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US, Iran 'still apart in peace talks'

Reuters
UN

Iran and the United States remain far apart on how to end their war but diplomacy must continue, a senior Iranian official told Reuters yesterday, after Iran's president told the UN General Assembly that Tehran would never surrender to US pressure. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in his speech in New York, condemned what he called "signs of a bullying mentality" from US President Donald Trump, who had used the same forum on Tuesday to threaten to "annihilate" Iran. The duelling speeches at the annual UN gathering bookended the first shuttle talks between the US and Iran for months, though they appeared to have yielded no concessions in the public stance of either side towards ending the war. The senior Iranian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tehran was reviewing Washington's response to its peace proposals, which prioritise lifting a US naval blockade on Iranian ports and reopening the Strait of Hormuz. "There are still many differences between the Iranian and US positions, but diplomacy is continuing," the official said. **To Page 10**



PM condemns Israel's rejection of Gaza plan at high-level meeting

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has reiterated Qatar's condemnation of Israel's publicly declared rejection of the roadmap for completing implementation of US President Donald Trump's comprehensive plan to end the conflict in Gaza. The prime minister urged the international community to assume its responsibilities and pressure Israel to fulfil its obligations under the Gaza ceasefire agreement and halt its ongoing violations of the rights of the Palestinian people, so that the roadmap is fully implemented and peace and stability are ultimately achieved in the Gaza Strip. He was addressing a closed-door meeting at the level of heads of state and government, convened by French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Andy Burnham and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The prime minister reaffirmed Qatar's firm and steadfast support for the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to an independent state along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and the two-state solution. **(QNA)**

Amir's condolences conveyed to Dubai ruler



His Highness the Personal Representative of HH the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani conveyed the condolences of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to UAE Vice-President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum on the demise of Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid al-Maktoum. At the Zabeel Majlis in Dubai yesterday, His Highness Sheikh Jassim also offered condolences to Dubai Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum and members of the al-Maktoum family. He prayed to Allah to have mercy on the deceased, grant him a place in paradise and bestow patience and solace upon his family. His Highness Sheikh Jassim was accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE Sheikh Jassim bin Khalifa al-Thani and a number of sheikhs. **(QNA)**

Cabinet endorses Amir's call for collective security in the region

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Cabinet has endorsed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's call for a regional collective security system, reaffirming the country's commitment to defending its sovereignty and resolving disputes through dialogue. Meeting yesterday at the Amiri Diwan, the Cabinet praised the Amir's address to the opening session of the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York yesterday, saying it reflected Qatar's firmly established principles and positions. HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani chaired the meeting. In a statement afterwards, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi said the Cabinet highlighted the speech's

emphasis on wisdom, steadfastness and firmness in protecting Qatar's territory, dignity and sovereignty. It said the approach established by Qatar's leaders combined resolve with flexibility, placing the interests of the nation, its citizens and residents above all else. The Cabinet welcomed the Amir's reaffirmation of Qatar's efforts to defend the rights of peoples and pursue peaceful solutions to disputes and crises threatening regional security and global peace. It supported his call for a regional security framework based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful dispute resolution and non-interference in states' internal affairs. The Cabinet also renewed Qatar's strongest condemnation of the Houthi drone attack on Makkah, describing any violation of the sanctity of Islam's holiest site as reprehensible aggression that crossed religious, moral and humanitarian red lines and provoked Muslims worldwide. It condemned the group's drone attack on Taif, ballistic missile attack on Riyadh

and attempts to target civilians and civilian facilities in Bisha, Taif, Farasan and Yanbu. Reaffirming full solidarity with Saudi Arabia, the Cabinet backed all legitimate measures to protect its sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and Islamic holy sites. Saudi security, it stressed, was integral to Qatar's security and that of the GCC. The Cabinet approved a draft law implementing the unified GCC framework for international road transport and referred it to the Shura Council. Prepared by the Ministry of Transport, it seeks to harmonise regulations, improve road safety, facilitate passenger and goods transport and strengthen regional economic integration. It also approved draft decisions implementing Law No 3 of 2025 regulating travel and air cargo agencies. These establish licensing conditions, agency obligations and classification rules to improve services and protect customers. A draft strategic co-operation agreement with Albania covering areas of mutual interest was also approved.

Qatar welcomes Belgium-Rwanda reconciliation

Qatar has welcomed Belgium and Rwanda's joint decision to restore diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies, describing it as a positive step reflecting their commitment to resolving differences through dialogue and mutual understanding. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recalled that Doha hosted the first meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers in June 2025 as part of Qatar's efforts to bring their positions closer. That meeting opened the door to direct dialogue and paved the way for further meetings and contacts that culminated in the restoration of diplomatic relations, the ministry said. It also expressed Qatar's appreciation for both countries' recognition of its role in the process. The ministry praised the constructive approach taken by Belgium and Rwanda to address differences and clear up misunderstandings. It voiced hope that renewed diplomatic relations would create fresh opportunities for co-operation and support regional and international peace and stability. The ministry reiterated Qatar's firm belief that direct dialogue and diplomacy offer the best path to resolving differences between states, reaffirming its continued support for efforts to bridge divisions and settle disputes peacefully. **(QNA)**

Al-Athba powers Qatar to skeet double gold

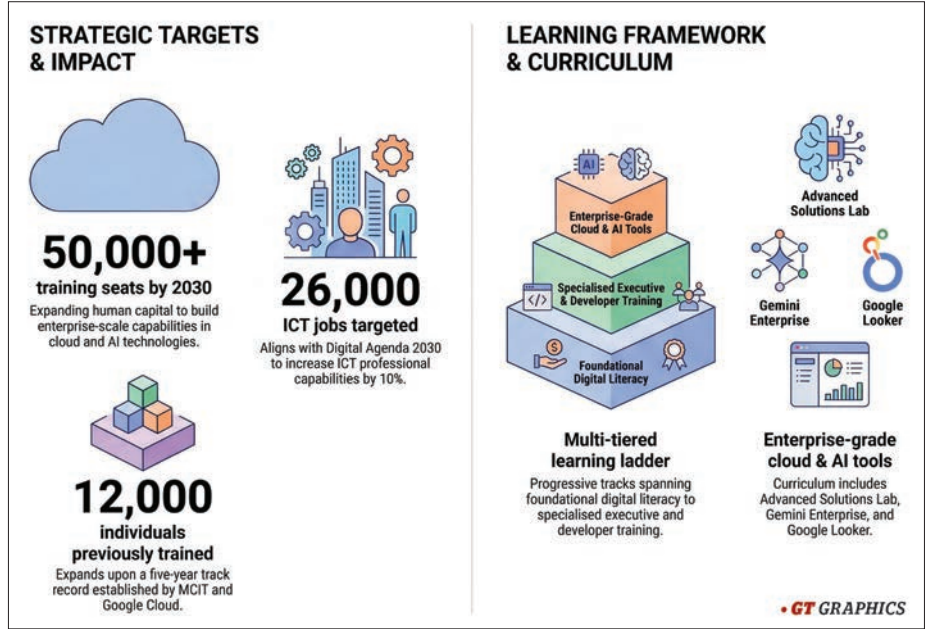


Rashid Saleh al-Athba (left) won the men's skeet gold medal with an Asian record of 34 hits, leading Qatar to team gold at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan. Al-Athba produced a superb display of precision, missing just two targets in the final at the Aichi Prefectural General Shooting Gallery. China's Lyu Jianlin, a Paris 2024 mixed team bronze medallist, took silver with 33 hits, while Chinese Taipei's Lee Meng-Yuan claimed bronze with 29. Earlier, Al-Athba, Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah and Ali Ahmed al-Ishaq secured Qatar's first gold medal of the Games in the team event. Qatar topped the standings with 353 points, ahead of Kuwait on 348 and India on 346. HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Olympic Council of Asia and Qatar Olympic Committee, presented the gold medals to Qatar's national shooting team. Qatar's medal tally now stands at four, with two gold, one silver and one bronze.

Qatar teams up with Google to skill 50,000 for AI age

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Qatar is set to train its workforce for the AI era on a large scale. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) has joined Google Cloud to launch a national upskilling drive that will open more than 50,000 training seats by 2030. Delivered through Qatar Digital Academy, the initiative will give professionals across the country hands-on command of artificial intelligence, cloud computing and other advanced digital technologies, the tools that are rapidly reshaping how economies work, compete and grow. The programme is built as a ladder rather than a single course. It starts with foundational digital literacy and climbs to specialised tracks for executives, technical professionals and developers, so that talent at every level can move from understanding new technologies to putting them to work. It is a central part of MCIT's push to develop human capital and build a deep pool of digital talent that can keep pace with fast-moving technology and meet the specialised



skills needs of sectors across the economy. HE the Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Industry Affairs at MCIT Reem Moham-

med al-Mansoori described capability-building as a cornerstone of Qatar's digital transformation. **To Page 10**



Amir participates in multilateral meeting held by the US in New York

QNA
New York

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani participated in a multilateral meeting convened by the United States of America at the United Nations headquarters in New York, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The meeting was attended by the US President Donald Trump, King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, President of the Syrian Arab Republic Ahmed al-Sharaa, President of the Republic of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan,

the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq Ali Faleh al-Zaidi, the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt Dr Mostafa Madbouly, the Prime Minister of the Lebanese Republic Dr Nawaf Salam, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan al-Saud, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman Badr al-Busaidi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid al-Zayani, and several senior of-



ficials and members of the delegations.

The meeting addressed the latest developments in the security situation in the Middle East, their repercussions for regional and

international security and stability, and their impact on energy supplies and the economy. The meeting also discussed proposed strategies for the post-war phase and related arrangements, and

reviewed ways to advance efforts to achieve peace and stability by prioritising dialogue and diplomatic solutions.

The meeting was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Min-

ister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, along with a number of members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

PM meets Egypt, Sweden and Germany FMs

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met separately yesterday with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Co-operation and Egyptian Expatriates of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt Dr Badr Abdelaty, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden Maria Malmer Stennergard, and the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany Johann Wadephul, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. During the meetings, they discussed co-operate latest regional developments, particularly stability in the region, in addition to several



Prime Minister meets chairman of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Scott M Stuart, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York. During the meeting, the two sides discussed co-operative relations and several topics of mutual concern. The meeting also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Public Health and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to establish a cancer treatment hospital in the State of Qatar. **(QNA)**



Minister meets several officials on margins of UNGA



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met separately with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia Tone Kajzer; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Solomon Islands Rick Houenipwela; the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland Robert Kupiecki; and the State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Nevena Jovanovic, on the margins of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The meetings discussed co-operative relations between Qatar and these countries, as well as ways to support and enhance them, alongside a number of topics of mutual interest.

(ONA)



Al-Misnad meets UN secretary-general's special representative for Afghanistan

HE the Minister of State for International Cooperation
Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met with
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for
Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance
Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) Rabab Fatima, on the
sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly
in New York. **(QNA)**



Al-Khulaifi meets officials on sidelines of UNGA

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi held separate meetings today on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

HE Dr al-Khulaifi met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Development Co-operation of the Kingdom of Belgium Maxime Prevot, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the Federal Republic of Somalia Ali Mohamed Omar, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye Musa Kulaklıkava.

The meetings discussed bilateral co-operation and ways to deepen and expand it, the latest developments in the region, and a range of issues of mutual interest. **(QNA)**



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Amir sends congratulations to Saudi king

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of his country's National Day. (QNA)

Qatar participates in Arab Interior Ministers Council Liaison Officers' meeting in Tunisia

The State of Qatar participated in the 6th Arab Interior Ministers Council Liaison Officers' meeting held at the council's General Secretariat headquarters in Tunisia. The meeting focused on issues related to criminal prosecution. The Qatari delegation was led by Assistant

Director of the Arab and International Police Communication Department at the Ministry of Interior, Major Staff Mohammed Abdullah al-Buainain.

Participants discussed various agenda items and adopted appropriate recommendations regarding them. (QNA)



Qatar Rail signs partnership agreement at InnoTrans 2026

Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) is showcasing its key projects and operational achievements since the launch of its services, through its participation in InnoTrans 2026 in Berlin under the umbrella of the Ministry of Transport.

Qatar Rail's participation underscores Qatar's notable achievements in developing a modern, integrated and sustainable rail transport system, while reaffirming the company's pivotal role in advancing the nation's public transportation network.

It also highlights Qatar Rail's expertise in the operation and management of the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram, delivering safe, reliable and accessible services that enhance connectivity, support sustainable mobility, and contribute to improved quality of life.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, Qatar Rail signed a new strategic partnership agreement with DB Engineering and Consulting, a subsidiary of Germany's Deutsche Bahn Group and a global specialist in engineering, consulting and project management for railway infrastructure and transport systems.

The agreement aims to strengthen coordination and the exchange of knowledge, technical expertise and best practices in the railway sector.

The agreement builds on the long-standing collaboration between the two companies and enables Qatar Rail to continue benefiting from DB Engineering and Consulting's industry knowledge and technical expertise.

Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Rail Jassim Mohammed al-Ansari stated: "The signing of this agreement marks a new step in our collaboration with DB Engineering and Consulting. It reflects our commitment to building strategic partnerships that enable knowledge exchange and access to specialised global expertise, supporting the continued development of Qatar's rail transport system and advancing operational efficiency and the passenger experience."

He added: "Our participation in InnoTrans 2026 within the State of Qatar's unified Transport Pavilion, highlights Qatar's progress in developing a modern, integrated and sustainable public transport system. The exhibition is also an im-

portant platform to engage with industry leaders, explore innovations in smart mobility, safety and maintenance, and discuss partnerships that strengthen Qatar's position on the global transport map."

A Qatar Rail delegation met with Hitachi Rail to explore rail innovations, taking a guided high-speed train tour and reviewing artificial intelligence applications in operations and maintenance to assess potential network integration.

At the accompanying exhibition, Qatar Rail showcased the Doha Metro and Lusail Tram projects.

The Doha Metro has surpassed 300mn passengers since its launch, reflecting strong public demand, operational efficiency, and a shift toward sustainable transport.

The company highlighted its success during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, where its integrated network efficiently managed peak spectator movement between stadiums and key destinations.

Qatar Rail also displayed its international awards in safety, sustainability, and operational excellence. (QNA)

Arab Anti-Corruption Convention concludes in Doha

The 6th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Arab Anti-Corruption Convention concluded in Doha yesterday following three days of deliberations.

Chaired by HE President of the Ad-

ministrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA) Hamad bin Nasser al-Misnad, the conference convened representatives from 21 member states alongside delegates from regional and international partner organisations.

The conference addressed comprehensive mechanisms for enhancing integrity, transparency, and anti-corruption frameworks, assessing the implementation of the convention while advancing inter-Arab cooperation and the exchange of institutional expertise.

In his closing address, HE al-Misnad expressed his gratitude to participating delegations and partners, saying the hosting of this conference in Qatar provided a renewed opportunity to affirm that combating corruption is a shared responsibility.

He added that enhancing integrity and transparency cannot be achieved through solitary efforts, but through cooperation, experience sharing, and the integration of roles across relevant institutions.

He noted that the discussions during the session and the accompanying Arab Forum highlighted the need to continuously develop corruption prevention tools and keep pace with institutional and technological shifts.

As this session concludes, he stressed, what has been achieved is not the end of efforts, but rather as the launchpad for a new phase of joint action, which requires all all to maintain the momentum created by the convention, strengthen cooperation mechanisms among states parties, and translate the agreements into concrete practices and initiatives.

HE the ACTA president reaffirmed Qatar's steadfast approach to supporting joint Arab action, pledging continued collaboration to strengthen institutional capabilities, exchange knowledge, and consolidate the values of accountability and the rule of law.

Al-Misnad noted that shared Arab values form a solid basis for advancing integrity and transparency, stressing that tackling corruption requires institutional, societal, and updated cooperative efforts to meet evolving challenges. (QNA)

almeera announces online shopping campaign offering customers 10% off

almeera has announced a new online shopping campaign offering customers 10% off eligible purchases from September 24-30, exclusively through the almeera application and website.

Customers can enjoy 10% off eligible orders with a minimum spend of QR100, with savings of up to QR100 per order. The offer can be used on a maximum of two orders per customer during the campaign period, allowing customers to save up to QR200 in total.

To benefit from the offer, customers must be registered wafa members. The discount will be automatically applied at checkout, making it simple for both existing and new customers to take advantage of the campaign.

The campaign gives customers another compelling reason to shop almeera online, combining meaningful savings with the convenience of accessing their everyday grocery needs wherever they are. The campaign is part of almeera's continued focus on growing its digital shopping experience, encouraging more customers to discover the convenience of shopping through the almeera application and website while benefiting from the same value, range and freshness they expect in-store. Online orders are fulfilled through almeera's extensive retail network, bringing the range, freshness and everyday value customers associate with almeera directly to them through its digital platforms.

The campaign forms part of almeera's continued investment in strengthening its digital shopping experience and making grocery shopping simpler, more convenient and more rewarding for customers.

The offer is valid on selected eligible products and excludes large home appliances, electronics, electronic accessories, mobile phones, products already on promotion and top-up cards. Terms and conditions apply.



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البنك: مصرف الريان (فرع حمد الكبير)

الحساب: 0003-127914-001

رقم الحساب المصرفي الدولي: QA68 MAFR 0000 0000 0003 127914 001

سويفت: MAFR QA QA

يرجى التواصل عبر: procurement@marafeq.qa.qa

البريد الإلكتروني: +974-4012-0358

الهاتف: +974-4012-0358

تحتفظ شركة مرافق قطر ذ.م.م بكامل حقها في تعديل شروط المناقصة في أي وقت بدون إبداء أسباب و/أو إلغاء المناقصة بدون أسباب وبدون أدنى مسؤولية عليها في هذا الصدد أيا كان نوعها أو مصدرها.

MARAFEQ Qatar LLC reserves its right to modify the terms and conditions of the tender advertisement and/or tender documents at any time, or cancelling the tender entirely, without justification or any liability on its part.

Final Liquidation Notice

Pursuant to the Appeal judgment issued by the Investment and Trade Court in Appeal No. APLCCOMCOM2026/00311

Appeal / Commercial Companies Disputes / Dissolution and Liquidation of the Company – Second Investment Appellate Circuit

The court-appointed judicial liquidator hereby announces the liquidation of the business activity of the following companies:

No.	Company Name	Commercial Registration No.	Establishment Registration No.
1	Oil Field Projects Development Company	24350	11599900
2	Nest Middle East Company	109399	11599903
3	O.T.S Cleaning, Testing and Services	109398	11599902
4	Transglobal Building And Facility Management	109401	17166536
5	Transglobal Shipping and Services	109396	11599907
6	Hygiea For Medical And Hazardous Waste Treatment	56566	17158629

Accordingly, the liquidator invites anyone with dues or claims against the mentioned companies to submit their claims, supported by all documents and evidence, and to send them to the following email address:

alkubaisiexpert@hotmail.com

Or contact by phone: 66062929, or

P.O. Box: 837, Doha – Qatar.

within 20 days from the date of this notice.



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
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’s envoy to Riyadh congratulates Saudi leadership on National Day

The ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Bandar bin Mohammed al-Attiyah congratulated the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, the esteemed government of the kingdom, and its people, on the occasion of the kingdom’s 96th National Day.

In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Attiyah emphasised that this cherished occasion renews in us feelings of pride in the depth and strength of the fraternal relations between the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, noting that these historic and distinctive relations are founded on bonds of brotherhood, kinship, and a shared destiny.

In this regard, the ambassador pointed out that this distinctiveness is reflected in the gracious care and continued commitment

of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, as well as Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, to continue working to elevate relations between the two countries to broader levels. He added that this would open up further avenues for joint co-operation while strengthening co-ordination and integration between the two countries.

Al-Attiyah expressed his deep appreciation for the wise and responsible approach adopted by the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in dealing with the rapidly unfolding developments in our region, as well as the delicate challenges and highly complex circumstances facing the region. He said that this approach reflects its balanced vision, foresight, and commitment to prioritising reason, dialogue, and diplomacy in a

This cherished occasion renews in us feelings of pride in the depth and strength of the fraternal relations between the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

manner that safeguards the security and stability of the countries of the region and protects the interests of their peoples.

In this context, al-Attiyah said that the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continue their close co-ordination and ongoing co-operation, based on their shared belief in the importance of unifying efforts and positions on regional issues. They reject any party’s aggression against the territory, sovereignty, or security of either country, or against the territory, sovereignty, or security of the other Gulf states and coun-



Bandar bin Mohammed al-Attiyah

tries of the region. They remain committed to freedom of maritime navigation and continue to emphasise the need to respect the sovereignty and independence of states, while supporting dialogue in a manner that contributes to consolidating security and stability and safeguarding Gulf and Arab interests.

Al-Attiyah explained that the mutual solidarity between the State

of Qatar and the Kingdom is reflected in their response to the blatant attacks that have targeted both countries, as well as in the Kingdom’s standing by the State of Qatar during the attacks that targeted its territory and its continued support for Qatar’s efforts and endeavours to de-escalate tensions between Iran and the United States. It is also reflected in the State of Qatar’s standing by the Kingdom, condemning the grave attacks launched against it from Iranian, Iraqi, and Yemeni territory, and expressing solidarity with the Kingdom in confronting anything that threatens its security and sovereignty or the integrity of its territory.

Al-Attiyah stressed that, under the guidance of their wise leaderships, the two countries will continue to stand by one another and by their fellow countries in the Gulf Co-operation Council and the Arab world. They will also remain active partners in defending the causes and in-

terests of the Arab and Islamic nations, strengthening the ability of the countries of the region to deter attacks and threats in a spirit of responsibility, wisdom, and solidarity, and promoting an approach based on peace, cooperation, and good-neighbourly relations.

The ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia concluded by wishing the Kingdom continued progress and achievements underpinned by Vision 2030, and that it would advance toward broader horizons of comprehensive development, improved quality of life, and an enhanced presence and distinguished standing at both the regional and international levels.

He prayed to Almighty God to protect the Kingdom, its leadership, and its people, and to bring this cherished occasion around again with the Kingdom enjoying greater security, stability, progress, and prosperity. (QNA)

‘Turkiye, Qatar share a common vision for peace, justice and regional stability’

Turkiye ambassador to Qatar Yakup Caymazoglu stated that the addresses delivered by Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, at the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly once again demonstrated the strong convergence of views between the two brotherly countries on the critical issues facing the region and the world.

Recalling President Erdogan’s observation that the past year, marked by more than 60 conflicts, has been one of the bloodiest of the last three decades, and His Highness the Amir’s assessment that the current crisis is the cumulative result of years of postponement, crisis management through temporary solutions and unrealistic policies, Caymazoglu stressed that both leaders share the conviction that lasting solutions can only come through justice, dialogue, diplomacy and respect for international law.

A Common Voice for Gaza and Palestine

The envoy emphasised that Gaza and the Palestinian cause stood at the heart of both addresses. He drew attention to President Erdogan’s description of Gaza as not only the world’s largest children’s cemetery, but also the region with the highest rate of child amputees in the world, while the Amir described what has happened in Gaza as “genocide in every sense of the word” and “a stain of shame on the conscience of humanity as a whole.”

Caymazoglu noted that both leaders called for greater international responsibility to protect the Palestinian people, consolidate the ceasefire and achieve a lasting peace. Both also reaffirmed the Palestinian people’s right to an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, which President Erdogan underlined must be based on the 1967 borders.

Strengthening the international system

Caymazoglu noted that both leaders placed the crisis confronting the region within the broader challenge

facing the international system.

President Erdogan warned of the growing inability of the United Nations to respond effectively to conflicts and humanitarian crises. He reiterated his call for reform of the Security Council under the principle that “the world is bigger than five,” while also drawing attention to the pressures faced by UNRWA.

The Amir, while likewise stressing the importance of international law and its equal application, reaffirmed Qatar’s commitment to the UN. He highlighted the expansion of the United Nations House in Doha as a continuation of Qatar’s longstanding partnership with the Organisation and an enhancement of its capacity to serve peace, development and human rights.

“These are complementary messages,” Caymazoglu said. “The shortcomings of the international system call not for less multilateralism, but for a stronger, fairer and more effective international order capable of upholding its own principles.”

A Shared Vision for Regional Security

Referring to the current crisis in the Gulf, Caymazoglu drew attention to a significant convergence between the two leaders on the future of regional security.

The Amir identified the absence of a regional system of collective security as being at the heart of the dangerous situation facing the region. He called for a framework based on respect for the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of states, the peaceful settlement of disputes and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Caymazoglu noted that this vision closely corresponds with President Erdogan’s emphasis on regional ownership and collective security, including through the recently concluded Joint Defence Agreement between Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, which seeks to contribute to regional peace, prosperity and stability.

“The countries of our region must assume greater responsibility for their common security through cooperation based on

sovereignty, mutual respect and international law,” the envoy said.

The same convergence was evident on the Strait of Hormuz. Erdogan stressed that freedom of navigation through the Strait must be preserved. The Amir expressed his conviction that the Gulf crisis can be resolved through diplomatic means, by reopening the Strait to maritime navigation and returning to negotiations in order to avert war, and warned against turning the lifelines of the global economy into instruments of pressure and bargaining.

Diplomacy and mediation as a strategic choice

Caymazoglu highlighted another important point of convergence between Türkiye and Qatar: their commitment to diplomacy and mediation as central instruments of foreign policy.

He recalled Qatar’s mediation efforts in Gaza to stem the bloodshed, alleviate civilian suffering and secure the release of prisoners and detainees until a ceasefire was achieved, as well as its continuing efforts to consolidate the ceasefire and move towards lasting peace. He noted that Qatar’s commitment to dialogue and peaceful settlement extends to other regional crises, including its support for inclusive dialogue and sustainable peace in Sudan and for a comprehensive political settlement in Yemen under United Nations auspices.

Caymazoglu noted that Türkiye has similarly placed active diplomacy, dialogue and mediation at the centre of its approach to regional and international crises. He recalled President Erdogan’s emphasis on Türkiye’s continued engagement with both Russia and Ukraine in pursuit of a just and lasting peace that safeguards Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Türkiye’s diplomatic efforts in the Black Sea, including the Black Sea Grain Initiative brokered together with the United Nations, have also demonstrated how dialogue between parties to a conflict can produce concrete results for regional stability and global food security.



Yakup Caymazoglu

“For both Türkiye and Qatar, mediation is not merely a response to individual crises; it is a strategic foreign policy instrument. From Gaza to Sudan and Yemen, and from the Black Sea to the wider region, dialogue and diplomacy remain essential to preventing escalation, alleviating human suffering and creating the conditions for sustainable peace,” the envoy said.

A common approach to regional stability

Caymazoglu added that this convergence extends across the wider region. Both leaders expressed their support for the Syrian people on their path to recovery, stability and security. Both further emphasised political solutions and the strengthening of state institutions in Libya.

He noted that both addresses also drew attention to the consequences of Israel’s policies beyond Gaza. Both leaders drew attention to settler violence in the occupied West Bank and violations against Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. The Amir further warned that Israeli aggression had expanded to neighbouring countries and threatened the security of the region as a whole, referring in particular to Syria and Lebanon.

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Caymazoglu said: “President Erdogan and His Highness the Amir have conveyed a powerful and complementary message from the United Nations: our region does not need new wars, new divisions or crises left unresolved until their costs become unbearable. It needs a stronger and more effective international system, greater regional cooperation, diplomacy, justice and sustainable political solutions. Türkiye and Qatar, bound by deep-rooted ties of brotherhood and strategic partnership, will continue to work together for lasting peace, security and stability in our region and beyond.”

Pakistan ambassador praises Amir’s ‘timely, courageous message’

Pakistan’s ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Aamer has hailed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s address to the 81st session of the UN General Assembly as “timely, courageous and squarely on message”, saying it charted a clear diplomatic course out of the crisis gripping the region.

The envoy said His Highness the Amir had placed dialogue, negotiation and mediation at the heart of his address at a moment when the Gulf could least afford miscalculation.

“His Highness reminded the world that time does not heal conflicts left without a just settlement, it only compounds their costs. The region has learnt that truth at great price,” the ambassador said.

He singled out His Highness’ call to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and return to negotiations, and to build a regional collective security system based on sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference.

“Qatar’s credentials as a trusted mediator are beyond question. When His Highness says a diplomatic solution is both possible and realistic, the world should listen, because Doha has repeatedly turned that conviction into results,” he said.

On Palestine, the envoy praised the Amir’s categorical description of events in Gaza as “genocide in every sense of the word”.

“It takes moral clarity to say it plainly from that podium. His Highness spoke for the conscience of the Muslim world and for millions beyond it,” he said.

The envoy said Qatar’s and Pakistan’s views converged on many of the issues His Highness raised. Both countries back an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem (Al-Quds Al-Sharif) as its capital. Both also insist that Israel honour its ceasefire commitments in full, withdraw from Gaza, lift the blockade and allow unhindered



Muhammad Aamer

humanitarian access. Islamabad, he noted, shares Doha’s position that disputes must be settled through dialogue grounded in international law. It also agrees that the sovereignty of states must be respected, among them Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen.

He also stressed a shared concern over the economic fallout of the Gulf crisis. “As His Highness observed, when energy lifelines become instruments of pressure, ordinary people far from the conflict pay through the price of food and medicine. Pakistan feels that acutely,” he said.

“His Highness’s warning that the law must apply equally to all, or lose its meaning, is one Pakistan wholeheartedly endorses. On the fundamentals of peace, justice and respect for international law, Qatar and Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder.”

The envoy hailed the Amir’s closing message. “His Highness showed that steadfastness and flexibility can go hand in hand, and he ended on the most enduring truth of all: that dialogue is the only path that leaves neither victor nor vanquished. That is statesmanship of the highest order, and it is the message this troubled region most needed to hear.”

Japan lauds Amir’s emphasis on dialogue and diplomacy

By Naoto Hisajima
Japan’s ambassador to Qatar

As ambassador of Japan to the State of Qatar, I commend His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani for his timely and compelling address to the current session of the United Nations General Assembly. His Highness’s emphasis on dialogue and diplomacy, respect for sovereignty and the rights of peoples, and fair solutions grounded in international law resonates deeply with Japan’s enduring commitment to a rules-based international order. We also recall with profound respect the recent tribute paid at the United Nations to the distinguished legacy and service of His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Japan shares Qatar’s conviction that durable peace rests on the Charter of the United Nations and the peaceful settlement of disputes. We also underscore the imperative of safeguarding freedom of navigation and maritime security, including in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

On the question of Palestine, Japan is gravely concerned by the cat-



astrophic humanitarian situation. Ultimately, a just and lasting peace requires a two-state solution, consistent with relevant UN resolutions and international law.

Japan values its longstanding friendship with the State of Qatar and recognises Qatar’s vital contributions to mediation, humanitarian action, development, and partnership with the United Nations. We will continue to uphold and promote a free and open international order based on the rule of law, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom of navigation. Japan remains committed to working closely with the Qatari leadership and the international community to support peaceful solutions, uphold international norms, and foster an environment where dialogue prevails over violence.

CMC moves to curb non-compliant vehicle lighting systems

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Central Municipal Council (CMC) has addressed vehicle lighting systems that do not comply with approved standards and specifications.

The council discussed ways to curb the spread of non-compliant vehicle lights. It urged the concerned authorities to establish an effective mechanism to regulate their circulation in the local market, as part of efforts to enhance road safety for all users. It also reviewed a report by its Services and Utilities Committee, along with recommendations submitted to the relevant authorities to curb the practice.

The CMC held its 58th meeting as part of the fifth and final session of its seventh electoral term, chaired by CMC Chairman Mohamed bin Ali al-Athba. The meeting addressed a range of public service and infrastructure issues and reviewed recommendations from the council’s specialised committees on local community needs. The meeting began with the approval of the minutes of the previous 57th meeting, followed by a review of correspondence received from various entities in response to the CMC’s recommendations and inquiries.

The council also discussed responses from the concerned authorities and

comments from its Services and Utilities Committee on previous recommendations to establish a practical mechanism to regulate the use of vacant plots across the country and explore ways to utilise them. It further discussed regulations governing kiosks in shopping malls and rules governing their operations, as well as recommendations to enhance and develop public beaches and improve the services provided to the public. The CMC members also considered several proposals on naming roads and intersections. These included proposals to rename two streets in Constituency 15, a street in Constituency 2, and an intersection in Constituency 25. The proposals were submitted in coordination with the Committee for Naming Areas, Districts and Squares as part of efforts to regulate and organise place names across the country.

The meeting forms part of the council’s ongoing review of municipal services and regulatory matters, aimed at addressing local needs and supporting improvements to public facilities and services. Its responsibilities include reviewing and proposing measures related to public services and facilities, infrastructure, roads, sanitation, environmental issues, markets, public spaces and other matters affecting local communities.



ANNOUNCEMENT

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THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

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Amir’s speech a roadmap to secure, just, prosperous world

QNA
Doha

The annual sessions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) hold special significance, as member states discuss critical global issues and adopt necessary decisions, in addition to making recommendations on issues regarding international peace and security, human rights, sustainable development, and other issues of mutual interest.

Given the importance of this global event, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani is keen to attend the annual sessions of the UNGA, using every speech to reaffirm the State of Qatar's steadfast and principled positions regarding its responsibilities and commitment to its duties, as well as the country's solidarity with the international community in pursuit of international peace and security, sustainable development, and a life of dignity and well-being for all peoples, in addition to the country's dedication to fostering international cooperation and working collaboratively to find solutions to global challenges.

In this context, the speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on Tuesday at the opening session of the 81st session of the UNGA held in New York, was comprehensive and thorough, given the highly important messages it contained concerning international affairs and global and regional challenges, as well as His Highness's vision of how to find effective solutions to them for a more stable, secure and just world, in light with the UN Charter.

His Highness the Amir also reaffirmed the constants of Qatar's foreign policy and its approach to dealing with the world's issues and crises, as well as the need to resolve and overcome them through dialogue and political and diplomatic solutions.

In exclusive statements to Qatar News Agency (QNA), several newspaper editors-in-chief and political analysts said that the speech delivered by His Highness the Amir before the 81st session of UNGA, was comprehensive in its coverage of Qatar's constants and the regional position. They highlighted His Highness's warning that time does not resolve lingering conflicts in the absence of a just settlement; rather, it redoubles their costs, considering the current crises as a cumulative result of years of postponement, crisis management through temporary solutions, and unrealistic policies.

Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Raya* newspaper, Taleb al-Marri, told QNA that His Highness the Amir's speech embodied a firmly established Qatari approach based on combining the protection of national sovereignty with openness to dialogue and peaceful solution.

Al-Marri noted that His Highness the Amir affirmed in his speech that, resilience is the outcome of prior planning, preparedness and investment in people and national capabilities, adding that it also comes from assessing risks, securing supply chains, strengthening the capabilities of the national institutions, developing strategic reserves,

 Sadiq Mohammed Al Emari Director General of Qatar Press Center	 Dr. Nafja Sabbah Al Kuwari Assistant Professor of Political Science at Qatar University	 Dr. Liqaa Maki Senior Researcher at Al Jazeera Center for Studies
“	“	“
HH the Amir Clearly Articulated Qatar's Position Regarding Crises Facing World & Region & Ways of Resolving Them Sustainably Through Dialogue & Diplomacy	HH the Amir's Participation in Current UN General Assembly Session Comes at a Particularly Turbulent Time for World & Region	HH the Amir Clearly Highlighted Israeli Violations in His Speech, Placing International Community Before Its Responsibilities Regarding What is Taking Place in Gaza
HH the Amir's Speech Unequivocally Reaffirmed Qatar's Steadfast Positions in Support of Legitimate Rights of Palestinian People, Clearly Exposing Israel's Brutal & Repressive Practices	Solutions & Forward-Looking Visions Put Forward by His Highness Undoubtedly Contribute to Reaching Understandings & Common Ground Among Conflicting Parties	International Community's Recognition & Appreciation of Qatar's Role as a Trusted International Mediator is Thanks to Doha's Extensive Experience & Expertise, As Demonstrated by Its Successful Efforts & Mediation Initiatives
”	”	”

and forging trusted international partnerships.

His Highness indicated that, through its role as a trusted mediator and peace facilitator, the State of Qatar has consistently warned that time does not resolve lingering conflicts in the absence of a just settlement, but rather redoubles their costs.

His Highness the Amir's speech carried a clear message about the urgent need to address the region's crises through a collective approach based on dialogue, negotiation, and respect for the interests of its countries, Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Raya* said, noting that His Highness linked the current situation to 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.

From this standpoint, His Highness the Amir said 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, pointing out that the significance of this message lies in emphasising that security in the Gulf cannot be achieved through a logic of winner and loser, but rather through collective arrangements that safeguard the interests of the countries of the region, prevent interference in their affairs, and create room for co-operation and development.

He said that the presence of the Palestinian cause in His Highness the Amir's speeches affirms that it remains at the forefront of Qatar's foreign policy priorities, and among the foremost issues on which it maintains a steadfast position based on supporting the rights of the Palestinian people and rejecting violations of those rights.

His Highness the Amir emphasised that what is happening in Gaza is a genocide in every sense of the word, and a stain of shame on the conscience of humanity as a whole, holding the international community responsible for taking action to stop the catastrophe and protect civilians.

In this context, he noted that the high-level speech reaffirmed Qatar's continued mediation efforts to consolidate the ceasefire in Gaza and move toward lasting peace, alongside calls for an

end to operations, withdrawal, the lifting of the blockade, and the entry of humanitarian aid, adding that this reflects the consistency of Qatar's position between diplomatic action, humanitarian work, and the defence of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among them the right to establish their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international references.

Al-Marri addressed the strong partnership between Qatar and the UN, which was emphasised in His Highness the Amir's speech, pointing out that it represents an important framework for co-ordinating efforts in the areas of peace, development, humanitarian action, and human rights.

He also stressed the particular importance of this partnership in light of the role Qatar plays in mediation, facilitating dialogue, and responding to humanitarian crises, thereby enabling international expertise and relations to be harnessed in support of peaceful solutions.

He pointed to His Highness the Amir's affirmation that the expansion of the United Nations House in Doha is an extension of this longstanding partnership and enhances the international organisations's ability to carry out its mission in the service of peace, development, and human rights.

Qatar's hosting of international initiatives and events reflects an approach toward expanding avenues for multilateral co-operation, strengthening dialogue among states and peoples, and supporting efforts aimed at building a more stable and cooperative world, Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Raya* added.

Editor-in-Chief of *Al Sharq* newspaper Jaber Salem al-Harami told QNA that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's participation in the 81st session of the UN General Assembly is of paramount importance, given the multitude of ongoing global issues and crises, as well as the solutions and visions that His Highness presents in his speeches.

It is in this context that His Highness the Amir is keen to participate in the annual UN General Assembly sessions and address the world from the highest international platform, he noted.

Eagerly awaited, the speeches of His Highness command great attention, as they diagnose regional crises and propose solutions to vital issues regarding the concerns of the world and its peoples, al-Harami continued, with His Highness addressing the security tensions and major shocks currently affecting the Gulf region and the world, particularly regarding supply chains, energy security, and waterways, all critical matters.

The Editor-in-Chief of *Al Sharq* newspaper emphasised that the State of Qatar is an active player in the United Nations, believing in dialogue, the need to uphold international law, and adhere to the principles of the international organisation.

For his part, Editor-in-Chief of *Al Watan* newspaper Mohammed Haji told QNA that His Highness the Amir's speech before the UN General Assembly set out a roadmap for overcoming regional and international crises.

The speech also reaffirmed the State of Qatar's national principles, particularly protecting sovereignty and defending the nation and its interests, he said.

His Highness the Amir's speech, Haji added, carried significant political and strategic security dimensions, underscoring the importance of international cooperation in overcoming global crises and the need to uphold multilateral collective action when addressing challenges through sustainable, rather than temporary, solutions.

In this regard, His Highness pointed to the tensions currently prevailing in the Gulf region and the need to adopt firm positions to overcome them, including the issue of the Strait of Hormuz, which poses a threat to supply chains, energy security and maritime routes, the Editor-in-Chief of *Al Watan* newspaper noted.

Haji highlighted that the speech did not overlook the concerns and causes of the Arab nation, offering explanations and perspectives for resolving the crises facing a number of Arab countries, foremost among them the situation in the Gaza Strip and the just cause of the Palestinian people, which Qatar and His Highness the Amir personally accord the utmost attention and care.

Also speaking to QNA, Director General of the Qatar Press Center

Sadiq Mohammed al-Emari said that His Highness the Amir clearly articulated the State of Qatar's position regarding the crises facing the world and the region, as well as ways of resolving them sustainably through dialogue and diplomacy.

Al-Emari highlighted how His Highness the Amir's speech reaffirmed the State of Qatar's view that temporary solutions to crises and problems cannot produce satisfactory outcomes, but lasting solutions do, and that the delay in reaching a swift and satisfactory solution to the Strait of Hormuz crisis had exacerbated the problem, particularly as the strait is of concern to the entire world and not only to the countries of the region.

The speech noted that any threat to close the strait would not only jeopardise oil and gas exports and products, but would also threaten food supply chains, fertilisers, petrochemicals, other food sources, and the raw materials used in the manufacture of electronic chips, underscored the Director General of the Qatar Press Center.

His Highness the Amir's speech unequivocally reaffirmed the State of Qatar's steadfast positions in support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in a reflection of Doha's commitment to the issues affecting the Arab and Islamic worlds, al-Emari noted, adding that the speech clearly exposed Israel's brutal and repressive practices against the people of Gaza and Palestinians in general, as well as its failure to comply with UN resolutions and international law.

The Director General of the Qatar Press Center said that His Highness the Amir's speech also shed light on the suffering of brotherly peoples in a number of Arab countries, including Sudan and Yemen, while calling for greater attention to and support for the new Syria.

For her part, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Qatar University Dr Nafja Sabbah al-Kuwari told QNA that, through its participation in the successive annual sessions of the UN General Assembly, the State of Qatar seeks to strengthen its international presence and activate its relations with various partners.

His Highness the Amir's participation in the current UN General Assembly session comes at a particularly turbulent time for the world and the region, Dr al-Kuwari said.

The solutions and forward-looking visions put forward by His Highness undoubtedly contribute to reaching understandings and common ground among conflicting parties, while providing a clear assessment of all these challenges in accordance with a strategic Qatari vision that focuses on development, peace, partnerships, and national principles, she added.

The Assistant Professor of Political Science at Qatar University noted that the UN General Assembly is not merely a platform for delivering speeches, rather it provides an arena for diplomatic engagement and strengthening international presence, which is precisely the State of Qatar's approach, activating its traditional partnerships and fostering new ones both regionally and globally,

particularly in the political, security, military and economic spheres.

The State of Qatar's high-level participation in the various annual sessions of the UN General Assembly reflects the Qatari foreign policy's approach, which is based on strengthening multilateral relations and engaging directly with international issues, she said.

For his part, Senior Researcher at Al Jazeera Center for Studies Dr Liqaa Maki told QNA that His Highness the Amir's speech at the UN yesterday was clear and concise in presenting Qatar's firm and resolute position on the region's principled issues, foremost among them the just cause of the Palestinian people and the situation in the Gaza Strip.

Qatar is not only a supporter and advocate of the rights of the Palestinian people, Dr Maki affirmed, it is also a mediator seeking to end the war in Gaza, with Doha being fully aware of Israeli violations, which His Highness the Amir clearly highlighted in his speech, presenting them concisely and accurately, thereby, placing the international community before its responsibilities regarding what is taking place in Gaza.

The international community's recognition and appreciation of the State of Qatar's role as a trusted international mediator is thanks to Doha's extensive experience and expertise in the field, as demonstrated by its successful efforts and mediation initiatives in resolving crises in the region and around the world, he noted.

His Highness the Amir's speech addressed the ongoing US-Iranian war and the need for de-escalation and ensuring equal rights for all parties and states, particularly with regard to international navigation, respect for international law and preventing any state from infringing upon the rights of others, the Senior Researcher at Al Jazeera Center for Studies said.

The speech, he added, stressed the importance of peaceful solutions, noting that any rapprochement on these issues and crises between the US and Iran would be the result of successful Qatari mediation.

Dr Maki pointed out that His Highness the Amir's speech yesterday addressed multiple issues and dimensions, in addition to touching on numerous matters related to peace, development, and the economy.

These represent practical and field-tested Qatari principles that have been implemented transparently, which together reflect His Highness's far-sighted vision of regional developments, he said.

All those who spoke to QNA, agreed that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's speeches before the UN General Assembly's successive sessions served as roadmaps to a more stable, secure, just and prosperous world despite unprecedented challenges.

They stressed that such challenges require concerted efforts, respect for states' sovereignty and territorial integrity, and a shared commitment to resolving conflicts through peaceful means.

Qatar’s leading contributions to supporting UN efforts to implement ‘Right to Development’

Adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly on December 4, 1986, the Declaration on the Right to Development celebrates its 40th anniversary this year as a foundational pillar establishing development as an inalienable human right.

This milestone marked a major advancement in the organisation's pursuit of freedom, equality, and justice by calling for guaranteed equal opportunities and the equitable distribution of economic resources.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, the UN and international institutions are organising several events, most notably the UN General Assembly High-Level Week during the proceedings of the 81st session of the Assembly. The UN consistently hails Qatar as an indispensable model for implementing the international component of the Right to Development. This recognition reflects Qatar's continuous, generous support through national and charitable institutions to UN bodies for international co-operation and sustainable development, which has helped provide thousands of jobs and bolstered social

protection and education in developing nations and conflict zones.

The foreign policy priorities of the State of Qatar focus on promoting sustainable development, providing humanitarian aid in war and conflict zones, and supporting and consolidating efforts aimed at reducing projected humanitarian needs in emergency situations.

Through its leading institutions and bodies, such as the Qatar Fund For Development (QFFD), Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, Silatech, the Qatar Red Crescent, and charitable associations, Qatar has always maintained a strong presence in developing countries and areas affected by disasters and conflicts, providing support and assistance.

From 2013 until July 2025, the State of Qatar provided aid exceeding \$7.3bn to more than 100 countries worldwide, supporting international humanitarian and developmental efforts.

In July 2025, the Qatar Fund For Development signed 16 strategic agreements exceeding \$520mn to fund diverse initiatives benefiting over 17mn people globally. Furthermore, in 2023, it contributed USD60mn to the Doha Programme

of Action for Least Developed Countries, advancing sustainable development and long-term prosperity in vulnerable nations.

Qatar also contributed \$30mn to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Accelerator Labs network, which serves more than 115 developing countries. In 2025, the State of Qatar signed core contribution agreements with a number of key UN agencies to provide vital support for their general funding. These agreements included a \$16mn agreement with the UN Development Programme for the years 2025 and 2026, a \$1mn agreement with UN Women, and an \$8mn agreement with the UN Children's Fund (Unicef).

The international partnerships of the State of Qatar have left a profound impact worldwide, with Qatar providing humanitarian aid to thousands of people affected by crises, including wars and natural disasters. In 2025, the State of Qatar committed to providing \$11mn to build homes for flood victims in Pakistan, while in 2023 it dispatched search and rescue teams equipped with gear to Morocco following the earthquake that struck the country. In the same year, follow-

ing the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, Qatar provided aid exceeding \$150mn, alongside supplying 10,000 mobile homes, 3 field hospitals, and urgent relief that reached more than 1.6mn people.

Through the Education Above All Foundation, the State of Qatar also contributes to supporting human, social, and economic development by ensuring access to quality education for all. The foundation has left an influential global imprint, successfully returning more than 16mn out-of-school children to the classroom in over 60 countries through more than 100 projects implemented in partnership with international entities. It has also pledged \$100mn to combat climate change in least developed countries and small island developing states.

In December 2025, Doha hosted the High-Level Meeting for the Least Developed Countries, held under the title “Forging Ambitious Global Partnerships for Sustainable and Resilient Graduation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).”

Jointly organised by Qatar and the UN Office of the High Representative for LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)



and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) under the 2022-2031 Doha Programme of Action, the meeting brought together government heads, ministers, experts, development partners, and UN representatives to explore ways to support nations striving to graduate from the LDC category through internationally backed national plans.

Qatar is classified among the top donors to UN humanitarian offices, such as the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Qatar also sup-

ports UNDP programmes, climate change initiatives, and food security projects in developing countries and least developed countries. Qatari support extends to co-operation with approximately 40 UN bodies and agencies, alongside hosting regional UN offices in Doha to enhance international humanitarian and development work.

In November 2025, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres commended the State of Qatar's support for the international organisation, stating that it is a generous supporter of humanitarian relief efforts worldwide and an advocate for education.(QNA)

Arab, international media cover Amir's address, highlight call for diplomatic solutions to crises

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's speech at the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York received significant attention from Gulf, Arab, and international media outlets, which highlighted its content regarding escalating conditions in the region, His Highness's call for dialogue and negotiation, and the establishment of a regional collective security system, alongside his positions on the Palestinian cause and developments in several Arab countries.

Gulf media outlets gave particular attention to His Highness the Amir's call to address the Gulf crisis through diplomatic means, keep the Strait of Hormuz open to navigation, and return to negotiations — measures that would help avoid war and reach a lasting solution that achieves security and stability for all countries in the region, within the framework of respecting state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.

In this context, the Saudi Press Agency highlighted His Highness's address in a report titled "Qatar's Amir Affirms That Dialogue and Negotiation Are the Path to Resolving Disputes and Crises." The agency stated that His Highness the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani affirmed that the path to resolving disputes and crises is through dialogue and negotiation to reach just solutions based on principles derived from international law and respect for state sovereignty and the rights of peoples, calling for the adoption of diplomatic and peaceful solutions to the crises facing the region.

It continued that His Highness said that the region is passing through one of its most dangerous phases, emphasising that the core of the serious situation lies in the absence of a regional collective security system that respects state

Strip, alongside his discussion of the repercussions of the conflict extending to countries in the region, and his positions regarding developments in Syria and Lebanon.

Al Khaleej, the Emirati newspaper, took a similar approach, highlighting in its headline His Highness the Amir's assertion that the region is passing through one of its most dangerous phases, focusing on his call for dialogue, resolving disputes through diplomatic means, and non-interference in the internal affairs of states, as well as his call to keep the Strait of Hormuz open to navigation.

Widespread attention

On the Arab Front, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's address before the 81st session of the UN General Assembly received widespread attention from Arab media outlets, which highlighted His Highness's positions on the issues and crises facing the region, foremost among them the Palestinian cause and the situation in the Gaza Strip, alongside his call for dialogue, negotiation and diplomatic solutions, and the establishment of a regional collective security system that respects state sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as his positions regarding developments in several Arab countries.

In Egypt, the Middle East News Agency highlighted, under the headline "Qatar's Amir: Dialogue Is Most Appropriate Solution for Resolving the Region's Crisis; We Call for Opening the Strait of Hormuz," His Highness's vision based on prioritising dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy in addressing regional crises, and the necessity of opening the Strait of Hormuz, alongside his warning that the Middle East is passing through one of its most dangerous phases. The agency also spotlighted Qatar's role in mediation and His Highness's call for building a regional collective security system based on respect for state sovereignty and resolving disputes through

Akhbar Al Yom highlighted His Highness the Amir's assertion of the necessity for an equitable international system that ensures a solution to the Palestinian cause and the application of international law without double standards

sovereignty and territorial integrity and encourages the resolution of disputes through peaceful means.

In Kuwait, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) highlighted His Highness the Amir's perspective on the causes of the current crisis in the region, choosing the headline "Qatar's Amir: Gulf Crisis Results From Temporary Solutions and Unrealistic Policies." The agency spotlighted His Highness's assertion that the crisis facing the Gulf region was not unexpected, but rather resulted from years of postponement and crisis management through temporary solutions and unrealistic policies. The agency also focused on His Highness the Amir's call for establishing a regional collective security system that respects state sovereignty and territorial integrity and encourages the resolution of disputes through peaceful means and non-interference in the internal affairs of states, alongside His Highness's assertion that the Gulf crisis can be resolved through diplomatic means, by keeping the Strait of Hormuz open to navigation and returning to negotiations, to reach a lasting solution that achieves security and stability for the region.

In the United Arab Emirates, *Al Bayan* newspaper focused on His Highness the Amir's warning about the danger of the phase the region is experiencing, choosing the headline "Qatar's Amir: The Region in Its Most Dangerous Phase; Dialogue Is the Solution." The newspaper highlighted His Highness's assertion that the current crisis resulted from years of postponing solutions and relying on temporary approaches, and that dialogue and negotiation remain the path to addressing disputes and preventing the widening of conflict.

Al Bayan also highlighted the address's content regarding the Palestinian cause and His Highness the Amir's position on developments in the Gaza

peaceful means.

The Palestinian file received notable coverage in Egyptian media outlets. *Al Ahram* newspaper focused on His Highness the Amir's description of what occurred in Gaza as "genocide" and "a stain on the face of humanity," while *Akhbar Al Yom* highlighted his assertion of the necessity for an equitable international system that ensures a solution to the Palestinian cause and the application of international law without double standards.

On the news channel front, Nile News highlighted His Highness the Amir's warning about Israeli attacks extending to neighbouring countries and his call for a ceasefire, withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and lifting the blockade, while Al Qahera News focused on the humanitarian situation in Gaza and displacement plans, alongside His Highness's call to address the Gulf crisis through diplomatic means. For its part, Extra News spotlighted his positions on Lebanon and Gaza, his call for dialogue and opening the Strait of Hormuz, as well as his support for political tracks and settlement efforts in Libya and Yemen.

In Palestine, His Highness the Amir's address received widespread attention from Palestinian media outlets, which focused on his positions on the Palestinian cause and the situation in Gaza, and his description of what occurred in the Strip as "genocide" and "a stain on the face of humanity," his warning about displacement plans, alongside his call for a ceasefire and lifting the blockade, and attacks on holy sites in the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem.

In this context, *Al Quds* newspaper highlighted His Highness the Amir's assertion that what is occurring in Gaza represents genocide, while Palestine newspaper focused on



his description of what the Strip is experiencing as "a stain on the face of humanity" and his warning about displacement plans. The Palestinian News Agency (Wafa), for its part, highlighted His Highness's assertion that "talk of a just international system does not stand as long as Palestine is a blind spot in it," alongside his discussion of the international community's responsibility in ensuring respect for international law.

Al Khamisa news network and Snd agency paid attention to His Highness the Amir's call for an end to military operations, withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and lifting the blockade, and also highlighted his position on the continuation of settlements, attacks by settlers and violations against Islamic and Christian holy sites in the West Bank and

Jerusalem.

Abu Qamar said His Highness the Amir placed the international community before its responsibilities toward the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, and called for international action to stop the war, establish a ceasefire and end Palestinian suffering, and addressed the conditions in the West Bank and Jerusalem, noting the ongoing settler attacks and violations against holy sites, particularly the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

He pointed out that His Highness the Amir's assertion of the continuation of Qatari mediation efforts reflects Doha's pursuit of political and diplomatic efforts to alleviate the suffering of Gaza's residents and reach solutions that end the war, noting that the address received widespread attention and follow-up in

Al Quds newspaper highlighted His Highness the Amir's assertion that what is occurring in Gaza represents genocide, while Palestine newspaper focused on his description of what the Strip is experiencing as "a stain on the face of humanity" and his warning about displacement plans

occupied East Jerusalem. Msdr News titled its coverage "Qatar's Amir Before the United Nations: Israeli Leaders Openly Declare the Displacement of Gaza's Residents; What Occurred Is Genocide," and spotlighted His Highness's warning about Israeli attacks extending to Syria and Lebanon.

On the visual and digital media front, Alkofiya TV focused on His Highness the Amir's positions on the Palestinian cause and the war in Gaza, and Qatar's mediation efforts to establish and convert a ceasefire into lasting peace, while Al Ghad TV spotlighted his call for dialogue and diplomacy, and his emphasis on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among them the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In an analysis of the speech's echoes, Mohamed Abu Qamar, political analyst and editor-in-chief of the Palestinian Safa News Agency, stated in remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), that His Highness the Amir's address was clear and comprehensive in its handling of the Palestinian cause and the plight of the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank and

Palestinian media outlets and circles.

In Syria, His Highness the Amir's address received widespread attention from Syrian media outlets, which focused on his positions supporting Syria in its recovery and reconstruction phase, and his assertion of the country's sovereignty, unity and independence, alongside his warning about Israeli attacks and the extension of their repercussions to countries in the region.

At the forefront of coverage, Damascus Radio published a report titled "Warnings Against Israeli Ambitions and Support for Recovery Path... Syria at the Forefront of the Words of the Leaders of Jordan, Türkiye and Qatar at the UN," in which it highlighted His Highness the Amir's assertion that Israeli attacks have extended to neighbouring countries and threaten regional security, and his renewal of Qatar's position supporting the Syrian people in the recovery and reconstruction phase and the support of state institutions and its sovereignty and independence.

Syrian News Channel (AliKhbaria)



also devoted prominent coverage to His Highness the Amir's address, focusing on his discussion of Syria's entry into a new phase, his hope that it will achieve the aspirations of the Syrian people, and his call on the international community to support it during the transition phase and in building state institutions and entrenching equal citizenship, alongside the rejection of foreign interventions and attempts to divide Syria.

Al Thawra newspaper highlighted His Highness the Amir's assertion of the importance of dialogue, diplomacy and multilateral action in confronting regional and international crises, while Shaam Network chose the headline "Qatar's Amir: Full Support for Syria in Building Its Institutions and Rejection of Any Attempts to Divide It," focusing on Qatar's support for building Syrian state institutions and its standing with the Syrian people during the transition phase.

For its part, Aleppo Today channel highlighted across its platforms His Highness the Amir's assertion that Israeli attacks have extended to neighbouring countries and threaten regional security, alongside his affirmation of Qatar's stand with the Syrian people in the recovery and reconstruction phase.

Global media

On the international front, international media outlets and news platforms shed light

security system, noting that this vision intersects with the Turkish view that the continuation and expansion of wars will cause their repercussions to transcend the borders of countries experiencing conflicts.

Ozturk added that the discussion regarding the Strait of Hormuz holds importance for Türkiye not only from a security standpoint, but also due to its ties to energy, trade and supply chain issues, pointing out that any efforts contributing to de-escalation and ensuring freedom of navigation will be of interest to Ankara.

For his part, Taha Dagli, editor-in-chief of the Haber Global news channel, affirmed in a statement to QNA that the messages contained in His Highness the Amir's speech acquire importance for Türkiye in light of the strategic relations between Doha and Ankara and the ongoing co-ordination between the two countries on several regional files, including Gaza, Syria, Gulf security, and mediation efforts between Washington and Tehran.

Dagli pointed out that the speech should not be read merely as an address directed to the UN General Assembly, but also as a diplomatic message at a highly sensitive regional phase, positioning mediation, dialogue and de-escalation against the risks of widening conflict circles.

Across other international media outlets, CNN Arabic focused on His Highness the Amir's positions on the Palestinian cause, highlighting

The Anadolu Agency highlighted His Highness the Amir's warning that the region is experiencing one of its most dangerous phases, his assertion that the absence of a collective security regional architecture lies at the core of the region's crises, and his call for dialogue and negotiation to address differences and resolve

on the address delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani before the 81st session of the UN General Assembly. Their angles of coverage varied between the Palestinian cause and the repercussions of the war in the Gaza Strip, regional security, the economic impacts of crises, and Qatar's role in mediation and its calls for dialogue and diplomacy.

In Türkiye, the speech received significant attention in the media landscape amid the sensitivity of the regional phase and the escalation of security and political tensions in the Middle East. The Anadolu Agency highlighted His Highness the Amir's warning that the region is experiencing one of its most dangerous phases, his assertion that the absence of a collective security regional architecture lies at the core of the region's crises, and his call for dialogue and negotiation to address differences and resolve disputes through peaceful means.

Turkish media also focused on His Highness the Amir's positions on the Palestinian cause and the war in the Gaza Strip, his warning against the spillover of Israeli attacks to neighbouring countries, particularly Syria and Lebanon, and his demand to halt operations in Gaza and lift the blockade. His messages concerning the crisis in the Gulf, Iran and the Strait of Hormuz likewise drew attention, given the security and economic repercussions that disruptions to navigation and energy flows entail beyond regional borders.

In this context, Hasan Ozturk, editor-in-chief of the Ulke TV news channel, currently visiting New York, said in a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA) that one of the most prominent messages carried by His Highness the Amir's speech was the call to transition from crisis management to seeking a collective regional

his assertion that there can be no talk of a just international order as long as Palestine remains a "blind spot" within it, his description of what took place in the Gaza Strip as a "genocide in every sense of the word," and his note regarding the gap between the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe and the level of international response to stop it.

From a different angle, the German Press Agency, under the headline "Qatar's Amir: Iran's War Has Turned the Global Economy into a Bargaining Chip," highlighted His Highness the Amir's warning of the economic repercussions of conflicts, the resulting global price hikes, and the transformation of global economic lifelines into tools for pressure and bargaining, carrying the costs of these crises to populations worldwide.

In Pakistan, His Highness the Amir's speech received attention from several news channels. SAMAA TV covered the address within its news broadcast, shedding light on Qatar's role as a mediator in numerous regional and international files, while BOL News highlighted His Highness the Amir's call for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the lifting of the blockade, alongside his emphasis on the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Meanwhile, DRM News broadcast His Highness the Amir's address before the General Assembly live. Overall international coverage reflected a variety of angles in addressing His Highness the Amir's speech, with a prominent presence of the Palestinian cause, the situation in Gaza, regional security, freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, calls for dialogue, de-escalation and diplomatic solutions, and Qatar's role in mediation and dispute settlement.

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MORE THAN
560
EVENTS

MORE THAN
780
PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS

Qatar unifies national events under Qatar Calendar 2026/2027



Qatar is bringing more than 560 cultural, sporting and entertainment events under a single national platform as part of efforts to create a more coordinated events ecosystem and strengthen the country's tourism offering.

The Qatar Calendar 2026/2027, launched by Visit Qatar, brings together festivals, championships and other events taking place across the country, allowing citizens, residents and visitors to discover upcoming activities and plan their experiences in advance.

Qatar Tourism Chairman H.E. Saad bin Ali Al-Kharji said: "Qatar Calendar serves as a unified national platform, bringing together cultural, entertainment and sporting events delivered by entities across the country," Al-Kharji said at the launch event.

He said the platform would help amplify and promote events, expand their reach among residents and visitors, and provide a trusted source of information for audiences and the media.

Al-Kharji said the initiative also reflected collaboration between government entities and private-sector partners in delivering an integrated tourism experience.

"Looking ahead, our focus remains on advancing high-quality tourism projects, fostering an environment that enables investment and sustainable growth, accelerating digital innovation and raising standards of service excellence," he said.

Visit Qatar CEO Eng. Abdulaziz Ali Al-Mawlawi said the calendar features more than 560 events covering arts, sport, culture, family festivals and environmental experiences.

"Qatar's strength as a leading tourism destination lies not only in the diversity of experiences it offers, but in its exceptional ability to bring together world-class events, strategic partnerships and seamless experiences," he said.

The launch also featured a promotional presentation highlighting major events on the calendar, including Formula 1 at Lusail Circuit, the FIFA U-17 World Cup, Art Basel Qatar, tennis and padel championships and the Doha International Music and Marching Festival.

A panel discussion on "The Role of Sport in Enhancing the Country's Image as a Dynamic Destination" further examined Qatar's sporting legacy and its potential to support tourism growth.

H.E. Saad bin Ali Al-Kharji and H.E. Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Thawadi, Executive Member of the Supreme Committee for Projects and Legacy, discussed how Qatar's experience hosting major sporting events had strengthened its infrastructure, expertise and international profile.



Qatar Calendar serves as a unified national platform, bringing together cultural, entertainment and sporting events delivered by entities across the country

The launch concluded MoUs signing ceremonies led by Visit Qatar with the stakeholders to strengthen relations in similar fields.

The MoUs aim to strengthen coordination between tourism and events stakeholders and contribute to a more integrated national events offering.

The Qatar Calendar is available through Visit Qatar's digital platforms, giving audiences access to event information and enabling them to plan visits and experiences throughout the year.

New venues and regional events broaden Qatar's tourism offering

Qatar's 2026/2027 events programme is expanding beyond the capital, with new and relocated events planned across the country as Visit Qatar seeks to showcase regional identities and broaden the tourism experience.

Ahmed Al-Binali, Director of Festivals and Events at Visit Qatar, said different regions would play a central role in this year's calendar.

"For the first time, the Qatar International Food Festival will move to Lusail City," he said.

The calendar will also introduce new events and locations, including activities in Brouq in western Qatar and Doha Outdoors towards the end of the year.

Al-Binali said the expansion would help present an integrated picture of the country's cultural



and geographical diversity while bringing together the efforts of government entities, cultural organisations and private-sector institutions.

For the first time, the Qatar International Food Festival will move to Lusail City

The wider geographic focus coincides with Visit Qatar's launch of its winter campaign, "A World of Events in Qatar", which promotes sporting events, concerts, desert experiences and outdoor activities to audiences across the GCC.

The campaign invites visitors to explore Qatar during the winter season while highlighting the range of experiences available beyond major sporting and entertainment venues.



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Visit Qatar expands digital tools as events calendar grows

Visit Qatar is stepping up its digital services for event discovery and ticketing, with a unified digital ticketing platform planned for launch in the fourth quarter as part of the rollout of Qatar Calendar 2026/2027.

Visit Qatar CEO Eng. Abdulaziz Ali Al-Mawlawi announced the planned platform while unveiling the new Qatar Calendar, which features more than 560 events, festivals and championships across Qatar.

He said the new ticketing system would provide a “comprehensive and seamless gateway” for visitors, tourism operators, event organisers and other sector partners.

The platform is intended to streamline processes around events and further enhance the visitor experience, as Visit Qatar expands its digital infrastructure alongside the country’s growing events programme.

Al-Mawlawi also highlighted the rapid growth of the Visit Qatar app, which surpassed 230,000 users in 2026, compared with approximately 105,000 in 2025.

The organisation has also launched a new Visit Qatar Widget, initially available to Apple users, allowing audiences to view upcoming events without opening the full application.

“These developments are in line with evolving digital expectations,” Al-Mawlawi said, while stressing the importance of making it easier for visitors to discover and plan their experiences.

The digital push accompanies the launch of Qatar Calendar 2026/2027, which consolidates more than 560 events covering arts, sport, culture, family festivals and environmental activities.

Qatar Tourism Chairman H.E. Saad bin Ali Al-Kharji said the calendar would provide a unified national platform for cultural, entertainment and



sporting events delivered by organisations across the country.

He said the platform would amplify events, expand their reach among residents and visitors and serve as a trusted source of information for audiences and the media.

The calendar is also intended to improve coordination across Qatar’s events ecosystem while



Visit Qatar Widget

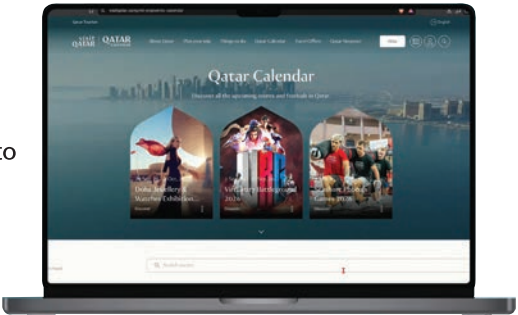
- Direct access to Visit Qatar App from mobile screens
- Available for iOS (iPhone), with Android availability to follow
- An additional everyday touchpoint to discover what is happening across Qatar.

Hayya

- A new package of incentives, benefits and offers for visitors travelling to Qatar. Further details to be announced soon.

Visit Qatar Ticketing Platform

- Scheduled to launch by the end of 2026.
- Bringing event discovery and booking into a more seamless digital journey.
- A centralised way to access events and tourism experiences across Qatar



supporting activity in tourism, hospitality, retail and other sectors.

Al-Mawlawi said Qatar’s tourism strength was based not only on the diversity of experiences available, but also on the ability to combine world-class events, partnerships and seamless visitor experiences.

The digital developments were announced

during a launch event attended by senior officials and representatives of public- and private-sector organisations involved in Qatar’s events programme.

Qatar Calendar 2026/2027 is available through Visit Qatar’s digital platforms, allowing residents and visitors to access event information and plan their activities in advance.



Sporting events key catalyst for Qatar’s tourism growth

Qatar is seeking to turn the international attention generated by major sporting events into longer-lasting tourism momentum by offering visitors experiences that extend beyond the competitions themselves, Qatar Tourism Chairman H.E. Saad bin Ali Al-Kharji has said.

“Mega-sporting events have marked an important turning point for Qatar’s tourism sector,” Al-Kharji said during a panel discussion at the launch of Qatar Calendar 2026/2027, describing such events as a key catalyst in showcasing Qatar internationally.

He said Qatar Tourism’s focus is now on sustaining that momentum by connecting major tournaments with the country’s wider tourism offering, including luxury hospitality, cultural events and family-oriented experiences.

The approach comes as Qatar prepares to host a series of major international sporting events, including the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2026, FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 and the 2030 Asian Games.

Al-Kharji said these events provide an opportunity to further strengthen tourism while supporting Qatar’s economic diversification objectives and the Third National Development Strategy.

The comments came during a high-level panel titled “The Role of Sport in Enhancing the Country’s Image as a Dynamic Destination”, moderated by broadcaster Abdullah Al-Ali and

featuring H.E. Saad bin Ali Al-Kharji and Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Thawadi, Executive Member of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy. The discussion examined how Qatar can build on the infrastructure, expertise and international visibility developed through years of hosting major sporting events to expand its sports tourism sector.

Al-Thawadi said Qatar’s experience in hosting major international events had demonstrated what could be achieved through long-term planning and a clear vision.

“Qatar has demonstrated to the world what can be achieved through ambition, long-term planning, and a clear vision,” he said, adding that the country’s world-class infrastructure and ac-



cumulated expertise provided a foundation for hosting further international events.

He said the Supreme Committee’s new mandate includes coordinating the national events portfolio, covering tournaments, conferences, exhibitions and other events.

Al-Thawadi also highlighted continued co-operation between the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, Qatar Tourism and other stakeholders to develop a sustainable events ecosystem and strengthen Qatar’s position as a global destination. The expansion of sports tourism forms part of Qatar’s broader effort to diversify its tourism products and increase demand from international and domestic visitors.

Visit Qatar, the main promotional arm of Qatar Tourism, is responsible for marketing the country internationally while developing its cultural heritage, attractions and programme of events and festivals.

It also works to strengthen Qatar’s position as a regional destination for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE), supported by international representative offices in key markets and digital platforms.

With a growing pipeline of sporting and other international events, Qatar Tourism is seeking to leverage the global reach of these occasions not only to draw spectators, but also to encourage visitors to explore the country’s hospitality, culture, entertainment and family tourism offerings.

Visit Qatar and Qatar Rail partnership to improve access to events, destinations

A new partnership between Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) and Visit Qatar is set to make it easier for visitors to access major events and tourist destinations while promoting public transport as a convenient way to explore the country.

The partnership, formalised through a memorandum of understanding (MoU), will strengthen links between Qatar’s rail-based public transport network and its tourism and events sectors, Qatar Rail CEO Jassim Mohammed Al-Ansari said.

Al-Ansari signed the agreement on behalf of Qatar Rail, while Visit Qatar CEO Engineer Abdulaziz Ali Al-Mawlawi signed for Visit Qatar.

In a statement issued to reporters, Al-Ansari said the partnership would leverage Doha Metro and Lusail Tram services to facilitate access to events and destinations and increase awareness of public transport options available across the networks.

“The MoU signed with Visit Qatar reflects Qatar Rail’s com-

mitment to strengthening the role of public transport in supporting the tourism and events sector in the State of Qatar,” he said.

He said the agreement would establish a strategic link between the country’s rail-based public transport system and the tourism sector, helping provide easier access to events and tourist attractions across Qatar.

The partnership will also contribute to efforts to develop a more integrated and sustainable tourism experience while reinforcing Qatar’s position as a destination for international tourism and major events, Al-Ansari said.

The agreement comes as Visit Qatar launches its Qatar Calendar 2026/2027 - designed to provide citizens, residents and visitors with information about upcoming events, enabling them to plan their trips and experiences in advance. It also aims to enhance co-ordination across Qatar’s events sector while supporting activity in tourism, hospitality, retail and other related sectors.



Visit Qatar deepens cooperation with SC to build integrated national events sector

MoUs signing ceremonies with the stakeholders, highlight who are the stakeholders and means for collaborations

Visit Qatar did an initiative to sign an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) to strengthen co-ordination across Qatar’s growing events ecosystem as the country seeks to build on more than a decade of experience in hosting major international events.

A MoU signed between the two entities will establish a Joint Working Group focused on sharing expertise and talent and supporting the planning and delivery of entertainment, cultural, sporting and business events, conferences and tourism experiences across Qatar. The agreement was signed during the launch of Visit Qatar’s Qatar Calendar 2026-2027.

Visit Qatar was represented by its CEO, Eng. Abdulaziz Ali Al-Mawlawi, while the SC was represented by Jassim Al Jassim, CEO of the Local Organising Committee for Football Events (LOC).



H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, Managing Director of the SC, said the partnership with Visit Qatar would be central to implementing the committee’s new mandate and strengthening collaboration among stakeholders involved in organising events.

“Our partnership with Visit Qatar is central to the realisation of the new mandate. The SC operates in close conjunction with event organisers, coordinating plans, timelines and resources across the sector, while Visit Qatar carries Qatar’s story to the world as a destination and a host,” Al Thawadi said.

He added that the MoU forms part of a



broader effort to bring stakeholders across the national events ecosystem closer together and support the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The partnership comes as the SC takes on an expanded role in developing Qatar’s long-term events sector.

Under the Amiri Decision on the reorganisation of the SC, the committee is tasked with developing a long-term, integrated vision for hosting and organising events within and outside Qatar, in collaboration with national stakeholders.

The mandate also includes supporting

the development of the State’s five-year events calendar and helping different entities deliver events sustainably and efficiently across multiple disciplines, while ensuring the sector contributes to the country’s wider development plans.

As part of the new framework, an Events Selection Committee established by the SC Board of Directors evaluates events and provides recommendations to relevant national stakeholders.

The Qatar Events Platform is another key component of the framework, bringing event activities together through a single

national digital system through which government entities can plan, coordinate and manage events.

Al Thawadi said Qatar’s experience in hosting major events over the past decade had created capabilities that could now be deployed to develop a more sustainable and commercially viable events sector.

“The real legacy that came out of the events we have hosted over the past decade is capability: the systems, experience and people who know how to plan, deliver and run major events at the highest level,” he said.

“Our mandate is about putting that capability to work: building an events sector that stands on its own, creates space for the private sector to grow, and generates real returns for Qatar well beyond any single event.”

The MoU was announced alongside the Qatar Calendar 2026-2027 launch, where Al Thawadi also joined H.E. Saad Al-Kharji, Chairman of Qatar Tourism, for a high-level panel discussion titled “The Role of Sport in Enhancing the Country’s Image as a Dynamic Destination”.

The discussion examined the role of major sporting events in contributing to Qatar’s international profile as a tourism and events destination.



Qatar participates in 19th 3G Ministerial Meeting

QNA
New York

The State of Qatar, represented by HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, participated in the 19th Global Governance Group (3G) Ministerial Meeting, held on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly session in New York.

Addressing the meeting, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Qatar's commitment to international law and the UN Charter drives its belief that complex global challenges require collective solutions, genuine co-operation, and public-good-driven political will.

He added that the State of Qatar sees the Global Governance Group as an appropriate framework to rebuild trust in the international system and enhance solidarity among nations and regional blocs, with full respect for the principles of state sovereignty over their territories and borders, and non-interference in their internal affairs, reiterating Qatar's emphasis on the importance of co-operation and co-ordination between the Global Governance Group and the UN system.

Regarding developments related



to the Strait of Hormuz crisis, HE al-Khulaifi stated that the State of Qatar stresses that freedom of navigation in the strait is a firm and non-negotiable principle.

He underlined that the baseline requirement at this stage is the restoration of navigation through this vital waterway, in accordance with the provisions of international law and UN Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), pointing out that the continued closure of the strait risks the vital interests of regional states and the global economy, as the disruption of maritime trade leads to rising costs and impacts fertiliser and food markets.

He explained that the State of Qatar stresses that containing escalation is a top priority, along with reopening the door

to diplomatic efforts.

Accordingly, HE al-Khulaifi stated, the State of Qatar, in its capacity as a party contributing to mediation efforts, seeks to reopen the strait as soon as possible. Qatar emphasises that any future arrangements regarding the management of the strait, or any other related issues, must be based on regional consensus and full respect for international law, in a manner that preserves regional security and stability.

He affirmed the State of Qatar's commitment to leadership in the fields of digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI) to achieve sustainable development and desired progress, while supporting government institutions in improving services across sectors such as education, healthcare, and others.

For example, he said, the GovAI Program under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in Qatar enables government entities to develop innovative AI-based projects aimed at enhancing service quality, noting that AI research areas at Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development encompass several topics, including Arabic language technologies, harnessing AI for social good, AI fundamentals and applications, AI policies and education, digital health, and cybersecurity.

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar launched the "Global Alliance for AI Ethics" initiative on the sidelines of the UN First Global Dialogue on AI Governance, held in Geneva last July.

He stressed the importance of international co-operation in all AI-related activities and programmes to benefit humanity, while ensuring flexibility in making these programmes accessible to countries of the Global South.

HE al-Khulaifi renewed the State of Qatar's steadfast support for the Global Governance Group and its commitment to collaborating with all partners to establish an effective, equitable, and inclusive international order.



Qatar reinforces stronger co-operation for a secure, stable maritime domain

QNA
New York

The State of Qatar participated in the high-profile ministerial-level side event on reinforcing co-operation to achieve a secure and stable maritime domain on the margins of the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi represented the State of Qatar at the event.

Speaking at the ministerial event, HE al-Khulaifi underscored the critical importance of adhering to the principles of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea amid the grave and growing challenges facing maritime security and strategic waterways, particularly the Strait of Hormuz and Bab El-Mandeb.

HE al-Khulaifi underlined that the State of Qatar has consistently emphasised the importance of adhering to the principles set forth in the convention, including those related to freedom of navigation.

He noted that the security and uninterrupted operation of supply chains are closely linked to the international community's ability to deliver essential commodities and humanitarian aid during disasters and conflicts.

HE al-Khulaifi highlighted that the ongoing perils facing these critical waterways have implications that extend beyond the immediate region, with far-reaching consequences at both the regional and global levels.

More tellingly, these disruptions have a particularly wor-

risome and disproportionate impact on developing countries and vulnerable populations, HE al-Khulaifi noted.

He reemphasised that ensuring maritime security is an all-encompassing priority and a collective responsibility that transcends narrow interests, given its importance not only to achieving regional peace and security, but also to bolstering the resilience of the global economy, ensuring the stability of energy markets and safeguarding the uninterrupted operation of global supply chains.

At a time when there is a substantial need for diplomatic resolutions to existing conflicts, HE al-Khulaifi stressed that disruptions to critical international waterways have a direct impact on global peace and security.

He asserted that the Security Council should play a strong and sustained role in protecting freedom of navigation, respecting international law, enforcing its relevant resolutions, and countering unlawful disruptions and attacks on commercial traffic.

HE al-Khulaifi added that the State of Qatar's priority remains to contain the escalation and create space for diplomatic efforts. He said that Qatar, in its capacity as a party contributing to mediation efforts, will continue to pursue efforts to open or reopen waterways as soon as possible.

He remarked that these efforts are guided by Qatar's conviction that the peaceful settlement of disputes, adherence to international law, commitment to dialogue, and the principles of good-neighbourliness are the pillars for resolving crises and avoiding their fallout.

US, Iran 'still apart in peace talks'

From Page 1

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters yesterday that a deal with Iran would involve hard work over a period of time, adding that Trump also had military options.

The US has also said it will impose so-called secondary sanctions against any country that allows Iranian flights. Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told state TV Iran would ensure neighbouring countries' airports could not function if they stop Iranian flights.

In his address to the 193-member General Assembly, Pezeshkian homed in on the US blockade of Iranian ports and on the Strait of Hormuz, conduit for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments before the war.

"It cannot be the case that everyone benefits from the Strait of Hormuz while we are denied access to shipping through this waterway. The permanent deployment of hostile fleets and the expansion of the war will not lead to peace," he said.

"The Iranian people will not bow to pressure," he added.

Oil prices were up almost 2% yesterday in choppy trade as traders weighed the comments of Pezeshkian and Trump.

Iranian and US officials held their first known indirect talks on Tuesday since a ceasefire collapsed in July, with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner communicating through mediators.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said

Tehran had conveyed conditions during a two-hour exchange of messages with Washington via a Qatari mediator. These included an end to the war on all fronts, a halt to US "acts of aggression" and the release of frozen Iranian assets.

The diplomatic contact in New York caused a backlash in Iranian media associated with hardliners.

An opinion piece run by the semi-official Tasnim news agency, associated with the Revolutionary Guards, said Araghchi was wrong to have contacts with Witkoff and Kushner, "a major gift to Trump", as Iran had already conveyed its terms.

Iranian sources told Reuters the delegation had been ordered not to meet the Americans face-to-face by the Supreme National Security Council, a body that includes figures selected by Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, the supreme leader. Khamenei has yet to appear in public since replacing his father, who was killed on the war's first day.

Despite near-daily attacks, traffic through the strait has picked up in recent weeks. Oil producers pay shipping companies fees of as much as a quarter of a cargo's value to take the wartime risk of sailing through the strait with transponders switched off, before transferring crude to other vessels on the far side.

Exports from the United Arab Emirates have already recovered to pre-war levels, and Saudi Arabia has sold 60mn barrels of Gulf oil for both this month and next, to be delivered beyond the strait off the coast of Oman.

Nevertheless, a third of Gulf oil is estimated to be missing from global supplies.

Qatar teams up with Google to skill 50,000 for the AI age

From Page 1

"This initiative expands investment in skills by providing specialised training pathways that address the needs of the workforce, executive leaders and technical professionals," she said. "By providing more than 50,000 training seats by 2030, we aim to build a broad base of talent capable of leveraging artificial intelligence and cloud technologies and developing digital solutions that enhance institutional efficiency and support the growth of the digital economy."

She tied the programme directly to the Digital Agenda 2030, which targets the creation of about 26,000 jobs in the information and communications technology sector by the end of the decade and a 10% rise in the capabilities of ICT professionals through advanced skills development.

"Through this programme, we are translating these targets into practical capacity-building pathways in artificial intelligence, cloud computing and advanced

digital technologies," al-Mansoori said.

For Google Cloud, the initiative scales up a track record already in place. The company has trained more than 12,000 people in Qatar over the past five years.

"Our expanded skilling collaboration with MCIT scales this commitment to deliver over 50,000 learning opportunities by 2030," said Ghassan Kosta, Regional General Manager at Google Cloud. "Through specialised frameworks like the Advanced Solutions Lab and targeted curricula for Gemini Enterprise and Google Looker, we are providing the structured technical proficiency required to architect and deploy enterprise-scale cloud and AI solutions."

The programme runs under the five-year framework agreement between MCIT and Google Cloud. It was unveiled at Google Cloud Summit Doha 2026 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), which coincided with the third anniversary of Google Cloud's Doha region.

Doha Forum launches report on redefining global trust amid international tensions

QNA
New York

The Doha Forum has launched its Future of International Co-operation Report 2026 in New York, calling for renewed efforts to rebuild trust in international institutions and strengthen co-operation amid growing geopolitical tensions.

The report, titled "Redefining Global Trust", was launched during the high-level week of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly. It was produced by the Doha Forum in partnership with the Stimson Center, the Global Governance Innovation Network and the Global Studies Institute at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, with the International Peace Institute as a launch partner.

The fourth edition of the report examines widening trust gaps in politics and diplomacy, the economy and technology, as well as security and justice.

It argues that declining confidence in institutions and growing geopolitical instability require changes to international leadership and stronger institutions, alongside greater adherence to international norms.

Among its proposals, the report calls for the creation of a multilateral Information Integrity Council to address misinformation and disinformation. It also proposes a global artificial intelligence centre and shared computing infrastructure to help reduce disparities in access to AI technologies.

The report further recommends reforms to UN counter-terrorism efforts aimed at strengthening hu-



man rights safeguards.

At the regional level, it proposes an interregional network for early warning and preventive diplomacy, deeper regional and interregional trade agreements, and stronger mechanisms for enforcing regional security arrangements.

The recommendations come ahead of a period of expected changes in the international system, including the appointment of a new UN secretary-general in January 2027 and discussions over the development agenda beyond 2030.

Mubarak bin Ajlan al-Kuwari, executive director of the Doha Forum, said trust was continually being reshaped rather than simply disappearing.

The report, he said, offered gov-

ernments and individuals practical proposals to address misinformation and injustice, strengthen co-operation and contribute to a safer world.

The Stimson Center's acting president and chief executive, Rachel Stohl, said the report offered approaches to narrowing growing trust gaps, including through greater information integrity and more equitable access to artificial intelligence.

Prince Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, president and chief executive of the International Peace Institute, said peacekeeping deployments had fallen by 60% from their peak a decade ago, at a time when the need for crisis prevention was increasing.

The report was launched alongside a high-level discussion on

"Redefining Global Trust", bringing together policymakers, researchers and civil society representatives to examine its findings and their implications for international co-operation.

The discussion was hosted jointly by the Doha Forum, the International Peace Institute, the Stimson Center and the Global Studies Institute at Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

The report is expected to inform discussions at the Doha Forum 2026, which will take place in Doha on December 5 and 6 under the theme "Redefining Global Trust".

It will also contribute to wider discussions ahead of the planned Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2027 and debates on the post-2030 development agenda.

Doha Debates Podcast returns for new season

Qatar Foundation's Doha Debates has launched a new season of Doha Debates Podcast with 20 episodes airing weekly through February 16, 2027. The series brings leading global thinkers together to debate some of the world's most complex and challenging issues.

The opening episode, "Will China or the West lead the world into the future?" moderated by Soraya Salam, brought together Renata Ávila, CEO of the Open Knowledge Foundation; Arnaud Bertrand, entrepreneur; Isabel Hilton, visiting professor at the Lau China Institute, King's College, London; and Henry Wang, founder and president of the Centre for China and Globalisation, to examine the contest over influence, technology and the international order.

This episode asked whether Western influence is really in decline. Does China offer a genuine alternative, or a different set of dependencies? And with tensions over Taiwan, the war in Ukraine and the race for artificial intelligence reshaping geo-

politics, can competing visions of global order coexist?

Wang says we are "at a crossroads" as the global order shifts "from a unipolar world to a multipolar world. Yet the multipolar system is not there. So I think right now, the daunting task is that we have to get the major players to work together," he says.

Hilton cautions against reducing the debate to a simple moral binary. "I do think that if we regard the world as one side good, the other side bad, we're really not serving the conversation," she says.

Bertrand argues that the differences between China and the West need not be irreconcilable. "We need to find a way to coexist and to accept each other as others," he says.

Ávila looks beyond the major powers, saying she hopes to see "a different configuration of countries — a little bit like the Non-Aligned Movement did back in the days — that could have enough weight to tame the powerful."

Kahramaa wins MEFMA Award for FM implementation in large-scale projects

QNA
Doha

The Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has won the FM Implementation in Large-Scale Projects award at the fifth edition of the MEFMA Awards of Excellence in Facilities Management (FM), organised by the Middle East Facilities Management Association (MEFMA).

Kahramaa said the award reflects its leadership in adopting international best practices in fa-

cilities and asset management, while highlighting its success in harnessing digital transformation and institutional innovation to enhance operational efficiency and drive sustainability.

The award recognised Kahramaa's Asset Tracking System project, which uses barcode technology and is integrated with the corporation's maintenance management system within its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The project spans more than 600 operational sites, including administrative buildings, power stations, water plants, customer service centres, data centres

and other facilities. The system incorporates a verified database of more than 77,000 assets, helping streamline asset management, accelerate response and maintenance operations across facilities, and advance the corporation's efforts to achieve operational sustainability.

Kahramaa's General Services Department said the award reflects the collective efforts and advanced capabilities the corporation has developed in managing its facilities and assets. It added that the recognition strengthens Kahramaa's presence in specialised industry forums and demonstrates its ability to develop



innovative operational models built around digital transformation, enhanced efficiency and operational sustainability.

The award carries particular sig-

nificance as the MEFMA Awards of Excellence in FM are a leading regional platform recognising innovation, leadership and measurable impact in facilities management.

The fifth edition, held in Dubai on September 17, featured 16 categories and recognised a record 35 winners and highly commended recipients from across the region.

Sidra highlights advances in paediatric oncology research

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, has released the findings of its latest Paediatric Oncology Report 2025, to coincide with World Cancer Research Day and Cancer Awareness Month.

Data reported by Sidra Medicine for 2019 to 2025 show 538 paediatric cancer diagnoses, including 355 solid tumours and 183 non-solid cancers. Leukaemia accounted for 34% of diagnoses, followed by central nervous system malignancies at 22%, lymphoma at 10%, neuroblastoma at 7% and germ cell tumours at 7%. Developed through Sidra Medicine's paediatric oncology and translational research programmes, the report highlights the continued progress of paediatric cancer research and precision oncology in Qatar. It showcases how genomic and molecular insights are increasingly being integrated with clinical expertise to support more personalised care for children with cancer.



Dr Wouter Hendrickx, director of the Paediatric Oncology Qatar programme (SPOQ) at Sidra Medicine, said: "Advances in paediatric oncology research are providing clinical teams with a deeper understanding of the individual characteristics of a child's cancer and helping inform treatment decisions. The programme uses precision medicine approaches to better understand the molecular characteristics of paediatric tumours and support advances in diagnosis, prognosis and treatment."

Genomic and molecular profiling is increasingly integrated into paediatric oncology care at Sidra Medicine. This helps clinical teams better understand the biology of each child's cancer and, where possible, identify more precisely matched treatment options. SPOQ brings together clinicians, researchers, coordinators, nurses, and specialists to ensure molecular information supports clinical decisions.

Building on these foundations, SPOQ continues to strengthen

the integration between research and clinical care. It is also advancing cellular therapies for children with cancer in Qatar. Its Advanced Cell Therapy Core is developing personalised therapies, including approaches such as CAR-T, while Sidra Medicine's Clinical Trial Office is supporting greater access to innovative clinical trials.

Dr Chiara Cugno, acting division chief, Haematology and Oncology, clinical lead for SPOQ and director of the Advanced Cell Therapy Core at Sidra Medicine, said: "Progress in childhood cancer care is not only about developing new treatments. It is also about improving diagnosis and delivering the right care for each child. This is what makes Sidra Medicine unique, as we are one of the handful of hospitals in the world where precision care is very much part of the journey for each and every one of our haematology and oncology patients."

Sidra Medicine is Qatar's only hospital with specialised services and expert teams dedicated to treating paediatric and adolescent cancers and blood disorders. Its multidisciplinary approach brings

together paediatric oncologists and haematologists with specialists in pathology, genomics, radiology, surgery, neurosciences and other disciplines to support diagnosis and individualised treatment planning.

Indicators of this progress include a significant reduction in the number of paediatric cancer patients who need to leave Qatar to seek treatment abroad, as well as the introduction of complex therapies requiring extensive preparation and multidisciplinary collaboration, including hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, immunotherapy, cell therapy and CAR-T cells manufactured locally at Sidra Medicine's Good Manufacturing Practice Facility. This reflects the growing expertise and clinical capabilities available in Qatar to provide increasingly advanced and personalised cancer care for children.

Looking ahead, Sidra Medicine aims to make comprehensive molecular profiling available to every paediatric cancer patient, supporting the development and use of the most innovative treatment approaches used worldwide.

MoECC calls on fishermen to avoid sensitive marine sites

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has urged fishermen and marine enthusiasts in Qatar to avoid placing fishing nets over 'fashts' – shallow, rocky and reef-associated marine habitats that provide shelter, feeding and nursery grounds for marine life.

The ministry stressed that choosing fishing locations away from sensitive areas helps maintain the ecological balance of Qatar's marine environment. Marine protected areas currently account for about 2.5% of the country's total area, with a national ambition to increase marine protection to 30% of Qatar's exclusive economic zone in line with longer-term environmental objectives.

The importance of protecting shallow marine habitats is underscored by recent environmental monitoring. The latest State of the Environment reporting notes that seagrass meadows are particularly important ecosystems, providing nursery habitats for fish and invertebrates, stabilising sediments, filtering water and storing carbon.

Qatar Charity opens integrated health centre in Ferizaj to serve more than 200,000 people

Qatar Charity has inaugurated an integrated health centre in Ferizaj, Republic of Kosovo, marking a significant development initiative that strengthens health infrastructure and expands access to high-quality, specialised medical services. The centre will help ease the health and financial burdens on families, particularly those most in need.

The centre covers approximately 1,560sqm. It houses clinics and medical specialities, including family medicine, dentistry, mental health, and radiology, along with other health services, facilities, and equipment that support emergency care and urgent response.

More than 200,000 people are expected to benefit from the centre. It offers several medical services free of charge and others at nominal fees, promoting equitable access to healthcare and extending its reach across the local community.

Sustainable Health and Development Impact

The project will strengthen health facilities in Ferizaj to meet the population's growing needs by bringing preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services together under one roof. The centre will also reduce waiting times, promote early disease detection, and speed emergency response, supporting sustainable health services and improving residents' quality of life.

Expansion of Health Services in Malisheva

As part of its efforts to expand



health interventions in Kosovo, Qatar Charity also inaugurated a new health centre in the municipality of Malisheva. The facility will provide essential healthcare services to approximately 5,000 people, including first aid, medical

examinations, maternal and child healthcare, seasonal vaccinations, and medicines.

Integrated Care

Coinciding with the inauguration of the two health projects, a delegation of Qatar Charity donors

and volunteers spent a day with sponsored orphans, taking part in a range of activities and sports. The event brought joy to the children and strengthened their engagement. The children also presented drawings and artistic performances showcasing their talents. At the same time, the delegation met with teachers and supervisors to learn about their efforts to support the orphans' educational and personal development.

These activities reflect Qatar Charity's integrated approach to orphan care, which extends beyond meeting basic needs to creating a supportive environment that fosters a sense of care and belonging and helps children discover their abilities and express their aspirations with confidence.

Recognition of Donor Support Ahmed al-Emadi, assistant director of the Identity and Communication Department at Qatar Charity, said: "The idea for this project originated in Qatar, and today we see its impact becoming a tangible reality in Ferizaj. We are pleased to inaugurate this centre, which brings together several medical specialities and provides some services free of charge and others at nominal fees, enabling the largest possible number of beneficiaries to access healthcare."

He added: "We extend our sincere thanks to the donors whose contributions made this health facility possible, and we pray that their generosity will be richly rewarded."



UDST hosts sustainable development workshop under sustainability nexus initiative

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 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 op-

portunities, 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 in support of 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.





Officials watch the proceedings at the launch ceremony.

QMC launches ‘Nahj’ to promote responsible digital content

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) yesterday launched the “Nahj” initiative to elevate digital content creation, reinforce national values and identity, and encourage responsible use of social media platforms.

The programme, unveiled under the slogan “Committed to Our Values” is being implemented in partnership with Qatar University, various ministries, educational institutions and other relevant entities. It targets school and university students, content creators and the general public through meetings, seminars, workshops and digital platforms over three months.

Mohammed bin Sal’an al-Marri, supervisor of the Nahj initiative, said the corporation launched the programme out of its sense of responsibility towards society and the digital sphere. “The goal is to support the creation of responsible content that upholds national values and identity while promoting the conscious use of digital platforms,” he said.

He explained that the initiative rests on four core messages: taking pride in one’s identity, upholding responsibility for the spoken and written word, delivering content that adds value, and fostering national pride. “While platforms may change and evolve, the values governing one’s presence remain constant; every published word carries responsibility, and every piece of content presented can leave an impact on both the individual and society,” al-Marri noted.

He added that Nahj aims to cultivate content creators equipped with the knowledge, skills and adaptability needed to keep pace with digital transformations while producing



Panelists during the debate.

material that befits society and the nation, content that upholds its morals, values and authentic national identity. The initiative will feature direct engagements with content creators as well as seminars and workshops aligned with its messages and objectives.

Al-Marri expressed pride in the Nahj ambassadors, academics, media professionals and content creators, who convey the initiative’s message through their expertise and influential presence. He highlighted Qatar University’s role in hosting the launch as a national academic venue that reinforces knowledge’s role in serving society. He invited the public to follow Qatar Media Corporation’s accounts for updates and materials produced by the Digital Media Office.

In a statement to reporters, he stressed that Nahj serves as a gateway to knowledge and informed engagement with digital content by promoting positive material and inviting academics, researchers and content creators to participate.

The programme seeks to raise awareness of risks in the digital sphere, enhance the ability to distinguish between positive and negative

content, and support responsible interaction with platforms.

A panel discussion at the launch featured specialists who addressed key issues in digital content creation and creators’ responsibilities. Participants emphasised the importance of awareness when navigating the digital space, the ability to distinguish between positive and negative content, and the need for self-regulation among creators and users.

They also discussed the role of influencers in shaping messages based on a clear vision and positive impact that reinforces national values, identity and belonging while preserving cultural and societal privacy.

Dr Abdulrahman al-Harmi, a media personality and educational consultant, focused on the responsibility of handling digital content and the need to verify it, viewing this as a religious duty as much as a societal one.

He noted that one’s mindset forms gradually and can lead to either refinement or moral bankruptcy, depending on the path taken. “A fundamental challenge today is that minds are being shaped in the digital realm,” he said, calling for intellectual protection for the current generation

and urging families and society to fulfil their roles in guiding the rising generation.

Dr Talib al-Athba, a lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication at Qatar University, emphasised that social media influencers must conduct themselves responsibly given the wide reach of their content. He called for self-regulation among both influencers and users, particularly as the digital landscape is often dominated by trends that lack inherent value.

“The decision maker in choosing content is the user himself, which requires him to choose what is useful... and to realise that the positive word is what remains,” he said, adding that responsibility extends beyond production to the messages carried and their impact.

Dr Aisha Jassim al-Kuwari, CEO of Rosa Publishing House and a media consultant, stressed the need to maintain the right approach, adhere to values and national identity, and take pride in the Arabic language and our belonging. “These are interconnected elements in creating content that expresses society and preserves its privacy,” she said.

She noted that the challenge with the Arabic language lies not in the language itself but in presenting it in ways that appeal to young people, and that the local dialect is an extension of Arabic that should be reintroduced in innovative ways.

Fidaa al-Din Yahya, one of the initiative’s ambassadors, said digital platforms make communication easier and have become a path to fame. He noted how money and audiences shape an influencer’s psychology, warning that the self can become preoccupied with financial gain. He underscored the importance of integrity in one’s words as a fundamental quality that content creators must uphold.

‘Qatar organisations turn to AI for smarter, more efficient services’

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Artificial intelligence (AI) is moving beyond experimental projects in Qatar, with organisations exploring practical applications in public services, data management, workplace tools and business operations, an industry official said.

Anoop Vijayan



Speaking to *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the Google Cloud Summit Doha, Anoop Vijayan, senior programme manager at Mannai InfoTech, said the company was working with ministries and public-sector organisations on a range of cloud, data and AI initiatives.

“Our approach begins with the customer’s operational challenge rather than with the technology,” Vijayan said.

Mannai’s projects include cloud and API-management modernisation, enterprise knowledge and AI-enabled workplace solutions, as well as data and analytics platforms. The company is also working on AI-assisted document and proposal evaluation and intelligent validation solutions, with some initiatives already in production while others remain at pilot or phased-programme stages.

Vijayan said the company’s work reflects a shift in how AI is being incorporated into wider digital transformation.

“AI is not a standalone technology initiative. It is increasingly becoming part of how we modernise applications, connect services, use data more effectively and improve the experience of employees, customers and citizens,” he said.

Mannai’s relationship with Google Cloud has similarly expanded from cloud infrastructure implementation to the joint development of data, AI and digital solutions.

Vijayan said the partnership brings together Google Cloud’s technology, research and platforms with Mannai’s local market knowledge, customer relationships and systems-integration capabilities. He said such collaboration could support digital solutions across sectors including government services, transport, financial services, health-care, cultural institutions and smart-city operations.

Mannai was recently recognised as Google Cloud’s Services Partner of the Year for Qatar, an achievement Vijayan said reflected its work supporting customers with cloud and digital transformation initiatives. Vijayan also highlighted the importance of developing local expertise as AI adoption grows. “Developing cloud architects, data specialists, AI engineers and industry-focused consultants locally will be essential if we want these technologies to create sustainable value,” he said. He added that Mannai was looking to take experience and capabilities developed in Qatar into other strategic markets, particularly Saudi Arabia and the wider region.

For Qatar, Vijayan said AI and other emerging technologies could support more accessible and efficient public services, strengthen data-driven decision-making and contribute to the development of a knowledge-based economy. However, he stressed that wider adoption would require responsible implementation.

QU receives academic AI, research excellence award

QNA
Doha

Qatar University (QU) received the Academic AI and Research Excellence Award at the Google Cloud Summit 2026, recognising the University’s work in advancing the adoption of artificial intelligence across research, education and institutional operations.

“This recognition reflects Qatar University’s commitment to translating advances in artificial intelligence into meaningful impact across our academic, research and institutional environment,” said Dr Omar al-Ansari, President of QU.

“Our collaboration with Google Cloud is helping us strengthen the tools available to our people, expand the capabilities of our researchers and build the environment needed to develop knowledge-based solutions to national priorities. This is ultimately about ensuring Qatar University continues to build the knowledge and capabilities that Qatar’s future requires.”

The university’s participation



builds on its strategic collaboration with Google Cloud, which focuses on expanding the use of AI. Through the collaboration, QU is adopting Gemini Enterprise to provide faculty, staff and students with enterprise-grade generative AI tools that support academic and administrative tasks, research and productivity.

In parallel, the Spark AI Research Hub provides researchers with specialised computing infrastructure and advanced capabilities to develop, test and apply models in high-impact research areas such as energy, sustainable agriculture and healthcare.

League of Arab States, Gord-GCC announce joint hosting of Climate Pavilion at COP31

The League of Arab States (LAS) and the Global Carbon Council (GCC) will jointly host the Arab Climate Pavilion at COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, from November 9-20.

Designed as a platform for regional and international engagement, the pavilion will bring together governments, institutions, businesses, and climate practitioners to exchange knowledge, build partnerships, and support practical climate implementation in line with COP31’s focus on turning ambition into action. The COP31 collaboration builds on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2025 between LAS and the Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord) to advance co-operation on climate action, decarbonisation, energy transition and environmental sustainability. The agreement also identified areas including Article 6 capacity building, carbon markets, renewable energy, energy efficiency and the exchange of knowledge and best practices.



A prototype of the pavilion.

The Arab Climate Pavilion will provide a platform to carry this co-operation forward at COP31 through regional engagement and knowledge exchange on the global climate stage. With an Arab identity and an international outlook, the Arab Climate Pavilion will serve as a meeting point for stakeholders from across countries and sectors throughout COP31. It will highlight regional climate priorities and experiences alongside international perspectives, creating opportunities to strengthen partnerships and support joint action.

Dr Yousef M Alhorri, founding chairman, Gord & GCC, said: “Addressing climate change requires co-operation that reaches across borders and brings together diverse capabilities and perspectives. Our collaboration with the League of Arab States (LAS) reflects a shared commitment to advancing climate action in support of sustainable development. As COP31 places greater emphasis on implementation, the Arab Climate Pavilion will provide an important platform to connect regional priorities with practical co-operation on carbon markets,

climate finance and the energy transition. Through the pavilion, we aim to strengthen the connections between regional ambition and international co-operation, helping build the partnerships needed for lasting progress.”

Highlighting the pavilion’s role in strengthening regional and international engagement, Ambassador Dr Ali Ibrahim al-Malki, assistant secretary general and head of Economic Affairs, League of Arab States, said: “The Arab Climate Pavilion will provide a forum for Arab countries to bring forward regional priorities, share experiences and engage with the wider international community at COP 31 to exchange experiences, identify areas of common interest and strengthen co-operation across countries and institutions. Together with the Global Carbon Council, we look forward to welcoming partners from around the world and supporting constructive dialogue that strengthens co-operation on environmental and climate objectives.”

Doha Film Festival 2026 to Open with Award-winning Yemeni Feature *The Station*

QNA
Doha

Doha Film Institute (DFI) today announced that Doha Film Festival (DFF) 2026 will open with the MENA premiere of *The Station* (Al Mahattah), the acclaimed debut feature from Yemeni-Scottish filmmaker Sara Ishaq, taking place from November 19-27, 2026, in Doha.

A bold and deeply human story of resilience, sisterhood and solidarity, *The Station* unfolds inside a women-only petrol station in war-torn Yemen — a rare sanctuary where women gather for fuel, conversation and moments of respite from the realities surrounding them. When Layal’s younger

brother faces enlistment, she is forced to reconnect with her estranged sister to save him.

A recipient of DFI’s grants programme, *The Station* won five awards at Final Cut in Venice 2025, including the La Biennale di Venezia Award for Best Film in Post-Production, before making its world premiere in Competition at Cannes Critics’ Week in May 2026. Its selection as DFF Opening Film continues DFI’s long-standing commitment to nurturing promising talent from the region and bringing their stories to audiences around the world.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, CEO of Doha Film Institute and Director of Doha Film Festival, said: “The Station embodies the spirit of cinema we believe in at Doha

مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام Doha Film Institute

Film Institute — stories rarely heard that cross borders and remind us of our shared humanity. Sara Ishaq has created a film of extraordinary courage and tenderness, transforming a story rooted in Yemen into one that speaks to audiences everywhere. In opening Doha Film Festival 2026 with *The Station*, we are opening a space for dialogue, connection and a deeper understanding of the world through the power of film.”

Directed by Sara Ishaq and written by Ishaq and Nadia Eliewat, the film stars Manal al-Mulaiki, Abeer Mohammed, Rashad Khaled, Saleh al-Marshahi, Fariha Hassan, Randa Mohammed, Fatima Muthanna, Amal Esmail and Shorooq Mohammed.

Sara Ishaq, director of *The Station*, added: “The world of The

Station distills what I love and cherish about Yemen into a fragile utopia, constantly overshadowed by turmoil beyond its walls. At its core, this film is about people in all their complexity, contradictions and humanity. It is an ode to the people of Yemen, who have endured years of war with dignity and strength”

The selection reinforces Doha Film Festival’s role as a meeting point for distinctive voices from Qatar, the Arab world and the global film community. Through its year-round support for filmmakers, DFI continues to bridge cultures and enables audiences to experience the world through perspectives that challenge, move and inspire. Sara Ishaq’s debut short documentary **Karama Has**

No Walls (2012) earned nominations for an Academy Award and a BAFTA New Talent Award.

Her follow-up personal documentary *The Mulberry House* (2013) premiered at IDFA. Since 2015, Sara has led film training in Yemen — first through Comra Academy and now through Setara Films — to nurture Yemen’s emerging filmmaking talent amidst ongoing war. Between 2022-2026, Sara ran the International Coalition for Filmmakers at Risk in Amsterdam.

The Station will launch the 2026 festival with a story that is deeply rooted in place and universal in its themes — a reminder that even in the most difficult circumstances, cinema can create a space for connection, dignity and hope.

Four killed in Gaza in Israeli strikes

Israeli airstrikes killed at least four Palestinians in the Gaza Strip yesterday, local health officials said, and Israel said one of the attacks targeted a Hamas finance chief. Medics said Osama Abu Khater and Mohammad Abu Elwan, were killed when an Israeli airstrike hit a vehicle in western Khan Younis, in the south of the enclave. Two other people were wounded, they added. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz, in a statement said, "We will not allow Hamas to rebuild its strength, we will not stop until Hamas no longer exists." **(Reuters)**

US invites Putin to attend G20 summit

The United States has invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to attend the G20 summit of world leaders being held in Miami in December, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday. "In order to solve problems, you have to meet with the people that you disagree with or the people that you might have some issues with, so we've invited President Putin to the G20. We think it's an opportunity for him to engage not just with the president but with other world leaders. We hope that's an invitation he'll accept," Rubio said. **(AFP)**

President Milei calls UN 'useless'

Argentine President Javier Milei attacked the UN in a speech to the world body yesterday, calling it a "useless organisation" filled with "arrogant parasites." The firebrand Milei, one of US President Donald Trump's closest Latin American allies, has repeatedly used the UN platform to criticise global governance and its "woke" agenda. He accused the United Nations yesterday of having failed in its duty to guarantee collective security and human rights, saying it had instead allowed "chaos, violence and international terrorism" to flourish. **(AFP)**

Germany, India close defence deal

Germany and India are close to a deal that would allow a joint venture to build submarines in the South Asian nation, Berlin's envoy to New Delhi said yesterday. Discussions have progressed in recent months over an agreement for Germany's Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems to build six submarines for the Indian navy in partnership with Indian state-run Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders. The deal could be worth about \$8bn. "We have a submarine deal, which has more or less concluded in... text and the agreements, but yet to be signed," the envoy said. **(AFP)**

Ethiopia's Tigray rebels seize airports, clash with govt forces

AFP
Addis Ababa

Tigrayan rebels in northern Ethiopia seized control of airports and battled federal troops in neighbouring regions, multiple sources told AFP yesterday, as long-standing tensions spilled into open conflict.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) fought a devastating civil war with the federal government in 2020-2022 that killed some 600,000 people, according to African Union estimates.

Sporadic clashes and drone strikes in recent months have raised fears of a return to war, and the TPLF recently forged an alliance with armed groups in other parts of the vast country.

The regional government in Afar confirmed the overnight attack by the TPLF on the town of Abala, which lies in mountain ranges on the border with Tigray. Humanitarian workers in Afar told AFP of fighting between TPLF and federal forces in Abala and the town of

Italian parliament backs Meloni's plan to restart nuclear power

Italy's upper house Senate yesterday gave final approval to a government plan to restart nuclear power generation, almost 40 years after a referendum led to the closure of Italy's reactors. The government aims to deploy advanced modular reactors to help decarbonise industry and strengthen energy security, arguing that technological and safety advances have rendered the 1987 anti-nuclear vote obsolete. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing administration is seeking to shield the economy from a surge in energy prices triggered by the conflicts in the Middle East, reviving calls to reduce dependence on foreign energy supplies. "Sustainable nuclear power, together with renewable energy sources, will make Italy a safe, independent and competitive country," Energy Minister Gilberto Pichetto Fratin said after the vote. Italy relies heavily on energy imports, including electricity generated by nuclear plants in neighbouring countries such as France, but anti-nuclear campaigners argue that safety concerns and the lengthy time needed to build new reactors outweigh any benefits of restarting the sector. Italians remain divided on the issue. A June poll by Demopolis found that 51% supported restarting nuclear power generation, but a majority opposed the construction of a plant near their homes. **(Reuters)**

Israel squeezing UN Palestinian refugee agency ahead of polls: UNRWA commissioner-general

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Israeli government is squeezing the UN's agency for Palestinian refugees ahead of elections in Israel in an effort to boost its appeal to voters, the agency's leader said. UNRWA's acting Commissioner-General Christian Saunders said Israel was being "extremely difficult" about letting in vital supplies like engine oil to Gaza for relief operations while permitting luxury commercial products. "About 30 % of what's coming in is humanitarian aid — the rest is commercial... I would consider some of the stuff coming in to be luxury goods. I mean, you do not need Nutella to survive," he told AFP late Tuesday. Speaking at the UN's signature New York diplomatic gathering, Saunders also warned he would be forced to cut long-term services to refugees if his agency could not begin to bridge a \$100mn shortfall in the next two months.



Israeli military vehicles enter Israel from Gaza. **(Reuters)**

"We implemented a number of austerity measures, including putting the staff on an 80% work week with a 20% reduction in salary... although you cannot keep people on an 80% work week and a 20% reduction in salary forever," he said. Saunders said he believes Israel's October 27 elections are contributing to UNRWA's challenges because "the current government is pushing to implement as much of their programme before the elections as they can." Netanyahu, who heads the most right-wing

government in Israeli history, is locked in a tight election race and is focussing his campaign on security concerns ahead of next month's vote. UNRWA has long attracted Netanyahu's ire. "I think they're trying to show the Israeli public why they should re-elect them," Saunders added. Last month, Israeli forces took control of a vocational training centre run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees in an east Jerusalem suburb. The raid drew UN chief Antonio Guterres' condemnation. **(AFP)**

'Iran will never bend at the knee'

AFP
New York

Iran's president struck a defiant tone at the UN yesterday where he spoke for the first time since Washington and Israel launched an all-out war on his country, vowing Tehran would never "bend at the knee."

Masoud Pezeshkian accused Washington of "terrorism" for assassinating former supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at the start of the conflict, insisting Tehran had never started a war.

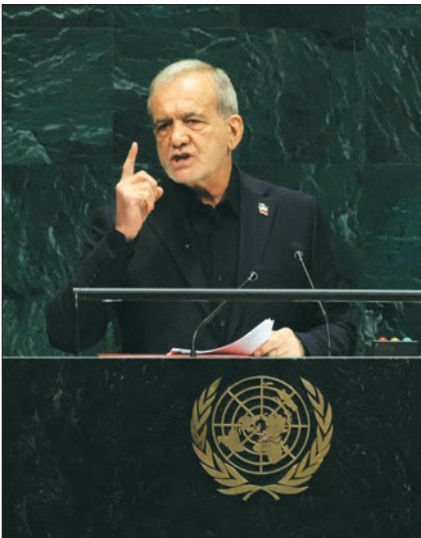
On Tuesday, President Donald Trump had told the UN General Assembly that he was weighing whether to "annihilate" Iran but went on to hail renewed talks between Tehran and Washington's negotiators.

Pezeshkian made no reference to the talks to resolve the stalled war in his steely speech.

"(Trump) must know that the resistance of the Iranian people will only increase in the face of sanctions, increased pressure, increased bullying. We will never bow our head or bend at the knee," he said.

Pezeshkian insisted Tehran would not allow the Strait of Hormuz, which it has choked off since the start of the war causing global energy prices to spike, to be used as leverage against his country.

"We cannot let some have free access and bolster their interests from the waterway,



President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 81st session of the UN General Assembly at UN Headquarters yesterday. **(AFP)**

while at the same time using that waterway to impose their aggression upon us," he said.

Pezeshkian's attendance at the UN's signature diplomatic event, in the heart of Manhattan, had been in doubt as it was unclear if the US would issue a visa.

Ultimately Washington granted the permit, but denied visas to several members of Pezeshkian's entourage.

Vote for new parliament in Morocco

AFP
Rabat

Moroccans cast their ballots for a new parliament yesterday with unemployment and inequality front of mind, even as some expressed a lack of trust in the parties in contention.

Nearly 16 mn Moroccans have registered to elect 395 members of the House of Representatives. But turnout will be a key test given the widespread voter disillusionment, especially among young people.

Though only 4% of registered voters are aged 18 to 24, youth-focused issues have found a spotlight, especially after the recent mass rush of young Moroccans into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, as well as last year's Gen Z protest movement demanding better health and education.

Rising unemployment, higher prices and inequality were also at the heart of much campaign messaging, as were efforts to drum up voter engagement.

As of 3:00pm, the national turnout rate had reached 21%, according to official figures, with polls due to close at 7:00pm.

On the campaign trail, parties focused on promises to improve quality of life in Morocco. But many, even among the older generation, say they wouldn't vote.

"I'm not going to vote because I have lost all faith in the political class," Majda Bakatir told AFP in Rabat.

"We want our country to move forward, but politicians do not seem to care about our problems regarding healthcare, education, and purchasing power," added the 59-year-old woman.

Others, like 55-year-old Karim Ennaciri, did vote in the hopes that the election would bring about change.

"This will allow us to see if there's a renewal within the parties," he said.

Morocco's prime minister is appointed by the king from the party that wins the most seats. The premier then forms a government for a five-year term, but the monarch retains control of major policy decisions.

India election chief condemned for voter-roll revision legitimacy

AFP
New Delhi

India's political opposition demanded the removal of the top election official yesterday after a newspaper investigation alleged that decisions behind a contentious voter-roll revision may have been taken illegally.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has been under scrutiny in recent months over the nationwide revision that has struck millions of names from voter lists since last year.

The ruling party says the revision aims to strike off fraudulently registered voters, but the opposition argues it is politically motivated and also targeting legitimate ones.

The report by the *Indian Express* focused on internal divisions within the three-member ECI.

It said the body's chief, Gyanesh Kumar, overruled objections from the other two members at least 14 times during the past 10 months, leading to the removals of some 130mn voters.

Such overrulings may be unlawful because the commission is supposed to work based on the consensus of at least two members, according to the report.

The main opposition Congress party accused Kumar of acting unilaterally at

the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "It was already known that things were not exactly well within the ECI," Congress party spokesman Pawan Khera said in a social media post.

"But just how messy, dysfunctional and, frankly, disturbing things had become is (now) laid bare."

KC Venugopal, another senior Congress party leader, demanded Kumar's "immediate removal" and a Supreme Court-monitored investigation.

Arvind Kejriwal of the opposition Aam Aadmi Party accused Kumar of "vote-rigging" and said any order without consensus should be considered "illegal".

Kumar has not commented on the report, which the ECI said gave "only one part of the picture". "All these decisions are an outcome of the unanimous decisions of the full Commission in the past one year," it said in a statement yesterday.

The ECI maintains that the revision was intended to remove duplicate entries and prevent "foreign illegal immigrants" from appearing on voter rolls.

The BJP, a Hindu-nationalist party, has long alleged that undocumented migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh have fraudulently registered as voters. Many such migrants are Muslims.

Golan will remain Syrian: al-Sharaa

President Ahmed al-Sharaa insisted at the UN yesterday that the Golan Heights region will remain Syrian after Colombia last month recognised Israeli sovereignty over the strategically important territory, which it captured from Syria in 1967. "Any attempts that violate our sovereignty, violate international law, will be stopped. Golan will remain Syrian territories," al-Sharaa said at the UN meeting. The US had until then been the only country to recognise Israel's annexation of the territory in 1981. The UN maintains that the plateau is Syrian territory under Israeli military occupation.

Al-Sharaa also used his second turn at the UN rostrum to denounce repeated Israeli strikes on his country since the fall of former dictator Bashar al-Assad. "Israel is launching attacks against Syria. There have been 500 air strikes, more than 1,200 incursions, and 300 detentions. This is at odds with the orientation we're seeing at global level," he said. "It is reminiscent of an era that we thought was long gone." **(AFP)**



Destroyed and damaged buildings remain in Gaza. **(Reuters)**

Peace board pitches \$2.45 bn Gaza plan amid uncertainties

Reuters
New York

President Donald Trump's Board of Peace unveiled a \$2.45bn plan yesterday to begin rebuilding Gaza, but officials acknowledged it faces an uncertain future as Israel and Hamas remain at odds over terms of a US-backed ceasefire.

The proposal, laid out by board officials at an event during the UN General Assembly in New York, consists of 66 programs that would rehabilitate Gaza's infrastructure and economy, destroyed by two years of full-scale Israeli military assault.

It was the latest plan aimed at advancing Trump's Gaza ceasefire, which was announced nearly a year ago but has failed to halt Israeli attacks on Gaza, including one yesterday that killed four people including a Hamas official as per Israeli claims.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters in New York: "Obviously this is a longterm project. It's not something that can happen in six months. But at least gives people a hope. Here's the future that awaits you if everyone does their part."

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, who devised the Gaza plan while backing Israel's right to "finish the job" in Gaza if Hamas does not disarm, acknowledged the proposal faced "different delays on different things, for whatever reason."

"We're just refining, sharpening the axe, getting ready for when we get to the time to cut the tree," Kushner said. "And hopefully, that will be very, very soon."

Nearly a year after a ceasefire ended major fighting in Gaza, reconstruction has yet to begin with negotiators failing to agree conditions for Hamas to lay down its weapons and Israel to withdraw its troops.

Most buildings have been destroyed and more than 2mn residents are confined to around a third of the enclave's territory, mostly in tents or crowded rooms in damaged buildings among the ruins. The Board of Peace plan announced yesterday estimates physical damage in Gaza at \$35.2bn and says full recovery and reconstruction will require about \$71.4bn over the next decade.

Its plans call for repairing border crossings, restoring electricity and water infrastructure, deploying 25,000 portable solar power kits and permanently filling tunnels beneath sites needed for priority reconstruction projects.

What is in US -Greenland-Denmark security accord?

The United States, Denmark and Greenland signed a security agreement earlier this week aimed at ending months of tension over the Danish self-governing territory after US President Donald Trump's repeated threats to take control of the vast Arctic island. Here is a look at some key components of the deal, which adds to a 1951 US-Danish pact on Greenland's defence, according to a text published by the Danish government.

The agreement allows the United States to establish two new military bases - one at Narsarsuaq in southern Greenland and the other at Mestersvig on the east coast - and to expand Pituffik Space Base, currently its only active base on the island. US craft including planes and vessels get flyover, landing and undersea rights in all of Greenland, including territorial waters. The agreement does not specify troop numbers or timelines.

The agreement expresses support for a stronger Nato presence in the Arctic, and Denmark commits to further strengthen its own security

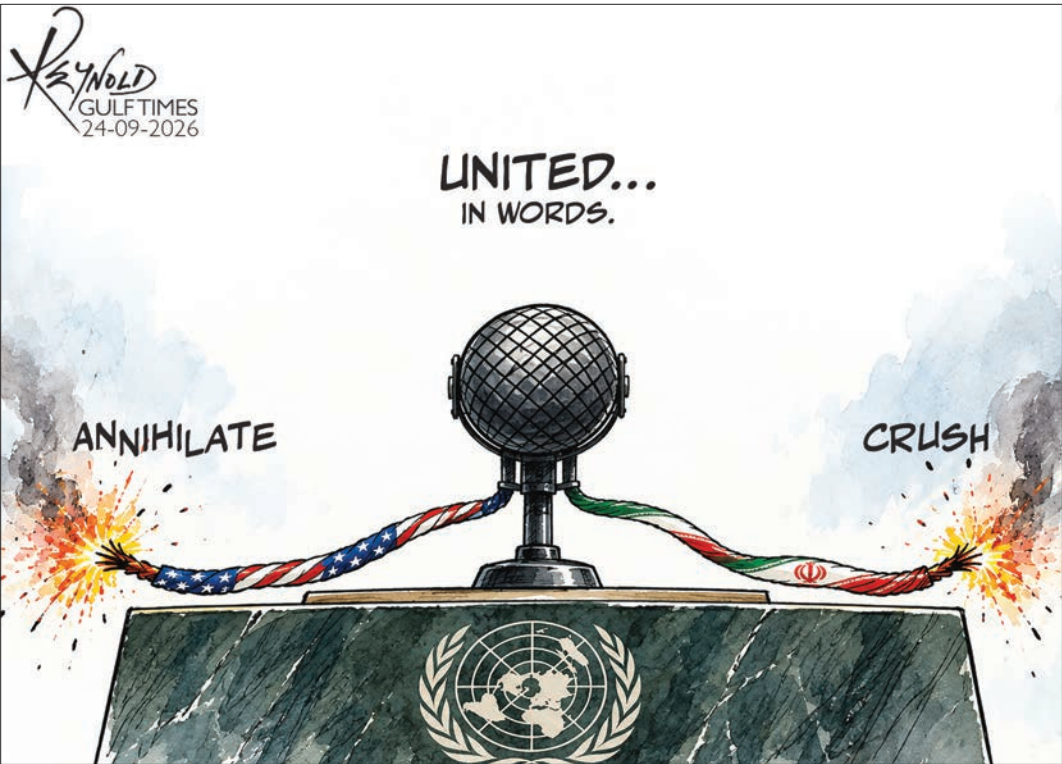
posture in the region. If Greenland ever become independent, Denmark and Greenland must ensure the new state remains in Nato, applying for membership if necessary. Non-Nato members are barred from having an ongoing military presence in Greenland.

The agreement says it respects Greenland's right to self-determination. Under the accord, the US must act in a way that respects Greenlandic society and the Greenlandic way of life. The agreement does not address US interests or investments into Greenland's mining and resources sector.

The deal bars investors from outside Nato member states, Nato partners or the European Union from having control or major influence over sensitive sectors in Greenland.

Greenland will screen investments to enforce those rules.

The parliaments of Greenland and Denmark must approve the agreement before it goes into effect. The pact has no end date and can be amended only by mutual consent. — Reuters



The schism in regional security

By Rory Miller



No two regions are the same. They vary in size and geography, religion and ethnic composition, colonial history and culture, and economic resources and political systems. They also tend to differ to the extent that powerful traditional identities conflict with the state system, in terms of the influence of external actors, and in the contested shape of the regional order.

Yet regardless of these, and other, differences, states in all regions across the globe are currently experiencing high levels of insecurity, instability and disorder. In just three days last week, to take a random example, French President Emmanuel Macron publicly warned of the growing threat to Europe from Russian hybrid operations. In the Gulf, the Houthis struck Saudi oil facilities and Riyadh. While in Asia, a North Korean official raised the possibility of a nuclear attack on neighbouring South Korea.

At the same time, many local actors, including longtime allies, are increasingly outspoken in challenging Washington over its policies, in particular over its choice of security strategies for dealing with shared threats on the regional level. More than ever, we also see regional states sidelining Washington in discussions on important regional issues, and also taking into consideration the preferences of Washington's main international competitors.

In this troubled strategic environment, the most pressing contemporary geopolitical question for all regional states, regardless of size or resources, is how, in the absence of a clearly dominant external power, they can achieve security in the coming years? This is no easy question to answer.

Even within a single region or sub-region it is extremely challenging to find common answers to common threats. Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East are full of deeply embedded historic rivalries and suspicions. There are also numerous tensions over territorial claims, and competition over trade and natural resources that limit the opportunities for security cooperation. These historical, political and economic factors not only make it difficult for local actors in the same region to agree on what constitutes their biggest threat. Even if they can reach agreement on this point, it is often hard to find consensus on how to allocate the diplomatic, financial and military resources needed for joint action to take place.

This reality is further complicated by an absence of regional institutions that are capable of helping local actors to work together to address shared security issues - think of the debates within the European Union (EU) on providing support for Ukraine. Changing this reality in existing regional organizations - whether the EU, South Asia's Asean or the GCC - is an extremely difficult endeavour. For example, no regional organization in the international system has formal supranational structures in place that transcend national boundaries and require member states to cede substantive decision-making on security matters. There are also very few regional organisations in operation today that have a mandate

to promote peace and security or even to undertake conflict-management on the regional level.

That is not to say it never happens. The GCC member states increased counter-terror cooperation following a wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia from mid-2003 onwards. A series of attacks in Bali, Indonesia, between 2002 and 2005, provided the catalysts that led to increased counter-terror cooperation between Asean states. The 2004 attacks on the Madrid rail system and the July 2005 London bombings saw EU members do the same.

But as these cases showed at the time, it is a relatively easy task to provide regional organisations with the resources - money, expertise and technology - needed to build-up their capacity to undertake joint security action.

It is much harder to sustain this cooperation once the threat fades. This requires the existence of an active, motivated and trusted core of leaders within the region willing to champion the cause of security cooperation for the benefit of all. They must be willing to invest significant political capital in this endeavour, especially when it comes to convincing all the relevant parties that they will be more secure, despite different national priorities, if they cede some national control over budgets and military forces to the regional organization.

Despite these obstacles, dissatisfaction with the security status quo, including growing disillusionment with the US security provision, is driving regional actors toward increased cooperation. One important expression of this - which also highlights the current limits of regional organisations as security frameworks - has been the rise of multinational security coalitions led by local powers that can claim some, even significant, resources to realise their goals and defend their interests in a regional context.

A recent case in point is the Makkah Defence Agreement, launched by Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan in August. Much has been made of this agreement and its implications for regional security going forward. Such frameworks understandably appeal to ambitious local actors who are attracted by the opportunities that they present for signaling leadership.

But coalitions with local actors at the centre, like the Makkah Defence Agreement, have not yet proven themselves in addressing effectively the drivers of instability and insecurity on the regional level. Past examples of these coalitions - including the Yemen War coalition between 2015 and 2020 - have been unable to achieve their military goals once cooperation has started. For its part, the Makkah Defence Agreement has not yet even moved from establishment to active cooperation.

The reality is that decades of (over)reliance on Washington have made it very difficult for these locally-led coalitions to become effective substitutes for the US-led security order. As long as this state of affairs continues, most states in most regions will remain reluctant to push for ambitious levels of cooperation in the security sphere. Instead, they will continue to accept the constraints imposed on them by their past experience and the lure of outside actors.

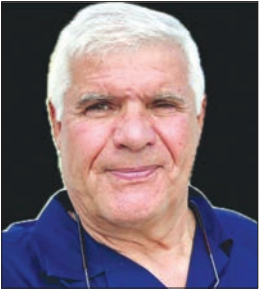
• The writer is professor of International Politics and director of the Small States and Energy Studies Programs at Georgetown University in Qatar @RoryDavidMiller



The Makkah Defence Agreement was formed by Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan in August this year. (AFP)

Prisoners of prosperity: Why money, missiles cannot buy regional order

By Jamil K Mroue



For the GCC, the 20th century brought a historical anomaly: a seismic windfall from the earth that offered a chance to redesign primitive desert conditions into cutting-edge, futuristic city-states at a rocket-like pace. And by any measurable standard, they succeeded. Health indices soared, educational systems expanded, and business profiles mushroomed into world-class integration. Yet, as these nations lifted their own internal burdens, their underlying tribal social frameworks dictated varying modes and speeds of growth. Little attention was paid to forging a collective, interoperable drive that could make investments go the extra mile while eliminating redundancy.

Instead, the sheer magnitude of this prosperity created an apparent international dome of insulation. Shielded by this perceived security, particularly in the turbulent wake of 9/11 and the decade-long Arab Spring, Gulf capitals began contemplating bespoke paths to regional reach. Flush with excessive financial reserves, they embarked on a series of foreign interventions and economic expansions driven less by rigorous, long-term strategy and more by an unbridled appetite for risk.

These interventions were rarely born of malice; they often carried the best of intentions - a desire to share domestic wealth and steer a historically troubled region toward better governance. But restructuring foreign societies from the outside through checkbook diplomacy predictably backfired. It spawned client partisanship that was stubbornly low on local political efficiency and astronomically high on dollar-grabbing. The result was a series of disruptions descending into intractable civil wars and quagmires, proving that capital injection is no substitute for organic state-building.

The Yemeni crucible

Nowhere is this structural failure more evident than on the southern fringe of the Arabian Peninsula. For nearly a century, Yemen, the region's poorest and most populous nation, languished in geopolitical limbo. Ever since the foundational compromises of the 1934 Treaty of Taif and the recurring missed opportunities for integration (such as the 2001 Muscat GCC summit compromise and the 2006 London donor conference), Riyadh and its partners viewed Yemen through a schizophrenic lens: an essential backyard that could never quite qualify as a trusted partner.

For decades, the crisis in Yemen was treated by the Gulf as a domestic nuisance - something left to stew in its own juice of corruption and tribal degeneration. But internal instability cannot be permanently quarantined behind concrete walls or border fences.

When the Houthi movement (Ansar Allah) consolidated its rule, it did so by marrying a resilient hybrid military apparatus with an autarkic war economy. Funded by fuel monopolies at Hodeidah, systematic domestic taxation, and an uninterrupted covert smuggling pipeline managed by the IRGC, the Houthis proved immune to conventional coercion.

As historical and forensic tracking shows, while Gulf air campaigns battered above-ground infrastructure, Houthi forces burrowed deep into volcanic mountain ranges, turning subterranean tunnels into missile sanctuaries. Their eastern drives into Marib and Al-Jawf smashed against stubborn tribal confederations, yet the core of their strategic threat remained intact.

When the Houthis began projecting power a thousand kilometers to the north - targeting Israel and international shipping lanes with low-cost drones and ballistic systems - they exposed a brutal

truth: asymmetric resilience can effortlessly break the economic and logistical math of advanced industrial militaries.

The Israeli illusion

Parallel to the Gulf's miscalculated interventions, Israeli leadership fell prey to an equally seductive and destructive illusion. Entranced by the myth of the "Start-up Nation" as a high-tech Sparta, Israeli elites attempted to leapfrog the foundational domestic instability of their region - most notably the festering Palestinian conundrum - under the assumption that economic integration and intelligence dominance could permanently bypass political realities.

Under the over-inflated self-image of regional architectural supremacy, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu floated far away from domestic security realities. That hubris culminated in a catastrophic collision with reality, brutally exposed by the insidious, suicidal calculus of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar on October 7 - unleashing a chain of events with devastating, far-reaching consequences.

Like the Gulf's approach to Yemen, Israel viewed the Palestinian crisis as a problem that could be contained, managed, or bombed into submission. Instead, Israeli leadership successfully tugged Washington into a widening regional war that shares the exact same fatal symptom: overwhelming external military prowess paired with an utterly aimless political strategy.

The reckoning

Today, the pressure is unrelenting, and every further military intervention only deepens the regional morass. The convergence of the Yemeni frontline, the Iraqi militia networks, the Iranian axis, and the US-Israeli kinetic response has created a sprawling theatre of friction where conventional deterrence is losing its grip.

No amount of money, no advanced drone or interceptor missile, and no amount of diplomatic bombast can clear away the immense debris that currently blocks the prosperity plans entertained by Israel, the GCC, or the United States. The fate of the hundreds of millions of souls inhabiting this geography will continue to be driven toward institutional decomposition and human misery as long as the minds operating this bloody drama refuse to confront a basic axiom of statecraft: deliberation of the basics must precede action.

True stability requires a cold, unflinching confrontation with facts. It requires recognizing that financial reserves and military hardware are merely tools - never destinations. Until regional leaders abandon the hubris of out-of-touch interventions and return to the unglamorous work of political accommodation, the region will remain trapped by the very wealth and insecurities it refuses to master.

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



Aid workers prepare foodstuffs at a camp in Aden, Yemen. (Reuters)

QM chairperson highlights power of cinema, arts to bridge cultures

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Qatar Museums (QM) Chairperson HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani has highlighted the power of cinema and the arts to foster cross-cultural understanding and deepen connections between people during a visit to Argentina and Chile.

Writing on her official Instagram account, HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa said: "I was delighted to visit the exhibition 'Your

Ghosts Are Mine: Expanded Cinemas, Amplified Voices' at the Centro Cultural La Moneda in Santiago. It was a pleasure to see these works reaching new audiences in Latin America and sparking a dialogue about memory, belonging, displacement, and exile."

Sheikhha Al Mayassa added: "The legacy of the Qatar-Argentina and Chile Year of Culture 2025 lives on through these encounters; cinema allows us to see the world through others' experiences, draw closer to their stories, and recognise our shared humanity while appreciating what makes each of us unique."

In another post, HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa remarked: "Buenos Aires, from music to art. I was delighted to visit the Teatro Colón and recall the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra's performance during the Qatar-Argentina and Chile Year of Culture 2025, an event that united us through the universal language of music." She added: "From the theatre to the Museum of Modern Art in Buenos Aires, I was delighted to meet friends and explore the 70th-anniversary exhibitions, which showcase a diversity and creativity that reflect the city's vitality and spirit."



H.E. Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani at Teatro Colon. Photo courtesy of H.E. Sheikhha Al Mayassa, Instagram page.

QRCS distributes food parcels to displaced families in Gaza

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has launched a new relief project to distribute 1,873 food parcels to displaced and vulnerable families across Gaza's northern and southern governorates, at a total cost of \$274,000.

Dr Akram Nassar, director of QRCS' representation office in Gaza, said: "This is another episode of QRCS' intensive relief efforts to improve the living conditions of the blockade's two-million population, preserve their dignity, and alleviate their suffering."

These efforts involve a wide range of projects implemented in coordination with local partners, including the distribution of food parcels and hot meals at displacement camps and shelters." As he received a food parcel from QRCS, Bilal (55) sadly described the hard times in Gaza: "Honestly, the economic situation is desperate, and I have no source of income to secure even the most basic needs for my family".

Having two impaired daughters and a lost son, Bilal was forced to flee his home in Shejaiya last year, and he and his family found themselves stuck in a dilapidated tent near the Port of Gaza. "This timely aid will feed my family and relieve me of the burden of worrying about our next meal, given the complete lack of jobs in Gaza," added the man.

He hoped for further support for displaced families, who were



struggling to survive and badly needed humanitarian assistance. In the same vein, QRCS is preparing a QR16.5mn food security enhancement scheme for Gaza, including restoring and operating six bakeries to produce bread, distributing diverse food parcels and hot meals, and providing Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) for malnourished

children. Being ritually eligible to Zakat, these plans will become a reality only with the donations of charity payers, which can be made via QRCS's website (www.qrcs.org.qa), mobile app (QRCS), donor service hotline (66666364), home donation collection hotline (33998898), or donation collection boxes/agents at malls and shopping centers.

'1980 Oru Thekkan Nostalgia' at Safari

Safari, one of the leading hypermarket chains, has launched its '1980 Oru Thekkan Nostalgia' (Travancore Food Festival) promotion. The promotion was inaugurated yesterday at the Bakery & Hot Food section of Safari Mall, Abu Hamour. The inauguration was jointly carried out by Zainul Abideen, deputy chairman and managing director of Safari Group, and Mohammed Hamad Soofan al-Ahbab. Other representatives of the Safari management were also present at the ceremony. '1980 Oru Thekkan Nostalgia', also known as the Travancore Food Festival, is a highly diverse and attractive promotion. Featuring an extensive celebration of traditional delicacies, the festival has been designed to delight food lovers with a wide variety of authentic local flavours. Another major attraction of the promotion is its nostalgic setting, specially created to take



customers back to the memories and atmosphere of the 1980s. Even the staff have been given specially designed costumes inspired by the fashion of the

1980s, adding to the authentic nostalgic experience. These unique arrangements have already attracted considerable public attention.

QF completes preparations to host 'Qiyada' conference

QNA
Doha

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) has announced the completion of preparations to host the second edition of the 'Qiyada: Aspirations and Development of Muslim Youth in Qatar' conference. Held under the theme 'Guided by Faith, We Thrive in a Changing World', the event will take place on September 25 and 26 at Multaqa (Education City Student Center), featuring a distinguished group of scholars, thought leaders, and inspiring personalities.

Executive Director of Student Services at QF Higher Education, Dr Abdunnassir Shamlan al-Tamimi, emphasised that the second edition of the 'Qiyada' conference addresses the rapid changes and challenges facing young people - foremost among them digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and pressures affecting identity and values.

Dr al-Tamimi stated that the conference serves as an open invitation for young people to come together and explore how faith, values, and resilience can provide guidance and strength in facing the challenges of a complex and rapidly changing world. He expressed his hope that the conference would help participants deepen their self-understanding, strengthen their appreciation for their cultures and values, and renew their commitment to serving others and contributing to the common good.

He said that the conference em-



Dr Abdunnassir Shamlan al-Tamimi

bodies the firm belief of QF-rooted in its educational mission and Islamic values-that education extends beyond academic success to encompass building moral character, fostering self-discipline, and strengthening the commitment to community service.

He noted that the conference serves as a leading annual gathering, bringing together between 1,400 and 1,500 participants-aged 17 to 24 and from diverse backgrounds-including university students, students from Qatar Foundation schools, and those from various higher education institutions across the country. It aims to provide a space for learning, self-reflection, and meaningful engagement, thereby supporting their personal growth and empowering them to contribute positively to their communities.

He also highlighted that 'Qiyada' is conducted in both Arabic and English, with simultaneous interpretation provided for the main sessions. The conference was launched by the counseling

and support office within Qatar Foundation's Higher Education to support the institute's mission of fostering education, leadership, and innovation, while embedding a culture of dialogue and collaboration and contributing to positive societal and global impact.

He explained that the current edition shifts the focus from theoretical inspiration to a more interactive, applied experience, equipping participants with practical tools they can use in their daily lives.

The program rests on four key pillars: awareness -to understand reality and the transformations taking place around us; identity -to define values and establish an ethical and spiritual frame of reference; tools -to acquire the intellectual and practical skills needed to navigate challenges; and resilience and action -to translate ideas into initiatives that create a tangible impact on society.

He added that the sessions and workshops would address a range of vital topics, including mental health, resilience, and overcoming anxiety and stress; digital and technological awareness, as well as navigating artificial intelligence and algorithms; religious and spiritual grounding; civic and community engagement and responsibility; and economic and financial empowerment, alongside decision-making amidst uncertainty.

Dr al-Tamimi reviewed the results of the conference's inaugural edition, noting the participation of over 1,467 individuals and a daily attendance exceeding 1,200 participants.

Qatar Calendar announces Bubble Planet immersive experience in Doha

Qatar Calendar is set to bring Bubble Planet: An Immersive Experience to Doha, opening at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) on December 6, with tickets going on sale in October. The interactive experience invites visitors of all ages to step into a vibrant world of light, colour, bubbles and immersive technology. Across multiple uniquely themed rooms, visitors can explore a range of multisensory experiences, including a giant bubble bath ball pit, a virtual reality room, an undersea LED environment and an infinity room, alongside optical illusions, 360-degree projections and interactive installations. The addition of Bubble Planet further strengthens Qatar's year-round entertainment calendar, bringing residents and visitors another engaging attraction to enjoy during the winter season. As the country continues to expand its programme of immersive attractions, family entertainment and international events, Qatar is reinforcing its position as a dynamic destination with something to discover throughout the year. To register and find out more, please visit the link <https://visitqatar.com/intl-en/events-calendar/bubble-planet>



Lusail Museum Conversations presents Echoes of Cairo

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

In the early 20th century, Cairo's recording studios pressed the sounds of a musical golden age onto fragile discs, capturing voices and styles that might otherwise have been lost. This September, Lusail Museum Conversations, an ongoing series of public lectures and events, brings this musical heritage back to life with Echoes of Cairo: Reviving Egyptian Music from 1900, a panel talk and concert with the acclaimed ensemble Oxford Maqam.

Presented as part of Qatar Creates Talks that connects local, regional and international perspectives through interdisciplinary

conversations across art, design, architecture, film, music and in partnership with Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), the event takes place at GU-Q.

The panel talk takes place on September 28 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the Faculty Conference Room, featuring musical extracts alongside discussion. Members of Oxford Maqam will discuss the repertoire, recordings, and history behind the music, and the challenges of reviving works first captured on ageing shellac records.

Speakers include Professor Martin Stokes, King Edward Professor of Music at King's College London and an internationally recognised ethnomusicologist whose research focuses on music, identity, and cul-

tural life across the Middle East; Dr Bashir Saade, a lecturer at the University of Stirling and an Arabic nay flute musician whose work bridges musical heritage with sound studies; and Dr Sophie Frankford, a Research Associate at King's College London and an anthropologist whose research explores Egyptian musical cultures, archives, and the social life of music in the region.

The concert follows on September 29, from 6pm to 7.30pm at GU-Q's Auditorium, bringing this repertoire to life in a full live performance steeped in Arab heritage. The evening features performances by five members of Oxford Maqam: Martin Stokes, Bashir Saade, Sophie Frankford, as well Tarik Beshir, a vocalist and oud player specialising in

the faithful revival of late 19th- and early 20th-century Ottoman Egyptian music, and Walid Zaido, a percussionist whose performances in classical and oriental music span the Middle East and Europe.

Renowned for its innovative approach to classical Arabic music, the group recreates historical works through extensive research and period recording techniques, restoring forgotten repertoire for contemporary audiences.

The group's performance and the conversations around Egypt's musical heritage are especially timely as Qatar prepares to mark a Year of Culture with Egypt in 2027, looking ahead to a year of deeper cultural exchange between the two countries.





Qatar embassy brings communities together at Ottawa fall gathering



By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Ottawa welcomed members of the Qatari, Canadian and wider local communities to the Ottawa Fall Get-Together at Leamy Lake Park in Gatineau, Quebec, held as part of the 2026 Year of Culture partnership between the two countries.

Bringing together more than 100 attendees, the outdoor gathering celebrated the growing friendship between Qatar and Canada through an afternoon of sport, food and informal cultural exchange. Guests of different ages took part in basketball, volleyball and tug-of-war, creating a relaxed setting in which families and community members could meet and form new connections. Tariq Ali Faraj al-Ansari, ambassador of the State of Qatar to Canada, said: "This gathering represents an exciting manifestation of the cultural exchange between our peoples and sets an example of mutual under-

The Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture creates opportunities for people to discover one another's cultures and build lasting relationships

standing. The 2026 Year of Culture partnership goes beyond words, as we demonstrate the important nexus between culture, friendship, peace, and development.

"Our message today is that our friendship goes beyond borders, and that our cultural exchange will continue to strengthen and nurture the friendly relations between our two countries and peoples. Together, we can build peaceful and inclusive societies."

The Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture creates opportunities for people to discover one another's cultures and build lasting relationships. Its programme brings communities, institutions and creative practitioners together through cultural, educational, sporting and community-led activities in the partner countries.

The fall gathering's strong turnout and warm community atmosphere demonstrated how simple shared experiences can support deeper understanding and lasting people-to-people ties between Qatar and Canada.

The Ottawa Fall Get-Together followed a wide-ranging programme of exchange between Qatar and Canada throughout 2026. In Canada, the Year of Culture was launched with a dedicated media day at the Embassy of Qatar in Ottawa; M7 introduced emerging designers from Qatar to Canadian audiences at Fashion Art Toronto; Qatari artist Ghada al-Suwaidi created a special helmet worn by Pierre Gasly at the Formula 1 Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal; and calligraphist artist Fatima al-Sharshani produced a public artwork for Montreal's MURAL Festival. In



Toronto, Doha Debates brought together students and voices from sport and media for a Town Hall exploring football fandom, community and commercialisation.

In Qatar, Canadian chefs Christian Gosselin, Eric Chong and Andy Hay shared the country's diverse culinary traditions at the Qatar International Food Festival, while Canadian artists participated in the inaugural Art Basel Qatar.

Canada's sporting culture was also celebrated through street curling on National Sport Day and a wider winter sports programme featuring ice hockey, curling and skating, alongside Canadian community participation and cultural activities.

Together, these exchanges have connected artists, designers, chefs, young people, athletes and families, creating new opportunities for Qatari and Canadians to experience one another's cultures and build lasting relationships.

WEEKEND PRICE

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24-09-2026 at All Safari outlets

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44 QR.50 لحم ضاني هندي ١ كجم Indian Mutton 1 kg	34 QR.50 لحم بقري بدون عظم باكستان ١ كجم Pakistan Beef Boneless 1 kg	43 QR.50 لحم خروف استراليا ١ كجم Australian Lamb 1 kg	24 QR.00 سمك بومفريت اسود الامارات ١ كجم Fresh Black Pomfret UAE 1 kg	5 QR.00 كابوريا ذكر قطر ١ كجم Fresh Crab Male Qatar 1 kg	9 QR.25 برقوق احمر ايران ١ كجم Plum Red Iran 1 kg
4 QR.25 ليمون افريقيا ١ كجم Lemon Africa 1 kg	3 QR.00 قرع الزبدة السعودية ١ كجم Butter Pumpkin KSA 1 kg	10 QR.00 ثوم مقشر صيني ١ كجم ١ عبوة Peeled Garlic China (Approx 1 kg) 1 pkt	4 QR.50 موز الاكوادور ١ كجم Banana Ecuador 1 kg	9 QR.00 أفوكادو كينيا ١ كجم Avocado Kenya 1 kg	18 QR.75 أرز بسمتي بارليمنت ديلي ديللايت ٤.٥٤ كجم ١ حبة Parliament Daily Delight Basmati 4.54 kg
6 QR.50 تفاح مورغانا إيطاليا ١ كجم Apple Morgana Italy 1 kg	1 QR.75 بطيخ عمان ١ كجم Watermelon Oman 1 kg	8 QR.25 عنب أحمر مصر ١ كجم ١ عبوة Grape Red Egypt (Approx 1kg) 1 Box	6 QR.00 كيوي الصين ١ كجم Kiwi China 1 kg	12 QR.00 نسادي دجاج شواية ١٣٠٠ جم ١ حبة Sadia Chicken Griller 1300 gm x 1 pc	
3 QR.50 رمان مصر ١ كجم Pomegranate Egypt 1 kg	8 QR.00 نكتارين ايران ١ كجم ١ حبة Nectarine Iran (Approx 1 kg) 1 Box	41 QR.75 مزرعتي حليب مجفف كامل الحسم ٢ كجم ١ حبة Mazzraty Instant Milk Powder 2 kg x 1 pc	10 QR.75 زيت الكانولا جنان ١.٥ لتر ١ حبة Jenan Canola Oil 1.5 Ltr x 1 pc		

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