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PM meets Iran FM

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Both sides discussed the latest developments in the region, ongoing de-escalation efforts. **(QNA) Page 2**

Amir calls for return to negotiations

His Highness tells opening session of 81st UNGA that the absence of regional system of collective security has enabled wars



US President Donald Trump shakes hands with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at a multilateral meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council during the 81st session of the UNGA at UN Headquarters in New York City yesterday. **(AFP)**

GT Report
New York

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has urged the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and a return to negotiations to resolve the Gulf crisis, warning that the absence of a regional collective security system has allowed countries to be dragged into a war that threatens livelihoods worldwide. Addressing the opening session

of the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York yesterday, His Highness the Amir said a peaceful diplomatic solution remained possible and realistic, and the opportunity to achieve it must not be missed.

He called for a lasting settlement ensuring security and stability for the entire region, including Iran, opening avenues for co-operation and guaranteeing non-interference in states' internal affairs.

The region was experiencing



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani

- It has become possible for one party to drag its neighbours into a war that is not theirs, targeting their vital assets and installations.
- This is a crisis that drives up the prices of food and medicine, and affects the livelihoods of peoples who have nothing to do with any of this.
- The opportunity for a peaceful diplomatic solution, which we believe is both possible and realistic, must not be missed.
- What has transpired in Gaza is genocide in every sense of the word and the stain of shame on the conscience of humanity as a whole.
- (The late Father Amir) passed away this year and was mourned with profound affection and gratitude by his people and all peace-loving nations and people across the region and around the world.

one of its most dangerous phases, he said, describing the crisis as the cumulative consequence of years of postponement, temporary solutions and unrealistic policies.

Qatar, His Highness said, had consistently maintained that disputes must be resolved through dialogue and negotiations grounded in international law, respect for sovereignty and the rights of peoples. Unresolved conflicts became more costly with time, rather than resolving themselves.

Renewing his call for a regional collective security system, the Amir said its absence had enabled wars driven by considerations unrelated to regional interests and attacks on neighbouring countries despite their strenuous efforts to prevent escalation.

"It has become possible for one party to drag its neighbours into a war that is not theirs, targeting their vital assets and installations," His Highness said.

The Amir pointed out how the international waterway carrying

nearly a quarter of global energy trade had been closed, turning the global economy's lifelines into instruments of pressure and bargaining.

"This is a crisis that drives up the prices of food and medicine and affects the livelihoods of peoples who have nothing to do with any of this." **To Page 11**

Full text of speech on Page 11 and related stories on Pages 2, 3 & 12



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Amir meets UN chief

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the UN's headquarters in New York. They addressed regional and international developments, particularly ways to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East, as well as efforts to support initiatives advocating for peaceful and diplomatic solutions. The two sides also addressed ways to enhance co-operation between Qatar and the UN. Guterres commended Qatar's efforts in supporting the UN's programmes and initiatives, along with its role in fostering development and relief co-operation. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani attended the meeting, along with members of the delegation accompanying HH the Amir. Officials from the Office of the UN Secretary-General also attended. -QNA



Amir meets Erdogan



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on the margins of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. They discussed the strategic relations between the two nations and ways to deepen and expand them across a range of fields. HH the Amir and Erdogan also addressed key issues on the UNGA's agenda and the latest regional and international developments, particularly the evolving regional situation and ongoing diplomatic de-escalation efforts, in addition to ensuring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, thereby strengthening security and stability in the region. The meeting was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, along with members of the official delegation accompanying HH the Amir. Members of the Erdogan's delegation also attended the meeting. -QNA

Qatar, 7 nations voice concern over Gaza plight

The foreign ministers of Qatar and seven Arab and Islamic countries – Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkiye, and Saudi Arabia – have expressed deep concern over the continuing humanitarian suffering in the Gaza Strip and called for the immediate implementation of commitments under the first phase of the Comprehensive Plan for Gaza.

The ministers met in New York on Monday on the margins of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

In a joint statement, the ministers called on Israel to “immediately fulfill its outstanding commitments under the First Phase of the Comprehensive Plan”, including ensuring the immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance and early-recovery supplies.

They called for the rehabilitation of in-

frastructure and stressed the imperative of preserving the ceasefire and ending all violations.

The ministers stressed that the Road Map constitutes an integral part of the Comprehensive Plan and provides the implementation framework for its Second Phase.

The Second Phase includes decommissioning alongside full Israeli withdrawal, the deployment of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF), the assumption by the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) of its responsibilities throughout the Gaza Strip, and the launch of early-recovery and reconstruction across Gaza.

The ministers urged all parties to fulfill their respective commitments in good faith and without delay.

The statement reiterated the eight nations' categorical rejection of any meas-

ures aimed at the expulsion or the forced displacement of the Palestinian people from their homeland or attempts to alter the territorial or demographic character of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The foreign ministers criticised the “illegal measures” aimed at consolidating Israeli control and annexation, including the accelerating settlement expansion, land confiscation, demolition of Palestinian homes, settler violence and terrorism, and forced displacement, and called for such measures to be immediately reversed.

They expressed grave concern over measures undermining the historical and legal status quo of the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.

They welcomed the recent measures taken by the United Kingdom, as well as broader national and European efforts, in response to illegal Israeli settlement activity, including measures to halt trade with

illegal Israeli settlements, and called for further effective measures to end settlement expansion and ensure accountability for settler violence.

The statement emphasised that Gaza must remain an integral part of the Palestinian territory and reaffirmed that the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan must contribute to the reunification of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

The ministers called for a credible and irreversible pathway towards the exercise of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the realisation of a sovereign, viable, and independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, through the implementation of the two-state solution.

They praised President Donald Trump's leadership, underscoring the US's indispensable role in ensuring the implementa-

tion of the Comprehensive Plan.

They also called for sustained and active US engagement to ensure that all parties, including Israel, fulfill their commitments and obligations and to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the Road Map.

They stressed that tangible progress on the ground will strengthen the credibility of the Board of Peace and the authority of the plan and create deeply needed momentum.

The ministers reaffirmed their readiness to continue working collectively with the US, the Board of Peace, the Palestinian Authority and all relevant parties to advance the full implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and its Road Map, alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, fulfill their right to self-determination and independent statehood and achieve just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. -QNA



PM meets Iran's foreign minister

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the latest developments in the region, ongoing de-escalation efforts, and ways to create appropriate conditions for dialogue to help strengthen regional security and stability. -QNA



Prime minister meets US senator Jeanne Shaheen



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with US Senator for New Hampshire Jeanne Shaheen on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting dealt with discussing the strong and strategic relations between Qatar and the US, the means to enhance them, and issues of joint interest. -QNA



Al-Muraikhi meets Ghana, Bulgaria, the Bahamas ministers

HE the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi has met separately with foreign ministers Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa (Ghana), Dr Velislava Petrova-Chamova (Bulgaria), and Frederick Mitchell (The Bahamas) on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The meetings touched on co-operation, relations and ways of supporting and developing them, and topics of mutual interest. -QNA



Amir's UN speech 'stresses Qatar's commitment to peace, development'

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's speech at the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly yesterday reaffirmed Qatar's firm positions on regional and international issues and its commitment to peace, dialogue, co-operation, and respect for international law.

Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani said that the speech came at a critical time marked by growing political, security, and economic challenges, stressing Qatar's continued commitment to addressing them through dialogue, mediation, peaceful solutions, and international co-operation.

He lauded HH the Amir's emphasis on regional security, stability and good-neighbourly relations, noting that the security of the Gulf and the region is closely linked to international peace and stability.

Sheikh Khalifa also stressed the importance of protecting international waterways, ensuring freedom of navigation, and safeguarding global trade.

He noted that the speech stressed that dialogue and mediation represent a firmly established approach in Qatar's foreign policy, rather than an effort linked to a specific crisis.

Sheikh Khalifa lauded HH the Amir's confirmation that Qatar would continue to build bridges



Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani.

between different parties and contribute to the peaceful settlement of conflicts in co-operation with regional and international partners.

Similarly, he commended HH the Amir's call on the importance of achieving a just solution to the Palestinian issue and establishing a fair international order, noting that justice requires the application of international law and internationally legitimate resolutions to all, without selectivity.

Sheikh Khalifa also underscored the importance of strengthening the role of the UN and multilateral action.

He further noted that HH the Amir's emphasis on Qatar's continued investment in development, education, healthcare, security and economic diversification, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, reflects the state's commitment to sustainable development and to building a diversified, competitive, knowledge- and innovation-based economy.

Sheikh Khalifa reaffirmed the Qatari private sector's dedication to supporting the wise leadership across all development, economic, and political spheres.

He noted that this alignment fulfils the aspirations of Qatar National Vision 2030, driving the nation's progress toward sustainable growth and a dynamic, private sector-led economy.



Minister meets Rockefeller Foundation president

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met on Monday with Rockefeller Foundation president Dr Rajiv Shah on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting discussed co-operative relations between Qatar and the foundation, particularly in humanitarian and development fields, as well as topics of mutual interest. - QNA



Minister participates in meeting on preventative diplomacy, mediation

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi has participated in a ministerial meeting involving Qatar, Mexico, Norway and Switzerland on strengthening co-operation in preventative diplomacy, mediation and conflict resolution. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. HE Dr al-Khulaifi said in his remarks that the meeting was taking place at a time of deepening geopolitical divisions and escalating armed conflicts, underscoring the growing importance of mediation among all parties. He stressed that the four countries share a commitment to the UN Charter and the

peaceful settlement of disputes. The minister also commended the Group of Friends of Mediation, co-chaired by Türkiye and Finland, for its role in mobilising support for the United Nations's efforts to prevent conflicts. HE Dr al-Khulaifi said Qatar's mediation efforts have, over the years, extended to nearly every continent, ranging from securing the release of hostages to resolving conflicts, negotiating political settlements and helping countries reach diplomatic understandings. In this context, he noted that Qatar is currently working with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions between Iran and the US, safeguard freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, and promote peace and stability. - QNA

Al-Khulaifi outlines key points on straits used for international navigation

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi participated yesterday in an event on straits used for international navigation

under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In remarks during the event, he said in-

ternational straits are of vital importance to the global economy and stability, noting that the consequences of disruption to navigation through a major strait extend far beyond the states directly concerned.

HE Dr al-Khulaifi added that recent developments in the Strait of Hormuz had demonstrated this clearly for Qatar. He outlined four key points concerning straits used for international navigation,

which focused on the need for the legal framework provided by the UNCLOS to remain the starting point, for the interests of coastal states and states using the straits to be addressed through co-operation, for the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to play an important supporting role, and for consideration to be given to how the international community should respond when a strait is unilaterally closed or navigation through it is seriously impeded.

HE Dr al-Khulaifi noted that Qatar's view is that the resumption of safe navigation should not depend on the resolution of every outstanding political dispute, as the two objectives can be pursued in parallel.

He said that the situation at the Strait of Hormuz, like any other strait used for international navigation, should be addressed through future solutions that combine respect for the Law of the Sea with a practical mechanism enabling navigation to be restored quickly.

The minister added that Qatar believes consideration should be given to developing an agreed roadmap setting out the steps to be followed in such circumstances.

He emphasised that the roadmap should establish clear stages and defined timeframes.

HE Dr al-Khulaifi stressed that the purpose of the roadmap would be primarily to provide a pre-agreed pathway for communication, de-escalation and the restoration of navigation before a situation of disruption develops into a broader international crisis. - QNA



Al-Khulaifi meets officials on sidelines of UNGA 81

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met separately yesterday with the Netherlands's Minister of Foreign Affairs Tom Berendsen, Norway's State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Andreas Kravik, Libya's Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Al-Taher Salem al-Baour, Greece's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexandra Papadopoulou, and Georgia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Lasha Darsalia, on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The meetings dealt with co-operation, relations and ways to support and develop them, the latest developments in the region, as well as issues of mutual interest. - QNA



Qatar takes part in 15th InnoTrans

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Transport (MoT), Qatar Rail, and Mowasalat (Karwa), is taking part in the 15th InnoTrans (InnoTrans 2026), which opened in Berlin yesterday and runs through September 25.

An MoT-Qatar Rail-Karwa booth at the four-day fair is highlighting some of Qatar's key projects, strategies and initiatives in smart and sustainable transportation, including the ministry's 2025-30 strategy that aims for an integrated, secure, resilient and sustainable transport ecosystem, with strategic aspirations focused on economic growth, customer-centricity, service optimisation, sustainability and resilience, and workforce development in line with the goals of the 3rd National Development Strategy (NDS 3) and the Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030.

The booth also features the MoT's Autonomous Vehicle Strategy and the electric Robotaxi tryouts and pilot trips, which were 94% successful with no human interference, as Qatar moves to harness advanced technologies and smart solutions in its transportation landscape.

Other key features on display in the booth are the public bus full electrification



plan, which targets 100% fully electric fleet by 2030, the Public Bus Infrastructure Programme that supports that transition through its bus stations, e-bus depots and advanced clean energy infrastructure, in addition to the Qatar Public Transport Master Plan and the key role it plays in integrating and connecting all means of transportation, reducing private car dependency, lowering carbon emissions and improving the quality of life.

Assistant Undersecretary for Land Transport Affairs Eng. Abdullah Saif al-

Sulaiti also attended the InnoTrans 2026 Rail Leaders' Summit that featured international decision-makers from the worlds of politics, rail operations and infrastructure management to discuss global strategies and the resilience of rail transportation.

The delegation, on the sidelines of the first day of InnoTrans 2026, held separate meetings with Siemens Mobility and Hitachi.

Ways to enhance joint co-operation in smart and sustainable transportation solu-

tions and infrastructure were discussed, as well as exchange expertise in the industry.

Qatar's participation in InnoTrans 2026 is aimed at enhancing the country's profile in smart and sustainable transportation landscape globally and keeping pace with latest industry technologies consistent with the QNV 2030.

InnoTrans is the leading international trade fair for transport technology.

The four-day fair, which takes place in Berlin every two years under its core theme *The Future of Mobility*, is subdivided into

the five trade fair segments - Railway Technology, Railway Infrastructure, Public Transport, Interiors, and Tunnel Construction - and InnoTrans occupies all the halls available at the Messe Berlin Exhibition Grounds.

The InnoTrans Convention, the event's top-level supporting programme, complements the trade fair.

A unique feature of InnoTrans is its outdoor and track display area, where everything from tank wagons to highspeed trains are displayed. - QNA

Amir's UNGA speech outlines vision for regional peace: QNA chief

HE the Qatar News Agency (QNA) Director-General Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi said that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's speech before the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) was crystal clear and articulated Qatar's positions and principles, as well as its vision for overcoming the crises and wars affecting the region.

He said that the vision is based on an approach that strengthens

the security of states, respects their sovereignty, promotes dialogue and mediation, abides by international law, and addresses the root causes of conflicts, thus paving the way for enduring peace.

In remarks to the QNA, HE al-Rumaihi said that HH the Amir's speech did not address regional crises as separate incidents, but rather offered a coherent reading of the root causes of tensions and pathways out of them.

The call for establishing a collective security system in the Gulf,

he said, formed part of a vision that goes beyond addressing crises after they erupt and instead seeks to build a sustainable regional security architecture that protects states and safeguards their sovereignty, while providing a foundation for co-operation and dialogue and helping avert conflicts.

HE al-Rumaihi noted HH the Amir's unequivocal affirmation that Qatar's security and sovereignty are non-negotiable constants, suggesting that this position has operated in parallel with

Qatar's steadfast commitment to dialogue, diplomatic means and mediation in addressing crises.

This, he added, underscored Qatar's determination to safeguard its national interests while, at the same time, containing disputes and preventing them from turning into open conflicts.

The QNA director-general further pointed out that the Palestinian cause plays a central role in HH the Amir's vision as an issue that can never be overlooked when discussing the future, se-

curity and stability of the region.

He said that HH the Amir noted that ending the war in Gaza, ending the suffering of the Palestinian people, ensuring their legitimate rights and establishing their independent state are substantial requirements for any just and enduring peace in the region.

HE al-Rumaihi asserted that HH the Amir's speech further mirrored the role that Qatar has chosen in dealing with crises through mediation, dialogue and multilateral action.

He concluded by asserting that the broader message HH the Amir's speech relayed to the international community is that moving beyond wars does not mean merely managing their repercussions.

He added that, at the macro level, it means addressing their root causes, building a regional and international system better equipped to safeguard sovereignty, uphold the law fairly, and unlock political prospects for peace and stability. - QNA



QFFD, IsDB hold summit on Syria’s financial sector

The Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) convened a high-level roundtable on the margins of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly to advance co-ordinated international support for the transformation and recovery of Syria’s financial sector.

In the presence of HE the QFFD Chairperson Sheikh Thani bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, the roundtable discussed the enabling conditions, partnerships and financing mechanisms required to support financial-sector recovery and broader economic reconstruction.

The discussion was opened by HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi, Syria’s Minister of Finance Mohammed Yisr Barnieh, and Syria’s Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sawaf Raslan.

QFFD Director-General Fahad Hamad al-Sulaiti and senior representatives of international financial institutions and partners also contributed to the discussion.

The roundtable built on a Financial Sector Gap Assessment and Roadmap commissioned by the QFFD and developed with the Syrian authorities, with technical support from Oliver Wyman.

The assessment covers the Central Bank of Syria, the banking sector, capital markets and insurance, identifying priority areas for reform and a sequenced programme of initiatives to boost the financial system.

Discussions focused on translating the assessment into a practical, partner-supported implementation roadmap, with attention to institutional reform, financial-sector standards and enablers, state-owned bank reform, capital markets, insurance, correspondent banking and the requirements for Syria’s financial reintegration.

Participants also examined how international partners can align their respective mandates and instruments, including financing, technical assistance, expertise, systems, training and co-financing, around Syrian priorities.

The roundtable marked a shift from



Amir congratulates Mali’s president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to Mali’s President General Assimi Goita on the occasion of his country’s Independence Day.

HH the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations to Goita.

Meanwhile, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Mali’s Prime Minister General Abdoulaye Maiga on the occasion.

-QNA



Al-Ansari takes part in 2026 Concordia Summit dialogue session in New York

HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari (pictured left) participated in a dialogue session on “Qatar’s Strategic Role in a Changing Middle East” as part of the 2026 Concordia Annual Summit, held in New York on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in collaboration with the Doha Forum.

He emphasised that Qatar continues its diplomatic efforts, in co-ordination with regional and international partners, to reach peaceful solutions to the crises in the region, and to prioritise dialogue and diplomacy for regional security and stability.

HE Dr al-Ansari stressed the necessity of reaching a sustainable diplomatic solution to the crisis with Iran, and creating appropriate conditions for resuming negotiations to contribute to halting escalation and preventing the expansion of conflict in the region.

He affirmed the strength of the strategic partnership between Qatar and the US, and the importance of continuing to promote defence and security co-operation between the two countries.

Regarding the Gaza Strip, HE Dr al-Ansari affirmed the continuation of Qatar’s efforts, in co-ordination with Egypt and the US, to advance the implementation of the ceasefire agreement, emphasising the necessity for all parties to fulfil their commitments to contribute to improving the humanitarian situation in the Strip.

The Official Spokesperson of the MoFA also warned of the consequences of Israeli measures aimed at changing the status quo in the West Bank, and the threat they pose to opportunities for achieving peace and stability in the region.

- QNA

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- QNA

Forum reviews public sector integrity, transparency

The sixth session of the Arab Forum on Advancing Anti-Corruption Prevention Efforts in the Public Sector, currently being hosted in Doha, discussed ways to promote integrity and transparency and harness technology and artificial intelligence (AI) in efforts to prevent corruption.

The forum, held as part of the sixth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Arab Convention against Corruption, focused on strengthening preventative efforts against corruption in the public sector.

The forum’s sessions addressed four main areas: promoting institutional integrity; enhancing transparency and access to information; leveraging technology, AI and modern technological solutions in efforts to prevent corruption; and strengthening

institutional integration between parliamentary councils and anti-corruption bodies.

The first session, titled “Codes of Conduct: Implementation and Impact on Public-Sector Integrity”, examined the implementation of codes of conduct and their role in promoting integrity.

It also reviewed the experiences of several Arab countries in this area, with the participation of specialists from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), and representatives from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Iraq.

The second session, titled “Challenges and Opportunities in Facilitating Access to Information”, addressed the challenges and opportunities associated with facilitating access to information and its impact on promoting transparency and institutional practices in the public sector.

Specialists from the UNODC, Qatar University and HBKU participated, along with a presentation on Qatar’s experience in this area.

The third session, titled “Opportunities Offered by Artificial Intelligence in Anti-Corruption Prevention Efforts”, examined the potential of AI technologies to support and advance corruption-prevention efforts, as well as related modern technological solutions.

Experts from the United Nations Development Programme and international academics participated in the session.

The fourth session, titled “The Relationship Between Parliamentary Councils and Anti-Corruption Bodies”, highlighted the relationship between parliamentary councils and anti-corruption bodies and emphasised the importance of co-operation and institutional integration in supporting integrity and anti-corruption systems.

Arab officials and parliamentarians participated in the session.

The Conference of the States Parties to the Arab Convention Against Corruption is scheduled to conclude its work today in Doha.

The conference serves as an Arab institutional framework for following up on the implementation of the convention’s provisions, strengthening co-ordination and co-operation among States Parties, and exchanging expertise and successful practices in preventing and combating corruption.

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- QNA



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1	LTC/C/EPM/7833/26 ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION TO INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY CODES AND STANDARDS	23/09/2026 to 30/09/2026	0	50,000	04/10/2026

Scope of Work:
Tenderer to provide online subscription access to the latest international industry codes and standards, (including ASME, API, DNV, ISO, BSI, IEEE, NACE etc), and other relevant publications. The subscription shall provide 24/7 access to all Company employees throughout the contract duration. Duration of the Contract shall be for an estimated duration of five (5) years with an optional extension of 2 years.

Bid Validity: Bid Offer should be valid for **180** calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:
ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) are advised to refer to the tender documentation and In-Country Value (ICV) Digital Portal: - <https://icv.qa/en-US/> for details of ICV compliance that may be applicable.

Qatar takes part in GCC committee meetings

Qatar has participated via videoconferencing in the 64th preparatory meeting of the committee of undersecretaries of Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) ministries of commerce and the 49th preparatory meeting of the committee of undersecretaries of GCC ministries of industry.

It also took part in the 6th meeting of the GCC investment undersecretaries committee and the 2nd meeting of the Executive Office of the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC).

Assistant Undersecretary for Industrial Affairs and Business Development at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) Saleh bin Majid al-Khulaifi represented Qatar at the meetings.

The meetings discussed a number of items on their agendas and adopted the necessary decisions and recommendations thereon.

Qatar also participated in the 3rd meeting of the Permanent Committee for Patent Affairs in the GCC states, with Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Affairs at the MoCI Saleh bin Abdullah al-Mana attending.

The meeting discussed a number of items on its agenda and adopted the necessary decisions and recommendations thereon.

- QNA



Dolphin Energy Limited

Invitation to Tender

Tender Number	Description	Tender Bond	Deadline for Submission, 12 Noon (Qatar Time) on
ITT-QC-HSE-1942	Security Guard Services for RLIC Plant, Al Khor Housing Complex, and Union Trust Tower (UTT)	QAR 80,000	14 th October 2026

Dolphin Energy Limited (Qatar) is inviting companies to participate in the above Invitation to Tender.

Only companies with proven experience, technical knowledge, as well as a demonstrated track record in the supply of the services required should apply.

How to Tender

Expression of Interest (EOI) Form and Scope of Services/Works can be downloaded from the company’s website:

<https://www.dolphinenergy.com/en-US/Supplier/>

Interested companies must complete the EOI Form and submit to company’s email address within two (2) working days from the publication date of this advertisement.

Following receipt of completed EOI Form, interested companies will receive a Request for Proposal (RFP) through Dolphin Energy’s SAP Ariba to tender.

Great Mosque of Rome exhibition brings a message of dialogue to Doha

By Shaima Sherif
Staff Reporter

An immersive exhibition on Rome's Great Mosque opened in Doha on Monday, with Italy's ambassador to Qatar saying architecture can bridge religious and cultural communities and strengthen dialogue during an uncertain time in the region.

Ambassador Paolo Toschi said "the whole idea" behind the exhibition is rooted in "the concept of dialogue and of bridging religious backgrounds and cultures".

Hosted at the Museum of Islamic Art, The Great Mosque of Rome - Immersive Experience takes visitors into architect Paolo

Portoghesi's work through an immersive documentary and virtual-reality exploration.

The Embassy of Italy in Qatar promoted the project in collaboration with Qatar Museums and Qatar Foundation, with support from Sapienza University of Rome and the Islamic Cultural Centre of Italy.

For Toschi, presenting the exhibition in Doha carries particular significance. He said the city is "increasingly a capital" that welcomes people who embrace its cultural diversity, while praising "the leadership and the vision of Qatari authorities".

"I want to acknowledge the vision of Qatar Museums and the leadership of Sheikh Al-Mayasa, Her Excellency, who hosted us at



Ambassador Paolo Toschi

the Museum of Islamic Art," he said.

"We've seen a huge amount of interest, a full house tonight," Toschi said. "People are eager to learn about a monument of contemporary architecture in Rome that speaks to the bonds between



our communities, Islam, Christianity and other religious communities that can coexist in peace."

The exhibition also reflects Italy's commitment to cultural diplomacy. "The Embassy of Italy is very committed to cultural diplo-

macy," Toschi said, calling it "a key mission that we undertake every month and every season".

He said cultural initiatives become meaningful "at times of uncertainty in the region", when messages of dialogue and unity

can help bring people together.

"Our aim is often to bring here the top Italian contents that can inspire," Toschi said, pointing to the "great deal of enthusiasm and warm reception" from the public.

The immersive installation allows visitors to engage with the mosque through digital storytelling and VR, offering a closer look at its spaces and craftsmanship. The exhibition is scheduled to remain at the Museum of Islamic Art until November 21.

For Toschi, the evening's crowded galleries offered a clear sign of the exhibition's reception. "People were standing up and able to take a seat," he said. "It makes me very happy, very grateful, and we will continue on this path."

Sustainability model should be rooted in resilience, local conditions: Fahad al-Attiyah

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

A nation's long-term sustainability and resilience depend on developing an economic model that reflects its unique environmental and demographic conditions, said the Ambassador Fahad bin Mohammed al-Attiyah, formerly Qatar's ambassador to Russia and the UK.

Al-Attiyah was addressing the students, faculty and community members at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) yesterday at an interactive session moderated by Prof Patrick Laude, GU-Q. Al-Attiyah previously led Qatar's National Food Security Programme and is also the founder of Caravane Earth and Heenat Salma Farm.

"For Qatar, resilience requires an economic model grounded in our actual conditions. We must use our energy endowment to develop lasting capabilities, strengthen the productive capacity of our people, invest in regenerative agriculture, improve water efficiency, and develop locally appropriate architecture and partnerships. It is to be anti-fragile," said al-Attiyah.

Al-Attiyah said: "Qatar's sustainability journey should go beyond improving the efficiency of existing consumption patterns and focus instead on building long-term national capabilities, strengthening resilience and recognising the limits imposed by

water, soil, energy and human resources."

Al-Attiyah identified water, soil, people and energy as four fundamental determinants of a state's long-term viability. He noted that Qatar has an exceptional energy endowment but faces significant constraints in natural renewable freshwater, productive soil and the size of its national population.

"The country has overcome many of these limitations through engineering, international trade and imported labour. However, overcoming a natural constraint technologically does not mean the constraint has disappeared," he noted.

Al-Attiyah also called for greater attention to water efficiency and regenerative agriculture as part of Qatar's sustainability efforts. He stated that sustainability should not be understood simply as maintaining existing patterns of consumption through more efficient technologies.

"Sustainability cannot simply mean making an unsustainable way of life marginally more efficient," he said, noting the need for a renewed understanding of limits, sufficiency, responsibility, and purpose.

He said the environmental challenge was a crisis of resources, pointing out that technological progress alone could not establish the appropriate limits of human consumption.

The ambassador also linked



Ambassador Fahad bin Mohammed al-Attiyah addressing the gathering.
PICTURE: Thajudheen

sustainability to Qatar's architectural and cultural heritage, saying traditional societies often had to organise their lives around environmental limits that were more immediate and visible.

He underlined that water availability, climate and locally available materials historically influenced settlement patterns, architecture and construction practices.

"There is no universal model of development," al-Attiyah said. "Applying the same economic prescription to countries with fundamentally different environmental and demographic conditions is inappropriate."

He also highlighted the importance of traditional knowledge and craftsmanship as part of a broader sustainability agenda.

Craftsmanship, he said, combines knowledge, judgement, responsibility towards materi-

als and meaningful human participation. Traditional techniques should therefore not be viewed merely as heritage to be preserved in museums, but as knowledge that can contribute to contemporary economic and environmental practices.

The official remarked that there should be greater attention to traditional architecture and urbanism, organic agriculture and food, natural handmade textiles, and the creative and intellectual fields.

"Such approaches could reconnect people with the processes through which their material needs are met, while creating sustainable livelihoods and reducing the distance between producers, consumers and natural resources," he pointed out.

"If we advocate regenerative agriculture, we must demonstrate its environmental and economic performance. If we advocate craftsmanship, we must develop markets through which craftspeople can earn sustainable livelihoods," he continued.

Similarly, he said natural architecture must address practical issues including construction methods, regulations, costs and training.

Al-Attiyah added that initiatives focused on sustainable agriculture, natural architecture and craftsmanship could serve as testing grounds for approaches that might eventually be adapted elsewhere.



Journalist Mohammed al-Yahyai (left) and Dr Abdulrahman bin Salem al-Kuwari

Faces from the Gulf returns to Alaraby 2

The new season dedicated entirely to Qatari personalities

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

Alaraby 2 is bringing back "Wojouh Mina Alkhaleej" (Faces from the Gulf) for a new season, continuing its series of in-depth conversations with prominent Gulf figures from the worlds of culture, thought, creativity and the arts. This season is dedicated entirely to Qatari personalities, drawing on their experiences to revisit key chapters in Qatar's cultural and creative history.

The new season brings together a diverse line-up of Qatari figures from a range of fields, offering personal and professional insights into their journeys, while reflecting on the transformations that have shaped Qatar's cultural and artistic landscape.

The first three episodes feature director, writer and actor Faleh Fayeze, who looks back on his career and the evolution of theatre

and drama in Qatar; visual artist Ali Hassan, who discusses his journey in visual art and Arabic calligraphy, as well as his exploration of the relationship between lettering and modern art; and Dr Abdulrahman bin Salem al-Kuwari, the Qatari physician, writer and novelist, who discusses his journey between medicine, literature and writing.

Hosted by novelist and journalist Mohammed al-Yahyai, the programme delves into its guests' stories and memories to explore the people and places that have shaped their lives, while uncovering personal experiences that offer a window into the wider social and cultural changes across the Gulf. The new season builds on the programme's identity as a documentary talk show that captures human stories and preserves the memory of place, drawing on its guests' experiences to offer a rich and varied portrait of the Gulf, its culture and its collective memory.

"Wojouh Mina Alkhaleej" airs every Monday at 10pm. Episodes are also available to watch on demand via the Alaraby Plus app.

QRCS launches environmental sanitation campaign in Sudan

QNA
Khartoum

In co-ordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Khartoum Cleaning Corp (KCC), the representation office of Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) in Sudan has launched an environmental sanitation campaign in the Khartoum East Locality, as part of a large-scale, three-month program that would encompass all localities across the state.

Phase 1 of the campaign targets seven neighbourhoods of Khartoum East, covering an area of approximately 30 km2. Intensive cleaning and environmental sanitation activities are being carried out, including the cleaning of

streets, markets, and residential areas; removal of waste piles and debris; garbage disposal; improvement of public landscape; and enhancement of hygiene and environmental sanitation.

Approximately 330,000 displaced and poor people will benefit from these interventions/services, at a total cost of QR28mn.

A Terms of Reference (ToR) document was signed by QRCS and KCC to outline the roles, responsibilities, and co-ordination/implementation mechanisms for both parties, ensuring effective field interventions.

The launch ceremony was attended by Khartoum's Minister of Health Dr Mohamoud al-Badri, Secretary-General of the Higher Council for Environment Ghada Hussein al-Awad, Executive Director of Khartoum

Locality Abdelmonim al-Bashir, Director of KCC Omar Othman Ali, and head and staff of QRCS's office in Sudan.

The campaigns are part of QRCS's efforts to support local authorities in improving environment sanitation and public services, reducing environmental and health risks associated with waste accumulation, and strengthening partnership and coordination with government and specialised organisations.

This is one of QRCS's Integrated Humanitarian Interventions project, which involves a whole set of multi-sector humanitarian projects to support affected and displaced across various Sudanese states. These projects cover the sectors of health, water and sanitation, emergency relief, and education support.



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)'s Wildlife Protection Department organised an appreciation event to honour 24 cleaning workers for their dedicated efforts and active role in maintaining and protecting Qatar's land environment. The event, which coincided with World Cleanup Day, highlighted the workers' contribution to keeping wild areas clean and supporting the ministry's efforts to protect the environment and promote sustainability.

QU, GTA organise conference on Fiscal Policies and Economic Development

Qatar University (QU), in co-operation with the General Tax Authority (GTA), organised the Fifth International Conference on Fiscal Policies and Economic Development in Qatar under the theme "Tax Transformation: Its Impact on Taxpayers and Tax Authorities."

In his opening remarks, QU President Dr Omar al-Ansari highlighted the contributions of previous editions in fostering dialogue on contemporary economic and financial issues and strengthening engagement among academic, government, and professional institutions and the business community.

He noted that this year's theme is particularly relevant amid rapid economic and technological transformations and their impact on financial and tax policies and practices.

Dr al-Ansari noted that tax transformation presents opportunities to modernise systems and institutions, improve service efficiency, and leverage emerging

technologies. At the same time, it requires individuals and businesses to adapt to an evolving economic environment.

He emphasised the importance of adopting a balanced approach that considers the needs of government institutions, taxpayers, and the business community, promoting transparency and trust while fostering a stable economic environment that encourages growth and investment.

He added that the conference reflects QU's commitment to serving the community and addressing national and regional issues. He also highlighted the University's continued efforts to advance scientific research and develop academic programs that respond to labour market needs, including the introduction of a Minor in Taxation at the College of Business and Economics.

For his part, HE President of the GTA Khalifa al-Kuwari emphasised the importance of bringing

together policymakers, researchers, and experts to exchange perspectives on the future of tax systems and ways to improve their design and implementation.

He noted that combining knowledge and experience with research and practice helps deepen the understanding of challenges and strengthens the development of policies that respond to economic needs.

He highlighted the evolving challenges facing economies today, including fiscal sustainability, income diversification, economic transformation, digitalisation, and changing global business models. These developments, he explained, require policymakers to develop new tools, reassess existing approaches, and anticipate future needs.

He also underscored the central role of tax policy in fiscal policy, particularly in generating the resources needed to fund public services and influencing investment decisions, business growth, and economic competitiveness.

He added that Qatar National Vision 2030 provides a framework for aligning fiscal and tax policies with the country's economic diversification and sustainable development goals, noting the importance of coordinated efforts and national capacity building.

He further noted the importance of collaboration with QU and research institutions in advancing these objectives and addressing the priorities and needs of the national economy. (QNA)



Snoonu, TOD partner to bring premium sports, entertainment to Qatar

Snoonu and TOD by beIN have signed a strategic partnership to expand access to premium live sport and entertainment for Snoonu users. The collaboration will enhance the value of Snoonu's membership offering by integrating access to TOD by beIN's premium streaming experience, making high-quality sports and entertainment even more accessible to customers across Qatar.

At a signing ceremony held at beIN headquarters, Hamad Mubarak al-Hajri, founder and CEO of Snoonu, said: "Snoonu is evolving into an ecosystem that brings together the services, experiences and technologies that shape people's everyday lives.

Our partnership with TOD by beIN is a natural extension of that vision, bringing premium sports and entertainment closer to our customers through a platform they already use and trust. As we continue to build beyond commerce and delivery, we're focused on creating partnerships that add meaningful value to our customers and strengthen Snoonu's role in the digital lives of people across Qatar."

The collaboration reflects a shared commitment by TOD by beIN and Snoonu to create more connected digital experiences for consumers in Qatar, combining convenience, technology and premium content through serv-



Snoonu and TOD by beIN have signed a strategic partnership to expand access to premium live sport and entertainment for Snoonu users

ices already embedded in their daily lives.

Peter Mrkic, managing director, TOD Mena, said: "Sport has an extraordinary ability to bring people together, and our ambition at TOD by beIN is to make those moments as accessible as possible.

"Partnering with Snoonu allows us to bring premium live sport and entertainment even closer to audiences in Qatar, through a platform that is already part of their everyday lives. As a major season of football gets underway, this collaboration gives more fans a simple and convenient way to enjoy the action on the screen of their choice."

The partnership is especially exciting for football fans, as Europe's biggest competitions return to screens, including the

UEFA Champions League, Premier League, La Liga and Ligue 1.

Beyond football, viewers can also access a wide range of sporting events including Formula 1, AEW, NBA, ONE Championship, Davis Cup, ATP Tour and all four Grand Slams. The offering is complemented by a rich entertainment catalogue featuring Sony and Paramount titles, alongside Arabic and Turkish movies and series, TOD Originals, children's programming and live channels — all available across their screen of choice.

Abdulaziz Alqahtani, general manager, S Cloud & Robotics, Snoonu, said: "What makes this partnership particularly exciting is the opportunity to connect commerce, technology and entertainment in a way that feels



seamless for the customer. By bringing TOD by beIN's premium content into Snoonu's growing membership ecosystem, we're giving our users more reasons to engage with the platform while making access to the experiences they love simpler and more convenient. It reflects our approach to partnerships: using technology to create real, everyday value for our customers."

The partnership will roll out over the coming months, with a series of exclusive offers designed to bring Snoonu's growing customer base even closer to premium live sport and entertainment. Together, TOD by beIN and Snoonu aim to create a more connected, convenient and rewarding digital experience for audiences across Qatar.

Municipality minister meets Haitian ambassador



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met yesterday with the ambassador of the Republic of Haiti to the State of Qatar, Pierre-Richard Cajuste. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries in fields of mutual interest. (QNA)

MoEHE launches charity initiative to back private school, KG students



The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) launched the "Manarat Elm" initiative in partnership with the Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah For Humanitarian Services Foundation to provide educational support to eligible private school and kindergarten students.

The initiative covers tuition fees, textbooks, uniforms, transportation, bags, and learning devices.

Expanding into higher education for the first time, it offers eligible graduates a 30 percent tuition discount at Lusail University.

Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs Omar Abdulaziz al-Naama said the

initiative relies on community partnerships and philanthropists, with additional social responsibility projects planned for this year.

Director of the Private Schools and Kindergartens Affairs Department Dr Rania Mohammed revealed that 18,124 seats have been allocated under the project, noting that application timelines and school registration procedures are being further structured.

Representative of the foundation Dr Ayedh al-Qahtani stated that participating schools are listed on the foundation's website for donor selection, emphasising that student applications undergo strict evaluation using code numbers to ensure complete privacy. (QNA)

Qatar seeks to turn AI projects into real-world solutions with Tasmu-Google Cloud partnership

By Shaima Sherif
Staff Reporter

Qatar is seeking to move artificial intelligence (AI) projects beyond experimentation and into everyday use, with a Google Cloud partnership supporting startups, government solutions and skills development through Tasmu Innovation Lab.

The partnership between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Google Cloud, and the Tasmu Innovation Lab focuses on turning AI concepts into practical solutions for government entities and key sectors in Qatar, Amna al-Kaabi, head of emerging technologies at MCIT, said at the Google Cloud Summit Doha yesterday.

Al-Kaabi said the collaboration provides an "integrated environment for developing, testing, and validating proof-of-concept models" within the Tasmu Innovation Lab ecosystem and Google Cloud.

Instead of focusing only on technology trials, she noted that the initiative is designed to connect experimentation with challenges faced on the ground. She added that the partners are

Al-Kaabi said the collaboration provides an "integrated environment for developing, testing, and validating proof-of-concept models" within the Tasmu Innovation Lab ecosystem and Google Cloud

exploring AI "use cases and applications that directly address priority challenges facing government entities and key sectors in Qatar".

Al-Kaabi pointed out that the collaboration brings together technical expertise and sector needs, with direct engagement between experts and joint initiatives intended to strengthen Qatar's innovation ecosystem.

"The core value of this partnership lies in linking technology experimentation within the lab to real sector needs," al-Kaabi said, describing this connection as essential to helping ideas progress beyond proof-of-concept stages.

The objective, she added, is to enable innovative solutions to move "successfully from proof-of-concept stages to sustainable, real-world implementation".

For Qatar's emerging technology landscape, that shift places greater emphasis on what AI can deliver in practice, from ad-

ressing public-sector needs to supporting businesses and creating new digital solutions.

The collaboration is also intended to broaden entrepreneurs' access to advanced technologies. According to al-Kaabi, Qatar is expanding access for startups and incubated companies to Google Cloud technologies, AI tools and specialised expertise.

She said global expertise and technologies would be leveraged "to develop solutions that address real challenges in both the public and private sectors".

Alongside access to tools, workforce development is another pillar of the partnership. Al-Kaabi said the initiative includes training, upskilling and knowledge-transfer opportunities aimed at building a workforce capable of leading digital transformation.

The emphasis on people is central to scaling digital innovation beyond individual pilots. By connecting startups, technical



Amna al-Kaabi

specialists, government stakeholders and sector requirements, the programme is intended to create a pathway from an idea tested in a lab to a solution that can operate in the real world.

Al-Kaabi said the broader ambition is to support "the developing and scaling of practical digital solutions" that contribute to the objectives of Qatar's Digital Agenda 2030.

For al-Kaabi, the focus is on making innovation useful beyond the demonstration stage by connecting technology, talent, and real-world needs to help shape Qatar's next phase of digital transformation.

Theater Affairs Center holds panel on heritage theatre in Qatar

The Theater Affairs Center of the Ministry of Culture held a panel discussion yesterday on heritage theatre in Qatar, examining its role as a living part of the



country's cultural memory and its evolution into contemporary forms. The panel, part of a series of cultural events organised by the ministry, was moderated by Qatari media personality Mohammed al-Hammadi and explored the history of heritage theatre and its role in shaping Qatar's local theatre scene, tracing its development from its earliest experiments to the present.

Artist Saad al-Bourshaid traced the major artistic milestones of heritage theatre in Qatar from the early 1970s to the present, highlighting key theatrical figures who helped shape the genre and establish its place in the country's arts scene. He also discussed Qatari theatre's foremost international appearances in heritage theatre, along with the recognition and awards earned by Qatari theatre artists at those events.

Al-Bourshaid highlighted the use of the Qatari dialect in heritage theatre productions and its importance in preserving each work's distinctive character and local identity.

The panel also examined ways to advance heritage theatre, including key artistic terminology associated with the genre and prominent productions that marked important milestones in the trajectory of Qatari heritage theatre.

The discussion formed part of the Theater Affairs Center's broader efforts to strengthen Qatar's theatrical and cultural movement, give artists and theatre enthusiasts an opportunity to explore local theatrical experiences, and shed light on the country's national theatrical memory. The initiative also seeks to preserve Qatar's theatrical heritage and draw on it to develop contemporary artistic experiences. (QNA)

Djibouti seeks Qatar expertise to modernise endowment sector: minister

Djibouti seeks to build a close partnership with the State of Qatar and draw on its expertise to modernise endowment management, develop

its resources and strengthen human and institutional capacities, the Minister of Islamic Affairs and Endowments of the Republic of Djibouti Moumin Hassan Barreh said.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Barreh said the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with Qatar's Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs provides an institutional framework for co-operation and lays the foundation for sustainable joint projects.

He said Djibouti looks forward to translating the agreement into practical initiatives that benefit both countries, particularly by drawing on Qatar's experience in developing endowment operations and resources. He also praised Qatar's experience in Islamic affairs, endowments, and charitable and development work.

He said his visit to Qatar reflects Djibouti's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and expanding co-operation in areas of mutual interest. During the visit, he held constructive talks with HE the Qatar's Minister of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen bin Ghanem al-Ghanem and officials from relevant institutions.

HE al-Ghanem said Djibouti is working to develop sustainable endowment and development projects, with a focus on productive investment endowments that preserve the principal while generating continuous returns for the benefit of society. He noted that the country has already completed several endowment projects, including commercial markets and residential complexes, and is seeking to expand such projects and diversify endowment revenues.

He said potential areas of co-operation with Qatari institutions include developing endowment as-



sets and establishing economically and socially viable projects, alongside initiatives supporting mosques, religious education and capacity building. He welcomed partnerships based on mutual benefit and sustainability that deliver tangible social and development impact.

HE the Minister also praised Qatar's active role in humanitarian, charitable and development work in Djibouti and across Africa, saying such initiatives have helped address social needs and support vulnerable groups.

He said Djibouti seeks to move beyond direct assistance toward longer-term partnerships focused on building local capacities, creating sustainable income

opportunities and empowering beneficiaries to become self-reliant and contribute to development.

He added that Djibouti is interested in partnerships with academic and Sharia institutions and specialised centers to support training, capacity building, expert and institutional exchanges, and scientific programs. He also highlighted the importance of benefiting from modern approaches to religious discourse and continuing professional development for imams and preachers.

Barreh said Djibouti has established the Institute of Moderation and Culture of Peace to promote moderate thought and a culture of peace, with a mandate extending beyond the national level to support peace, coexistence and moderation across the Horn of Africa.

He stressed the importance of co-ordinating co-operation with Qatari institutions and associations through the relevant authorities in Djibouti and ensuring that projects are aligned with the country's actual needs and priorities. This, he said, would help ensure the effective use of resources and maximise their social and development impact.

He said Djibouti particularly supports projects that build local capacity and create sustainable opportunities for beneficiaries, allowing their impact to extend beyond immediate needs to long-term empowerment and improved living conditions.

Concluding his interview with QNA, Barreh said Djibouti also seeks to expand co-operation into the field of zakat, including the exchange of expertise between the Djibouti Zakat Office and relevant Qatari institutions, particularly in managing zakat funds, improving mechanisms for reaching eligible beneficiaries, and developing economic and social empowerment programs. (QNA)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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QID No. 28905005647

hereby change my name

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THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

Katara hosts ‘Dialogue of Papers’ exhibition

QNA
Doha

As part of efforts to enhance cultural and artistic exchange and build bridges of creative communication among peoples, the Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) is hosting the ‘Dialogue of Papers’ exhibition in co-operation with Qatar Museums, featuring three artists from Qatar, Japan, and Indonesia.

Running for two weeks, the exhibition presents an artistic experience exploring the relationship between paper, cultural identity, and the local environment through creative works that combine natural fibres, handmade papermaking, calligraphy, and visual art. The works embody an artistic dialogue that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries.

The exhibition features works by Qatari artist Yousef Ahmad, Japanese artist Hayaki Nishigaki, and Indonesian artist Widi Pangestu, each presenting his own artistic vision inspired by his cultural and natural surroundings.

In this context, the curator of



the exhibition Dr Aisha Abdulla al-Misnad said that the project's central idea stems from the notion that paper is not merely a medium, but a material that carries the characteristics of the environment from which it is made,

the knowledge of its maker, and the visual traditions of the artist who works with it. She added that the exhibition offers audiences an opportunity to discover how this cultural dialogue has evolved and acquired new meanings, high-



The exhibition features works by Qatari artist Yousef Ahmad, Japanese artist Hayaki Nishigaki, and Indonesian artist Widi Pangestu, each presenting his own artistic vision inspired by his cultural and natural surroundings.
PICTURES: Thajudheen

lighting the ability of art to create shared spaces for expression and human communication.

For his part, Qatari artist Yousef Ahmad explained that the exhibition embodies a shared artistic exploration with Japanese artist Hayaki Nishigaki, and Indonesian artist Widi Pangestu.

He noted that the project began with a two-week art workshop held in Qatar, during which the artists brought natural materials

from their respective countries, including Japanese washi paper, Indonesian mulberry fibres, and Qatari date-palm fronds.

These materials were combined to create collaborative artworks reflecting the cultural identity of each country and bringing together Arabic, Japanese, and Indonesian calligraphy in a unique visual dialogue.

The ‘Dialogue of Papers’ exhibition represents a model of sustainable cultural collaboration

championed by the Years of Culture initiative.

It brings together two chapters of a single artistic project in Doha and gives audiences an opportunity to explore the evolution of the creative experience among the participating artists, as well as how paper has been transformed from an artistic medium into a space for dialogue among diverse environments, cultures, and visual traditions. (QNA)

Ministry of Justice stages workshops

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ), through its Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, has launched a series of workshops bringing together legal affairs officials from approximately 90 government agencies to identify training needs, professional gaps and priorities for legal workforce development.

The workshops are aimed at developing specialised training and professional development programmes that address the demands of legal work across government and quasi-governmental entities.

The sessions bring together directors of legal affairs departments and specialists from government agencies, along with representatives of other entities that benefit from training programs offered by the centre.

Participants are delving into key challenges facing legal affairs departments and identifying priority areas for capacity building, including legislative and legal drafting, contract preparation, legal memoranda and legal opinions, dispute resolution mechanisms, digital transformation, and modern technological applications in legal practice.

Director of the MoJ's Center for Legal and Judicial Studies Dr Abdullah Hamad al-Khalidi said the goal is to work with stakeholders to develop and modernise legal training plans in line with trainees' needs, while advancing pro-



grammes that are better aligned with the demands of legal work at public agencies.

The initiative reflects the ministry's efforts to promote a whole-of-government approach to legal training, strengthen partnerships and co-ordination with government entities, ensure effective training outcomes and enhance the professional impact of the centre's programmes. It also supports improvements in the legal and institutional performance of government entities and their legal departments, al-Khalidi said.

Al-Khalidi further noted that the workshops are among the executive mechanisms supporting the MoJ's strategic objectives under its 2025-2030 plan, particularly in workforce development, strengthening institutional excellence, improving the efficiency of legal services, and fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement.

By leveraging the initiative, the ministry is working to forge training plans based on pragmatic data and indicators that mirror the needs of government entities, al-Khalidi said.

He added that this would ensure optimum investment in national capacity-building and the development of legal professionals equipped to stay abreast of legislative and technological evolution, while supporting institutional development efforts across various sectors.

The workshops will help forge a more holistic and powerful training plan responsive to the priorities and aspirations of partners, the director explained.

He noted that they bolster integration between the MoJ and government agencies in support of the nation's efforts to deepen the rule of law and strengthen the justice architecture in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030. (QNA)



QC provides food aid to displaced, vulnerable people in Nigeria

Qatar Charity (QC) has distributed 2,298 food baskets to displaced and highly vulnerable people across four states in Nigeria.

This comes as part of the organisation's humanitarian response to food insecurity in the country, according to Qatar Charity's press report yesterday.

Each basket contained essential food items to meet the immediate nutritional needs of beneficiary families, the report said, benefiting approximately 12,575 displaced and vulnerable people in the states of Borno, Kogi, and Niger, in addition to the families of patients who underwent cataract

surgery as part of Qatar Charity's eye care project in Yobe State.

It added that distribution was carried out in co-operation and co-ordination with the relevant government and local authorities, including the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in Borno State and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation in Kogi State.

Priority was given to persons with disabilities and households headed by widows or elderly people.

The intervention comes amid continuing rising living costs and food security challenges in Nigeria, particularly in conflict-

affected areas of the country's north-east, the organisation said.

In a related development and under its ongoing ‘Ibsar’ (Eye-sight) Initiative, Qatar Charity has recently carried out 1,074 eye surgeries, which enabled 1,018 beneficiaries in northern Nigeria to regain their sight.

The organisation has also distributed 270 white canes to people with visual impairments whose sight could not be restored through surgery.

These efforts seek to improve eye care services and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups, according to Qatar Charity. (QNA)

QCDC, QFBA launch career adviser preparation programme

Participants to earn NCDAs ‘Certified Career Services Provider’ credential

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

Qatar Career Development Centre (QCDC), founded by Qatar Foundation, and Qatar Finance and Business Academy (QFBA) have opened registration for the ‘Certified Career Adviser Preparation Programme,’ a specialised professional development programme designed to strengthen career guidance practice in Qatar.

Running from November 2 to December 14, the seven-week programme targets career and academic counsellors in schools and universities, career services providers, talent acquisition specialists, and university graduates seeking employment in career guidance and counselling.

It equips participants with the knowledge, tools, and applied skills needed to enhance the quality of career guidance services and keep pace with rapid changes across education and the labour market, while preparing them to pursue the Certified Career Services Provider (CCSP) credential awarded by the American National Career Development Association (NCDA).

Saad Abdulla al-Kharji, executive director of QCDC, said: ‘Career guidance today is no longer a supporting service offered at the margins of education or employ-



ment. It is a strategic function that helps individuals make better decisions, institutions build stronger talent pipelines, and societies prepare more effectively for the future of work. Through this programme, and through our partnership with QFBA, we aim to support practitioners with the professional foundations, practical tools, and recognised standards they need to guide young people and community members with confidence and impact.’

Dr Khalifa al-Salahi al-Yafei, CEO of QFBA, said: ‘Career guidance represents a vital starting point in investing in national talent. It enables individuals to recognise their potential, align their aspirations with the evolving needs of the labour market, and make well-informed decisions about their academic and professional futures.’

‘Our collaboration with QCDC reflects a shared commitment to strengthening Qatar's career guidance ecosystem by bring-

ing together complementary institutional and subject-matter expertise to develop qualified practitioners equipped with the knowledge, skills and professional standards required to deliver more effective and sustainable career guidance services.’

‘We believe that such strategic partnerships help foster more mature professional practices, advance human capital development and cultivate talent capable of contributing effectively to Qatar's national priorities and development journey,’ Dr al-Yafei said.

Delivered across 13 sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays, the programme covers key areas of professional career guidance practice, including building effective helping relationships; career development theory and its application; the use of assessment in career planning; professional ethics; the design and implementation of career planning services; training and group facilitation; career guidance for school stu-

dents; job search skills and employability; career information and technology resources; and cultural diversity.

Participants will also undertake a detailed review and mock-exam discussion during the final session as part of their preparation for the next stage of the certification process.

The training will be delivered by experienced career development and counselling specialists, including Dr al-Yafei and a Certified Facilitating Career Development (FCD) Instructor; Dr Mahmood Salim Almaawali, assistant professor of Counselling at Sultan Qaboos University and an NCDA-trained Career Development Trainer; and Dr Hamda Alnaimi, an FCD Certified Instructor and Certified Career Counsellor.

The Certified Career Adviser Preparation Programme brings together QCDC's specialised expertise in career guidance and development with QFBA's expertise in professional training and education.

Through this collaboration, the programme offers a pathway that combines specialised knowledge, practical application, and preparation for professional certification, contributing to higher standards of career guidance practice in Qatar and a more integrated ecosystem of practitioners equipped to support students, graduates, jobseekers, and other beneficiaries in exploring diverse educational and career pathways and making more informed decisions about their future.

Wifaq wins 2025 Award for Best Social Media Content

The Family Consulting Center (Wifaq), member of Qatar Foundation for Social Work, has won the 2025 award for the Best Social Media Content in the Family and Population Sector.

Presented by the Social Governments Institute (SGI) in the United Arab Emirates, the award recognises the Center's efforts to leverage social media platforms to raise family awareness and provide creative, educational digital content that serves both the family and the community.

The award won by Center is part of the ‘Social Governments Award’, an annual honour designed to motivate and encourage entities to utilise social media tools effectively and innovatively. It highlights successful digital communication initiatives across social media platforms in the Arab world, underscoring their role in fostering community engagement and advancing methods of content delivery and service provision.

This achievement reflects the Center's efforts to enhance its digital presence and transform social media platforms into effective channels for raising family awareness and promoting community-level prevention.

By delivering content that addresses family, marital, and parenting awareness - and by tackling contemporary social issues from professional and preventive perspectives through awareness messages, videos, and interactive posts - the Center helps disseminate family-related knowledge to diverse segments of society.

The Center's social media accounts have played a key role in extending the reach of family-oriented messages to the public. Through diverse digital content - combining awareness messages, videos, and interactive material - the Center fosters awareness of family issues and brings knowledge and counselling services closer to the community.

Wifaq Center's media strategy centres on delivering professional, accessible, and scientifically grounded awareness content. It links digital outreach with the Center's advisory services - thereby fostering a culture of seeking professional guidance - while addressing emerging family and social issues through preventive and educational approaches tailored to digital platforms and audience needs.

In this context, Executive Director of Wifaq Center, Engineer Jaber Rashid al-Nuaimi stated that this award recognises the Center's efforts to develop family-oriented awareness media that leverages digital platforms to disseminate knowledge in a professional and innovative manner.

He emphasised that the value of such content lies not merely in reach or viewership figures, but in the awareness it cultivates, the dialogue it fosters, and the knowledge it provides to families - ultimately helping them build more cohesive and stable relationships.

He added that the Center would continue to expand its digital presence and utilise modern media tools to reach diverse segments of society. (QNA)



Officials and representatives of partners at the recognition ceremony.

MoL honours partners of heat stress prevention campaign

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Labour (MoL) honoured the ministries, institutions, and companies participating in the 2026 Heat Stress Prevention Campaign. This recognition acknowledges their active contributions to the campaign's success and their support for the ministry's efforts to mitigate heat stress risks and enhance compliance with occupational health and safety standards at workplaces.

The campaign aligns with Qatar's efforts to strengthen human protection and improve the quality of the work environment, consistent with the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly in human and social development.

In his address at the ceremony, Hamad Faraj Dalmouk, assistant undersecretary for Expatriate Labour Affairs at the MoL, emphasised that protecting workers and ensuring their safety is an ongoing responsibility that extends beyond seasonal measures.

He noted that the 2026 Heat Stress Prevention Campaign re-

flected the Ministry's commitment to addressing heat stress risks through an integrated approach combining field monitoring, public awareness, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

He pointed out that the objective goes beyond addressing risks as they arise; rather, it aims to foster awareness and compliance to help prevent them.

He added that the campaign's figures represent more than statistics; they reflect the scale of the effort and underscore the importance of continued prevention and awareness of safety measures.

He noted that the conclusion of the summer working-hour restrictions does not signal the end of the responsibility to prevent heat stress; safety is not seasonal, and prevention does not cease when a campaign ends.

Dalmouk emphasised the importance of employers continuing to adhere to occupational health and safety requirements, provide safe working environments, and raise worker awareness of preventive measures.

The participating entities were honoured for their co-operation, engagement, and responsiveness

throughout the campaign, as well as for supporting preventive messaging and effectively reaching target groups.

The honoured entities included the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Municipality, Education Above All, the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), Economic Zones, Qatar Red Crescent, Qatar Charity, Snoonu, Rafeeq, Keeta, and Talabat.

Participating government bodies and national institutions supported the campaign by supporting health, awareness, and field-based activities, as well as strengthening co-ordination and information exchange on occupational health and safety.

Meanwhile, companies such as Snoonu, Rafeeq, Keeta, and Talabat helped disseminate awareness and preventive messages to delivery sector workers, thereby raising awareness of necessary measures to prevent heat stress.

The Qatar Red Crescent also supported health and awareness initiatives. It provided data on heat stress-related injuries, while Qatar Charity and the Education Above All Foundation contributed to

awareness-raising efforts and outreach to target groups.

The campaign, which ran from June 1 to September 15, involved a range of regulatory and awareness-raising measures, including field visits, seminars, and educational activities, carried out in collaboration with government bodies, national institutions, and private sector companies.

During the inspection campaign, the MoL conducted 1,638 inspections, identified 644 violations, and took prescribed legal action against non-compliant establishments, including closing 388 facilities.

On the awareness front, the Ministry held 30 seminars involving 55 companies and benefiting 3,555 individuals; it also conducted 522 field awareness visits and distributed 1,072 awareness materials. Additionally, according to its data, the Qatar Red Crescent handled 1,168 heat-stress cases.

These results reflect the extensive scope of the field and educational efforts accompanying the campaign, as well as the importance of maintaining a commitment to preventive measures to address heat-stress risks.

Msheireb Museums, Sidra Medicine host Science Cafe session

QNA
Doha

Msheireb Museums and Sidra Medicine hosted the 4th session of the 2026 Science Cafe series at Bin Jelmood House yesterday.

Held under the title "Beyond the Label: Medications and Supplements", the session drew a wide range of participants and examined the safety and everyday use of prescription medications and dietary supplements.

The panel highlighted the need for clear, evidence-based communication between healthcare providers, patients and the wider public, particularly when it comes to self-medication, supplement use and personalised approaches to pharmacotherapy as the world of medicine continue to evolve due to a range of new stud-based new inventions in the field.

Commenting on the event, Manager of Operations and Visitor Relations at Msheireb Museums Mohammed al-Yousuf said, "Science Café reflects our commitment at Msheireb Museums to creating opportunities for meaningful dialogue around issues that affect our communities."

"Through this session, we are helping to make important conversations around the safe and informed use of medications and supplements more accessible, while encouraging the public to engage with evidence-based information and better understand the factors that can influence their health and wellbeing," al-Yousuf added.

In turn, Research Manager at Sidra Medicine and organiser of the Science Cafe series Dr Sahar Da'as highlighted the importance of such sessions, "The strength of our Science Cafe session lies in bringing together

diverse perspectives on how medications and supplements intersect with health – from safe and appropriate medication use and patient education to nutrition, sports performance, genomics and personalised medicine."

Moderated by Ibrahim El Senousy from Erada Fitness, the session brought together Executive Director of Research and Scientific Support at Aspetar Prof Marco Cardinale and Deputy Chief of the Drug Supply Department at Hamad Medical Corporation Dr Anas Hamad.

Sidra Medicine panelists included Director of Pharmacy Fathea Adhier; Acting Director of Advanced Research Core Dr Sara Tomei; and Dr Annalisa Terranegra, who leads the Laboratory of Precision Nutrition.

The Panelists examined the evidence behind the effectiveness, safety and regulation of vitamins, minerals and herbal products, and considered pharmacogenomics and personalised dosing, including the role genetics can play in tailoring medication choices and dosages.

They also highlighted emerging opportunities in pharmacogenomics and personalised dosing, including how genetic information may help tailor medication choices and improve treatment outcomes.

Now in its 3rd year, the Science Cafe series remains a cornerstone of the partnership between Msheireb Museums and Sidra Medicine and their shared engagement with the community.

The initiative uses open forums to share research findings in plain language, translating complex information into accessible dialogue and keeping the public informed about the medical and scientific advances shaping the future of healthcare.

The Next Generation School and ILM Education Consultants partner to launch a structured professional development programme



TNG campus leadership teams with senior leadership, ILM Consultant and guests.

The Next Generation School (TNG) and ILM Education Consultants have formalised a landmark partnership to deliver a structured, high-level professional development programme in pedagogy for educators across TNG's seven campuses.

The agreement was marked at a signing ceremony held at TNG Al-Wakra Secondary Campus, attended by representatives from the British Council, the Embassy of Pakistan, community partners, academic partners, TNG leadership, and ILM Education Consultants.

The partnership represents a significant investment in teacher quality at TNG, recognising a principle at the heart of the school's educational philosophy: the quality of student learning is inseparable from the quality of the professional learning teachers undertake.

Unlike conventional workshop-based training, the new programme is designed as a rigorous, reflective pathway that supports teachers to engage with educational research, examine their own

practice, and translate new ideas into measurable classroom impact. It moves beyond campus-specific professional development to create a unified, high-quality experience for educators across all seven TNG campuses.

Speaking at the ceremony, Riyaz Ahmed Bakali, director of The Next Generation School, reaffirmed the school's commitment to continuous professional growth: "We teach to learn, and we learn to teach. At TNG, the continuous professional development of our educators is not an add-on – it is at the very heart of what quality education means. This partnership is an investment in our teachers, and through them, in every student we serve."

The initiative builds on TNG's existing culture of Inquiry, Evidence, reflective practice and data-informed decision-making. Ailia Rizvi, principal of TNG, emphasised the school's approach to professional learning.

"At TNG, we are fortunate to be part of a team that is not afraid to

ask difficult questions, to review and rethink educational processes, to dig into data and evidence to evaluate the impact of our interventions, and to take responsible decisions that support teacher development and improve student attainment."

The programme will be delivered in partnership with ILM Education Consultants, a specialist provider of leadership development and school improvement support.

Iram Myford, CEO of ILM Education Consultants, introduced the initiative and outlined how the

programme will support TNG educators in developing their pedagogical practice.

"This programme is designed to move beyond theory. It supports teachers to reflect on their practice, engage with evidence, and apply what they learn in real classrooms, with real students. Our role is to provide the structure and expertise that turns professional development into lasting change in teaching and learning."

The presence of representatives from the British Council, the Embassy of Pakistan, community



TNG CEO Shagufta Bakali and ILM CEO Iram Myford signing the agreement.

partners, and partner schools at the signing ceremony reflects the partnership's broader significance within Qatar's educational landscape. It signals growing recognition of TNG's commitment to international standards of teacher development and its role in advancing educational quality across the region.

The signing ceremony marks the beginning of a structured, multi-phase implementation. It forms part of TNG's wider strategy

to build a sustainable, evidence-based professional development system that supports teachers at every career stage – from early career teachers to experienced practitioners and aspiring leaders.

The partnership marks another step in TNG's investment in its educators, recognising that when teachers can learn, reflect, and grow, they are better equipped to create meaningful learning experiences and stronger outcomes for students.



A group photo featuring TNG and ILM leadership with community and academic partners.

Qatar participates in celebration of World Cleanup Day

QNA
Beijing

The State of Qatar participated in the global celebration of World Cleanup Day 2026, hosted by the city of Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province, China, in an event jointly organised by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China.

The event witnessed the attendance of approximately 800 officials, experts, and representatives of international organisations concerned with environmental sustainability.

At the celebration, the State of Qatar was represented by a delegation from the Ministry of Municipality.

The main sessions of the accompanying forum, held under the slogan 'From Clean Dishes to Clean Cities', highlighted strategies for reducing food waste,



minimising waste at the source, developing smart city cleanliness systems, as well as enhancing community participation frameworks in environmental protection.

The participation of the Qatari delegation included an inspection tour of the accompanying international exhibition, during which they reviewed the latest technological solutions and smart applications used in the fields of public cleanliness, waste management, and recycling.

Coral shrimp spotted in biodiversity survey

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), represented by the Wildlife Development Department, has recorded a species known as the "coral shrimp," belonging to the genus *Pliopontonia*, during marine monitoring and survey activities conducted by the department's scientific marine team. The surveys are being carried out as part of efforts to study marine biodiversity and document the components of Qatar's marine environment.

The coral shrimp lives within brain coral, where its colouration and external appearance help it camouflage itself and remain hidden among coral formations. This natural camouflage makes the species more difficult to observe and identify during field survey operations.

The recording of coral shrimp is part of the ministry's efforts to document marine organisms inhabiting Qatari waters and to identify their species, characteristics and natural habitats. The work also contributes to strengthening Qatar's scientific database on marine biodiversity and highlights the diversity of organisms found in its marine environment.



Makeshift camp for people displaced by clashes in Yemen. (Reuters)

Saudi launches strikes in Yemen as thousands flee

AFP
Sanaa

Yemen's Houthis yesterday reported a wave of strikes as Riyadh seeks to repel an offensive that has seen the Iran-backed group seize strategic territory. The recent Houthi takeover of Yemen's Red Sea coast has left hundreds dead and heightened fears over global trade and shipping through the vital strait.

It has also forced thousands to flee, with the UN yesterday forecasting the number of displaced could swell from over 130,000 today to more than 230,000 in the coming months. The gains made by the Houthis have cemented the hold of Iran and its regional allies over two key waterways in the Middle East — and the straits of Bab al-Mandab and Hormuz — which are major shipping arteries for global flows of energy.

Saudi Arabia, which backs Yemen's internationally-recognised government, has sought to contain the Houthi advance with airstrikes. The Houthis have retaliated with attacks on Saudi territory, including a strike targeting the capital Riyadh for the first time in years.

The strike came days after Saudi Arabia accused the Houthis of targeting the holy city of Makkah, though the fighters denied the claim.

In a rare statement, Saudi King Salman praised the armed forces and security services for defending the country, and condemned the alleged attempt to target Makkah,

calling it “a provocation to Muslims around the world”, and branded the Houthis a “terrorist militia”.

In Yemen, the Houthis said a strike on a prison killed nine detainees, while they also said six civilians including two children were killed in the port city of Mocha. Two more were killed by strikes in Yemen's Al-Jawf province, the Houthis added.

As violence has escalated, thousands of families have been forced from their homes, many for a second or third time. “I hope I can find a house to live in with my children. We're exhausted by the heat, the dust and the humiliation,” Arwa, a mother of four children, told AFP at a camp for displaced people near Aden.

The Yemen civil war predates the broader regional conflict, it has become its most active front in recent days. Fighting between the Houthis and Saudi-backed Yemeni forces has in the past two days killed 154 people, military sources from both sides told AFP.

“The death toll from airstrikes, clashes and artillery fire in the governorates of Taiz, Al-Jawf, Marib and Saada stands at 118,” Houthi military sources said, while government sources reported 36 killed in their ranks.

Saudi Arabia's civil defence agency yesterday issued a warning of potential danger in the country's south near the Yemen border, the first alert since the Houthis launched their attack on Riyadh over the weekend.

The alert, which asked people to remain indoors and avoid open areas, was lifted a short while later.

Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Egypt affirm Riyadh's right to defend itself

The foreign ministers of Turkiye, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan said in a joint statement yesterday that they affirmed Riyadh's right to defend itself in line with international law and stressed the need to maintain safety of navigation in the region, amid escalating attacks by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis. Following a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, the ministers also expressed deep concern over the ongoing conflicts in the region, saying dialogue and diplomacy were the only pat to a sustainable solution. They also voiced their support for Yemen's government in its efforts to achieve stability and peace. (Reuters)

Korea confirms first project under \$350bn US investment pact despite concerns

Reuters
Seoul

Republic of Korea confirmed its first project under a \$350bn US investment pact yesterday and said it is considering two others, moving ahead despite profitability concerns and criticism from President Donald Trump over the pace of implementation.

Seoul has selected a gas-fired power plant project in Texas, while also considering a proposal to invest in two Korean-designed nuclear reactors as part of a broader nuclear investment initiative, lawmaker Chung Chin-ook said on the sidelines of a briefing by Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan.

Kim briefed lawmakers in a

closed-door meeting as Seoul and Washington seek to finalise implementation of a trade deal agreed in November last year that cut US tariffs on Korean goods to 15%. The investment plans require approval by a US government investment committee and further negotiation with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, Kim told Reuters after the briefing. Trump would make the final announcement on the US investment plan, news agency Yonhap reported.

US officials have criticised Seoul for moving too slowly on the investments, especially compared with countries such as Japan and Trump had threatened higher tariffs as a result.

Seoul wants to avoid further friction with Washington after Trump also criticised Korea for

not providing assistance over the Iran war and US officials aired concerns over the treatment of US companies, including US-listed Coupang.

President Lee Jae Myung said on Friday that commercial viability had become a sticking point as negotiators moved from a broad agreement to the details of individual projects and Seoul had sought to ensure “commercially reasonable” investments.

“The announcement of the first project would be a meaningful initial step,” said Hyun Jung Je, a Washington-based senior fellow at policy group Korea Economic Institute of America.

“It would demonstrate that the two governments have made progress in identifying an opportunity that they believe can serve the interests of both countries.”



British Prime Minister Andy Burnham. (AFP)

work towards a trusted partner approach that doesn't cause a problem where there wasn't a problem and where we have common cause.”

prime minister, Burnham told reporters he believed there was support for Britain to have access to the scheme. “Europe's argument is not with us. We both suffer the same effects as other countries, particularly steel,” he said.

Britain has argued that the “Made in Europe” plan could impact supply chains and create unnecessary trade barriers between it and some member countries, with Burnham urging the two sides to avoid further “collateral damage.” He is also anxious not to miss out on another scheme after talks to join the EU's SAFE defence fund broke down.

“We are making the argument: we are not your enemies here... we are not the problem,” Burnham said of the scheme. “Let's

Trump, Greenland, Denmark sign accord for Arctic security

Reuters
New York

US President Donald Trump and the leaders of Greenland and Denmark signed an agreement yesterday that permits a larger US military presence on Greenland and may resolve a standoff over the strategically located and mineral-rich island.

The agreement stops short of Trump's demand that the US annex Greenland as a US territory to head off the growing Arctic presence of Russia and China. But the deal does codify a greater US military presence on the icy territory, an option that emerged as Greenland leaders argued against a complete US takeover.

A text of the deal released after the event said the US can establish a “Golden Dome” defence system in Greenland as a shield against ballistic missile threats. The shortest route from Europe to North America runs via the Arctic island, which is the location of the northernmost US military base.

In his speech to the assembled world leaders at the UN before the signing ceremony, Trump said the agreement gives the US “permanent control over security and all other needs on that territory.”

Trump signed the agreement along with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenland



Heads of governments of United States, Denmark and Greenland during the signing of a security pact at UN Headquarters. (AFP)

Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen in a trilateral ceremony after Trump gave his UN speech.

Frederiksen described the agreement as a deal that can “last forever” and said it underlines the importance of the Nato alliance and respects Greenland's right to self-determination.

Nielsen emphasised the importance of Nato in the Arctic region. “We believe that it is vital to keep Nato strong, also in the Arctic, where the alliance has a key role to play,” he said.

After the signing, Nielsen said Greenlanders must now go through a process of restoring trust with the US. Trump's threats to take the island by force had strained relations with both Greenland and Denmark.

“I believe the crisis is over now, but I don't think the conflict is over in the sense that this agreement could very well be used — if the Americans wish — as a platform to force through further concessions,” said Mikkel Vedby Rasmussen, a political science professor at the University of Copenhagen.

Greenland, a former colony and now a semi-autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark, sits between the Arctic and North America and holds vast energy resources.

The US already operates Pituffik Space Base in remote northwestern Greenland. The deal opens two new military sites: Narsarsuaq, a former Cold War airbase whose population has

dwindled to just a few dozen, and Mestersvig, currently used by the Sirius Dog Sled Patrol, a Danish special forces unit.

“We will immediately begin the process of developing a large military presence in the appropriate location. We will be building two very major military bases,” Trump said in his UN speech.

The text of the agreement says it amends a 1951 defence treaty that had been the legal basis for the US presence.

It adds that Washington may seek further bases in the future, with details decided by mutual agreement. The deal has no end date, grants US aircraft and vessels broad access across Greenland and its territorial waters, and bars non-Natostates from establishing military installations.

It also restricts foreign investment, effectively blocking states and investors from countries outside Nato, Nato partners and the European Union from holding control or significant influence in sectors deemed particularly sensitive.

The deal, which needs approval by the parliaments of Denmark and Greenland, marks a shift from Trump's earlier ambitions for an outright acquisition of Greenland, an island three times the size of Texas with a population of only 57,000 scattered along its rugged coastline.

Trump justifies Iran war at UN, claims to be peacemaker

AFP
New York

Donald Trump said yesterday he has to decide whether to make a deal with Iran or “annihilate” the country, in a bombastic speech to the UN that appeared tailored to war-weary American voters. His threat came amid repeated boasts that under him the US is successfully confronting its adversaries and reshaping the world order to its own advantage.

“While others have spoken of peace, I have made peace. While others have ignored threats, I have confronted them,” Trump told the room full of world leaders at the UN General Assembly in New York.

Despite claiming credit as a peacemaker, Trump delivered a jarring warning as he sought to justify the nearly seven-month war against Iran, which he said was launched to stop Tehran acquiring nuclear weapons.

“I have a big decision to make — will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country?” Trump said.

“Or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and

destroy people, countries again?”

A few hours after his speech said US and Iranian officials had “productive” talks at the United Nations. “They had a very good meeting, a very productive meeting,” Trump told reporters., add-

ing that the meeting lasted about three hours.

Much of the rest of Trump's speech was dedicated to proclaiming his own efforts in making the US “most powerful country in the world.”

Erdogan urges UN reform, recognition of Palestinian state

Reuters
Ankara

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told the UN General Assembly yesterday the UN had become unable to fulfill its duty of preserving peace and called for reform of the Security Council. Erdogan has for years called for a more comprehensive and inclusive structure at the Security Council.

“Let's recognise that a system in which the will of more than 190 countries is subject to the whims of five countries is neither fair nor capable of fully establishing trust,” he said.

“The UN, established 81 years ago to maintain peace and security, has become unable to fulfil this mission, or rather it has been made unable to do so,” he added.

Erdogan also condemned the situation in Gaza,

saying “no one who holds humanity, compassion and mercy in their heart, with a sense of justice and conscience can turn a blind eye” to what was happening there.

“(Palestinian President) Mahmoud Abbas, has been unable to take his place in this hall for two consecutive years. This injustice against our Palestinian brothers and sisters wounds the consciences,” Erdogan said.

He urged countries that do not recognise a Palestinian state to review their position and for all nations to increase pressure on Israel to end the war in Gaza, which he called “our time's most inhumane, most embarrassing concentration camp”. Nato member Turkiye has been one of the most vocal critics of Israel and its war on Gaza, saying its attacks amounted to genocide. It has repeatedly urged for international measures against Israel. Israel denies accusations of genocide.

EU agrees to lift sanctions on two Russian oligarchs

AFP
Brussels

EU countries yesterday agreed a compromise deal to prolong sanctions on Russia that will see oligarchs Alisher Usmanov and Mikhail Fridman removed from the blacklist, diplomats said.

As time ticked down to a deadline, diplomats said that Latvia agreed to drop its veto after days of bitter opposition to efforts to secure the exemptions led by France. Ukraine has lashed out against the push to remove the asset freezes and visa bans on the two billionaires, arguing the EU should be ratcheting up pressure on Moscow.

The agreement sees the EU's sanctions on some 3,000 other

individuals and entities over the war in Ukraine extended for three years. The list includes President Vladimir Putin.

“The compromise will involve an extension of the regime for 36 months, until 22 September 2029,” a spokesman for Ireland, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, said.

“The decision was also taken to delist certain individuals under the regime.”

EU countries had been wrangling furiously after France joined Slovakia in demanding Russian-Uzbek billionaire Usmanov be removed from the blacklist.

Luxembourg then seized upon the demand by Paris to insist that if sanctions were lifted on Usmanov, then they should be lifted for Fridman as well.

Sudanese leader's visa withheld over planned ceasefire

Reuters
Washington

The US is withholding an entry visa for Sudanese army leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan just days ahead of his scheduled appearance at the UN General Assembly, according to a letter from Sudan's UN ambassador calling on the global body to intervene.

The issuance of the visa appears to have been made contingent on Burhan agreeing to sign a 90-day ceasefire proposed by US Senior Advisor for Arab and African Affairs Massad Boulos, according to a Sudanese diplomatic source and a Western analyst close to American and Sudanese officials.

The impasse represents a nadir in US-Sudan relations since war broke out in Sudan between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023, and comes as Burhan is scheduled to address the General Assembly on Thursday.

Sudan's army presented reservations about the Boulos-proposed ceasefire this summer.

The letter, addressed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and signed by Sudan's UN Ambassador Al-Harith Idriss Al-Harith, asked for the United Nations' “immediate intervention” with US authorities to ensure the issuance of the visa.

“Should this situation persist, it would effectively prevent the Head of State of a Member State of the UN from participating in person in the work of the General Assembly,” read the letter, which was dated September 21.

Burnham wants ‘Made in Europe’ plan to involve Britain

Reuters
New York/London

Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he would argue for Britain to be a “trusted partner” to the European Union's “Made in Europe” scheme, saying they should not be pitted as enemies on a policy that has the potential to hammer the UK's car industry.

The Made in Europe policy aims to curb reliance on Chinese components by prioritising European-made goods — a worry for the British auto industry which feeds parts into EU supply chains and sells cars across the bloc.

Travelling to New York for his first UN General Assembly as



Ringfencing social media: Governments step in to protect minors

More than 20 countries around the world have now taken steps to block or restrict children going online on social media. Seven countries have measures already in place or set to be implemented, with their policies targeting children under the age of 15 -16. Across the world, an estimated 95% of teens use social media platforms including TikTok, Alphabet's YouTube and Meta's Instagram and Facebook.

Amid mounting evidence of cyberbullying, addictive design, and a teenage mental health crisis, governments are now shifting away from relying on corporate self-regulation to enforcing hard digital borders to combat rising rates of anxiety, depression, and online harassment. Australia became the first country to ban social media for under-16s since December 2025 with many others following in 2026. However the ban so far appears to have been widely circumvented by teenagers, according to data released in August.

US legislation aimed at forcing social media companies to do more to protect children and teenagers cleared a key political hurdle in May after Republican Senator Ted Cruz said he would support the bill. California Governor Gavin Newsom on September 11 signed into law new restrictions barring children under 16 from exposure to addictive features on social media platforms and banning AI chatbot companion-containing toys.

Last week, the European Commission proposed banning children under 13 from social media, with parent-supervised accounts until 15. Enforcement would rely on a tool Brussels built itself: a free, open-source age verification app that tells a platform whether a user meets an age threshold without revealing their identity.

If passed, the proposed Kids Act would create the world's largest social media access restriction, covering 450mn people across 27 countries. A smartphone app developed by the Commission is

being rolled out through member states, with seven pilot countries: Cyprus, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain. The Commission expects EU-wide availability by the end of 2026.

It will also be used to prove users are over 18 when accessing adult sites, a restriction already implemented under the Digital Services Act. Under the proposed Kids Act, non-compliance with minors' rules would fall under DSA enforcement, where penalties can reach up to 6% of global turnover.

Instead of just advising parents on privacy settings, current global legislation ringfences children through core legal and technical frameworks such as "direct age gating and account tiering" that would imposing hard age limits to prevent younger children from accessing social networks entirely, while "safety-by-design" mandates altering the software architecture itself so that platforms are inherently less hazardous for minors under 18.

Also "privacy-preserving age assurance" dictates

integration with highly secure, privacy-preserving age-assurance technologies like the European Union age verification app or digital identity wallets.

The UN, through agencies like Unicef and Unesco, has highlighted that while social media offers opportunities, it presents severe risks to minors, including cyberbullying, mental health issues, sexual exploitation, and exposure to harmful content. While acknowledging the "genuine concerns" of governments across the world the Unicef has also said "age restrictions must be part of a broader approach that protects children from harm, respects their rights to privacy and participation, and avoids pushing them into unregulated, less safe spaces."

Regulation should not be a substitute for platforms investing in child safety and laws introducing age restrictions are not an alternative to companies improving platform design and content moderation," according to the Unicef.

New crop of Syrian police



New cadets from the women's police academy perform stunts during the first cohort graduation ceremony after completing a six-month training program, in Al-Tall, on the outskirts of Damascus yesterday. Some 150 Syrians became the first graduates of the country's new police academy for women, as the authorities rebuild their security apparatus. (AFP)



Saudi Arabia celebrates 96th National Day

QNA
Doha

Under the slogan 'Our Pride Is in Our Nature', Saudi Arabia celebrates its 96th National Day today, commemorating the historic unification achieved by King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman al-Saud when he announced the establishment of the kingdom as one unified, strong, and proud nation. The occasion reflects pride in a nation whose story has spanned generations.

The celebration slogan highlights the deeply rooted traits that characterize the Saudi people from birth, including generosity, ambition, chivalry, authenticity, and a commitment to excellence. These values are embodied in their daily conduct and have helped cement the image of the Saudi citizen as a model of pride and honour. Furthermore, the slogan underscores the ambitious vision guiding the Saudi people to build a prosperous future, aligning with the nation's aspirations and its coming generations.

This national occasion arrives as the kingdom continues to achieve successive milestones through clearly defined development plans, stemming from a comprehensive national vision, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, and the direct oversight of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud. These efforts have established the kingdom as a model of growth and prosperity, and a nation held in high esteem both regionally and internationally.

Historic journey

The renaissance and prosperity the kingdom is witnessing today are a continuation of a historic journey forged by a wise leader, King Abdulaziz, who established a solid state founded on security, safety, and stability. His successors continued the journey of construction and development,

bringing the kingdom to its current stage under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud.

On Sept 23, 1932, King Abdulaziz issued a historic proclamation, unifying the country and naming it the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, following a struggle and campaign that spanned 32 years, during which he laid firm foundations of this national entity. The newly established state was founded on the principles of Islamic law, embracing its tolerant values and humanitarian teachings, while striving to promote peace and prosperity, encourage knowledge and progress, and look toward a better future for its people, the Islamic nation, and the entire world.

Since King Abdulaziz unified the land of the Two Holy Mosques, the nation has advanced along a path forged by determination and sustained by generations who upheld its values, ensuring that the national identity remains as present in the character of its people as it is in its history. He laid the foundations of the modern state on the principles of modernization and development, establishing various ministries and forging diplomatic relations in accordance with international norms and protocols, appointing ambassadors, consuls, envoys, and ministers to this end.

Islamic solidarity

In 1945, the League of Arab States (LAS) was established in Cairo, and the kingdom was among its founding members. Guided by Islamic principles, King Abdulaziz advocated for Arab cooperation and Islamic solidarity. Under his leadership, the kingdom demonstrated a prominent stance on numerous regional and international events and issues.

In his dealings with his citizens, he adopted a policy rooted in consultation (Shura) and mutual counsel with the people, making



use of opportunities to exchange views and advice while remaining guided by the teachings of the true Islamic faith. This approach, upheld by his sons after him, had a clear impact on the development being witnessed today, based on cooperation and integration between the state and its citizens.

He also worked to improve the kingdom's social and economic conditions by prioritizing education, establishing schools and institutes, sending educational missions abroad, and encouraging the printing of books, particularly Arabic and Islamic works. He devoted considerable attention to the Two Holy Mosques, their development, and the service of Haj and Umrah pilgrims.

In 1357 AH (1938 CE), oil was discovered in the Eastern Province, boosting the resources that contributed to the kingdom's development and prosperity. The founding king laid a solid foundation, leaving future generations a valuable legacy rooted in the principle of unification, which continues to stand in security and stability to this day.

The kingdom's monarchs have, across generations, sustained their efforts in construction, education, progress, and prosperity, leading up to the current era under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King

Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud and Crown Prince and Prime Minister, a period defined by a continuous commitment to work and development.

Saudi Arabia's 96th National Day marks a promising milestone in reaffirming its status as a leading investment destination that attracts both domestic and global capital and serves as a strategic opportunity to highlight the economic and legislative achievements realized under Saudi Vision 2030; achievements that have contributed to improving the business environment and bolstering confidence in the Saudi market as one of the region's largest and fastest-growing markets.

New milestones

The transformations taking place in the kingdom can no longer be interpreted solely through mega-projects or economic figures; rather, they are also measured by the kingdom's advanced standing in international indices and rankings that track economic efficiency, the quality of government performance, the level of digital transformation, innovation capacity, cybersecurity, and the attractiveness of the investment environment.

The kingdom has achieved a new milestone in global competitiveness rankings,

securing 13th place out of 70 economies in the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Yearbook 2026, rising four places from the previous year, underscoring its continued progress across global economic indicators. Additionally, the kingdom ranked third among the Group of 20 (G20), surpassing most members, reflecting the rapid advancement of its business environment and national economy.

The kingdom recorded notable improvements across several competitiveness pillars, advancing from 17th to 12th place in economic performance, from 17th to 12th in government efficiency, and from 12th to 9th in business efficiency, while also improving its infrastructure ranking from 31st to 28th place.

According to the report, the kingdom ranked among the global leaders in several sub-indicators, securing the top spot in areas such as commercial service export growth, terms of trade, banking and financial service support for business activities, corporate cybersecurity, and the number of internet users. The kingdom also ranked second globally in indicators measuring social cohesion, early-stage entrepreneurship, and responsiveness to the need for economic and social reforms, as well as in public-private partnerships supporting technological development. At the same time, the kingdom ranked third globally in indicators related to government policy adaptability, public finance efficiency, policy transparency, legislative support for business formation, and industrial electricity costs, as well as indicators concerning governance and regulatory compliance.

The Saudi economy recorded real growth of 4.5% in 2025, while gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices reached approximately \$1.275tn, and Net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows totaled around \$32.5bn. Data from the report 'The

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: The Heart of the Gulf Economy and a Partner in Shaping the Future', issued by the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat) in collaboration with Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT), revealed that non-oil activities accounted for 72.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while the non-oil private sector's contribution reached 54%, reflecting the growing role of productive and service sectors in the Saudi economy. These indicators come as the kingdom continues to strengthen its economic presence regionally and internationally, while contributing to the Gulf integration process through trade, investment, the movement of people, energy, technology, and other sectors.

Gulf integration

As an indication of expanding commercial activity, the kingdom's volume of merchandise trade reached approximately \$565.3bn in 2025, reflecting this growth and the kingdom's increasing importance in regional and international trade. Regarding Gulf integration, data showed increased movement of individuals, labour, and investment between the kingdom and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries; Saudi entry points recorded the arrival of 9.1mn GCC citizens in 2024, while the number of GCC citizens employed in the kingdom's private sector reached approximately 7,690. In the financial market, the number of GCC shareholders in the Saudi stock market reached approximately 5,749, alongside 353 companies listed for GCC trading, reflecting the expansion of investment and ownership activities among citizens of the Council's member states. In 2016, Saudi Vision 2030 was announced to diversify non-oil revenue sources, and since then, numerous Vision initiatives have been implemented, yielding clear positive results and performance exceeding expectations, including significant economic reforms.

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‘We remain deeply convinced that crisis in the Gulf can be resolved through diplomatic means’

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani addressed the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York, yesterday. Here is the full text of the speech

Honourable audience,
May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you, I extend my congratulations to HE Mr Khalilur Rahman on his assumption of the Presidency of this session, and wish him every success. I also thank HE Ms Annalena Baerbock for her efforts in presiding over the work of the previous session. I would also like to commend the efforts and endeavors of HE Mr António Guterres, the Secretary-General, throughout his term of office, and to express our appreciation to the staff of the United Nations organization for their efforts amid difficult and complex circumstances. I stand before you today at a time when our region is going through one of its most dangerous phases, and you are all aware of the dimensions of the crisis in the Gulf and its repercussions for the entire world.

The crisis we are currently facing should come as no surprise to anyone. It is the cumulative result of years of postponement, crisis management through temporary solutions, and unrealistic policies. Our perspective has always been that the way to resolve disputes is through dialogue and negotiations, leading to fair solutions grounded in international law and in respect for the sovereignty of states and the rights of peoples. This remains our position in the aftermath of the wars we have witnessed. The State of Qatar, through its role as a trusted mediator and peace facilitator, has consistently warned that time does not resolve lingering conflicts in the absence of a just settlement; rather, it redoubles their costs.

Honourable audience,
At the heart of the dangerous situation we are witnessing lies the absence of a regional system of collective security – one that respects the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of states, promotes the peaceful settlement of disputes, and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. We have previously called – from this very podium – for the establishment of such a system, and we reiterate that call after recent events have demonstrated the urgent need for it. In its absence, it has become possible for a war to erupt on the basis of considerations unrelated to the interests of the countries of the region; and it has become possible for one party to drag its neighbours into a war that is not theirs, targeting their vital assets and installations despite their strenuous efforts to avert escalation; and for an international waterway – through which nearly a quarter of the world’s energy trade passes – to be closed. It has also become possible for the lifelines of the global economy to be turned into instruments of pressure and



“Our perspective has always been that the way to resolve disputes is through dialogue and negotiations, leading to fair solutions grounded in international law and in respect for the sovereignty of states and the rights of peoples. This remains our position in the aftermath of the wars we have witnessed”

bargaining, with people on every continent bearing the cost, despite being far removed from the causes of the conflict. This is a crisis that drives up the prices of food and medicine and affects the livelihoods of peoples who have nothing to do with any of this. Despite all that has happened, and could have been avoided, we remain deeply convinced, based on realistic considerations, that the crisis in the Gulf can be resolved through diplomatic means by reopening the Strait of Hormuz to maritime navigation and returning to negotiations, in order to avert war, paving the way toward a lasting solution that ensures security and stability for the entire region, including Iran, while opening prospects for cooperation across various fields and ensuring non-interference in the internal affairs of states. The opportunity for a peaceful diplomatic solution, which we believe is both possible and realistic, must not be missed.

Honourable audience,
While we are doing everything within our power to address the situation through diplomatic efforts, we have strengthened our steadfastness in defence of our sovereignty, our territory and our people, and the foundations of our normal way of life. We have devised resilient economic plans and remained committed to our development projects, despite the severe adverse impact of the war and the heavy price it has exacted. At every juncture and in every crisis, we have chosen to combine steadfastness with flexibility, and to place the interests of our nation, its people, and those residing on its soil above all else. Our values are not mere slogans we proclaim, but a reality we live by and an approach we put into practice. At their core is the conviction that the dignity of the nation cannot be compromised, and that wisdom and firmness are two sides of the same coin.

This approach was firmly established in our country by the leaders of Qatar, from the Founder, Sheik Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, through to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, may Allah have mercy on his soul, our Amir from 1995 to 2013, who passed away this year, mourned with profound affection and gratitude by his people and by all peace-loving forces across our region and around the world. On this occasion, I would like to thank the United Nations General Assembly for convening a special session in honour of his memory and in recognition of his legacy. The experiences and challenges we have confronted have demonstrated that resilience is the outcome of prior planning, preparedness and investment in people and national capabilities. Accordingly, over the years, we have worked to assess risks, secure supply chains, strengthen the capabilities of our national institutions, develop strategic reserves, and forge trusted international partnerships. Recognizing the interdependence of peace, security, development, human rights and the rule of law, the State of Qatar maintains its investment in development, education, health, security and economic diversification, in conformity with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Honourable audience,
There can be no talk of a just international order so long as Palestine remains a blind spot within it. What has happened in Gaza is genocide in every sense of the word, and a stain of shame on the conscience of humanity as a whole. Future generations will be astonished by the enormous gap between the scale of the catastrophe and the level of the international response to stop it. Yet the catastrophe continues, and Israeli leaders have now begun to openly proclaim that the most appropriate solution is to displace the population, which

they call “migration”. When the extent of global public revulsion at the practices of the Israeli occupation becomes evident, instead of looking in the mirror, they resort to hurling accusations indiscriminately in all directions – at times invoking accusations of antisemitism, and at others resorting to conspiracy theories and accusing other powers and states of creating their negative image. It’s as though there were no means of communication; as though Israeli soldiers had not boasted, through both sound and visuals, of their crimes; and as though images of the crimes against humanity committed in Gaza had not been circulated by an entire generation of young people across the world, east and west. From the very first day, the State of Qatar has spared no effort in its mediation endeavours to stem the bloodshed, alleviate the suffering of civilians, and release the prisoners and detainees until a ceasefire was achieved. Today, we continue our efforts to consolidate it and to move towards lasting peace. And if the Palestinian factions tend to agree to arrangements for the collection of weapons, as stipulated in the agreement, Israel, for its part, must fully honour all its commitments and in their entirety: a definitive cessation of operations, withdrawal from the Strip, lifting of the blockade, and the unconditional delivery of humanitarian assistance. We fear that those who regard displacement as the solution will obstruct anything that could ease the lives of the population, because it strengthens their resilience on their own land. The international community bears a direct responsibility to press for implementation and to ensure that the agreement’s implementation does not remain contingent upon the calculations of a party accustomed to reneging on its commitments whenever circumstances allow it to act with impunity on the ground. The continued persecution, apartheid and settler terrorism in the occupied West Bank, the desecration of Islamic and

Christian holy sites – foremost among them the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque – and the usurpation of the Palestinian people’s rights, foremost among which is their inalienable right to establish their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, remain an open wound. Israeli aggression, marked by arrogance and hubris, has expanded to encompass neighbouring countries and the security of the region as a whole. Israel continues its blatant attacks against Syria and is occupying more Syrian territories and adding them to the Golan Heights, which it has occupied since 1967, without even bothering to provide any justification other than its own assessment of the nature of the political system that emerged there after the removal of the previous regime – as though it owns tutelage over the countries of the region. It publicly declares that it is not bound by its understandings with Lebanon, insists on continuing its occupation of Lebanese territories, and seeks to assume a policing role there. Its destruction of entire villages in southern Lebanon in broad daylight is reminiscent of its history in Palestine. Dealing with Israel, putting an end to its harm, and restraining its unlawful conduct constitute the true test of the international community’s seriousness in upholding values and the rule of law. Either the law applies equally to all, or it loses its meaning when it binds the vulnerable but spares the powerful.

“There can be no talk of a just international order so long as Palestine remains a blind spot within it. What has happened in Gaza is genocide in every sense of the word, and a stain of shame on the conscience of humanity as a whole. Future generations will be astonished by the enormous gap between the scale of the catastrophe and the level of the international response to stop it”

Honourable audience,
In our Arab region, we reaffirm that comprehensive development and the establishment of state institutions are two fundamental pillars for realizing the aspirations of peoples and achieving security and stability in the region. The vestiges of civil conflicts in some countries and the presence of armed forces operating outside the control of the state must be eliminated. The state’s monopoly on legitimate arms is among the most important foundations of the state, and it is what guarantees the ability to legislate and enforce the rule of law. Concerning brotherly Syria, we stand with its people during the phase of recovery and reconstruction, and support its state institutions, sovereignty, independence, and national and territorial integrity, in a manner that fulfils the aspirations of the Syrian people for stability, development and dignity, based on equal citizenship. In brotherly Sudan, we call for an inclusive dialogue that leads to sustainable peace and maintains its unity and sovereignty. In brotherly Libya, we support the political process, reconciliation efforts, and the unification of State institutions. In brotherly Somalia, we reiterate our firm support for its sovereignty, unity and territorial

integrity. In brotherly Lebanon, we support its state institutions and its sovereignty over its entire territory, condemn the Israeli attacks on it, and stress the need to uphold the ceasefire and Security Council Resolution 1701. In brotherly Yemen, we support United Nations efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive political settlement based on the outcomes of the national dialogue facilitated by the United Nations, in a manner that preserves Yemen’s unity and sovereignty and achieves security and stability.

Honourable audience,
The State of Qatar does not confine itself to playing a mediating role and facilitating dialogue among conflicting parties in the pursuit of peaceful solutions. We also make efforts to address the humanitarian suffering of people caused by wars and natural disasters, while supporting human development in numerous countries across our region and beyond. This combination of safeguarding our vital interests, pursuing our proven, valued and internationally recognised role in mediation and humanitarian action, and upholding principled positions consistent with international law and international legitimacy constitutes the foundation of our foreign policy, with these four elements as its essential components. Qatar will remain an open realm for dialogue and cultural interaction among peoples, and for the exchange of views

and experiences. We continue to contribute to international initiatives that bring peoples together and support development. In this spirit, Doha is preparing to host the Fourth Global Disability Summit in 2028, reaffirming our commitment to empowering persons with disabilities and building inclusive societies. Qatar will also host the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup, in recognition of the role of sport in building bridges of communication and bringing peoples closer together. The expansion of the United Nations House in Doha marks a continuation of our longstanding partnership with the international organization and an enhancement of its capacity to fulfil its mission of serving peace, development and human rights. Peaceful coexistence and dialogue are not merely one option among many; they are the only path that leaves neither a victor nor a vanquished. For this reason, we renew our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and its purposes, and affirm that the State of Qatar will always strive for peace and facilitate its achievement. Thank you. May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you. (QNA)

From Page 1

While pursuing diplomacy, Qatar had strengthened its defences to protect its sovereignty, territory, people and normal way of life. It had devised resilient economic plans and maintained development projects despite the war’s severe impact and heavy costs, His Highness said. HH the Amir said Qatar combined steadfastness with flexibility, placing the interests of its nation, citizens and residents above all else. Its values reflected a conviction that national dignity could not be compromised and that wisdom and firmness were inseparable. “This approach was firmly established in our country by the leaders of Qatar, from the Founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, through to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, may Allah have mercy on his soul, our Amir from 1995 to 2013, who passed away this year, mourned with profound affection and gratitude by his people and by all peace-loving forces across our region and around the world.” “On this occasion, I would like to thank the United Nations General Assembly for convening a special session in honour of his memory and in recognition of his legacy.” Resilience, His Highness said, resulted from planning, preparedness and investment in people and national capabilities. Qatar had assessed risks, secured supply chains, strengthened

Amir calls for return to negotiations

institutions, developed strategic reserves and built trusted international partnerships. It continued investing in development, education, health, security and economic diversification under Qatar National Vision 2030, recognising their connection with peace, human rights and the rule of law. Turning to Palestine, HH the Amir said there could be no just international order while it remained a blind spot. He described what had happened in Gaza as “genocide in every sense of the word” and a stain on humanity’s conscience. Future generations would be astonished by the gulf between the catastrophe’s scale and the international response, he said, warning that Israeli leaders were openly advocating displacement under the label of “migration”. He criticised attempts to deflect global revulsion through accusations of antisemitism and conspiracy theories, despite images of atrocities circulating worldwide and Israeli soldiers recording and boasting of their actions. Qatar had worked from the outset to stop bloodshed, ease civilian suffering and secure the release of prisoners and detainees until a ceasefire was achieved. Its efforts now focused on consolidating that ceasefire and advancing lasting peace. HH the Amir added, “If Palestinian

factions moved towards accepting arrangements for collecting weapons under the agreement, Israel must honour all its obligations: permanently ending operations, withdrawing from Gaza, lifting the blockade and allowing unconditional humanitarian assistance.” His Highness warned that advocates of displacement could obstruct improvements to daily life because these strengthened Palestinians’ ability to remain on their land. The international community bore direct responsibility for ensuring implementation, rather than leaving it dependent on a party accustomed to reneging on commitments when able to act with impunity. His Highness condemned persecution, apartheid and settler terrorism in the occupied West Bank, violations of Islamic and Christian holy sites, particularly al-Aqsa Mosque, and the denial of Palestinian rights, including an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Israeli aggression had also expanded across the region, His Highness said, citing attacks on Syria and the occupation of additional territory alongside the Golan Heights, occupied since 1967. HH the Amir accused Israel of claiming authority over neighbouring countries’ political choices, disregarding understandings with Lebanon, maintaining

its occupation of Lebanese territory and destroying entire southern villages. “Restraining Israel’s unlawful conduct was a test of international commitment to the rule of law. That law lost its meaning if it constrained the vulnerable while exempting the powerful.” Across the Arab region, His Highness identified development and strong state institutions as essential to stability. Armed forces outside state control must be eliminated, with the state retaining a monopoly on legitimate arms. His Highness reaffirmed support for Syria’s recovery, reconstruction, institutions, sovereignty and territorial integrity, with stability and dignity founded on equal citizenship. Qatar supported inclusive dialogue for sustainable peace in Sudan, reconciliation and unified institutions in Libya, and Somalia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. In Lebanon, it backed state authority throughout the country, condemned Israeli attacks and urged adherence to the ceasefire and UN Security Council Resolution 1701. In Yemen, Qatar supported UN efforts towards a comprehensive political settlement based on the UN-facilitated national dialogue’s outcomes, preserving unity and sovereignty. HH the Amir said Qatar’s foreign policy

combined safeguarding vital interests, mediation, humanitarian action and principled positions consistent with international law and legitimacy. Its work extended beyond facilitating negotiations to relieving suffering caused by war and natural disasters and supporting human development across the region and beyond. His Highness assured Qatar would remain open to dialogue, cultural interaction and exchanges of experience. Doha’s preparations to host the Fourth Global Disability Summit in 2028 reflected its commitment to empowering persons with disabilities and building inclusive societies. Hosting the 2027 FIBA Basketball World Cup likewise recognised sport’s ability to connect peoples. Expansion of the United Nations House in Doha would strengthen the organisation’s work for peace, development and human rights. HH the Amir congratulated General Assembly President Khalilur Rahman, thanked his predecessor Annalena Baerbock and commended Secretary-General António Guterres and UN staff for their work amid difficult circumstances. Reaffirming Qatar’s commitment to the UN Charter, he said peaceful coexistence and dialogue offered the only path leaving neither victor nor vanquished. The session was attended by HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and members of the official delegation accompanying the Amir.



QF fosters global dialogue on tradition, progress at UNGA

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

As the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly takes place, Qatar Foundation (QF) has fostered a global dialogue at Goals House in New York on how inherited knowledge, cultural identity, and local wisdom can help address some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Titled 'Tradition Meets Tomorrow', and bringing together representatives from the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada, Aga Khan Foundation, Harvard Business School, Smithsonian Science Education Centre, and other international institutions, the interactive gathering at Tavern on the Green in the US city's Central Park reflected the spirit of the traditional Qatari majlis while aligning with the mission of Goals House. On this convening platform, leaders from business, government, philanthropy, academia, and civil society tackle global challenges through collaboration and dialogue.

The discussion opened with reflections on how QF draws on heritage as a foundation for innovation and long-term development. It explored how communities can navigate complex global challenges by combining cultural values with forward-looking solutions, while emphasising a message that resonated throughout the majlis: every society possesses a rich inheritance of knowledge, traditions, and values that can guide future innovation and development.

Sheikha Aisha al-Thani, manager of Strategic Curation, QF



Dr Samie Kayani, Sustainable Urbanism Specialist at QF's Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future.

said: "We often think of progress as something new, something that has never been done before. But I think it can be helpful to see progress as cyclical, drawing on the knowledge and traditions passed down through generations and applying them to today's challenges."

The conversation also focused on the future of cities and sustainability in a session featuring experts from global and regional organisations, including QF's Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future.

"Climate is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity, but it cannot be the only lens through which we shape our cities," Hélène Chartier, director of Urban Planning and Design, C40 Cities, said. "When we transform a place, we must think not only about sustainability, but also about its social function, mobility, and the everyday needs of people."

Dr Samie Kayani, sustainable urbanism specialist, Earthna, explained, "We work closely with government partners to co-create

projects that respond to local needs, because there is no one-size-fits-all solution. When we talk about traditional knowledge, the first step is understanding how it can be applied in ways that are relevant and impactful for each community."

Reinforcing knowledge as a driver of progress, the majlis also explored how education systems can remain rooted in culture, values, and identity while preparing young people for an increasingly complex future.

Speakers from QF's Pre-University Education and other value-based schools, alongside international partners, discussed how values-based education can be embedded across learning environments while remaining responsive to contemporary challenges.

"Progressive education is often associated with what is newest. At Qatar Foundation, we are helping to frame progress differently - recognising that heritage, values and inherited knowledge are not barriers to innovation,

but part of the knowledge we innovate from," Elizabeth Kennedy, director of Academyati, a QF school, said.

Maryam al-Hajri, executive director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships at QF's Pre-University Education, said: "Heritage is not separate from the future, it is part of who we are. By helping teachers integrate local knowledge, culture, and lived experiences into the classroom, we can bridge heritage and future aspirations and equip students to help shape the world ahead."

Alison Watson, founder of Class Of Your Own and Creator of Design Engineer Construct! Learning Programme, said construction and the built environment should play a greater role in school curricula.

"Education needs to have a purpose, and construction offers a powerful way to connect learning to the real world, helping young people see how the knowledge and skills they gain in school can be used to solve challenges and shape the future," she added.



UDST hosts Sustainable Development Workshop

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) successfully hosted a full-day Sustainable Development Workshop as part of the Sustainability Nexus Initiative, a collaborative platform designed to advance environmental awareness, education, and action through meaningful engagement between academia and industry.

Held at the UDST campus, the workshop brought together experts, industry professionals, faculty and students to explore key sustainability challenges and practical solutions through interactive discussions and knowledge-sharing opportunities.

The workshop formed one of the three pillars of the Sustainability Nexus Initiative, which was established to bridge academic knowledge with real-world industrial applications.

The initiative supports environmental stewardship while fostering innovation, technical capacity building, and collaboration on sustainability-focused solutions.

The workshop addressed a range of sustainability topics, including renewable energy, waste management, sustainable business practices, and environmentally responsible planning. Participants benefited from expert-led panel discussions, hands-on learning opportunities, and a student exhibition showcasing innovative projects and research to address environmental challenges.

Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST, said: "Sustainability is a shared responsibility that requires collaboration across sectors and disciplines. Through the Sustainability Nexus Initiative, we are creating valuable opportunities for students, academics, and industry professionals to exchange ideas, develop practical solutions, and contribute to



Qatar's sustainability ambitions.

"This workshop reflects our commitment to applied learning and our role in preparing future leaders capable of addressing environmental challenges through innovation and collaboration."

The workshop attracted participants from leading organisations across the public and private sectors, creating a platform for meaningful dialogue and stronger partnerships to support sustainable development goals.

The event also reinforced the role of higher education and industry collaboration in advancing national priorities related to environmental responsibility, innovation, and capacity building.

Aligned with the National Development Strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030, the workshop supported efforts to promote sustainable resource management, strengthen knowledge-based capabilities, and advance partnerships that contribute to long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

It also highlighted the importance of collective action in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including clean energy, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, climate action, and partnerships for sustainable development.



WCM-Q students build AI model for cardiac monitoring

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

A Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) medical student and an alumna have presented research exploring the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and wearable technology to support early detection of cardiac abnormalities outside the hospital setting.

Dounia Baroudi and Dr Amal Alnaemi presented their short research paper, WearAware: A Wearable-Based Early Warning Framework for Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Risk Monitoring, at the 24th International Conference on Informatics, Management, and Technology in Healthcare (ICIMTH), held in Athens, Greece. Baroudi is currently a first-year medical student, while Dr Alnaemi graduated in May 2026.

The project began as a challenge set by Dr Arfan Ahmed, assistant professor of research in population health sciences and director of wearable AI for precision health, as part of a hackathon organised by the WCM-Q AI Centre for Precision Health in 2025. Following the hackathon, Dr Ahmed mentored the pair as they developed the initial concept into a research project and then a peer-



Dounia Baroudi, a first-year medical student at WCM-Q.

reviewed conference paper.

Dr Ahmed said: "Empowering and mentoring the next generation is one of our core philosophies at the AI Centre, and this project shows why it matters. AI has changed the landscape completely. What once required in-depth coding and computer science expertise no longer does, and we now have medical students here in Qatar building their own AI models."

"With their clinical domain knowledge and sheer motivation, they are often the ones best placed to push the boundaries. Seeing Dounia and Amal break through these glass ceilings and carry their



Dr Arfan Ahmed

idea all the way to an international peer-reviewed publication makes me immensely proud, and tells me we are ahead of the game."

The paper notes that cardiovascular disease remains a major cause of illness and death, with many cardiac events occurring outside healthcare settings where monitoring and access to care is limited.

Combining wearable technologies with AI-assisted analysis could help detect relevant cardiovascular signals earlier in out-of-hospital settings, warn wearers to seek medical care, and improve overall cardiovascular risk management. The WearAware system combines

a smart patch, clinician portal, and AI alerts for continuous remote cardiac monitoring. Initial ECG testing showed 82.7% accuracy.

Baroudi said: "Working on WearAware showed me how an idea that begins during a hackathon can develop into something much more meaningful through research, collaboration and mentorship. Presenting our work internationally in Athens was a rewarding opportunity to share what we had learned and to see how our project could contribute to the wider conversation around AI and digital health."

The authors emphasise that WearAware is currently a proof of concept, not a clinically validated system. The project illustrates WCM-Q's commitment to providing students with opportunities to explore emerging technologies and develop research skills that connect medical education with the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Dr Ahmed, Dr Alnaemi, and Baroudi are all named authors of the paper, along with Dr Eniola Olaleye, an AI systems engineer at Cornell University in the US. The paper, published in *Studies in Health Technology and Informatics*, a leading Scopus-indexed journal, can be read in full here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.3233/SHTI260839>

The tuba finds its voice in Qatar-Mexico cultural exchange

■ Colombian-born principal tuba player highlights the instrument's role in Mexican music while celebrating QPO's multicultural character and Qatar Museums' Year of Culture

By Joey Aguilar
Doha

The tuba may not always occupy the spotlight, but Richard Alberto Alonso Diaz knows how much character it can bring to an orchestra. For the Colombian-born principal tuba player of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO), performing Mexican repertoire also carries a personal connection, recalling childhood memories of rancheras and the powerful brass traditions that shaped his early musical environment.

Years before he became a professional musician, Alonso Diaz was already familiar with the sounds that would later become part of his artistic life.

"I still remember being a child and hearing my father listening

to rancheras at home while he got together with his friends," he said. "Without knowing that I would eventually become a musician, I was already surrounded by the sound of trumpets, guitarons and brass instruments playing those beautiful Mexican melodies."

That memory has stayed with him, making the opportunity to perform Mexican music with the QPO particularly meaningful.

The orchestra's Sounds of Mexico programme, presented as part of the Qatar-Canada-Mexico 2026 Year of Culture, brought together music marked by strong rhythms, colour and distinctive cultural influences.

For Alonso Diaz, Mexican music has "a very special energy, rhythmic richness and identity." What made the experience particularly interesting was seeing musicians from different nationalities approach Mexican rhythms and melodies through their own musical perspectives.

"'Sounds of Mexico' is a programme full of colour, energy and contrast," he said. "For me, it is a beautiful example of what music can achieve: bringing people from



Richard Alberto Alonso Diaz

all over the world together with a shared purpose, making music for our audience."

However, the principal tuba player said the repertoire also presents considerable technical demands. Mexico's strong brass-band and mariachi traditions give the tuba an important role in shaping the sound, but Alonso Diaz said performing the repertoire requires precision and control.

"The repertoire demands a high

level of rhythmic precision, as well as great control of sound, articulation and colour," he said. "For me, that combination makes it challenging, exciting and incredibly rewarding to play."

His approach to the repertoire reflects a career spent moving between different musical cultures.

Originally from Colombia, Alonso Diaz has performed extensively in Latin America and Europe. In Argentina, he served as principal tuba player with the Buenos Aires Philharmonic Orchestra of Teatro Colón and the Opera Orchestra of the La Plata Theatre. He has also collaborated with ensembles including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Staatskapelle Berlin, the Western Divan Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Komische Oper Berlin and the Iceland Symphony Orchestra.

Those experiences have taught him that musical interpretation is rarely confined to one cultural or artistic perspective.

"Working with musicians from different countries, cultures and musical traditions has shown me that there is never only one way

to understand or express music," he said.

Perhaps the most important lesson, he added, is learning to listen.

"In an orchestra, you have to listen, adapt and understand your colleagues in order to create something together," he said.

That principle has become especially relevant in Qatar, where the QPO brings together musicians from around the world.

"With musicians from all over the world, every person brings a different perspective, and that creates an incredible artistic richness," Alonso Diaz said.

His experience with the QPO has also changed how he sees his role as an international performer. He describes the orchestra as an internationally recognised symphonic institution with high artistic standards and a pioneering role in the region.

More importantly, he said, being part of the QPO has allowed him to join a genuinely international artistic community.

Whenever he travels and mentions that he is a QPO musician, he said, people often ask about Qatar,

the orchestra and its culture.

"They are often genuinely fascinated to discover what a wonderful place Qatar is to live and how exceptional the orchestra is," he said.

For Alonso Diaz, however, the most significant aspect of his experience in Qatar has been witnessing people from different backgrounds commit to the same artistic goal.

"The most important thing I have learned here is the love and dedication of a group of people coming together to make music," he said.

That experience has reaffirmed his belief that music can serve as a meeting point between cultures. It is also why the Year of Culture carries particular significance for him. He sees the QPO's Mexican programme not simply as an opportunity to perform another national repertoire, but as a way of bringing audiences and artists closer through music.

The Qatar-Canada-Mexico 2026 Year of Culture, he said, provides an opportunity to "bring our cultures closer together through music and create meaningful connections between audiences and artists."