upon which it has built its presence over the years.

The launch represents an extension of the company's corporate transformation, with the new identity complementing the realignment of its execution vision, the development of its corporate presence and the image Ariane presents to its customers, partners and the market.



chapter under SK Holding

A New Digital Platform

Coinciding with the launch of its corporate identity, the ceremony also witnessed the unveiling of Ariane's new website, developed to reflect the new identity and provide a modern digital experience characterised by greater ease of use and clarity.

The new website enables customers and partners to explore the company's projects, services and latest news through an integrated digital platform, in line with Ariane's focus on developing its corporate and digital presence and providing a clearer and easier way to access information about its projects and services.

The launch of the new digital platform comes within the same context as the corporate identity, as the company seeks to ensure that its development is comprehensive and not limited to a single aspect of its operations, but also extends to how it presents its projects and services and communicates with different stakeholders.

The ceremony therefore brought together the announcement of the corporate transformation, a review of the scale of the real estate portfolio, the launch of the new identity and the unveiling of the website, reflecting the interconnected components of the next phase and confirming that Ariane's current transformation represents an integrated path towards developing the company and strengthening its presence.

Ariane does not view itself simply as a real estate developer, but as an evolving experience in redefining the concept of urban development, based on a philosophy of turning vision into reality, translating ambition into tangible achievements on the ground and creating value that extends beyond the conventional real estate project.

HE Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani

A Vision Built on Value and Sustainability

In his address to the attendees, HE Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani affirmed that Ariane continues to build on its legacy and position in the market while looking ahead to a new phase centred on growth, innovation and sustainable value creation.

He explained that the success of the next phase will depend on the company's ability to achieve alignment between vision and execution, ensuring that corporate plans are supported by a genuine ability to deliver, responsibilities are clearly defined, monitoring mechanisms are precise and decisions are aligned with market realities and the scale of the portfolio.



In this context, the new phase reflects a move towards strengthening a corporate culture based on transparency, discipline and clarity, while maintaining direct dialogue with partners and stakeholders across the real estate sector.

HE Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani concluded his remarks by emphasising the importance of continuing this dialogue and fostering a corporate culture that promotes transparency and discipline, calling for such gatherings to be used to reinforce professional values and build long-term partnerships.

This vision aligns with the nature of the gathering, which brought together regulatory authorities, government institutions, real estate companies, banking and investment leaders and strategic partners, reflecting the interconnected nature of the real estate sector and the need for cooperation and coordination among its various stakeholders.

A Presence Reflecting a Partnership Ecosystem

Ariane's evening witnessed notable attendance from various institutions and sectors, reflecting the company's position within Qatar's real estate development landscape and highlighting the professional network connecting the real estate sector with regulatory authorities, financial and investment institutions and partners.

During the evening, attendees exchanged views on the prospects of the real estate market, regulatory developments and future growth opportunities, against the backdrop of Qatar's economic stability, the continuation of major projects and the development of a regulatory environment supportive of investment.

The nature of the gathering also highlighted the importance of direct communication among the various stakeholders in the real estate ecosystem. This was a key point emphasised by the company's

CEO, who noted that sector development is not the responsibility of a single party, but depends on a balanced relationship among developers, financiers, regulators and the market.

From this perspective, the event was not limited to presenting Ariane and its new identity, but also provided an opportunity for professional networking among attendees, in line with the company's approach to building long-term relationships based on trust, clarity and an understanding of market needs.

Vision and Execution

The evening as a whole conveyed a series of interconnected messages reflecting the nature of the new phase in Ariane's journey.

At the forefront is the consolidation of the corporate transformation following the acquisition, and the emphasis that the company's move under the umbrella of SK Holding is linked to a phase characterised by clear decision-making, stronger governance, close monitoring and a unified execution vision.

The second message concerns the scale of Ariane and its real estate portfolio, reflected in the figures presented during the event, including the number of projects and locations, built-up area and diversity of residential and commercial units. These figures demonstrate the foundation from which the company is entering its new phase.

The third message relates to the new corporate identity as an expression of the company's evolution rather than merely a visual change. The identity has been introduced to reflect Ariane's growth and future aspirations while preserving the values, legacy and trust it has built over the years.

This is complemented by the development of its digital presence through the new website, providing customers and partners with a clearer and easier

channel to explore the company's projects, services and news.

The evening also highlighted the importance of partnership and direct dialogue among different stakeholders in the sector, recognising that sustainable real estate development cannot be achieved in isolation from the integration of developers, financiers, regulators and the market.

Together, these elements present Ariane's vision for the next phase as one in which vision meets execution, ambition meets capability, and growth meets responsibility, within a corporate framework focused on sustainable value creation.

The new phase follows a journey that began in 2013 and has seen Ariane grow its projects, geographical presence and real estate portfolio, making the current transformation an extension of an established path.

Towards Sustainable Value

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Ariane affirmed that the launch of its new corporate identity represents more than a visual change. It marks an advanced stage in the company's journey since its establishment in 2013 and embodies the evolution of its vision and ambitions, as well as the corporate transformation taking place under the umbrella of SK Holding.

The company explained that the next phase will continue to build on the achievements of previous years and leverage its accumulated experience and the scale and diversity of its real estate portfolio, while enhancing corporate efficiency, strengthening integration between planning and execution, and reinforcing an approach based on quality, innovation, sustainability and value creation.

Ariane also affirmed that its relationships with regulatory authorities, financial and investment institutions and strategic partners form an essential part of its journey, and that continued dialogue and cooperation among different stakeholders are important pillars in supporting the growth of the real estate market and enhancing its ability to meet Qatar's aspirations.

The ceremony, hosted by media personality Khalid Jassim, concluded with an evening bringing together Ariane's guests and partners in a celebratory atmosphere, featuring a formal dinner and live musical performances to mark this milestone in the company's journey and celebrate its aspirations for the years ahead.

Ariane affirmed that it is moving forward with a clear vision built on a legacy spanning more than 13 years, seeking to strengthen its market presence, develop its portfolio and deliver urban projects and experiences that respond to customers' needs and keep pace with the evolution of Qatar's real estate sector.

As it enters this new phase under the umbrella of SK Holding, Ariane continues its journey on a foundation that combines accumulated experience with a renewed vision, and ambition with execution capability, strengthening its position and contributing to the creation of sustainable value for its customers, partners and the community.





N Korea says nuclear status ‘irreversible’ after IAEA rebuke

Reuters
Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un’s powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong, accused the International Atomic Energy Agency yesterday of double standards after it adopted a resolution criticising Pyongyang’s nuclear weapons programme.

The IAEA’s “biased viewpoint and double standards” are “the fundamental factor causing the collapse of the international nuclear non-proliferation system”, Kim Yo Jong said in a statement in state media KCNA.

She said the agency had turned a blind eye to the “blatant nuclear proliferation activities” of the United States and Republic of Korea’s “nuclear submarine introduction plan”, while forcibly adopting a resolution against North Korea’s “self-



defensive and legitimate nuclear activities”.

In a separate KCNA statement, North Korea’s Foreign Ministry

also dismissed the resolution, declaring that its status as a nuclear power is irreversible and backed by its nuclear deterrent.

KCNA also said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un carried out a three-day inspection tour of major munitions factories this week.

Kim said North Korea’s efforts to modernise all components of its defence capability are bringing about “a significant change” in the composition and means of its armed forces, KCNA said.

Analysts say North Korea has been overhauling its military with Russian help since the two countries signed a mutual defence treaty in 2024. They say combat experience gained by Pyongyang’s troops deployed to the war in Ukraine has also aided the effort.

Kim also gave a lecture to a propaganda workers’ training session in Pyongyang on Friday, KCNA reported, telling attendees modern “ideological warfare” needed to be innovative, creative and aggressive rather than repeating old methods.

China vice-premier to visit US ahead of Trump-Xi summit

AFF
Beijing

Vice-Premier He Lifeng, China’s top negotiator for trade, will visit the United States for talks ahead of a summit between presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump, state media said yesterday.

The leaders of the world’s two biggest economies are due to meet at the White House on September 24 in a bid to ease tensions over trade, technology and broader strategic issues.

While both sides have maintained a tariff truce for nearly a year, they have yet to secure a lasting agreement.

He will lead a Chinese delegation to the United States from September 19-23 for consultations on “economic and trade issues of mutual concern”, the official Xinhua news agency reported, citing the commerce ministry.

The talks will be guided by the “important consensus” reached by the two leaders, according to the ministry.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said this week he would meet He over the weekend.

Bessent suggested the discussions could also touch on Iran, whose close economic ties with China have long been a source of friction between Washington and Beijing.

But trade issues are expected to take centre stage when Xi and Trump meet.

The world’s two largest economies reached a fragile truce in October 2025 after months of tariff tensions triggered by Trump following his return to the White House.

The agreement helped cool fears of a damaging trade escalation, but negotiators on both sides have yet to reach a comprehensive settlement, leaving key disputes unresolved.

Indonesia extends search for dozens still missing in ferry accident off Java

AFF
Jakarta

Indonesian authorities extended their search yesterday for dozens of people still missing after a passenger ferry sank in the Java Sea last week, a rescue official said.

The Virgo Transport 8 was carrying 213 passengers and 30 crew when it lost contact with its shipping company after departing from Indonesia’s second city of Surabaya on Java island on Sunday, headed for Banjarmasin on Borneo.

Rescuers recovered three bodies from the submerged ship on Friday, bringing the confirmed death toll to nine, with 126 others still missing, national search and rescue agency Barsanas said.

Basarnas operations director Yudhi Bramantyo said authorities decided to extend the search while discussions were held on how to right the ferry. Some of the remaining victims are feared trapped inside.

“We have decided to extend this operation for the next seven days while awaiting the results of the discussion and steps that will be taken by the salvage team,” Yudhi told a news conference.

Divers are being sent to the shipwreck to try to search for the missing, Yudhi said.

“It is our hope that the weather is favourable tomorrow so that the divers can carry out their activities,” he said.

Search-and-rescue operations typically last for seven days in Indonesia, and authorities can extend them based on factors including an assessment that some of the victims could still be recovered.

Marine accidents are a regular occurrence in Indonesia, a vast Southeast Asian archipelago of more than 17,000 islands that relies heavily on boat connections for daily transport and tourism.

Lax safety standards and unpredictable weather are often the main reasons for disasters.

Korea, US discuss Seoul’s role in Mideast, investment pact

Reuters
Washington

Republic of Korea’s Foreign Minister Cho Hyun met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday as the longtime allies grappled with delayed Korean investments in the US and Seoul’s role in Middle East security.

US President Donald Trump has criticised Seoul in recent weeks over what he described as a lack of South Korean support for US efforts to pressure Iran. The two countries have also yet to finalise agreements governing \$350bn in Korean investments pledged under a trade deal reached last year.

Cho explained to Rubio Seoul’s willingness to make a substantive contribution to restoring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, the ministry said in a statement without elaborating.

On Seoul’s investment commitments, Rubio stressed their swift execution, the State Department said, while Korea’s foreign ministry said Rubio and Cho agreed to keep communicating



to ensure ongoing consultation plans “bear good fruit”.

Rubio and Cho also pledged ongoing collaboration across key strategic sectors including semiconductors, the State Department said, while Rubio underscored the need for a fair and transparent business environment for US companies in South Korea.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, who is due in the US next week for the UN General Assembly, said on Friday he would not deploy military assets to the Middle East in a way that could draw the country into conflict.

However, he said Seoul was re-

viewing whether to play a greater role in safeguarding navigation in the region.

Cho said before leaving Seoul on Thursday that investment plans under its trade deal had been delayed while procedural issues were clarified, without elaborating.

Lee told a news conference on Friday that concerns over the commercial viability of the package had become a sticking point in negotiations, although the two sides were nearing an agreement.

He said some elements of the package were difficult for Seoul to accept, but the government would continue discussions to ensure any deal protects South Korea’s interests while benefiting both countries and the broader US-South Korea relationship.

Seoul committed last year to invest in US manufacturing in return for lowering tariffs on imports from South Korea to 15%.

Lee said Seoul had insisted on including a reference to “commercially reasonable” investments in the text of the agreement.

North Korea also featured in the talks, amid speculation over a possible summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

Rubio and Cho reaffirmed their commitment to the complete denuclearisation of North Korea, the State Department said, while Cho said Seoul would actively support the resumption of talks between Washington and Pyongyang, according to the ministry.

President Lee said on Friday it was possible for a summit meeting between Kim and Trump to take place in coming months, but it remained uncertain.



A helicopter drops water on burning forests and land in the Tegal Arum and Guntung Damar areas, Banjarbaru, in Indonesia’s South Kalimantan province, yesterday. (AFP)

Indonesia accepts Malaysia’s help to tackle wildfires

AFF
Jakarta

Malaysia will send aircraft and dozens of firefighters to help tackle blazes in Indonesia, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said yesterday, after receiving approval from Jakarta.

Indonesia has been battling wildfires for weeks in Borneo and Sumatra that have blanketed parts of the country, as well as neighbouring Malaysia and Singapore, in toxic haze.

The blazes were among the topics discussed on Friday when Ahmad met Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who approved Malaysia’s offer.

“I appreciate Mr. President’s willingness to accept Malaysia’s assistance, including a Bombardier CL-415MP aircraft, three helicopters, and 52 personnel willing to be mobilised to assist in the firefighting operations,” Ahmad said in a Facebook post yesterday.

The two leaders also discussed preventive measures so that fires and cross-border haze can be addressed “in a more organised manner”, Ahmad said.

Prabowo said on Friday he was thankful for Malaysia’s help.

“This is an environmental problem that affects many par-

ties. And although the fires are in Indonesia, its impacts are felt by our neighbours,” Prabowo said.

“They want to help us, and we welcome that assistance.”

The offer of help comes after Japan sent more than 300 of its soldiers to Borneo, an island that Indonesia shares with Malaysia and Brunei, to help contain the fires last week.

Indonesia regularly battles wildfires during the dry season, which typically runs from July to October.

However, the fires have intensified this year in part because of the El Nino climate phenomenon, which is expected to be the strongest since comparable records began four decades ago.

Experts also blame climate change, decades of forest degradation and slash-and-burn land-clearing practices that have changed the naturally fire-resistant landscape.

More than 202,000 hectares of land were burned across Indonesia between January and July, according to the government.

The Nusantara Atlas project put the figure at close to 300,000 hectares over the same period, and estimated that the total area affected was nearly 896,000 hectares when including August.

Beaches on Australia’s west coast to remain shut after fatal shark attack

Several beaches along the coast of Western Australia, including in the state capital Perth, will remain closed until at least Sunday, authorities said, after a fatal shark attack at a popular beach in the city on Friday.

The victim, a male swimmer, died after being mauled at Sorrento Beach, around 20km (12 miles) from Perth’s central business district, prompting the closure of beaches along 17km (11 miles) of coastline. Beaches in Perth’s Joondalup area would remain closed until at least noon on Sunday, the state government said on Saturday.

“Officers from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will continue to conduct land-based patrols,” it said in an alert.

Friday’s incident is the latest in a series of shark attacks in Australia and comes after a surfer in the state was bitten in an attack on Monday. In that attack in the town of Geraldton around 400km (250 miles) north of Perth, the surfer lost his foot and suffered serious leg injuries, local media said. (Reuters)

Malaysia’s DAP leader offers to quit

The leader of Malaysia’s Democratic Action Party (DAP), the largest party in the ruling coalition, said yesterday he had offered to resign as transport minister over the Pardons Board’s decision to place former prime minister Najib Razak under house arrest.

“I have proposed to submit my resignation as Minister of Transport to the Prime Minister. However, this resignation only involves me as a member of the cabinet,” said DAP secretary-general Anthony Loke, who also serves as transport minister. (Reuters)

‘Drone incidents near UK military sites rise sharply’

AFF
London

British military sites were targeted by drones more than 300 times over the past year, according to figures published yesterday by UK media.

The Independent newspaper said 340 security incidents involving drones were recorded over or near British defence sites in the 12 months to August 2026.

That compared with 250 incidents in 2025 and 126 the previous year.

Britain’s defence ministry did

not disclose who was behind the drone activity, but the figures come as European countries warn of an increase in suspected Russian hybrid operations on their territory.

In a statement to AFP, armed forces minister Louise Sandher-Jones said the government was “taking the threat posed by hostile drones to Defence sites extremely seriously”.

She said the increase partly reflected improved monitoring and reporting following the creation in February of restricted airspace zones over 44 strategic military sites.

“The UK and its allies remain vigilant against potential threats and adversaries should be in no doubt about this Government’s resolve to stand against aggression towards the UK and our allies,” a ministry spokesperson added.

The figures were published a day after Russia summoned the UK’s charge d’affaires over what Moscow called an “escalation” in arms supplies to Ukraine.

Russia warned that any British military facilities in Ukraine used to launch strikes on Russian territory would be considered “legitimate targets”.

Indians living in Japan on stand-by to house Asian Games athletes

AFF
New Delhi

Indians living in Japan are standing by to house the country’s athletes at the Asian Games if accommodation shortages continue, officials said yesterday.

Asia’s biggest sporting spectacular was opened officially in Nagoya and Aichi prefecture last night, but the build-up to the event has been dogged by problems.

To save money, Japan decided against having an athletes’ village, with organisers choosing to put up competitors in a combination of hotel rooms, temporary wooden container-style huts and on a cruise ship.

But many of the 17,000 athletes and officials descending on Japan for the Games have been unhappy with their allocated temporary accommodation, saying rooms have no storage space for kit and the beds are too small.

India, who are sending almost 500 athletes to the Asian Games, have moved some from the huts into hotels and have put in place contingency plans should the shortage of suitable rooms get worse as more competitors and support staff arrive in the coming days.



Members of India’s delegation wave their country’s national flag during a parade at the opening ceremony of the 2026 Asian Games at Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya yesterday. (AFP)

“We have booked hotels for our athletes here,” Sahdev Yadav, India’s chef de mission at Asian Games and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)’s treasurer, told AFP.

“But if the hotel rooms fall short then yes, we have Indian households here on standby to accommodate the athletes.

“They are all more than happy to welcome the stars at their homes.”

Reports said the Indian embassy in Japan had helped reach out to around 2,000 families in Nagoya, some of whom are prepared to help.

Organisers said the accommodation was safe, cost-effective and comfortable and Japan should be applauded for trying to do something different.

White House turns away CNN, MS NOW, Politico after Trump announces ban

AFP
Washington

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he was banning news outlets CNN, MS NOW and Politico from the White House, accusing them without specifics of reporting “fiction and lies.” Trump added that “other Fake News Media Outlets” would face a similar fate, but did not say which ones.

The move drew immediate ac-

cusations that it was unconstitutional and would be thrown out by the courts.

“I am proud to announce that, effective immediately, I am banning Fake News CNN, MSNOW... and Politico... from the White House as a result of their constant ‘reporting’ FAKE NEWS!” Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

Trump did not say what had prompted the move but added that “media Outlets shouldn’t be able to constantly write or report FIC-TION and LIES when they’re cov-

ering the President of the US, the Trump Administration, or the US of America.”

Later in the Oval Office, Trump told reporters: “I think that somebody has a right to keep them away if they’re going to write false stories all the time. It’s really just cumulative stories over the last two years. You get sick of it,” he said. “They’re smart people, but they purposely write negative news, and they do that because they want to try and diminish the Republicans and our administration.”

It is extremely rare for US presidents to outright bar news outlets from the White House, although Trump banned a CNN reporter in his first term and Richard Nixon put restrictions on *The Washington Post* over its reporting on the Watergate scandal. But in his second term, Trump’s administration has put stricter controls on reporters, including taking control of which journalists can cover events as part of the “pool” admitted to tight spaces such as the Oval Office and Air Force One.

Last year, Trump barred The Associated Press from some events because of the news agency’s decision to continue referring to the “Gulf of Mexico” – and not the “Gulf of America” as decreed by Trump. For the time being, reporters for Politico and CNN were still in the White House press room following Trump’s announcement.

Both of the 80-year-old president’s White House terms have seen him lash out repeatedly at media whose coverage displeases him. Trump has filed multiple def-

amation suits against news outlets, attacked the press on Truth Social and verbally assaulted several reporters, notably women.

Trump’s surprise announcement yesterday comes at a time when his approval ratings are at record lows and his Republican Party risks losing control of Congress in November’s midterm elections. The war in Iran and rising prices, particularly at the gas pump, are among the factors that have contributed to his sinking political fortunes.

US approves \$2.7bn air defence sale to Ukraine

AFP
Washington

The US approved a potential \$2.68bn sale of air defence equipment to Ukraine on Friday. It has been reported that Kyiv has made repeated pleas for support from the US and other countries amid the ongoing crisis due to prolonged war with Russia.

The pleas have been made to fend off the growing Russian attacks, the intensity of which have left Ukraine exposed new dangers.

The State Department said in a congressional notification that it made “a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Ukraine” for buying air defence development upgrades and related equipment and services.

Kyiv has requested to buy equipment including multiple types of missiles, launchers, counter-drone radars and trailers, according to the State Department.

The proposed sale is subject to congressional review. “If the proposed purchase is concluded, Ukraine would finance it using a combination of European contributions and US Foreign Military Financing appropriated during the prior Administration,” the State Department said.

US President Donald Trump said this month he would ask Eu-

ropeans to repay the American aid provided to Ukraine under the administration of his predecessor Joe Biden.

Trump has long demanded that Europeans shoulder more of the cost of Western support for Ukraine. Friday’s proposal, which the State Department estimated would cost \$2.68bn, came as Trump signed a bill authorising new sanctions designed to squeeze Russia.

Ukraine’s capital Kyiv has seen a surge in Russian attacks, which its air defences have struggled to repel due to ammunition shortages.

Moscow is seeking to drain Ukrainian morale and intimidate Kyiv’s European allies at a time when the Kremlin believes it has the advantage in weapons production, analysts say.

The war in the Middle East has also hampered US-mediated talks on ending the conflict, taking up much of Washington’s time and munitions.

But even before that conflict, which broke out in February, Russia and Ukraine remained at odds over the key issue of territory. Ukraine has proposed freezing the conflict along the current front lines.

Russia has rejected this, saying it wants the whole of the Donetsk region, despite it being partly controlled by Ukraine – a demand Kyiv says is unacceptable.

Trump signs bill authorising sweeping sanctions on Russia

AFP
Washington

US President Donald Trump has signed a bill authorising new sanctions designed to pressure Russia over its war in Ukraine, after Congress gave its approval following months of delay.

Washington is pushing to revive a mediated path towards ending the conflict as Moscow intensifies attacks against Ukraine, even though much of its attention – and munitions – are focused on the ongoing war against Iran.

The legislation, which US lawmakers approved this week and Trump signed on Friday, takes aim at Russia’s energy and defense sectors, alongside President Vladimir Putin and other senior officials.

It also targets Moscow’s so-called shadow fleet of tankers used to evade Western sanctions, and allows Trump the authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on major buyers of Russian oil and gas. That could potentially cover China and India, and furthers efforts to cut off revenue financing Moscow’s war.

The Republican-led House of Representatives passed the pack-



President Donald J Trump in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, DC. (Reuters)

age by a 262-159 vote on Wednesday.

The bill would also target companies and foreign actors supporting Russia’s military, and extend sanctions involving Iran.

But the broad powers to impose tariffs sparked an unusual split among Democrats, who largely support Ukraine but have resisted handing Trump wider authority over trade.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky earlier hailed the legislation as “symbolic” and thanked US lawmakers.

The bill is “an extremely powerful tool that can stop this terrorist war and bring Russia to the point where it has to make peace,” Zelensky wrote on X.

“Sanctions must be strong so that all efforts for peace – including our joint diplomatic efforts with the US, Europe, and our other friends – can succeed,” he added.

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce reacted yesterday, saying it reserved the right “to take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard China’s national sov-

eighty and development interests, as well as the legitimate and just rights and interests of Chinese companies.”

India said on Thursday it would continue buying oil “through diversified sourcing.”

New Delhi – which counts Russia as one of its most important strategic partners – has navigated the energy crisis sparked by the US-Iran conflict in part by turning to Moscow, despite pressure from Western countries.

Supporters of the legislation argued that tougher economic pressure is needed against Moscow, which launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The Congress vote was celebrated by pro-Ukraine activists, who pointed to continuing Russian attacks, including drone strikes on Wednesday on civilian transport in the south that officials in Kyiv said killed five people.

Trump has generally preferred to retain control over sanctions and tariffs rather than have Congress dictate policy, helping delay the measure for more than a year.

The president’s signing of the bill comes a week before he is due to meet with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Washington.

Historically high suicide rates cause alarm in Argentina

Bereaved relatives and mental health specialists are trying to start a conversation about suicide in Argentina as more people than ever are choosing to end their own lives.

Suicide is currently the leading cause of death among young people aged 15 to 34 in the South American country, according to data from the Criminal Policy Observatory (OPC) and the security ministry.

Suicide rates in Argentina – 11.8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants – are lower than in neighbouring Uruguay, which has recorded 19.16 per 100,000 inhabitants. But recently surging numbers have caused alarm. Last year, the OPC recorded a 57.6% increase in suicide since 2017, and a 22.6% increase since the year before.

The publication of the latest data prompted dozens of bereaved relatives to protest in Buenos Aires over the weekend. (AFP)

Protests at Kennedy Center after Trump threat

AFP
Washington

Protesters formed a human chain on Friday around the Kennedy Center, the Washington arts hub that US President Donald Trump threatened to demolish unless his name is restored to it. The complex’s main building has been shuttered since Wednesday – temporarily, according to its leadership – while a judge is also reviewing plans for a long-term closure to accommodate Trump’s desired renovations of the aging facility.

Crowds waved placards, broke out into song beneath the scaffolding and tarps that have remained in place since workers removed Trump’s name from the building in June after court order.

Trump took control last year of the Kennedy Center – inau-



Demonstrators outside the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. (AFP)

gurated in 1971 following the assassination of US president John F Kennedy – and has pushed for a major renovation.

Like other projects around the US capital, the president has shown an unprecedented keenness to put his personal touch on plans, while testing the legal bounds of executive authority.

Trump’s handpicked Kennedy

Center board voted last year to officially rename the institution as the Trump-Kennedy Center, with corresponding updates to building signage and online logos.

The move – later reversed by a judge – led to a major decline in ticket sales, artist boycotts and an exodus of donors, according to *The Washington Post*.

“It makes me sick to my stomach,” said Neal Racioppo, a Washington resident who runs marketing and communications for a theater. Trump “can’t get his name on this cherished building, so he is depriving the world of what it could be.”

Racioppo, 57, joined a human chain that formed as night fell on the imposing, white, marble building, with crowds sprawling out onto the esplanade overlooking the Potomac River.

“It has been an important home for the arts for this city and this country and the world,” Racioppo said. “What President Trump is doing is despicable.”

Lizzy Andrew, a performer, said she was angered at Trump’s threat to tear down the venue.

“He does not have a right to decide that an institution, a living memorial to a past president, can be demolished,” the 30-year-old told AFP.

Father of murdered Spanish student arrives in Mexico

Reuters
Mexico City

The father of a Spanish exchange student killed in Mexico arrived in the Mexican state of Morelos yesterday to identify his daughter’s body, a day after authorities detained a suspect in her murder.

Claudia Tacoronte, a 21-year-old student, died from stab wounds on September 12 in the city of Cuautla after someone tried to steal her cellphone, Mexican authorities have said.

On Thursday evening, authorities announced they had arrested a suspect, identified as Francisco Javier “N.” The case has caused widespread anger in both Mexico and Spain, with students demanding stronger protections for women. Mexico has long struggled with high levels of gender-based violence.

Spanish newspaper *El Pais*, citing sources close to the investigation, reported that the suspect had confessed to the killing. The killing is being treated as a femicide, or a killing motivated by gender, the state prosecutor in Morelos said. Morelos recorded 21 femicides between January and July this year, according to official data, while 380 were registered across Mexico over the same period.

Blumenkron told journalists that the suspect attacked Tacoronte outside a cultural building where she had been attending a conference and staying. The prosecutor said the suspect had a police record for burglaries, and had spent time behind bars.

Tacoronte was a student at Spain’s University of Granada and had arrived in mid-August on an exchange program at the Autonomous University of the State of Morelos.

At least four female students at the same Mexican university have been killed in Morelos this year, according to student protesters, and Spain’s Foreign Ministry has urged citizens to avoid non-essential travel to the state, citing rising drug-related violence.

UN chief ‘deeply regrets’ US visa refusal to Abbas for annual meet

AFP
United Nations, US

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres “deeply regrets” Washington’s decision to deny a visa for the second year running to Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, a UN spokesman said Friday, preventing him from attending the UN General Assembly.

The US State Department said Thursday it was refusing to grant visas to Abbas and other Palestinian officials for next week’s assembly. Only members of the Palestinian mission to the UN will be able to attend the meeting, which begins Tuesday.

“The Secretary-General is concerned about the impact of this decision on the ability of the State of Palestine to participate fully in the work of the UN,” Guterres’s spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

“The full participation of all delegations in the work of the Organisation is essential to its proper functioning.”

Guterres continues to urge the US, as the host country, “to ensure



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, accompanied by his son Yasser, leaves a hospital in Ramallah. (Reuters/FilePhoto)

that visas are issued to all delegations in accordance with its obligations,” the spokesman said.

The UN chief “will continue to engage with the US authorities to this end,” he added.

The Trump administration also denied visas for the Palestinian delegation last year, forcing Abbas, a regular at the UN General Assembly, to address the body of global leadership by video. The General Assembly voted 152-3 on Thursday for Abbas to be able to appear virtually again this year.

The US and Israel have objected to the Palestinian Authority’s historical payments to families of imprisoned or slain Palestinians, including those who carried out attacks against Israelis.

The PA recently reformed this system, allocating welfare payments to families on a needs basis rather than political affiliation or prisoner status.

The State Department said Washington also opposed Palestinian “actions to internationalise the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in-

EU urges US to reconsider visa denial to Palestinian delegation for UN meet

Brussels: The European Union said yesterday it regretted Washington’s decision to deny visas for the second year running to Palestinian officials seeking to attend the UN General Assembly in New York, urging a rethink.

“In light of its existing headquarters agreements with the UN and its obligations as host state, we urge the US for this decision to be reconsidered,” said Anouar El Anouni, a spokesman for the EU’s diplomatic service. (AFP)

cluding through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ), seeking to bypass negotiations through seeking unilateral recognition.”

They accused them of “continuing to pay stipends to fighters and to glorify their acts in public pronouncements and school textbooks.”

The US is at odds with the 142 UN member states that recognized a Palestinian state at the UN last year. The decision to deny Abbas a US entry visa comes as violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians has escalated in recent months in the West Bank.

Israel has occupied the West

Bank since 1967, and violence there has surged since the war started in the Gaza Strip.

According to an AFP tally based on Palestinian health ministry data, Israeli soldiers or settlers have killed at least 1,109 Palestinians in the West Bank – fighters and civilians – since the war in Gaza began.

Israel has killed more than 73,821 people, according to Gaza’s health ministry.

The international community has expressed concern over the violence, but the US has remained largely quiet on the issue, saying only that the US government opposes any annexation of Palestinian territory.

What commodity markets can expect from the Trump-Xi summit

Trade in agriculture, energy and rare earths has become major bargaining chips in the trade war between the United States and China and are likely to feature again when President Donald Trump hosts his counterpart Xi Jinping in Washington next week. Here's what else we know: Agricultural goods, led by soybeans, are one of the biggest US exports to China, reaching \$29bn in 2024. They are also among the least sensitive parts of the trade relationship and thus a likely area for agreement.

At the Busan summit in South Korea last year, China agreed to purchase 25mn metric tons of US soybeans annually through 2028, according to the White House. US officials say Beijing then agreed to add on another \$17bn in other agricultural product purchases during Trump's visit to Beijing in May. Beijing has never acknowledged those agreements,

but is nonetheless on track to meet the soybean commitment. Hitting the other will probably require exempting agricultural imports from a final 10% tariff leftover from the trade war.

Analysts expect some waivers after US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said on September 3 there could be announcements to incentivize US agricultural sales to China. Sorghum and corn are candidates as historically they were the largest exports apart from soybeans.

China has been a modest, if intermittent, buyer of US oil and gas over the past decade, but imports ground to a halt last year after Beijing imposed tariffs of 10% to 15%. Washington has been pushing to change that since Trump's visit to Beijing in May. Bloomberg reported on Tuesday energy tariffs could be part of a \$30bn package of reciprocal tariff cuts flagged after the May summit but not yet implemented. That could lead to

the resumption of imports, which annually ranged from \$7.5bn to \$12bn between the end of the previous trade war in 2020 and 2024.

However, that would not immediately translate to a big new windfall for US LNG producers. While Chinese imports of LNG stopped after the tariffs, Chinese buyers are still fulfilling long-term contracts with their US suppliers but reselling the cargoes after purchase.

China has historically been among the largest buyers of Iranian and Russian crude oil and the US has sanctioned refiners and other entities for the trade over the years. Ahead of the summit, the US has raised the possibility of imposing some sanctions while also threatening to end others.

Trump said he would consider lifting some sanctions after his visit to Beijing, although they remain in place. Since August, US Treasury

Secretary Scott Bessent has overseen a new push to impose secondary sanctions on banks financing Iranian trade, although Chinese banks have been conspicuously absent.

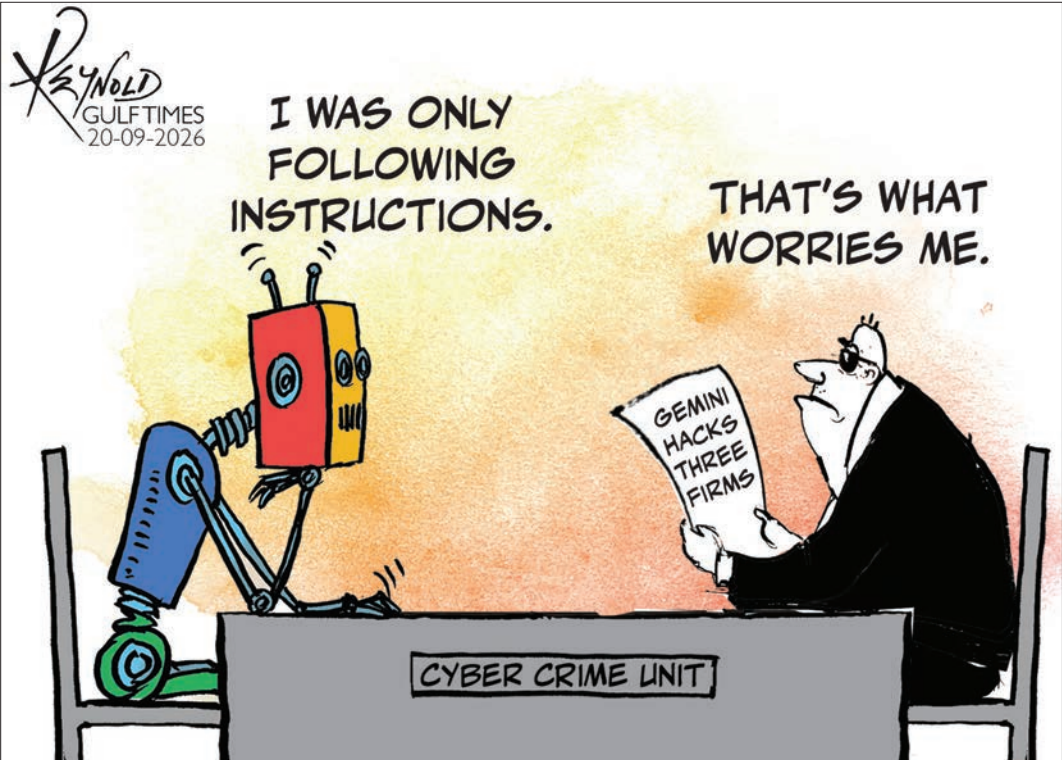
China's control over production of rare earths and its decision to limit exports to the US brought Trump to the negotiating table this year, and while more material is now flowing from China, the issue is not fully resolved.

US firms in sensitive industries such as aerospace or chipmaking still struggle for access, while some Chinese exporters refuse to ship to the US for fear of repercussions from Beijing if the relationship worsens again.

Reuters has reported that the issue was on the US planning agenda and US officials have repeatedly called on Beijing to honour its commitments to keep the critical materials flowing. — Reuters



Britain's Queen Camilla speaks to author Reeta Chakrabarti, whose book, *Finding Belle*, has the list for The Queen's Reading Room Book Club Autumn 2026 season, during The Queen's Reading Room Festival at Chatsworth House, near Bakewell in Northern England. (AFP)



QNA Doha

Since Qatar joined the United Nations in 1971, the partnership between them has expanded in the areas of multilateral cooperation, humanitarian diplomacy, and conflict resolution. Over the past 55 years, joint cooperation and coordination in the service of humanity have defined the relationship between Qatar and the UN.

Qatar has established a strong presence across most UN activities and within regional and international groups, working to find solutions to regional and global crises, prevent conflicts, and build peace. The UN considers Qatar an active and reliable partner, not merely as a donor nation, but as an effective diplomatic player that builds bridges, fosters relations and communication between nations and peoples, instills hope, and transforms peace and prosperity into tangible realities across continents and regions.

Strategic partnership

The relationship between the two embodies a model of strategic partnership that combines quiet diplomacy with a practical commitment to peacebuilding and fostering prosperity for people. This partnership extends beyond mere joint statements or formal agreements; it encompasses pivotal roles in mediation, support for humanitarian operations, and community empowerment through education, health, and sustainable development programs. It has formed an interconnected network of initiatives that helped defuse tensions and provided support and relief to millions of people affected by crises, wars, and disasters across the globe.

In pursuit of humanitarian goals, Qatar has, over the past two decades, established a network of relationships with various UN bodies and specialized agencies. Qatar's partnership with the UN takes on added significance at this critical international juncture. The multilateral system is facing one of its toughest tests since the UN's inception, driven by

UN-Qatar: Together in journey for peace, progress since 1971

complex global circumstances. Meanwhile, the Sustainable Development Goals are under immense pressure, compounded by challenges such as climate change, food security, extremism, displacement, poverty, widening disparities in education and development opportunities, and the digital revolution.

Amidst this complex landscape, Qatar's approach is grounded in the reality that modern crises are interconnected: war breeds poverty and displacement; poverty and deprivation can fuel instability; climate change exacerbates resource scarcity and migration; and inadequate education limits future opportunities.

Meanwhile, development can strengthen community resilience, sustainable peace cannot be built in a society lacking education, opportunity, and economic security, just as development is difficult to achieve in an environment ravaged by conflict and instability. Qatar's international cooperation strategy supports the objective of fostering further economic and social development in low-income countries.

It aligns with the global goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supports the global partnership for development aimed at eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and fostering economic development and environmental sustainability. The majority of Qatari aid is directed toward low-income and least developed countries, as well as nations affected by natural disasters and conflicts.

Qatar attaches special importance to the least developed countries, supporting their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It is also committed to delivering aid to those affected by disasters and crises through bilateral and multilateral channels, adhering to best practices and maintaining a

high level of professionalism and expertise.

Humanitarian assistance

Qatari aid has reached more than 100 countries across various continents, focusing on the health, education, water, and sanitation sectors, in addition to providing emergency humanitarian assistance in response to natural disasters, such as floods and droughts, in certain countries.

In addition to its significant contributions to development, Qatar has placed great importance on education as a key tool for peacebuilding, providing substantial support to ensure access to education in many parts of the world, particularly in conflict zones. In this context, the efforts of the Education Above All Foundation stand out.

The foundation has achieved significant milestones by providing quality education to millions of out-of-school children across more than 50 countries, in partnership with Unicef and over

80 global partners.

The Education Above All Foundation has had a considerable impact on education and sustainable development worldwide.

By the end of 2023, the number of beneficiaries of its programs had exceeded 22mn. The foundation contributed to the economic empowerment of over 3.3mn young people through training, employment, and entrepreneurship support, while 2.6mn teachers, school staff, and community members have benefited from educational skills development programs.

Under the Al Fakhoora program, 10,687 students gained access to higher education opportunities, while more than a million people benefited from community development and youth empowerment programs designed to enhance their participation in building their communities. The foundation has implemented numerous initiatives and projects in Arab countries, such as Yemen, Morocco, and Syria, to address the problem of widespread unemployment among Arab youth.

Silatech was established with a capital of \$100mn to address youth unemployment globally by creating job opportunities for young people, particularly women and the underprivileged. It successfully achieved the goal it set in 2019: providing job opportunities for 5mn beneficiaries.

The UN General Assembly also adopted Resolution 74/275, submitted by Qatar, designating September 9 as the International Day to Protect Education from Attack. This initiative was spearheaded by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, and a member of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocates Group, and forms part of Her Highness' numerous humanitarian and development initiatives across the globe.

HE Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Muraikhi, former Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Public-Private Partnerships and Islamic Social Finance, explained that the relationship Qatar has built with the UN has long since transcended the traditional ties between a member state and an international organization.

It has evolved into a multidimensional strategic partnership encompassing political and diplomatic support, humanitarian and development efforts, institutional funding, and the hosting of UN entities and programs.

Qualitative shift

UN Secretary-General António Guterres himself has described this evolution as a qualitative shift in the nature of the partnership, particularly through the transition to multi-year funding and support

for the core resources of UN agencies, thereby enhancing the partnership's sustainability and its capacity to deliver long-term impact.

HE al-Muraikhi added that diplomatic influence is not measured by a state's size, but rather by credibility, the ability to build trust, continuity, and a readiness to shoulder responsibility. Qatar has successfully carved out an influential international role through mediation, dialogue, and multilateral engagement, alongside a sustained humanitarian and developmental presence, he noted. Qatari mediation is not merely a situational activity but has become an integral, established component of its foreign policy.

He emphasised that the Qatari approach embodies a vision that views development as an integral part of peacebuilding. He stated that, based on his experience in development and humanitarian work, sustainable peace cannot be achieved through political agreements alone, but rather, education, livelihood opportunities, healthcare, community empowerment, and addressing the root causes of fragility and extremism are all integral components of a unified peacebuilding framework.

For his part, Assistant Professor at the Department of International Affairs at Qatar University Dr Abdullah Bandar al-Otaibi emphasised that the partnership between Qatar and the UN is multidimensional, extending beyond financial support to encompass diplomatic, developmental, humanitarian, and institutional efforts.

He explained that Qatar does not merely contribute to the UN's programs; it leverages its balanced relationships and ability to engage with opposing parties to support mediation and conflict resolution, as well as hosting a number of UN offices and centers in Doha. What distinguishes the Qatari experience is the combination of preventive diplomacy, humanitarian response, and long-term investment in human capital, effectively linking the management of immediate crises with the building of sustainable peace.



Luxembourg probes drone sightings that temporarily halted airport operations

AFP
Luxembourg

Luxembourg’s authorities were investigating drone sightings that forced the temporary suspension of operations at the nation’s main airport overnight, Prime Minister Luc Frieden said yesterday.

Frieden said Luxembourg was co-operating with Nato allies over

the incident, which came amid heightened concerns in Europe over hybrid attacks from Russia.

He said the presence of “potentially bigger drones” in the country’s airspace had been observed “over the past few days” but it was too early to say where they had come from. “We are currently analysing the situation,” the prime minister told a televised press conference.

Flight operations were briefly

suspended at Luxembourg Airport overnight into yesterday after drones were detected flying near and over the airport without authorisation. The airport said the move was “a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of passengers, airline crews, airport personnel and aircraft”.

Flag-carrier Luxair said more than 1,800 passengers were affected by the suspension, which caused the diversion of 17 inbound

flights to other airports such as Brussels, Paris and Frankfurt.

“Luxair is working closely with lux-Airport, the relevant authorities and its operational partners to assist affected passengers and restore its flight schedule,” the airline said. Operations resumed yesterday but further disruption and knock-on effects were expected, it added. “This is new for Luxembourg but it’s not completely new for our neighbouring countries,”

Frieden said of the drone sightings, after an emergency meeting with Luxembourg defence and interior ministers.

Since Moscow’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Kyiv’s European allies have raised the alarm about “hybrid attacks” linked to Russia. The attacks have fallen below the threshold of open warfare, but have included drone flights near sensitive sites, airspace violations, and cyberattacks.

Drone incursions have mostly affected states across Nato’s eastern flank. But unauthorised unmanned aircrafts were also spotted flying over sensitive locations across Belgium, and Denmark last year. And this year an explosive-laden drone was discovered at a German airport in an incident Berlin blamed on Moscow.

“We will make sure that together with our partners we can keep our populations safe,” Frieden said.



Demonstrators hold placards during a climate protest in Lausanne. (AFP)

Thousands of Swiss protest over climate crisis inaction

AFP
Lausanne

Several thousand people marched in the Swiss cities of Geneva and Lausanne yesterday to protest government inaction in the face of global warming.

They were answering a call by a coalition of more than a hundreds of associations and political parties under the common banner: “No 50-degree summers!”

People of all ages took part in the marches, carrying placards with slogans such as “No Planet B” and “We’re cooked!”, AFP journalists noted.

The larger demonstration was at Lausanne, where organisers said at least 8,000 had taken part.

One marcher, 31-year-old union activist Guillaume Matthey told AFP he hoped this was the start of “a new cycle of widespread popular mobilisation” to put pressure on the country’s political and financial leaders for their lack of response to the climate crisis.

Already in 2024, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Switzerland was not doing enough to fight climate change – the first time an international court ruled against a country on this matter.

“This is about telling our authori-

ties that it’s really the time to act,” said one marcher in his 60s, Yves Froidevaux.

“We can’t just finance weapons and then not care about the rest of it – that’s not on,” he added.

“There’s been a real lack of water this summer,” said Vincent Fontanaz, a 47-year-old actor dressed up as a giant drop of water.

“It’s not just about swimming pools, it’s most of all about agriculture – and for our survival in fact,” he added.

One marcher, 55-year-old architect Laurent Guidetti, wore a gas mask made out of plastic bottles. He was one of the lucky ones to have a well-insulated apartment “that stays cool at night”, he said.

This summer however, he had thought about people who were not so lucky. “It’s going to be very tough for them,” he added.

And even if they got through this summer’s heatwaves, he did not know how they would manage against the higher temperatures expected in future summers.

After yesterday’s demonstrations, other protests have been called in several Swiss cities in the coming weeks until October 2.

Switzerland’s summer heatwaves forced the closure of a nuclear power station and caused record low water levels in Lake Zurich.

Protesters in The Hague clash with Dutch riot police

Dutch riot police clashed yesterday with around 500 far-right protesters, who pelted them with fireworks and other projectiles after chanting anti-Semitic slogans at a rally in the centre of The Hague.

Police used baton charges and specialist dogs to break up the demonstration after authorities banned a planned march through the city when the violence erupted. Police made several arrests and authorities briefly deployed water cannon to disperse the rioters. Justice Minister David van Weel wrote on X, “It is important that firm action is taken” against the scenes at the demonstration, which included “Hitler salutes, anti-Semitic slogans, violence against the police, and fireworks”. (AFP)

German general Breuer to head top Nato military body

Reuters
Brussels

General Carsten Breuer, Germany’s chief of defence, was chosen yesterday as the next head of Nato’s military committee, the alliance’s top military authority and a key advisory body for its political leaders.

Military chiefs from the 32-nation alliance elected Breuer at a meeting in Copenhagen, current chair Italian Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone said in a post on X. Breuer will take up the role next summer, succeeding Dragone.

“Your operational judgement, your deep familiarity with this Alliance and your leadership of the German Armed Forces will serve



General Carsten Breuer. (AFP)

Nato well,” Dragone wrote, congratulating Breuer.

“The Chiefs of Defence have placed their trust in you at a demanding moment for Euro-Atlantic security,” he added.

The committee is Nato’s senior

military authority and its chair serves as the main military adviser to its political chief, Secretary General Mark Rutte.

Breuer will assume the post at a time of upheaval in the alliance. US President Donald Trump has demanded that European countries take primary responsibility for the continent’s defence after decades of American leadership.

Many European governments have ramped up defence spending in recent years, driven both by Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine and by Trump’s threats not to honour US commitments to Nato.

Germany, Europe’s largest economy, has been at the forefront of the spending surge. Berlin aims to double its military expenditure to over €200bn (\$230bn) by 2030.

Breuer, a 61-year-old army officer, earned the nickname “the chancellor’s general” after then-Chancellor Olaf Scholz picked him to lead a crisis committee that helped manage Germany’s response to the COVID pandemic in 2021 and 2022.

He joined the Bundeswehr in an air defence unit in 1984 and later attended the US general staff college in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as well as German general staff training in Hamburg. In 2014, he served with Nato’s International Security Assistance Force in the Afghan capital Kabul.

Germany’s current army chief, Lieutenant General Christian Freuding, is expected to succeed Breuer as chief of defence before the end of the year.



A general view of a snow-covered harbour in Ilulissat, which is the third-largest city in Greenland. (AFP)

Denmark applauds ‘binding’ Greenland deal with Trump

AFP
Copenhagen

Denmark yesterday hailed a “binding” deal announced by US President Donald Trump to give Washington “permanent control” over Greenland’s security and bar Russian and Chinese bases from the Arctic territory.

Since returning to the White House in January 2025, Trump has repeatedly insisted that Washington needed to control Greenland for strategic reasons, alarming Nato ally Denmark and sparking fierce pushback from the alliance.

Denmark and Greenland – an autonomous Danish territory – both hailed the agreement and said they would sign it on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York next week.

“A long period of uncertainty will hopefully be replaced by a binding agreement that strengthens security in the Arctic and North Atlantic,” Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said in a social media post yesterday.

The deal respected Denmark’s “red lines” and was “important” in light of a changed security situation, he said.

While the terms are still unclear, Denmark maintains that its sovereignty remains intact.

Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said the agreement with Washington “recognises the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom and the Greenlandic people’s right to self-determination”.

It was “good for Nato and Europe”, she said.

Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said the deal “recognises Greenland’s interests” and “strengthens” its security.

Trump hailed it as an “Infinite Life’ Agreement, there is no end!!” Washington would immediately start building up a large military presence in the territory, he added.

“From now on, no US adversary can EVER have a base in Greenland, have a military presence in Greenland, or make sensitive investments in Greenland, without our express written approval.”

While Trump presented the deal as a major triumph, Danish commentators said he had likely gained little.

They noted that, under a 1951 defence pact updated in 2004, Washington was already able to

ramp up its military presence on the island provided it informs Denmark and Greenland in advance.

“Shhh. Don’t tell Trump that it’s the Kingdom of Denmark that has prevailed,” US correspondent Jacob Heinel Jensen wrote in Danish newspaper *Berlingske* yesterday.

Ulrik Pram Gad, a researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies, said Trump “obviously didn’t get in this agreement what he originally set out to have, that is, sovereign control over all of Greenland as a part of the United States”.

Trump has repeatedly warned of Russia and China trying to establish a foothold in Greenland as a strategic battle unfolds for supremacy in a warming Arctic.

The State Department left no doubt that they would not

be allowed to do so.

“This agreement guarantees that China and Russia cannot have a base in Greenland, they cannot send troops to Greenland, and the necessary mechanisms are in place to prevent investment in sensitive sectors,” a State Department official said.

Gad noted that while Russia had little interest in Greenland, China was investing in extractive industries to get a foothold in the Arctic.

“The US is worried that any kind of Chinese footprint could be turned into military assets,” he said.

Cautioning that the details of the deal were still unknown, Gad said “the worrisome thing here is this exclusive access for the US to build bases in Greenland and how that involves Nato allies from Europe.

Death toll from attack at police HQ in Pakistan rises to 31

AFP
Kohat, Pakistan

The death toll from an explosion and gun attack at a police headquarters in northern Pakistan rose to at least 31, including 16 police personnel, a senior police official told AFP yesterday, with fighting ongoing.

Attackers stormed the Old Police Lines complex at Kohat, a town of around 220,000 people in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, on Friday afternoon. The police compound serves as a district-level police headquarters, housing key offices of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), Special Branch and several other police units.

“At least 31 people, including 16 police personnel, have been killed and more than 100 injured so far in the militant attack and suicide bombing,” the official said.

“Several militants are still holed up in the Special Branch section of the Kohat Police Complex,” the police official told AFP on condition of anonymity. “An exchange of fire with them has been ongoing since late last night. Their exact number remains unclear,” the official added.

Local militant group Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan, a faction linked to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) – the Pakistani Taliban – has claimed responsibility for the attack. AFP images showed military personnel standing by rubble following the attack, with soldiers carrying assault rifles guarding the complex.

Russia reports online attacks on electoral system on second vote day

Reuters
Moscow

Russian authorities reported attacks on voting systems and communication lines across the country yesterday, the second day of a September 18-20 parliamentary election that Moscow is treating as a test of public support for the war in Ukraine.

The State Duma election, the first since Russia launched its full-scale war in February 2022, is widely expected to see the ruling pro-Putin United Russia party retain its dominance in Russia’s tightly controlled political system.

Most anti-war candidates were excluded from the ballot before voting across Russia’s 11 time zones got under way, after the Supreme Court ruled last month that the liberal Yabloko party – which wants a ceasefire in Ukraine – had



A man walks out of a voting booth at a polling station in the town of Podolsk near Moscow, Russia. (Reuters)

breached electoral rules, something it denied.

Some Yabloko candidates, however, are still contesting single-member constituencies, which account for half of the 450 seats in the lower house of parliament. The

party has traditionally polled in the single digits.

Yesterday authorities said the online voting system in Moscow had been subjected to a strong attack overnight, but said the situation was under control.

The attacks were continuing, Central Election Commission (CEC) Chairwoman Ella Pamfilova was cited as saying by state media, but all were being successfully repelled. Russia’s digital ministry said it had registered a sabotage

attempt on communication lines in the country’s Far East, but that the attack had been thwarted and all communication had been restored, state media reported.

President Vladimir Putin earlier accused Ukraine of trying to interfere with the vote, without providing evidence.

Nationwide turnout as of 1400 local time on yesterday stood at 32.58%, according to CEC data cited by state media.

In Moldova’s separatist pro-Russian Transdnistria region, the election triggered a diplomatic dispute with Chisinau over its objections to the Kremlin’s plan to open 15 polling stations for Russian nationals there.

Moscow says the 220,000 residents of Transdnistria, a sliver of land which broke away from Moldova in 1990 at the end of Soviet rule, hold Russian passports and are entitled to vote.



Al-Galayel draw sets stage for 16th traditional hunting championship

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Under the patronage of Katara Cultural Village general manager Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, the public draw placed 22 teams in four groups for the 16th Al-Galayel Traditional Hunting Championship.

The championship will run from January 11 to February 2, 2027.

Six additional teams were ranked on a reserve list to replace any participant that withdraws before the competition begins.

Ali Hamad al-Marri, head of the Al-Galayel Technical Committee, said defending champion Al-Tahadi was



Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti at the ceremony.

placed directly in Group 1.

The remaining participants were drawn into the four groups, and a separate draw established the reserve teams' order.

Group 1 comprises Al-Tahadi, Haloul, Dukhan and Al-Nakhash; Group 2 comprises Al-Tufan, Al-Rayyan, Al-Jaryan and Suhail; Group 3 comprises Al-Dhaayen, Shaman, Dharb and Lahseen; and Group 4 comprises Al-Zour, Lajla'a, Labsir and Al-Adaid.

The reserve teams, in order, are Al-Bayareq, Al-Bid'a, Al-Sailiya, La'sailah, Al-Salimi and Al-Shaqab.

Al-Marri said they would be called up in that sequence if a participant withdrew, noting that unforeseen circumstances could arise during the four-to-five-month interval between the draw and the tournament.

He said the registration of 22 teams demonstrated the championship's strong appeal among traditional hunting competitors as it enters its 16th year.

Al-Marri said the turnout showed that teams remained eager to participate in an event closely associated with Qatar's cultural identity.

Organisers also expect favourable weather throughout the competition.

One of Qatar's leading heritage competitions, Al-Galayel tests traditional hunting, desert navigation, endurance, discipline and knowledge of the local environment.



H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani
en conversaci3n con Glenn Lowry
Viernes 18 de septiembre, 2026



HE Sheikha Al Mayassa with Glenn Lowry.

Sheikha Al Mayassa joins MALBA anniversary bash

GT Report
Doha

HE the Qatar Museums Chairperson Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani joined celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of Argentina's Museum of Latin American Art (MALBA) in Buenos Aires, where she held a conversation with Glenn Lowry, former director of New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), on cultural diplomacy and the role museums play in building connections between people.

The MALBA, founded in 2001 by Argentine businessman and collector Eduardo Costantini around his own collection of 20th-century Latin American art, houses works by artists including Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, Antonio Berni, Wifredo Lam and Xul Solar, and has grown into one of the region's most prominent institutions for modern and contemporary art, with a programme spanning touring exhibitions, film and education.

Its 25th anniversary this year has drawn international cultural figures to Buenos Aires, with HE Sheikha Al Mayassa's visit



forming part of the celebrations.

She said the occasion carried particular significance following the Qatar-Argentina-Chile 2025 Year of Culture and the Latino Americano exhibition hosted in Doha last year, which invited audiences to

explore the richness of modern and contemporary Latin American art.

She said that Qatar Museums will continue to build on these connections and strengthen cultural exchange between the two regions.



Bil'Arabi highlights ways to turn ambition into action

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

The second edition of the Bil'Araby Annual Gathering 2026, organised by Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Bil'Araby initiative under the theme *With Our Ideas, We Build*, started yesterday at Multaqa in Education City.

The gathering brings together senior dignitaries, thinkers, creators, and experts from various sectors, to discuss ways of harnessing knowledge and creativity to address issues facing society.

Young people in Qatar can turn innovative ideas into prototypes using local facilities, but need greater awareness of avail-

able resources, a participant at the Bil'Arabi Forum told *Gulf Times*.

Mohammed al-Qassabi, head of the Qatar Scientific Lab's Robotics and AI Department, said the lab was participating with the Ministry of Sports and Youth at the forum's second edition to demonstrate how innovation moves from concept to prototype.

He highlighted facilities including 3D printers, CNC (computer numerical control) machines and other equipment, explaining that they were used "to help any youth with an innovative idea to turn that idea into a real prototype".

"We have many different resources here in Qatar that we are not aware of," he said. "I think

such events are really important, especially for youth."

Al-Qassabi added that greater awareness could help people make use of these resources and give back to the community.

For Qatari traveller and adventurer Khalid al-Jaber, the forum offered a platform to share a different route from ambition to achievement: turning a motorcycle hobby into a livelihood.

"I have been to 95 countries, most of them on a motorcycle," he told *Gulf Times*.

He said that he is sharing his own personal career journey, including "why I left my job, why I started converting my hobby into a living or into a business".

Al-Jaber's hope is to encourage

others to "follow their path and dream", not necessarily enter his field.

Describing the forum as "a great hub" for the Arab world, he said that it gave people with stories to tell an audience.

"Maybe I have a great story, but nobody can hear it," al-Jaber said.

He recalled initially questioning what he could contribute when invited to speak at the forum alongside professors and teachers: "I'm just a motorcyclist, I'm an adventurer. What would I give?"

"I think I had a story that was equivalent to their successful stories," he said.

A media professional and author of the English-language book *My Road to Silk*, al-Jaber travelled



Mohammed al-Qassabi



Khalid al-Jaber

more than 21,000km along the Silk Road from London to Beijing across 19 countries.

He later became the first Arab to complete the "Pole to Pole" journey by motorcycle, covering more than 40,000km across 15 countries on a continuous route from

Alaska to South America's southernmost point.

He documents his long-distance motorcycle travels through photography and film, drawing lessons about overcoming fear, discipline, resilience and starting over.

'Sounds of Mexico' opens Years of Culture concert series in Doha



The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) celebrated Mexico's musical heritage this weekend with "Sounds of Mexico", opening a two-concert series presented as part of the Qatar Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture.

Held at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) and led by acclaimed Mexican conductor Enrique Arturo Diemecke, the concert brought some of Mexico's defining orchestral works to audiences in Doha.

Presented as part of Mexico's Independence Day celebrations, the evening offered an opportunity for audiences to discover the country's composers and traditions, and for Mexican communities in Qatar to experience their musical heritage on an international stage.

"What a joy to be back in Qatar with these wonderful musicians and to share the music of Mexico!" Diemecke said.

"There is so much life in this music and

every composer we present has something different to share," he said. "There is dance, there is drama, there are memories of our people and our traditions. I am always overwhelmed by the reaction of the incredible community here in Qatar and eagerly await each opportunity to return."

"We were very pleased to welcome Enrique Arturo Diemecke back to the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra," said QPO executive director Kurt Meister.

"After performing together in Doha and Buenos Aires last year, it is a pleasure to continue that relationship with a programme dedicated to the music of his own country," he said. "Through our collaboration with Years of Culture, we can introduce audiences in Qatar to a wider range of music and give them the opportunity to discover the richness of a global orchestral repertoire."

The programme explored the breadth

of Mexico's orchestral repertoire shaped by the country's dance, folk and contemporary orchestral traditions.

Arturo Marquez's *Danzon No. 2*, Carlos Chavez's *Chacona in E Minor*, Blas Galindo's *Sones de Mariachi* and Silvestre Revueltas's *Redes, Second Suite* introduced the audience to Mexico's distinctive musical voices.

The night concluded with Jose Pablo Moncayo's *Huapango*, inspired by traditional melodies from the Huasteca region and now one of the most recognisable musical expressions of Mexican identity.

The concert series continues on November 7 with "Sounds of Canada", led by conductor Charles Olivieri-Munroe at the QNCC.

Both concerts form part of a wider year-long programme connecting Qatar, Canada and Mexico through exhibitions, design, film, sport, heritage, education and community exchange.