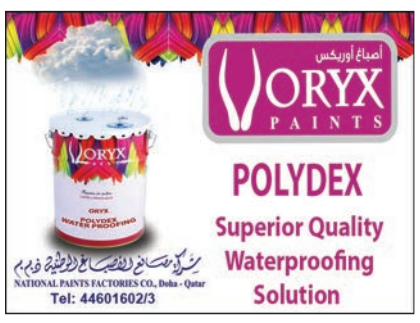
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Qatar, Kuwait discuss regional developments

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held a telephone conversation with Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah to discuss bilateral relations and ways to strengthen co-operation.
The two sides also reviewed regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts and joint co-ordination aimed at de-escalation and enhancing regional security and stability.
HE the Prime Minister reaffirmed Qatar's support for all diplomatic efforts to reach a solution that guarantees freedom of maritime navigation and paves the way for a comprehensive agreement to achieve sustainable peace in the region. (**QNA**)

Qatar property show sales double to top QR1bn

Real Estate Forum, Cityscape Qatar pull 16,000 visitors

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The fourth Qatar Real Estate Forum and the accompanying Cityscape Qatar exhibition generated more than QR1bn in real estate sales, double last year's figure, the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) has said.

The three-day event, which concluded at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC) on Thursday, drew 16,000 visitors, among them experts, investors, real estate developers and decision-makers.

New projects launched by exhibitors underscored the market's growth potential, reflecting developers' efforts to deliver schemes that meet investor aspirations and market needs.

Aqarat said strong turnout for the forum's main sessions, innovation platform, workshops and exhibition reflected growing interest in Qatar's real estate market and its investment opportunities. It also cemented the forum's standing as a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange and substantive discussion of developments in the sector, both in Qatar and across the region.

The forum showcased Qatar's investment opportunities and the legislative and regulatory reforms that have been instrumental in promoting transparency and bolstering investor confidence. **To Page 6**

Qatari short film wins 25 global honours

By A Staff Reporter
Doha


A scene from the film.

A short Qatari film about two brothers and a prank that goes too far has travelled a remarkably long way. *SANAD*, the short directed by Noor al-Nasr, has collected 25 awards across 50 international film festivals, and its direction, screenplay and storytelling have won admirers far beyond Doha.
Its prizes include Best Short Film at both the London Independent Film Awards and the Sweden Film Awards, and Best Screenplay at the Milano Indie Movie Awards. Its passport carries further stamps from the Sarajevo Film Festival, Mexico's Guanajuato International Film Festival and the Dhaka International Film Festival. Closer to home, it was selected for the Ajyal Film Festival, completing a journey through audiences as varied as the cultures they come from. **To Page 6**

Intense diplomacy to salvage situation

● Trump hasn't decided on attack: Rubio

AFP, Reuters
Washington/Tehran



Iranian negotiators held talks with mediators yesterday on ways to end the war in the Gulf, a source told Reuters, as Tehran said Washington's tone had "completely changed" amid fears of fresh fighting after Tuesday's US midterm elections.

The talks followed more than 12 hours of discussions between Iranian and Qatari envoys in Tehran on Friday, said the source, who was briefed on the negotiations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Al Jazeera that an Iranian delegation was in Doha continuing consultations with mediators, and that Tehran had reviewed a letter from US Vice President JD Vance, describing Washington's attempt to open dialogue as a "positive step".

He stressed, however, that "currently, there are no plans for meetings with American officials", according to the state news agency IRNA. "Iran's conditions are clear, and consultations regarding them are ongoing among mediators," he said.

Qatar and Pakistan have been mediating between the warring parties, though the talks have yet to produce a lasting agreement.

Vance's letter was addressed to Iran's security chief Mohsen Rezaei, who said in a video broadcast on Iranian television that he had read it but not yet replied. "Their tone has completely changed," he said, calling the shift "a good sign" that showed Iran had "consolidated its victory". He declined to comment further on its contents.

Rezaei also told state television that Iran was debating whether to maintain its long-standing ban on nuclear weapons should hostilities resume, though no decision on any change had been taken.

The diplomatic activity unfolded against a backdrop of mounting threats. In Atlanta, where he was hosting G20 foreign ministers for a two-day meeting, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said President Donald Trump had not decided on fresh strikes on Iran, amid reports that he could order an attack after the midterms.

"We can achieve military objectives if we seek to," Rubio told a press conference. "I have no announcement in that regard with you today, and nor do we take any of it lightly."

He accused Tehran of "actively and openly" targeting commercial vessels but said Trump preferred a diplomatic solution, while declining to set a timeline for talks. **To Page 4**

US 'ready to accept our proposals': Iran

Monitoring Report

The secretary of Iran's National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei, says the US has indicated willingness to accept Iranian conditions. "There is a proposal from the US, a better one, in which Washington has indicated its readiness to accept our seven conditions," Rezaei told state broadcaster IRIB. Rezaei added that Iran's seven conditions differ from what was agreed in the Islamabad memorandum of understanding with the US. Iran's security chief said that Qatar and Pakistan are leading mediation efforts. "We are serious about diplomacy, but we will not relinquish the rights of our people," he added.

Qatar Boat Show promises a dazzling spectacle

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The Old Doha Port is set to transform into a spectacular showcase of luxury yachts, cutting-edge marine technology and dazzling entertainment as the third edition of Qatar Boat Show gets under way on November 4.

Running until November 7, the four-day event will bring together some of the world's leading yacht manufacturers and marine exhibitors, offering visitors a blend of maritime innovation, luxury lifestyle experiences and cultural attractions against the picturesque backdrop of Doha's historic harbour.

Old Doha Port announced that all preparations for the much-anticipated event have been completed, with an expanded international presence and an entertainment programme featuring nightly fireworks, drone displays, live music and film screenings.

The show has recorded a 30% increase in participation from GCC exhibitors compared with the previous edition, while 70% of exhibitors are returning this year, reflecting its growing appeal and strengthening position on the international maritime calendar.

Visitors will have the opportunity to step aboard an impressive range of vessels, from magnificent mega yachts and superyachts to sleek speedboats and specialised fishing boats, gaining a close-up view of the craftsmanship, sophisticated design and advanced technology behind modern boatbuilding.

Beyond the vessels, the show promises an immersive waterfront experience, combining luxury brand showcases, distinctive dining options, floating cafés and a lively programme of cultural and entertainment activities.



Six dedicated exhibition areas will cater to different interests across the marine industry, from luxury yachting and technological innovation to recreational fishing and maritime lifestyle products.

The Oceanic Display will showcase mega yachts, superyachts and vessels exceeding 15 metres in length, while the Shoreline Display, the event's largest outdoor exhibition area, will feature boats measuring up to 35 feet alongside a diverse selection of marine lifestyle products. **To Page 6**



Today's GULF TIMES includes a 12-page supplement on
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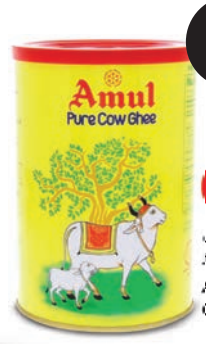
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Carnegie Mellon University Qatar

Beyond green: How CMU-Q students are reframing sustainability and their responsibility to give back





Representing Qatar at the AFS Youth Assembly in Geneva, four Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar students deepened their understanding of how technology, human context, and civic responsibility intersect to build a resilient future.

When people hear the term "sustainability," the immediate association is often environmental conservation. But for four Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) students, an international summer learning experience led to a far broader, human-centered definition. CMU-Q is a Qatar Foundation partner university.

This past summer, CMU-Q students **Mohammed Al-Ali, Rashid Al-Kubaisi, Salwa Al-Kuwari and Al Reem Al Thani** joined the Qatar delegation for the AFS Youth Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. The event drew hundreds of young people from more than 80 countries to explore the theme "Rise, reimagine, rebuild: A world for all" and to take action towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"The sessions were all based on sustainability, but that included environmental, economic, and social sustainability," Al-Kubaisi noted. "It all ties back to what we learn at CMU-Q. We emphasize governance, ethics, sustainability, and the human aspect."

During the sessions, the recent boom in generative AI was a central topic. Delegates tackled complex questions about how AI can be deployed ethically to establish or improve sustainability standards globally.

"Technology changes lives, and lives change technology—it's two sides of a coin," Al-Kubaisi said.

Grounding technology in the human context

The students found that their education at CMU-Q uniquely prepared them for these discussions by teaching them to look beyond code and disciplinary knowledge to see the broader, human context.

Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q, noted that this balance is central to the university's mission: "The degree programs that we offer at CMU-Q are rooted in science, technology and mathematics, but our curricula include significant coursework in the humanities and social sciences. We want our students to develop deep technical knowledge, and to also understand the human context so they can apply this knowledge to better society."

Al-Thani stressed that it is essential for students to step out of disciplinary silos: "A lot of times people get so deep into their understanding of the technology itself that they lack the bigger picture," she noted. "It's about having a broad understanding and connecting ideas to a larger meaning, to the greater community."

A broader definition of sustainability

The delegation also visited **Her Excellency Maryam Al-Misnad,** Minister of State for International Cooperation, **Her Excellency Dr. Hend Al-Muftah,** Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, and **Barham Salih,** the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. These discussions made clear that true sustainability cannot be separated from international development, equitable education, food security, and freedom from conflict.

"Sustainability is about more than reducing our carbon emissions," said Al-Ali. "Lasting sustainability depends on social responsibility, universal accessibility, and humanitarian resilience."

Al-Kuwari emphasized that sustainable human development begins with education.

"Investing in people to solve their own issues will always be the best choice," she explained. "Everyone has skills to solve problems, but the question is access to quality education. If communities have access to knowledge, they can build their own solutions."

A responsibility to serve and give back

The students agree that their education and opportunities carry a civic responsibility to contribute at home. They are all dedicated to reinvesting their knowledge into Qatar. "It's about creating an ecosystem where people go in, learn, and come out to give back to the country," Al-Ali said.

Al-Thani framed this mindset as a natural human duty. "It's reciprocity," she said. "When you are supported and given opportunities, you genuinely want to give back. Qatar has invested so much in our education; we have a responsibility to work hard to contribute so we sustain our society."

For Al-Kuwari, this commitment reflects a guiding national principle: "Something that stays with me is when His Highness the Amir said, 'Qatar deserves the best from its children'," she said. "We are receiving a world-class education right here at home. We are getting the best, so our responsibility is to give our best back to Qatar."

Sheikha Alya meets UN top official



HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani met with United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert at the Permanent Mission's headquarters in New York. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between Qatar and the United Nations, along with ways to support and further develop them in service of shared priorities. It also covered the outcomes of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security's recent visit to Doha to participate in the Global Security Forum 2026, particularly her visit to Milipol Qatar 2026, hosted and organized by the Ministry of Interior. **(QNA)**

Minister attends Manama Dialogue



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi participated in the 22nd edition of the Manama Dialogue 2026, held in Bahrain under the theme 'Middle East security interests, alignments and integration'. The conference addresses the repercussions of regional conflict and the lessons learned, security integration in the Middle East, maritime security at a critical juncture, the protection of navigation, the trajectories of defence doctrine, resilience, and deterrence, as well as the new economic agenda. On the sidelines of the conference, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with a number of officials. **(QNA)**

Fuel prices remain unchanged for November

QatarEnergy announced yesterday the diesel and petrol prices for November 2026, with diesel, super petrol (95), and premium petrol (91) prices remaining unchanged. QatarEnergy set the prices for diesel at QR 2.05/litre, super petrol (95) at QR 2.10/litre, and premium petrol (91) at QR 1.95/litre, respectively. **(QNA)**

Al-Utrujah Endowment serves over 34,000 students

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, through its General Directorate of Endowments, said more than 34,000 students benefit from Qur'anic centers and schools supported by the Al-Utrujah Endowment across the country, with more than 1,500 male and female teachers serving students at 176 centres and Qur'anic schools nationwide.

In this regard, Dr Masoud Jarallah Abu Shuraida, a preacher at Awqaf, said the endowment has been a leading model of enduring Qur'anic endowment, combining the growth of assets with directing their returns toward serving the Holy Qur'an, sustaining resources for Qur'anic centers and expanding their capacity.

Abu Shuraida explained that the endowment's real estate project, inaugurated in 2022 and comprising 112 apartments, generates monthly returns that ensure the continuity of the centres' educational mission and help develop their learning environments to keep pace with rapid digital and technological developments.

He also highlighted rising female enrollment in Qur'anic studies, totaling 9,131, underscoring the endowment's instrumental role in meeting demand, bolstering women's connection to the Holy Qur'an and sustaining their pivotal role in building families and preserving identity and values amid mounting intellectual and technological challenges.

Abu Shuraida added that the General Directorate of Endowments manages and invests endowment assets in conformity with Islamic Sharia requirements and the stipulations of endowment founders.

Contributions to the endowment remain open to all members of society, with shares available for QR 1,000 or any amount within contributors' means

Its work includes continuous property maintenance, monitoring revenues and expenditures, and assessing risks.

The preacher further explained that endowed real estate projects fulfill charitable and investment objectives simultaneously. Contributions to the endowment remain open to all members of society, with shares available for QR 1,000 or any amount within contributors' means. Members of the public can also contribute by raising awareness of endowments, he added.

Abu Shuraida said the Directorate has introduced a service through its website and Awqaf app allowing users to search for vacant endowed real estate units and submit rental applications electronically.

He also expressed gratitude to endowment founders and benefactors for supporting the sustainability of Quranic education for generations to come.

Qatar partakes in Global Green Growth Week 2026

QNA
Seoul



Qatar participated in Global Green Growth Week 2026, organised by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The event brought together officials, experts, and representatives from countries and international organisations working on environmental issues and sustainable development.

The Qatari delegation was led by Assistant Undersecretary for Climate Change Affairs at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Eng Ahmed Mohammed al-Sada. Addressing the opening session, he outlined Qatar's efforts and policies to address climate change. He emphasised the country's commitment to strengthening co-operation with international partners, expanding the use of renewable energy, and supporting sustainable initiatives and solutions that advance green growth at home and abroad. The delegation also took part in a panel discussion on climate resilience, which highlighted the importance of fostering international partnerships, developing environmental policies to address climate-related challenges, and exchanging expertise and best practices among participating countries. On the sidelines of the event, the Qatari delegation held several bilateral meetings with representatives of other participating delegations to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation on climate change and sustainable development.



Loyola International School Secures Top Rank at Education World Global School Ranking Awards 2026–27





Loyola International School has been ranked first in the "Education Unites World" category at the Education World Global School Ranking Awards 2026-27, in recognition of its excellence in holistic education. The award recognizes the school's success in nurturing students of diverse nationalities while meeting international benchmarks in education.

Loyola has earned this recognition through its commitment to addressing the diverse educational needs of learners in its multicultural classrooms. The school upholds the principles of holistic education by fostering a balanced approach that emphasizes academic excellence, character development, and the social and emotional well-being of every student.

International benchmarking has been another key part of Loyola's journey. Through the Global Young Scholars Programme, which the school has proudly facilitated for its students, Loyola gives its learners a global yardstick for learning, helping them understand their strengths and preparing them for the future as responsible global citizens.

Behind this achievement lies the visionary leadership of Mr. R. Venkat Rao, Founder and Chairman of the New Loyola Model Education Society (which operates the Loyola Group of Institutions and Loyola International Schools), and Mr. R. Anup Chakravarthy, Managing Director. Their commitment has fostered a nurturing environment where learning is meaningful, values are upheld, and every child is recognised as unique. Guided by this vision and aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030, Loyola International School strives to nurture innovative, compassionate and globally responsible citizens through value-based education and holistic development, preparing learners to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

Principal Ms. Bhavna V Sonkamble said, "We are truly honoured to receive this recognition for our work in holistic education. This remarkable milestone belongs to our entire school community, especially our students, who come from many nationalities and bring so much energy and talent to our classrooms. We will continue to live by our motto, 'Listen. Learn. Lead.', and help every learner reach their fullest potential."

The school extended its sincere gratitude to Education World for the recognition. It also expressed deep appreciation to the parents for their unwavering support and trust, to the teachers and staff for their hard work and commitment, and to the students, whose enthusiasm, effort and talent have contributed immensely to this achievement.

The Global School Ranking Awards are presented as part of the EW India School Rankings, an extensive survey conducted by Education World, one of India's leading education magazines. The survey evaluates participating schools from India and across the world. The 2026–27 awards ceremony was held on 24 October 2026 at the Pullman Aerocity Hotel in New Delhi.

Known for blending academic strength with character-building, Loyola continues to grow as one of Qatar's leading institutions for holistic, values-driven education.

QATAR

QatarEnergy LNG honoured at annual Qatarisation review



Under the patronage of HE Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President and CEO of QatarEnergy, QatarEnergy LNG has been honoured with the 2025 Qatarisation Award for "Best Qatarisation Progress".

The major industry accolade was announced during the Energy Sector's Annual Qatarisation Review Meeting, held recently at the QatarEnergy Headquarters in Doha, drawing senior executives from across the nation's energy landscape. The annual Qatarisation Awards recognise companies that demonstrated sustained excellence during the preceding calendar year.

This exceptional achievement represents the highest Qatarisation accolade a company can receive in Qatar's energy and industry sector. The annual award recognises companies that have successfully embedded an effective, long-term Qatarisation strategy directly into their business operations. For QatarEnergy LNG, this latest honour builds upon an unbroken dedication to the advancement of Qatari nationals.

QatarEnergy LNG's track record of milestones includes receiving the certificate for Support and Liaison with the Education Sector in 2018, and Support for Training and Development in 2019 and 2020. The company was further recognised with the Best Qatarisation Progress Award in 2021, Supporting Qatarisation Award in 2022, and Support for Training and Development Certificate in 2023, ultimately culminating in the latest 2025 award for Best Qatarisation Progress.

Driven by its strategic five-year Qatarisation intake plan, QatarEnergy LNG advanced several cornerstone initiatives throughout 2025 to earn this recognition. The company focused heavily on engaging young nationals through targeted outreach programmes to strengthen recruitment and resourcing pipelines. At the developmental level, the company focused on mentoring, counselling, and systematically reviewing the progress of National Developees. By maintaining robust competency frameworks for every position, delivering specialised training tracks, and opening clear pathways for leadership and professional growth, QatarEnergy LNG continues to solidify its position as a leading employer of choice for local talent.

Commercial Bank concludes savings campaign with QR2,026,000 grand prize



Commercial Bank has concluded its "Save and Become a Millionaire" campaign, awarding one customer QR2,026,000, the bank's largest-ever draw prize. Running from January to September 2026, the campaign rewarded eligible customers through quarterly draws and a final Mega Draw. The campaign encouraged customers to build their savings by maintaining and growing their account balances, with eligible customers earning draw entries through qualifying savings activity and salary transfers.

The final round featured prizes across the Mega Draw and third quarterly draw. In addition to the top prize of QR2,026,000, the Mega Draw awarded prizes of QR502,026 and QR102,026, while the third quarterly draw rewarded customers with cash prizes ranging from QR2,026 to QR52,026.

Shahnawaz Rashid, EGM and head of Retail Banking of Commercial Bank, said: "We're pleased to bring the 'Save and Become a Millionaire' campaign to a close and celebrate everyone who took part. We believe saving should be a rewarding part of everyday banking, and this initiative offered an added incentive to build savings while having the chance to win significant cash prizes. We're grateful for our customers' continued trust in Commercial Bank and look forward to introducing more initiatives that support their savings goals."

A jewel on Doha's waterfront





The spectacular Crystal Walk on Gewan Island is emerging as one of Doha's must-visit destinations. Located within The Pearl-Qatar, the climate-controlled promenade features illuminated architectural installations, shaded walkways, boutique retail outlets and waterfront dining. With its elegant surroundings and stunning marina views, Gewan Island provides visitors and residents with an inviting space to relax, explore and experience Qatar's evolving waterfront lifestyle. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen

Intense diplomacy to salvage situation

From Page 1

"I'm not going to characterise neither the progress on those talks nor any timeframe on it, other than to tell you that if there is a diplomatic solution, we would be open to it," he said.

Trump has previously said he was weighing whether to "finish them off".

In Tehran, Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei warned the United States and Israel against launching new attacks. "Any level or type of threat must be met with an immediate, impactful and geographically unrestricted response," he told top military commanders, according to a statement.

It was the first reported meeting between Khamenei and the military top brass. Those present included armed forces chief of staff Ali Abdollahi, army chief Amir Hatami and Revolutionary Guards commander Ahmad Vahidi. Khamenei has not been seen in public since before he took over in March, after his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed in US-Israeli strikes. He also ordered commanders to update Iran's target list to include "all types of tangible and intangible assets belonging to the American-Zionist enemy".

Iran has previously warned it could consider severing undersea cables in the Strait of Hormuz.

In Israel, which went to the polls on October 27 but has yet to form a new government, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has spoken of a "historic, one-time opportunity" to topple the Iranian government.

Any fresh strikes would also raise concern among US allies. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas told AFP on Thursday: "We are calling for a diplomatic solution, and really, escalation does not benefit anyone."

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Invites qualified bidders to participate in the following tender:

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i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official E-mail..etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.

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QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.
ARIBA Registration: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the registration process during the tendering period (Details on ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website www.qapco.com)

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Bidder to attach copy of tender bond to the offer in ARIBA. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

Tender Clarifications: Please send your queries with tender reference and description to email procurement@qapco.com.qa

For more information about QAPCO, please visit our website: www.qapco.com

Qatar Philatelic Center marks QSW 2026 with exhibition

The Qatar Philatelic and Numismatic Center organised a stamp exhibition titled "Food and Nutrition" yesterrday, marking the 11th edition of Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW) 2026.

The exhibition, hosted at the Ministry of Culture headquarters, will run through Nov 7.

It features six glass display cases, each containing eight panels showcasing a collection of stamps highlighting food and nutrition and various related themes.

The exhibition aims to raise visitors' awareness of the importance of food preservation and healthy nutrition, while showcasing practical and innovative approaches to sustainability. The stamps document different aspects of these themes.

The exhibition is open to visitors and stamp and coin collectors during the Ministry of Culture's regular working hours. **(QNA)**

المركز القطري لهواة الطوابع والعملات
Qatar Philatelic And Numismatic Center

ARPM Tender Committee announces the following Tender

Tender No.	(Tender Title) Scope of work	Tender Fee	Tender Bond	Opening Date	Closing Date
ARPM/274/2026/TEN/DOH	Tender for Comprehensive CCTV Security Solution for Souq AL Wakra Hotel Including MOI-SSD Approval	1000	10,000	01-Nov-26	29-Nov-26

1. Interested parties can collect copies of the tender documents from ARPM Purchasing Department, **via email** to m.aseef@arpm.com.qa, and procurement.officer@arpm.com.qa during working hours 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Fri & Sat Closed)
2. A payment of a non-refundable document's fees should be deposited in cash to:
   - **Beneficiary Name:** Al-Rayyan Projects Management (ARPM)
   - **Account No.** 0013-022375-004 (Qatar National Bank)
   - **IBAN No.** QA86QNBA000000000013022375004

   And the original deposit receipt should be submitted upon receiving of the terms and conditions.
3. A tender bond (as stated above), issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 180 days from the closing date should accompany tenders. **The executed tender bond should be included with the technical offer.**
4. All tenderers MUST collect their original bonds from ARPM – Purchasing department upon expiry of the Tender Bond, unless alternative instructions are issued by ARPM.
5. Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP requirements in both HARD COPY & SOFT COPY on CD or USB.
6. Copies of valid **Company Commercial Registration, Computer Card & Authorization Letter** must be submitted in order to collect the tender documents.
7. The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the total contract sum and shall be valid for a period expiring 180 days after contract expiry.
8. Offers should be valid for 180 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).
9. ARPM has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms and conditions.
10. ARPM is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show any reasons thereof.
11. Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Box, provided in the ARPM Purchasing office, located at the 9th Floor, ARPM, Head office and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman - Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject.
12. Deadline for accepting requests and inquiries, 7 days prior to closing date.
13. Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

CHAIRMAN – TENDER COMMITTEE
TEL: 40341804

MoPH intensifies initiatives to raise breast cancer awareness

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Sidra Medicine, and the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS), has intensified its nationwide initiatives to promote breast cancer awareness and emphasise the critical importance of early detection throughout October 2026.

Operating under the slogan "Your Strength Begins with Early Detection", the 2026 Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign featured 13 awareness activities across workplaces, schools, and community centres. These initiatives were supported by an extensive digital health campaign detailing risk factors, risk-reduction strategies, and clear guidance on accessing routine screening services.

As part of the campaign, the National Cancer Program hosted a central awareness event at the MoPH headquarters. The event featured an interactive educational pavilion where organisers distributed resource materials, addressed public inquiries regarding the disease, its risk factors and provided direct information on available clinical paths and early detection services in Qatar.

According to the latest data from the National Cancer Registry, Qatar recorded 567 cases of breast cancer (including localised tumours) in 2023. Of these, 562 cases found in women (99.12%) and five cases were in men (0.88%). By nationality, 162 cases were registered among Qatari citizens (28.57%) and 405 cases among non-Qatari residents (71.43%).

The data from the Qatar Cancer Information Center's Early Detection Registry (QCID) reveals that 71,829 mammograms were performed between 2016 and December 2025, with 49,276 women underwent at least one screening during this period. From January to the end of September 2026, 7,024 women underwent mammograms as part of the Breast Cancer Early Detection Program.

The State of Qatar continues to strengthen its regional and international collaborations to enhance the quality of early cancer detection programs and build robust national and regional capacities. Key initiatives include partnering with the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control (GCDC) to implement the Gulf Training Program and active participation in the Gulf Working Group on Improving the Quality of Early Detection.

In these forums, Qatar shared its successful model for monitoring and evaluation systems and inviting beneficiaries. Furthermore, Qatar maintains collaboration with the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Qatar also actively contributed to the WHO-led Global Breast Cancer Initiative discussions, reviewing global survival rate estimates while providing vital national data and technical observations. A study published in the journal Nature Medicine, which evaluated data across 194 member countries, highlighted Qatar's ranking among the highest in the Eastern Mediterranean Region for women's five-year net survival rates for breast cancer.

Domestically, the MoPH builds strategic alliances with key health sector partners to continually develop prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment services. This collaborative approach directly optimises the quality of care provided to cancer patients, ultimately improving clinical outcomes and overall quality of life.

The Ministry affirms that early breast cancer detection services are available free of charge year-round through the National Program for Early Detection of Breast and Bowel Cancer at Al Wakra, Leabaib, Rawdat Al Khail, and Muaither health centres.

The ministry urges women aged 45-69 who are asymptomatic and have not undergone a screening within the last three years to book a free screening appointment and commit to taking the test once every three years, stressing the importance of early detection in enhancing the chances of treatment and recovery.

Eligible individuals can book appointments through direct physician e-referrals, PHCC's Nar'aakom App, or online service channels. Bookings can also be made directly by calling the screening hotlines. (**QNA**)

almeera celebrates anniversary with ten wafa millionaires



Al Meera Consumer Goods Company has announced almeera anniversary, a month-long celebration running from November 1-30, bringing customers an exciting programme of prizes, special deals, and local product showcases across its stores.

The celebrations reflect almeera's commitment to sharing this occasion with its customers and recognising their continued trust and loyalty by offering a shopping experience that combines quality, value, and rewards.

At the heart of the celebration is 10 wafa millionaires, a special raffle that will reward ten wafa loyalty members with one million points each, equivalent to QR10,000 per winner. With a combined prize pool of ten million points, almeera will give away QR100,000 in redeemable shopping value.

wafa members will automatically be entered into the raffle when they spend QR 100 on eligible purchases using their wafa membership. Every additional QR100 spent on eligible purchases will earn another entry, in accordance with the campaign's approved terms and conditions.

The raffle draw will take place on December 2 and winners will be notified through their registered wafa contact details and have 90 days to claim their prizes.

Beyond the raffle, almeera will introduce a series of special weekly anniversary offers throughout November, featuring selected products across various categories and giving customers more opportunities to save on their everyday essentials.

The month will also see the launch of National Product Week on November 5, as part of almeera's ongoing efforts to support Qatari businesses and strengthen the presence of locally produced goods in the market. The initiative will highlight the diversity of national products, introduce customers to Qatari suppliers, and showcase their contribution to meeting consumer needs.

Additional activities throughout the month will include special camping season offers on selected seasonal products and essentials, followed by Green Friday promotions from November 27 to 29, featuring selected non-food categories. The promotional calendar will conclude with Cyber Monday on November 30, offering exclusive deals through almeera's online shopping platforms.

Alfardan Corporation's Athar participates in Qatar Sustainability Week 2026 as Community Partner

Alfardan Corporation is participating in the 11th edition of Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW) 2026 as a Community Partner through Athar, its sustainability programme.

Its participation reaffirms Alfardan Corporation's ongoing commitment to advancing sustainability through collaboration, awareness, and translating commitments into practical initiatives that deliver tangible impact.

Running until November 7, Qatar Sustainability Week is organised by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in collaboration with Earthna: Centre for a Sustainable Future, a member of Qatar Foundation.

The initiative brings together a broad range of organisations and institutions across Qatar to raise sustainability awareness and encourage communities and businesses to adopt sustainable practices and engage in practical initiatives.

Alfardan Corporation's participation in this national initiative reflects the continued evolution of Athar, its sustainability strategy, which aims to integrate sustainability principles into day-to-day operations across its diverse business portfolio.

The corporation has been a member of the UN Global Compact since 2022, reflecting its commitment to sustainability and social responsibility in alignment with the Compact's 10 Principles and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.


Sara Fahad Alfardan, Corporate Chief Communications & PR officer and member of Alfardan Corporation's Athar Sustainability Committee.


Fardan Fahad Alfardan, Chief Operating officer of Wahet Al Shaflahiya & Safwa.

Athar is built around three key pillars: empowering people, protecting the planet, and strengthening partnerships. Together, these pillars provide an integrated framework for translating sustainability commitments into practical initiatives and lasting impact.

As part of Qatar Sustainability Week 2026, Alfardan Corporation will be joined by Alfardan Properties, Alfardan Automotive, Safwa, and The St Regis hotels in delivering a series of engaging activities.

These include a community basketball game at Al Gassar, sustainability workshops at Nest, trivia competition for commercial tenants, the Green Run for All, in collaboration with MINI, and a Youth Climate Sprint bringing together young minds to develop practical sustainability solutions.

Beyond these activities, Alfardan Corporation will highlight its ongoing sustainability initiatives, including The Green Loop, which transforms food waste from its hospitality operations into organic compost to support local agriculture, and From Tyres to Courts, which gives discarded tyres a second life by transforming them into sustainable sports surfaces.

The corporation will also promote responsible cons umption, waste reduction, and locally grown produce through Safwa. Together, these initiatives reflect its commitment to advancing circular economy practices and translating sustainability ambitions into tangible impact across its businesses and the wider community.

Commenting on the Green Loop initiative, Fardan Fahad Alfardan, Chief Operating officer of Wahet Al Shaflahiya & Safwa, and member of Alfardan Corporation's Athar Sustainability Committee, said: "The Green Loop initiative reflects our belief that sustainability begins with taking responsibility for the resources we use and the environmental impact we leave behind. By recycling food waste and transforming it into a valuable resource, we reduce our environmental footprint and contribute to building a more sustainable future."

Sara Fahad Alfardan, Corporate Chief Communications & PR officer and member of Alfardan Corporation's Athar Sustainability Committee, said: "Sustainability cannot be achieved through individual efforts alone; it requires a shared commitment from organisations, communities, and individuals.

"Through meaningful partnerships, we can create a lasting impact that extends well into the future. Our participation in Qatar Sustainability Week reflects our belief that every step, no matter how small it may seem, can contribute to a greater collective impact. By taking part in this initiative, we aim to raise awareness and encourage practical actions that create sustainable value for current and future generations."

King Hussein Foundation honour for Qatar Charity



The King Hussein Cancer Foundation and Center in Jordan honoured Qatar Charity (QC) in recognition of its continued support for their humanitarian mission and its strategic partnership in helping cancer patients who cannot afford treatment.

The recognition took place during a ceremony held in the capital, Amman, to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Foundation and Center, at which several donors and partners were honoured.

Prince Feisal al-Hussein attended the ceremony on behalf of King Abdullah II. The event highlighted key achievements and milestones in the Center's history since its establishment, including advances in cancer care services and improvements in the quality of healthcare provided to patients.

Yousef bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, chief executive officer of Qatar Charity, received the award of recognition in appreciation of a strategic partnership between the two sides dating back to 2017, which has helped support treatment for hundreds of cancer patients in need, including refugees, in Jordan.

The partnership between Qatar Charity and the King Hussein Cancer Foundation began in 2017 with the signing of a memorandum of understanding to establish a charitable fund worth 250,000 Jordanian dinars to help cover treatment costs for cancer patients of various nationalities who could not afford care.

In 2023, the two sides strengthened their partnership by signing a new cooperation agreement to support patients at the King Hussein Cancer Center who could not afford treatment, including refugees, and enable them to complete their treatment.

UDC concludes Cityscape Qatar with strong interest in Perlita Gardens, Crystal Residence opportunities

United Development Company (UDC), concluded its participation in Cityscape Qatar 2026 following three days of strong engagement with prospective homeowners, investors, brokers and industry stakeholders, with particular interest generated around the newly launched Perlita Gardens and the completed residential offering at Crystal Residence.

UDC's participation brought together two distinct residential propositions across its destinations: Perlita Gardens, a new community of 150 standalone villas across seven typologies within The Pearl Island, and Crystal Residence, offering completed one-to four-bedroom apartments within the growing destination appeal of Gewan Island.

The exhibition provided a platform for UDC to engage directly with the market, with discussions focused on villa configurations, lifestyle preferences, ownership options, investment considerations and the advantages of buying within established destinations. Interest also centred on the commercial opportunities available at Crystal Residence, including its flexible ownership pathways and the limited-time promotional offer announced during Cityscape. The response provided UDC with valuable insight into the priorities shaping current residential demand and the information prospective buyers require as they consider their next property investment.

Yasser Salah al-Jaidah, UDC president & chief executive officer, said: "Cityscape gave us the opportunity to have meaningful conversations with buyers, investors and brokers about what they value in a home and in a destination. The remarkable turnout of visitors and the strong interest from prospective buyers brought real energy to the exhibition. It was a powerful reminder of real estate's enduring resilience as an asset class, and of its unique ability to shape the way people live, connect and grow."

He further added: "Perlita Gardens and Crystal Residence reflect two distinct ways of responding to those needs. Perlita Gardens adds to the vitality of The Pearl Island as an established residential community, while Crystal Residence offers completed homes on Gewan Island with flexible ownership options. Together, they demonstrate how we are developing our destinations with a long-term perspective; balancing new opportunities with the qualities that make each place distinctive."

Perlita Gardens was officially introduced at Cityscape Qatar as a new residential chapter within The Pearl Island, with Expression of Interest registrations now open and the limited release of Phase One sales launched during the exhibition. Buyers can benefit from UDC's flexible in-house payment plan, paired with bank mortgage financing through Commercial Bank and Dukhan Bank. Development of the project is planned over 36 months from the commencement of construction. The seven villa collections have been thoughtfully designed around key family needs and lifestyle preferences, including privacy, entertaining, multigenerational living, and seamless indoor-outdoor living.

Alongside Perlita Gardens, UDC presented Crystal Residence on Gewan Island, providing completed one- to four-bedroom apartments within an increasingly established lifestyle destination.

Liquidation Announcement (Second)

Based on the Extraordinary General Assembly Resolution

to Liquidate

Alarabia Heavy Equipment Co. W.L.L.
(Voluntary Liquidation)

The Liquidator – Rami Mohammad Ali Qudah
Deloitte & Touche – Qatar Branch

Announces the liquidation of

Alarabia Heavy Equipment Co. W.L.L.
Commercial Registration No. (27395)

Any party that has any claims with this Company should send a registered letter, including all supporting documents to P.O. Box: : **431**, Doha – Qatar within the remaining legal period of 25 days.

QATAR

Lazio official highlights Qatar partnership potential

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

Smart city solutions and cultural heritage preservation technologies represent high-potential areas for collaboration between Italy's Lazio region and Qatar, according to a regional development official.

In an exclusive interview with 'Gulf Times' on the sidelines of Maker Faire Rome 2026, Andrea Romagnoli, Project manager for Startup Internationalisation at Lazio Innova, said urban management challenges in European cities align closely with infrastructure developments in the Gulf. Held at the Gazometro Ostiense, the annual event highlights top-tier European advancements in smart mobility, circular economy, and agritech, attracting creators and institutional delegations worldwide.

"Smart cities are a crucial topic for us. Rome faces major challenges with mobility and energy, and countries like Qatar are addressing these issues effectively," Romagnoli said.

Romagnoli noted that while Italian research units produce specialised technology, local implementations are often constrained by financial resources, creating opportunities for international partnerships. Beyond smart grid and urban mobility applications, Lazio has developed a specialised niche in cultural heritage protection technology.

Romagnoli pointed out that preserving Rome's ancient infrastructure has led to the creation of innovative startups focused on structural health monitoring and early-warning disaster systems.

"Why culture? Because, in a region like Lazio—home to some of Europe's oldest towns—technology that supports cultural heritage can also provide early warnings of disasters such as earthquakes and help protect infrastructure that is 3,000 years old from collapse," Romagnoli explained.

Lazio is the only region in Italy with a dedicated public fund specifically financing projects within its technology district for culture. The fund supports private companies working alongside museums and archaeological authorities to protect historic sites, according to Romagnoli.

"Protecting our beauty means protecting our primary source of income. Technologies that help safeguard cultural heritage are also driving the creation of innovative startups. We aim to bring this added value to countries around the world that have heritage to protect," Romagnoli emphasised.

Through its virtual platforms, Lazio Innova could prepare Italian technology firms for market opportunities in Doha.

Key target sectors for collaboration include smart energy grids, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and smart finance, he said. "Technology collaborations are ongoing. Qatar and Italy can support each other and advance the deployment of our technology," Romagnoli added.



Andrea Romagnoli, Project manager for Startup Internationalisation at Lazio Innova. **PICTURE:** Peter Alagos.

1,073 participants set to compete in Sheikh Jassim Qur'an contest

QNA
Doha

The 31st Founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani Holy Qur'an Competition began yesterday with the launch of its Qur'an Categories division for Qatari men and women, drawing 1,073 contestants vying for top honours across five levels of Qur'an memorisation. The competition is organized by the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs.

The four-day qualifying tests will run through Tuesday, Nov 3, under a schedule designed to distribute contestants across testing sessions.

Male contestants will be tested during evening sessions at the Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab Mosque, while female contestants will take their tests at the Department of Da'wah and Religious Guidance's Women's Activity Center in Al Waab during morning and evening sessions.

Women account for 619 of the registered contestants, compared with 454 men. The five categories require contestants to have memorized 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 parts of the Holy Qur'an, allowing each participant to compete at a level commensurate with their memorisation and build on that achievement in future editions.



Deputy Chairman of the Sheikh Jassim Qur'an Competition Committee Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz al-Thani said the division charts a national path to preparing memorisers of the Noble Qur'an and nurturing Qatari talent. He highlighted that its purpose doesn't stop at a single edition but extends to providing a motivating atmosphere for contestants to enhance their memorisation skills until they can memorise the entire Noble Qur'an.

He added that the regulations offer contestants opportunities to advance to higher categories. He noted that the competition has produced many outstanding memorisers, some of whom have progressed to compete in the full Quran category.

Some have also represented Qatar at international forums, while the competition has supplied mosques with national talent to serve as imams.

The 16 judging panels overseeing the competition are divided equally between male and female contestants and staffed entirely by Qatari judges, underscoring the substantive role of national Qur'anic talent and the country's adroitly cultivated expertise, Sheikh Abdulrahman noted. The competition is also part of Awqaf's broader pursuit of fostering Qur'anic culture and nurturing talent, in accord with its 2025-2030 strategic plan and Qatar National Vision 2030.

These efforts are instrumental in entrenching national identity, reinforcing values and harnessing the potential of human capital as a prime driver of sustainable development.

Justice hackathon to harness legal talent

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) announced the launch of the 'Youth Hackathon for Justice and Innovation' program, bridging the gap between AI and the modern rule of law, a first-of-its-kind initiative organised in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to harness the potential of young legal talent across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and adroitly develop practical, innovative solutions to the vastly formidable challenges confronting the justice sector.

The initiative aims to harness the potential of young legal talent from Qatar and across GCC nations, equipping them to address contemporary challenges through responsible innovation and practical solutions. The hackathon forms part of MoJ's efforts to strengthen the rule of law, advance responsible digital transformation and significantly boost legal and technical capabilities, in accord with its 2025-2030 strategic plan to elevate the quality of legal services, entrench institutional excellence, build a future-ready workforce, and foster innovation, continuous development and effective institutional partnerships.

The two sides called on young legal talent to participate in the program, which Doha will host from March 21-28, 2027, bringing together specialised training, expert mentorship and collaborative work across multidisciplinary legal teams. The program is anchored in an integrated training framework designed to empower GCC talent to develop innovative legal solutions through practical learning.

Participants will learn to identify and analyse challenges facing the justice sector, select the most appropriate technologies to address them, and apply their newly internalised knowledge and skills to develop practical, deployable solutions and prototypes under the guidance of legal and technical experts.

The hackathon focuses on four priority areas: the responsible use of AI in the justice sector; providing clear, accurate and reliable legal information; leveraging technology to facilitate access to digital legal services and substantially improve their efficiency; and developing multilingual solutions to help get past barriers that may impede understanding of or access to legal information.

Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice for State Lawsuits Affairs and Chairman of the Youth Hackathon for Justice and Innovation, Dr Jassim Saleh al-Kuwari, said the ministry gives youth empowerment an overriding strategic priority and intends to operationalise digital transformation programs in the justice sector as part of its commitment to fostering the rule of law, elevating the efficiency of justice institutions and facilitating access to legal services in a streamlined, secure and reliable manner. The MoJ-UNITAR partnership embodies the ministry's commitment to nationalising legal expertise and forging partnerships that materialise the strategic objectives outlined in the executive plan of the MOJ's 2025-2030 strategy, particularly its pillar concerning training, rehabilitation and national capacity-building, al-Kuwari highlighted.

Al-Kuwari said the initiative reflects several key implementation pillars of the ministry's strategic plan, foremost among them developing capabilities, strengthening institutional partnerships, significantly enhancing the efficiency of legal services through modern technologies, entrenching a culture of innovation and continuous learning, and developing reliable digital solutions centered on beneficiaries' needs.

He added that, through organising this regional hackathon, MoJ seeks to propel legal co-operation among GCC ministries of justice toward broader horizons, including attracting developing talent from across the GCC, fostering an interchange of knowledge and expertise, and developing practical solutions that contribute to modernising Gulf justice systems, while upholding the principles of trust, transparency and legal accountability.

For her part, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UNITAR Michelle Giles-McDonough said the program represents a prime opportunity to attract talent from across GCC member states and invest in human capital and regional cooperation. She highlighted that empowering young people to turn their ambitious ideas into responsible, practical solutions would help cultivate a new generation imbued with the skills to tackle challenges, facilitate access to justice and help chart the future of justice systems.

Applications will be accepted through Dec 31, subject to the program's eligibility criteria and established assessment and selection procedures, with due regard for balanced and equitable representation of participating countries. (**QNA**)

Qatar property show sales double to top QR1bn

From Page 1

According to Aqarat, the event reinforced Qatar's standing as a leading regional hub for real estate development, highlighting its experience in regulating the market and enhancing its investment appeal. It brought together regulators, developers and investors to exchange views on advancing real estate practice and strengthening co-operation, and to discuss economic and urban transformation and the region's investment outlook.

The main sessions examined the real estate sector's role in economic diversification, among other key issues.

Alongside them, a Qatar University architecture competition highlighted the next generation's role in shaping the sector's future, with students presenting designs for mixed-use buildings to a judging panel.

The innovation platform explored the development of real estate portfolios beyond Qatar and the future of housing, bringing together industry experts and representatives of the Qatar Society of Engineers.

The programme also included a practical workshop on real estate valuation, as well as discussions on organising asset data and strengthening oversight.

The innovation platform closed with a discussion on interpreting market indicators featuring Director of the Real Estate Investment Department at Aqarat Mohammed Makki, rounding off a programme that combined regulatory perspectives, investment expertise and practical tools.



Qatar Boat Show promises a dazzling spectacle

From Page 1

The GCC Pavilion will highlight the Gulf region's maritime heritage and emerging innovations, providing a platform for regional exhibitors to showcase their expertise and contributions to the industry.

Technology enthusiasts and marine professionals can explore the latest equipment, services and technological solutions at Equip Pro, while Hooks & Reels will cater to recreational fishing enthusiasts with an extensive selection of rods, reels, hooks and premium fishing accessories.

Adding a cultural dimension to the event, Qatar Boat Show has partnered with Qatar Creates and Doha Film Institute to present daily film screenings featuring works by Qatari and Qatar-based filmmakers.

As evening falls, the waterfront will take on a festive atmosphere, with spectacular fireworks, choreographed drone displays and pyrotechnic performances lighting up the skies above Old Doha Port.

Live music, waterfront dining and luxury lifestyle attractions will further enhance the visitor experience, turning the exhibition into a destination for families, marine enthusiasts and visitors seeking entertainment beyond the boats themselves.

Set against a harbour deeply connected to Qatar's seafaring past, the event will also celebrate the country's maritime identity while showcasing its growing ambitions as a destination for luxury yachting, marine innovation and waterfront tourism.

With its combination of international exhibitors, regional participation and an expanded entertainment offering, Qatar Boat Show 2026 aims to deliver an experience that extends well beyond a conventional marine exhibition.



ANNOUNCEMENT

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THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

Qatari short film wins 25 global honours

From Page 1

The title is the key to the film. In Arabic, *sanad* means support: the person you lean on when the ground shifts. The word captures both the emotional core of the story and the collaborative spirit that brought it to the screen.

The film follows Ali and Jassim, whose seemingly innocent prank turns into a tit-for-tat game of revenge until an unexpected moment puts their relationship to the test. Moving between humour, suspense and tenderness, it shows how sibling rivalry, for all its sparring, can give way to courage, loyalty and unconditional support.

"I've always been drawn to stories that find something meaningful in ordinary human experiences," said al-Nasr. "With *SANAD*, I wanted to explore the relationship between siblings: the teasing, the competition, the little conflicts, but also the instinct to protect one another when it truly matters."

That instinct, it seems, needs no translation. The film's journey reflects the growing reach of Qatari storytelling and shows that a tale rooted in one family's home can speak to audiences of every culture and background.

For al-Nasr, the awards are only part of the reward. "Bringing *SANAD* to audiences around the world has been incredibly rewarding, but what makes this journey truly special is how the story came to life," she said.

"Filmmaking is a collective effort, and I'm deeply grateful to our talented cast and crew for their dedication and belief in this project, and to the Doha Film Institute for the encouragement and support."

"These achievements belong to everyone who was part of the journey, and I couldn't be happier to share this moment with them," she added.

SANAD marks another milestone in a creative path that has taken al-Nasr across film, theatre and visual storytelling. She continues to explore human connection, fresh perspectives and the power of stories to bring people together.

Palestinian killed in Israeli strike in southern Gaza

A Palestinian was killed and others were wounded yesterday in an airstrike by Israeli occupation forces in the southern Gaza Strip.
Medical sources in Gaza reported that an Israeli drone strike near the Taiba towers, west of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, killed one Palestinian and injured others.
The latest death brings the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli occupation fire and bombardment across the Gaza Strip yesterday to three. Several others have been injured, some critically.
The death toll in Gaza during the war is 74,594. (**QNA**)

US to deport 150 Afghan immigrants back to Afghanistan: report

AFP
Washington

President Donald Trump's administration plans to deport more than 150 Afghan immigrants back to Afghanistan via Pakistan, US media reported Friday, a move advocacy groups say could endanger their lives.

Trump last year issued travel bans for a number of countries, including Afghanistan, as part of a broad immigration crackdown, and sought to end deportation protections for Afghans, some of whom were granted special immigrant visas following the August 2021 takeover by Taliban authorities.

More than 150 Afghan immigrants are expected to be deported in the latest push, *The New York Times* reported, citing three unnamed US officials, and the first flight could leave as soon as Monday.

Among those expected to be deported are relatives of Afghans who assisted the US military in the country prior to the fall of Kabul, according to AfghanEvac, a group seeking to help former Afghan allies. While the US cannot arrange deportations directly to Afghanistan, the officials told the *Times* that Pakistan will oversee their expulsion to Afghanistan.

Pakistan's government earlier this year ordered law enforcement nationwide to arrest Afghan citizens without visas as part of a years-long repatriation policy that has pushed back millions of Afghans who fled their homes after the Taliban returned to power.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been fraught since the Taliban authorities took power in 2021, and worsened after deadly border clashes last October that led to near-total closure of the border.

Clashes subsided after mediation, but the conflict intensified again in February, with Pakistan declaring "an open war" on its neighbor.

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of harbouring militants responsible for deadly attacks on its territory, an allegation the Taliban government in Afghanistan denies.

Taliban authorities were not immediately available for comment. The US Department of Homeland Security did not respond to questions from AFP.

"America is about to put Afghans on a plane to the Taliban, and the administration is doing it the week the country goes to vote, hoping no one is watching," AfghanEvac President Shawn VanDiver said in a statement, referring to the US midterm elections on Tuesday.

VanDiver said some of the migrants facing removal "are the brothers and sons of men who served alongside US forces, families the Taliban already has every reason to target."

"Whatever path brought them here, the danger waiting for them is the same."

After regaining power, Taliban authorities announced a general amnesty for Afghans who worked with Western-backed forces and governments.

However, the UN has recorded reports of extrajudicial killings, detentions and abuses.

UN winds up political mission in Somalia after 3 decades of operations

AFP
Nairobi

The United Nations political mission in Somalia ended yesterday after a two-year transition, closing a chapter of more than three decades of UN peacebuilding operations in the east African nation.

UNSOM was established by the UN Security Council in 2013 to support Somali authorities in the transition to democracy and the rule of law after more than two decades of conflict involving militias, fighting groups and criminal gangs.

It started as UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) in 1995.

In May 2024, Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud asked the UN to end the mission ahead of the expiry of its mandate in October that year. He later revised the request, proposing a two-year transition period.

During the transition, UNSOM was renamed the UN Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS).

"Today is not an end to the partnership between the United Nations and Somalia-rather, it marks the conclusion of one chapter and the beginning of another," said Raisedon Zenenga, UNTMIS officer-in-charge and the UN secretary-general's deputy special representative for Somalia in a statement.

"While significant challenges remain, the closure of UNTMIS comes after considerable progress by Somalia since the early years of international efforts to support the country's recovery," he added.

The mission's mandates have been transferred to either Somali institutions or the UN country team.

The transition comes as Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabaab, which has fought the Somali government for two decades, continues to control large swathes of central Somalia despite a major international military campaign against it.

The fight against Al-Shabaab is increasingly threatened by international funding cuts, particularly after the United States withdrew all funding for a key UN logistics mission, casting doubt over the future of military operations.

Somalia is due to hold parliamentary and presidential elections next May, with persistent insecurity and opposition disputes threatening the process.

Syria weighing whether to join Makkah pact: foreign minister

Syria's top diplomat yesterday said Damascus was considering whether to join the Nato-style Makkah defence alliance that binds Turkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Saudi Arabia, under heavy fire from Yemen's Houthis, is a key backer of Syria's government that came to power after the fall of former strongman Bashar al-Assad in December 2024. "Discussions are currently underway to evaluate Syria's entry into the Makkah alliance," Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani said at the Manama Dialogue conference in Bahrain.
Saudi Arabia has been rallying support against escalating Houthi attacks. In August, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkiye signed the defence pact in Makkah that states an attack on one country is to be considered an attack on all three.
Pakistan and Turkiye have not announced any attacks on the Iran-backed Houthis. Earlier this month, French President Emmanuel Macron made a surprise visit to Riyadh and said France had sent troops to help shield a key Saudi oil terminal from Houthi attacks.
Also in October, the UK government announced it would deploy British fighter planes to help Saudi Arabia against the attacks. (**AFP**)

ICE raids in California spark voter intimidation accusations

Reuters
Bakersfield, California

Federal immigration agents have fanned out across California's Central Valley in recent weeks, stirring fear in Latino communities and allegations of voter intimidation in a toss-up race that could help decide control of the US House of Representatives.

The planned surge in California was announced to agents in early October, an internal email seen by Reuters shows. And it was directed by the White House, according to a US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Unlike past operations in big cities like Minneapolis and Chicago that put hundreds of armed, masked agents on the streets, the surge here has been characterised by small groups of officers moving from town to town in the largely agricultural region. The United Farm Workers union said it knew of hundreds of California farmworkers detained in recent weeks.

In Bakersfield, immigration arrests jumped from one a day for much of the year to nearly 10 per day in mid-October, according to preliminary Department of Homeland Security data. In nearby Wasco, home to just 26,000 people, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested at least seven people in the span of a few days, the data showed.

The arrests have caused widespread alarm in the Latino-majority areas — and could have implications for Tuesday's midterm elections, in which Republicans will be fighting to retain control of the House and Senate.

In California's 22nd congressional district, which includes Bakersfield and is 73% Latino, polls have shown progressive Democrat Randy Villegas with a slight edge over six-term Republican incumbent David Valadao.

Villegas told reporters last week that the arrests were a "very clear attempt to try and intimidate our communities before this election."

Valadao said in a statement that he understood "the fear and uncertainty immigration enforcement has created for families throughout our communities," urging the Trump administration to "prioritise the removal of individuals who pose a threat to public safety."


People walk across a street in downtown Bakersfield. (**Reuters**)

The DHS, ICE's parent agency, declined to comment on the California operations, citing concerns for officer safety, and did not respond to the allegations of voter intimidation.

"By all metrics, this should be a very close district," said Thad Kousser, co-director of UC San Diego's Center for Transparent and Trusted Elections. "Anything that drives voters to or away from the polls could matter."

President Donald Trump made historic inroads with Hispanic voters in the 2024 election, but polls show public opinion has turned sharply against his immigration sweeps and economic policies.

Just 24% of Hispanic Americans approve of Trump's performance, the lowest share in either of his presidential terms, a Reuters/Ipsos survey found last month.

In a statement, White House spokeswoman Lauren Bis said that Trump's agenda had made Hispanic Americans "more prosperous and safer" and referred questions on ICE operations in California to DHS.

Across the Central Valley, ICE has made several arrests outside homes and at busy intersections, in strip mall parking lots, gas stations and near schools, according to lawyers, immigration advocates, videos and court records.

"Agents were given the green light to be out and make as many arrests as possible," the US official said. Officers are also auditing records at local businesses and using employee information to arrest workers at their homes or on their daily commute, the official added.

Maribel Ramirez, a local farmworker, said the arrests have had a chilling effect on political activity in the area. She said that some young Hispanics with US citizenship have told her they are scared to vote, fearing it could expose the addresses of family members without legal status.

Even though voter information is meant to be private, some of "those who can vote won't do so because their parents are immigrants," she said.

Ramirez is urging every US citizen she knows to cast a ballot, "but not for anyone in red," referring to Republicans. Immigration activists in the area who have been sharing alerts about ICE sightings on social media are also, in some cases, sharing details about the midterm elections.

There are fewer people on the streets in Bakersfield, according to Ana Valencia, who owns a barber shop in town. Some local businesses are offering free delivery to those afraid to leave their homes.

Valencia says she voted early "because I don't want ICE here, or anywhere really."

Villegas has made the arrests a campaign issue, criticising his opponent for voting to triple ICE's budget and failing "to stand up for immigrant communities."

Valadao has said ICE is targeting criminals in the community. In an interview with the Sacramento Bee published this week, he said the agency had gone too far in some cases but declined to give examples.

Jason Giannelli, 41, a fourth-generation farmer in Kern County who supports Valadao, said the Republican was "middle of the road" on immigration and "understands that probably ICE is going after the worst of the worst."

UFW national Vice President Elizabeth Strater told Reuters that the vast majority of farmworkers detained in recent weeks had no criminal records and some had legal work authorisation.

A brother and sister from Mexico were unloading their shopping in a small town in Kern County in late October when immigration agents arrested them, a relative told Reuters, speaking on the condition of anonymity. It was their day off from work in the fields nearby.

The agents were looking for someone else and did not know whom they had picked up until the handcuffs were on, according to a petition filed by the farmworkers' lawyers in federal court contesting their detention as unlawful.

The sister arrived in the US as an unaccompanied minor more than a decade ago, according to the petition. The brother arrived as a toddler. Neither has criminal records, the petition says. DHS said it did not have enough information to comment on the case.

On the day of the arrest, the woman's 3-year old daughter was at daycare and her 11-year-old son was on a school camping trip. The children's father had died suddenly this year, leaving their mother as the sole caregiver.

The 11-year-old returned home excited to see his mother, the relative said. When he heard she had been arrested, he broke down in tears and cried out for her.

The 3-year-old perks up whenever the phone rings, the relative said, asking if her mother is on the line.

'US not directly involved in Bolsonaro's flight from Brazil'

AFP
Atlanta

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday that Washington was not directly involved in Flavio Bolsonaro's arrangements to leave Brazil after his election loss.

Bolsonaro, who lost his bid to be president in Sunday's run-off vote, arrived with his family in the US on Wednesday after a court ordered his passports be seized amid multiple investigations against him.

"He had previously held a visa, and the president made a decision to allow him to enter the country," Rubio told a press conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where he hosted G20 foreign ministers for a two-day meeting.

But Rubio added that "the US government was not involved directly" in arrangements Bolsonaro made to leave his country.

Following the vote, the 45-year-old bolted from Brazil via Argentina and Ecuador in a plane that some US media, including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, reported was chartered by Jason Miller, an adviser to US President Donald Trump.

The plane that whisked the Bolsonaro family to the United States was paid for by an intermediary from a US bank account, the head of the airline has told AFP.



Secretary of State Marco Rubio speaks at a news conference during the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. (**AFP**)

The White House has not commented on the flight, but Trump has called the Brazilian election "disgraceful."

A Brazilian diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that Argentina's diplomatic representative had been summoned for a "routine meeting" to "provide explanations" on the flight.

Argentina's foreign minister later denied that Brazil had asked Buenos Aires to explain its role in the operation. Since arriving in the US, Bolsonaro has claimed to be the true leader of Brazil and said that he left the country because he was a victim of "persecution."

Rubio, Brazil's foreign minister to meet after election tension

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira spoke briefly at a Group of 20 foreign ministers meeting and agreed to meet in coming weeks before a G20 leaders summit, a source familiar with the plans said.
A Brazilian official downplayed tensions over Brazil's failure to approve Trump's pick as ambassador and the re-election of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.
Vieira took part in the G20 meeting, which was hosted by Rubio in Atlanta. The two ministers agreed to meet again before G20 leaders meet in Miami in December.
The plan for the two to meet again, first reported by Bloomberg, reflects a desire by the two countries to move on after discord over the ambassador's visa and the US decision to grant a visa to Brazilian Senator Flavio Bolsonaro after his election loss to the leftist incumbent Lula. "We're clearly not politicising the issue, as we haven't in other situations regarding Brazilian citizens who have fled to the US," the Brazilian official said.
A US official and a person familiar with the matter last week told Reuters that Trump has no current plans to support Bolsonaro's political ambitions even as the administration allowed him into the country.
Bolsonaro's father, former President Jair Bolsonaro, is imprisoned in Brazil for attempting to stay in power after losing his own re-election bid in 2022. (**Reuters**)

Jordan stops armed group from Syria entering border

Reuters
Amman

Jordanian border guards stopped a group of 14 armed individuals attempting to cross into the country from Syria, state news agency Petra quoted the armed forces as saying yesterday. They tried to infiltrate on Friday under heavy fire and direct engagement, causing numerous casualties among the group. Some fled back into Syria, the armed forces said.

The report could not be found on Petra's website later in the day. No correction had been issued yesterday evening.

Petra did not elaborate on the identity of the 14 people.

Jordan faces persistent security challenges along its border with Syria, including drug and weapons smuggling. Networks have employed increasingly sophisticated tactics to transport narcotics across the border.

The attempted infiltration came after Jordan launched airstrikes on southern Syria on Monday, saying it targeted hideouts of militant groups it linked to a deadly attack on a church in Jordan earlier this month. It said more than 20 Islamic State militants were killed in the strikes.

Islamic State, which was defeated by a US-led coalition, has been trying to make a comeback in neighbouring Iraq and Syria.

Jordan, a US partner in the fight against militant groups, is regarded as a relatively stable state in the Middle East. Its security services have foiled plots by militants in the past, including suspected Islamic State supporters.

Syria condemned latest Jordanian strikes in the southern parts of the country as a violation of its sovereignty and saying they had killed seven civilians, including three children and a woman. Jordan's foreign minister expressed regret over civilian casualties and reaffirmed Amman's respect for Syria's sovereignty. The two countries agreed to establish a joint security committee to investigate the strikes and strengthen intelligence sharing and co-ordination.

"There is a lot of co-operation with Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon in order to guarantee the security and stability of the borders. Our region is facing lots of challenges, however, with cooperation we can overcome the challenges," Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani said at the Manama Dialogue conference in Bahrain yesterday.

WORLD

China willing to import more German goods: Li

China is willing to import more high-quality German products, its Premier Li Qiang told visiting German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Friday, as the two countries seek to shore up trade ties amid rising protectionism between Europe and Beijing.

Li also urged the two countries to firmly uphold free trade and open co-operation, according to a readout released by the Chinese foreign ministry late on Friday.

China is willing to work with Germany to use intergovernmental consultation mechanisms to expand co-operation in autos, chemicals, artificial intelligence, digital and green industries, Li said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday urged Germany to pursue a "rational, pragmatic and friendly" policy towards China, using talks with Steinmeier to push for closer ties despite growing trade frictions between Beijing and Europe. (Reuters)

China denies spying on Nvidia's Jensen Huang

AFP
Beijing

Beijing dismissed as "groundless speculation" on Friday a report that said Jensen Huang, head of US chip giant Nvidia, was the target of a Chinese spy plot.

The article by *The New York Times*, published on Thursday, said that US intelligence officials concluded that a Chinese executive linked to a Singapore-based data centre company had been funnelling information to Beijing.

"The report in question is based on groundless speculation and is nothing more than an attempt to smear China," foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a regular briefing.

China is in a race for tech dominance with the US, which restricts the export to China of the most cutting-edge silicon chips, designed by industry leader Nvidia and used to train and run AI models.

The data centre company, Megaspeed, was under scrutiny for possibly steering Nvidia AI chips to China, the report said, citing unnamed sources briefed on the matter.

But the executive Alice Huang — also known as Huang Le, and no relation to 63-year-old Taiwanese-born Jensen Huang — developed a close relationship with the Nvidia boss, the *New York Times* said.

That could have given her insights into US President Donald Trump's thinking around AI, an issue likely to arise during talks with China's President Xi Jinping next month.

Trump was briefed on the intelligence findings roughly a year ago and chose not to act on the information, the report said.

Nvidia is the world's most valuable company thanks to the global drive to build data centres packed with specialist computer chips and other hardware that runs AI systems.

An Nvidia spokesperson told AFP on Friday that Megaspeed was like any other regional customer and "Jensen's interactions with Ms Huang are not unusual or unexpected".

"Our regional cloud customers receive ordinary business information — not sensitive NVIDIA trade secrets — and zero information relevant to national security," they said.

The spokesperson added that allegations the Singaporean company was smuggling chips to China "were thoroughly investigated and debunked last year".

AFP attemped to contact Megaspeed for comment, but when calling the phone number listed on its website, the person who answered said they were unfamiliar with the company and that the number was a residential line.

US, Korea, Japan vow 'complete' Pyongyang denuclearisation

AFP
Seoul

The US, Republic of Korea and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to the "complete denuclearisation" of North Korea yesterday, as Pyongyang continues to reject disarmament ahead of possible talks with Washington.

Speculation is mounting over a potential meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at next month's Apecsummit in China, with Trump making repeated overtures to Pyongyang for nuclear talks.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi "reaffirmed their resolute commitment to the complete denuclearisation" of North Korea during talks on Friday on the sidelines of a Group of 20 (G20) meeting in Atlanta in the US state of Georgia, the US State Department said.

They also pledged "full implementation" of UN Security Council resolutions, including a ban on supporting revenue for North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.


Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, US, on Friday. (**Reuters**)

Despite long-running UN sanctions, North Korea, which is backed by Russia and China, has enshrined its status as a nuclear-armed state in law, with its regime repeatedly declaring its atomic arsenal permanent and irreversible.

Trump has made repeated overtures to Pyongyang for nuclear talks, while scaling back joint military drills with ally Korea.

The mercurial US leader even bucked long-held US policy last year by conceding that North Korea was already "sort of a nuclear power", while reaching out to Pyongyang for talks, saying he was "100 percent" open to a meeting — a suggestion that went unanswered.

Analysts and Korea's spy agency say Kim may have conveyed Pyongyang's position on potential talks with Trump to Beijing during a recent visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong.

South Korea's dovish President Lee Jae Myung — who has repeatedly offered Pyongyang talks without preconditions — suggested in September that Washington seek a freeze, rather than the immediate elimination, of the North's nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief.

Critics have said such an approach risks tacitly accepting North Korea as a nuclear-armed state while allowing Pyongyang to win sanctions relief without giving up its arsenal.

Analysts say China may also be moving towards tacit acceptance, pointing to the omission of North Korean denuclearisation from statements after Kim and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in June.

Pyongyang denounced a joint statement on Saturday by a group of nations monitoring sanctions implementations against it, vowing that "the stereotyped sanctions racket of the US and the West can neither influence the position of the DPRK (North Korea) as a nuclear weapons state".

Japan FM urges Russia to release detained journalist in meeting with Lavrov

AFP, Reuters
Tokyo

Japan's foreign minister urged Moscow to release a detained journalist in his first formal face-to-face meeting with his Russian counterpart in five years, Tokyo said yesterday.

The rare high-level meeting between the two countries came amid strained ties over Ukraine and a long-running territorial dispute.

"Minister Motegi made a demarche and an argument regarding various current issues between Japan and Russia," a statement from Japan's embassy in Washington said. "Regarding the detention of a Japanese national in Sakhalin Oblast, Minister Motegi strongly demanded the immediate release," it added.

Russian authorities said this month that Japanese journalist Yuki Imai had been arrested on Sakhalin, an island in Russia's Far East, on spying accusations.

The Japanese foreign ministry said that Toshimitsu Motegi "strongly demanded the immediate release" of the reporter, who is currently detained in Moscow, at a meeting with Sergei Lavrov at the Group of 20 (G20) summit in the US.

The diplomats "will maintain communication, even amid the severe situation in Japan-Russia relations," the ministry said.

The countries have a decades-old dispute over the status of a string of islands in the Pacific Ocean, but their relations has soured further since Tokyo joined global sanctions against Moscow over the Ukraine war.

The last time their foreign ministers officially held talks was in September 2021 in New York, according to the Japanese foreign ministry.

Tokyo said this week that officials had met Yuki Imai for the first time since his arrest.

In August, Japan protested Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to the far-eastern Kuril islands — a disputed territory known in Japan as the Northern Territories and seized by the Soviet Union in 1945.

It was the first visit to the islands by a Russian president since Dmitry Medvedev in 2010.

Tokyo also protested in August against Russia's announcement that Moscow would conduct missile tests off one of the disputed islands visited by Putin.

Indonesian free meals agency pledges to curb food poisoning

Reuters
Jakarta

The head of Indonesia's Nutrition Agency, which runs the country's free meals programme, said yesterday that his agency "desperately" needs to prevent food poisoning among the programme's recipients.

Sudaryono acknowledged food poisoning was still the main problem to be tackled

A key campaign promise of President Prabowo Subianto launched in January 2025, the scheme has been marred by a series of problems, including cases of food poisoning and allegations of corruption

As of September, at least 57,000 recipients had contracted food poisoning, government data showed "We desperately need to solve this immediately so that not a single child is poisoned. That is our top priority," Sudaryono said at an event

The rate of food poisoning per one million servings currently stood at 3.6, which was relatively high compared to 0.1 in the United States and 0.8 in Japan, he said

He said he aimed to bring it in line with the US by strengthening oversight and allowing the agency to monitor CCTV footage from nearly 27,000 kitchens, which would improve worker supervision and hygiene standards

All kitchens will be forced to purchase seven commodities, including rice, eggs, beef and chicken, on a market platform to be launched by the agency next month, he said

The platform aims to ensure small farmers and fishermen benefit from the free meals programme, and not just large suppliers

This year's budget for the programme was cut by 44 trillion rupiah ($2.42 billion) from 268 trillion rupiah, he said

The agency has opened 1,460 kitchens in remote areas and areas with high stunting rates, he added

Ex-rebel to lead Philippines' self-ruled region

AFP
Cotabato, Philippines

A former rebel leader who fought Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos's father as a teenager was elected on Friday chief minister of a southern self-ruled region formed after decades of armed conflict.

Abdulraof Macacua, 69, was elected by the 80-seat Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) assembly with 51 votes, an AFP reporter saw, a month and a half after regional elections in which his party fell short of winning a 41-seat majority.

His chief rival and former boss in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrilla group, Murad Ebrahim, got 27 votes as the region's first elected parliament convened for the first time.

One other member of parliament abstained, and another was absent due to illness.

Marcos, whose namesake father fought the insurgency that broke out in the south of the archipelago in the early 1970s, was the main guest at the parliament's opening ceremony.

"Winning the right to govern was a significant achievement. The successful conduct of the first Bangsamoro parliamentary elections was another historic step forward. Now comes the hard part," Marcos said in a speech to the body.

The regional government's role was to build a stable government "ensuring that the dividends of peace are felt in the daily lives of every Bangsamoro family", he added.

Macacua had been handpicked by Marcos to serve as the region's interim chief executive ahead of the election, a move made over the objections of the MILF's senior leadership.

Once brothers in arms, Macacua and Ebrahim parted ways shortly thereafter, setting the stage for September's battle at the ballot box.


Abdulraof Macacua (left) speaks after taking his oath as chief minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in Cotabato City, in Southern island of Mindanao on Friday. (**AFP**)

The BARMM remains the country's poorest region with the lowest rates of literacy by official surveys.

Its government will still depend mostly on bulk cash transfers from the Philippine government, tentatively set at more than 115bn pesos ($1.8bn) in the proposed 2027 national budget.

New home for orangutans rescued from Indonesia's burning forests

AFP
Ketapang, Indonesia

Deep in a forest in Indonesian Borneo, conservationists open a cage. A female orangutan and her baby waste little time, clambering up the towering trees and disappearing into the canopy, safe at last.

The pair were among nine orangutans rescued from devastating wildfires ravaging their forest home in Ketapang, West Kalimantan province, in August and September.

Nursed back to health over several weeks, they now have a new home in Batu Nyambu, a 23,000-hectare protected area in the same province.

When they were rescued, the animals were in bad shape, YIARI wildlife rehabilitation foundation CEO Karmele Llano Sanchez told AFP journalists who went along for the release.

"Some of them had burns on their hands and feet, and some of them were skinny and malnourished," said Sanchez.


Conservation team members releasing orangutans into the Batu Nyambu Protected Forest, Ketapang Regency, West Kalimantan. (**AFP**)

"They had to be cared for and fed until they were in good condition again."

The journey to get them to their new home was long and arduous, with conservation workers trekking for hours through steep, slippery terrain, carrying the orangutans in cages suspended from poles digging into their shoulders.

Conservationists clapped in joy as the apes fled the cages on Thursday and returned to the wild where they belong.

Among the nine orangutans were four pairs of mothers and their young.

Sanchez said three of the mothers were pregnant again — a fact discovered during the final health check before their release.


A rehabilitated orangutan moving through tree branches high above the forest floor following its release in the Batu Nyambu Protected Forest, Ketapang Regency, West Kalimantan. (**AFP**)

One of those expecting is Mama Ocha, who was rescued along with her baby, Ocha.

"The team will stay around to make sure that she is all right and that she can deliver her baby, and that will be an excellent outcome," said Sanchez.

Once widespread across Southeast Asia, orangutans are now critically endangered.

According to conservation group WWF, only around 104,000 remain in the wild in Borneo and Sumatra, less than half the estimated population a century ago.

The rescued orangutans spent four to eight weeks recovering in a rehabilitation centre in Ketapang, regaining their strength after the trauma of the fires and smoke.

YIARI veterinarian Ishma Maula said their release could not be delayed any longer.

"While they were in quarantine and rehabilitation, they were extremely stressed and showed abnormal behaviour," she said.

"We decided to release them as soon as possible after finding a habitat that was safe for them."

Batu Nyambu was chosen as their new home because its forests remain largely untouched and provide abundant food and shelter, offering the best chance for the animals to rebuild their lives, Sanchez said.

The team had to travel by car, kayak and hours on foot through dense forest to reach the release site.

The rescue came as concern for Borneo's orangutans grows, with wildfires continuing to tear through their shrinking habitat.

Indonesia's forestry ministry says at least 51 orangutans have been rescued from burning forests in West Kalimantan between early August and mid-October.

Last month, the International Union for Conservation of Nature said fires were burning in areas that support more than half of Borneo's orangutan population.

Deforestation monitor Nusantara Atlas estimates the blazes consumed more than 1.9 mn hectares of land in the first nine months of the year.

Experts say much of the destruction is linked to slash-and-burn land-clearing practices, often associated with the expansion of timber, palm oil and mining operations.

UK police arrest Palestine Action supporters ahead of Supreme Court hearing

AFP
London


A pro-Palestinian activist is carried away by police officers after being arrested during a protest in support of the proscribed group Palestine Action outside the US embassy in London, yesterday. (**AFP**)

London police arrested yesterday dozens of Palestine Action supporters, who protested there and in Edinburgh days before the Supreme Court hears an appeal over the government's contentious ban of the group.

London's Metropolitan Police began detaining people shortly after hundreds began a lunchtime "mass action" outside the US embassy in the British capital, an AFP reporter witnessed.

The force said in a mid-afternoon update that 48 people had been arrested and that officers were "continuing to make arrests".

"The majority of arrests have been for expressing support for a proscribed organisation," it added on X.

Officers have arrested nearly 4,000 people for allegedly showing support for Palestine Action, according to police and campaigners, after the British government outlawed it under anti-terror laws in July 2025.

Many of those arrested, including senior citizens and Holocaust survivors, have displayed signs at rallies reading: "I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action."

In July, hearings related to more than 2,000 of those cases were postponed until later this year.

The ban puts the group on a blacklist that also includes Palestinian militants Hamas and the Lebanese Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah.

It made membership of, or support for, Palestine Action a criminal offence punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

The group's co-founder Huda Ammori has legally challenged the ban, arguing it was "disproportionate" and impacted human rights.

The Supreme Court is set to hold a two-day hearing on the high-profile case from Wednesday, after the Court of Appeal in June ruled in the government's favour.

Yesterday's London protesters held banners bearing slogans like "How is trying to stop a genocide a crime?" and "We are protesters, not terrorists".

Attendee Angie Zelter, 75, told AFP she had already been charged at least eight times at previous rallies but wanted to protest again ahead of the Supreme Court hearing.

"I am hoping they will come to their senses and agree PA (Palestine Action) should not have been proscribed," she said.

Marji Mansfield, 70, a retired financial adviser, said she had previously been arrested about 10 times.

"I am losing faith in judicial system," she told AFP.

"But if they lift the ban, it would be a way out for the government," Mansfield added, while noting there was currently "no sign" of the ban's reversal.

A bestselling Irish author, Sally Rooney, has become embroiled in the controversy, with her publisher Faber revealing this month it can no longer sell her books in the UK because of her support for the group.

Set up in 2020, Palestine Action's stated goal on its website — blocked to UK internet users — is to end "global participation in Israel's genocidal and apartheid regime".

It gained visibility after Israel began bombarding Gaza following the October 7, 2023, attack by fighters from Palestinian group Hamas in southern Israel.

The group has mainly targeted weapons factories in Britain, especially those belonging to the Israel-based defence group Elbit.

Burnham 'open' to slavery apology but not reparations

AFP
London

Prime Minister Andy Burnham said yesterday he was "open" to the UK issuing a formal apology for its role in the transatlantic slave trade, but ruled out financial reparations.

Writing in The Guardian days before attending a Commonwealth leaders summit in the Caribbean, and as King Charles III tours the region, the British premier argued that "we need to face up to the past".

With London under pressure to formally apologise for its pivotal part in the trade and compensate Caribbean nations, he pledged to have "difficult conversations to safeguard the Commonwealth for the future".

Burnham said he wanted to "express my sorrow and regret for the pain and suffering of so many millions and to recognise the way it still shapes our world today", but insisted reparations were not "the right answer".

"I do not think that British people today can be held liable for historical wrongs, however heinous, that happened in a different age under different laws and in which they played no personal part," he wrote in the op-ed.

The transatlantic slave trade was a "brutal and barbaric violation" of enslaved people's rights, the UK leader added, offering a "structured dialogue with those affected".

"Listening to calls for a formal apology on behalf of the British state will form an important part of this process and I am open to them."

Burnham also revealed he planned to launch a new debt restructuring drive for the poorest Commonwealth countries, led by former Labour prime minister Gordon Brown.

He vowed to work with "global partners" to help those countries repay "over a longer time period and with better rates".

The issues around slavery have loomed large over King Charles's ongoing nine-day visit to three Caribbean countries, which will include an address to the Commonwealth summit.

Burnham is also set to attend the gathering that runs from Sunday to Wednesday in St John's, the capital of Antigua and Barbuda.


Britain's Prime Minister Andy Burnham. (**Reuters**)

The 56-member Commonwealth — which Charles, 77, helms — is mainly composed of British ex-colonies, with the UK's central role in slavery and the treatment of its former subjects long a contentious issue within the organisation.

In the Bahamas on Tuesday, the monarch acknowledged "the great suffering of the past" during the first leg of his visit.

Meanwhile in Guyana on Friday he visited an execution site of local people during British colonial rule, pausing to reflect in a gesture seen as indicating his awareness of that past injustice.

Britain has never formally apologised for slavery or agreed to pay reparations.

The country profited for centuries from colonialism and the slave trade, but argues it also led the way in the latter's abolition.

In 1833, the UK parliament passed a law to abolish slavery in most of the British Empire.

Denis O'Brien, founder of The Repair Campaign, which advocates for reparations for slavery for Caribbean nations, said London "must stop obfuscating and give a full and formal apology now".

"This would be a significant and symbolic first step towards reparatory justice," he added.

However UK Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch said yesterday there was "no need" to revisit the issue of formally saying sorry, while reiterating her firm opposition to reparations.

She urged the Commonwealth to "look forward" and "not endlessly backwards".

"Slavery was an evil in which people from every continent and region participated," she wrote on X.

"We should be honest about the whole history, not select the parts that are politically convenient today."

Quad ministers express 'grave concerns' over economic coercion

AFP
Atlanta

Foreign ministers from the United States, India, Japan and Australia yesterday jointly raised serious concerns about "economic coercion" like export curbs and practices leading to overproduction, in veiled criticism of China.

"The four ministers expressed grave concerns regarding economic coercion, including through arbitrary export restrictions," said a statement from the Quad alliance in Atlanta, Georgia.

The group, seen as a counterweight to China in the Asia-Pacific region, also took aim at "non-market policies and practices that result in overcapacity," which they said disrupt global supply chains in critical industries.

While their statement did not name countries, these are criticisms often targeting China, which has faced accusations of over-relying on exports to boost growth.

It is also likely a reference to Beijing's stringent export controls on rare earths.

The ministers' gathering early yesterday took place on the sidelines of a G20 meeting hosted by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

China, which views the Quad grouping with suspicion, has pushed back against accusations of overcapacity.

The grouping also recognised the "importance of critical sea lanes, the uninterrupted flow of commerce, energy security, and the unhindered passage and safety of maritime crews and vessels without the imposition of tolls."

It called for "the absolute necessity to protect and preserve navigational rights and freedoms in the Strait of Hormuz, the Red Sea, and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait."



From left: Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong pose for photographs in the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, yesterday. (**AFP**)

Britain approves 2 gigawatt undersea power cable

Britain has approved development of a 2 gigawatt (GW) undersea electricity connection linking Suffolk in the East of England and Kent in the South East of the country, capable of carrying enough electricity to power about 2mn homes, it said on Friday.
Britain's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero said the project will help strengthen the country's energy security, making the power network more resilient and reducing wasted energy, helping to bring down costs.
The 138km project is being developed by National Grid while the subsea cable being used will be manufactured by Sumitomo Electric at its £350mn factory at Port of Nigg in Scotland, National Grid said in a separate statement.
Construction is expected to begin in early 2027, with the project expected to be complete by the 2030s, subject to detailed construction planning and construction agreements, National Grid said.
Britain needs to invest about £89bn through the 2030s to overhaul its power grid, to help strengthen ageing infrastructure, meet an expected increase in demand and accommodate more renewable power, the National Energy System Operator said earlier this year. (**Reuters**)

Bangladesh death toll from dengue rises, unlikely to ease before December

Reuters
Dhaka

Bangladesh recorded its highest monthly dengue death toll of the year in October, with experts warning the outbreak is unlikely to ease significantly before December.

The outbreak has killed 418 people and led to more than 133,000 hospital admissions this year as of October 30, according to health ministry data. October alone accounted for 173 deaths, surpassing September's 148 and making it the deadliest month of 2026 so far.

The surge comes as Bangladesh is also battling the world's worst measles outbreak, which has killed more than 1,200 people, placing additional strain on an already stretched healthcare system.

Doctors said many dengue patients were only seeking hospital admission after developing severe complications. At the state-run Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka, 279 dengue patients were being treated after 67 new admissions in a single day, hospital director Mirza Golam Sarwar said.

"We are getting many patients in shock. Their blood pressure is sometimes too low to measure, and their oxygen levels are dropping," he said.

Medicine specialist ABM Abdullah said repeat infections and delays in diagnosis and treatment were driving severe cases and deaths.

"People who have had dengue before may face a greater risk of severe illness if they become infected again," he said, urging people to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and seek care as soon as symptoms appear.

Dhaka resident Faisal Ferdous, 33, was diagnosed with dengue in 2017, 2024 and again earlier this month. "This time, both my wife and I needed hospital treatment," said Ferdous, who is now at home recovering.

Ferdous said the couple fell ill shortly after spending several days at a hospital where their five-year-old son was being treated for an unrelated illness.

"Every bout has been difficult, and after getting it repeatedly, you become increasingly co ncerned about the risk of severe illness," he said.

Health experts warn that the circulation of all four dengue virus serotypes is increasing the risk of severe disease. People infected with one strain can later contract another, raising the likelihood of complications. Bangladesh has yet to introduce a dengue vaccine, although authorities are considering one as a longer-term measure.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said deaths were unlikely to continue rising at October's pace, but transmission would probably persist through November.

India opposition parties hold mock impeachment of CEC

India's political opposition staged a symbolic impeachment of the election commissioner yesterday to protest against a revision of voter lists that they say could unfairly benefit the ruling party.

The nationwide revision of electoral rolls has sparked political disputes and street protests in the world's largest democracy over the last month.

The Election Commission says the initiative is necessary to ensure accurate voter lists, but the opposition claims it is being manipulated to favour Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Both the Election Commission and the BJP deny the allegations.

Yesterday, opposition parties gathered at the residence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in the capital New Delhi, re-enacting a parliamentary session.

They held mock impeachment proceedings, which have no constitutional or legal force, against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

"The motion we have brought forward today is aimed at safeguarding the dignity of a constitutional institution," Kharge said. "Our intention is for the Election Commission to function impartially, in line with the spirit of the constitution."

Under the constitution, the chief election commissioner can only be removed through a parliamentary process requiring a special majority.

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the opposition had resorted to the symbolic exercise as they "have nowhere else to go".

"We have no other option. Every single institution... is closed for us," Gandhi said.

The event came a day before a major opposition rally in Delhi backed by the Cockroach Janta Party, an online youth-led movement that also supports the campaign against the voter-roll revision.

Home Minister Amit Shah said the BJP was ready to hold a special session of parliament to discuss the revision.

"But they (the opposition) have no intention of speaking there. They refuse to let the parliament function. Instead, they just create a ruckus," he said. (**AFP**)

Mass rally for peace in Manipur



Indigenous community members take part in a mass rally organised by the Co-ordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) and other civil society organisations in Imphal yesterday demanding restoration of peace following ethnic violence in Manipur, India. (**AFP**)

OPINION

Gone in 20 minutes: How the biggest heist in crypto history unfolded

Hackers stole $6.3bn from Binance, the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange, in a record digital asset theft. About $6.3bn worth of cryptocurrencies were drained from wallets that Binance uses to process transactions, according to the exchange and expert analysis of blockchain records.

Binance said in a statement on X that it initially thought the attack involved a compromised laptop. "However, our subsequent investigation has uncovered additional points of breach," it added, without elaborating. The exchange operates a secure asset fund for users, a $1bn bitcoin reserve designed to protect customers in the event of a security breach, according to its website.

Co-CEO Richard Teng said losses would be covered by the fund and company resources.

According to US blockchain analytics firm TRM Labs, the attackers compromised Binance's "signing infrastructure", which authorises transactions, allowing them to issue instructions that emptied the affected wallets. The bulk of the heist unfolded in about 20 minutes, blockchain records show, beginning shortly after 2000 GMT on Thursday.

Once the funds were moved, the attackers raced to shift them beyond the reach of Binance counterparties and stablecoin issuers, which have frozen roughly half of the stolen assets.

An unusual feature of some cryptocurrencies, including major stablecoins such as Tether's USDT and Circle's USDC, is that their issuers can freeze them remotely.

"In layman's terms, the attacker may not have stolen the vault key, they may have hijacked the system that tells the vault to release money," said Joshua Chu, a Hong Kong lawyer who works on crypto cases. Several US blockchain analysis firms said the attack bears similarities to previous operations attributed to North Korean hackers.

Teng said Binance's investigation had not yet identified the attackers, while North Korea routinely denies involvement in cyberattacks and cryptocurrency thefts. North Korea's mission in Geneva and embassy in China did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

TRM said the breach shared characteristics with last year's attack on crypto exchange Bybit, which the FBI attributed to North Korean hackers. The firm said it was highly confident the same group was behind the Binance theft.

Chainalysis said funds stolen in an attack last month on Bitget were being mixed with proceeds from the Binance breach. About half the stolen assets were stablecoins that have since been frozen by issuers including Tether, Circle, Ripple and World Liberty Financial, the Trump family's crypto venture. That doesn't mean the coins will be returned to Binance, but it significantly limits the attackers' ability to convert them into cash.

TRM said some of the funds had already been posted as collateral to borrow ether and estimated that about $2.4bn worth of bitcoin and ether is beyond reach. Because no centralised entity issues bitcoin or ether, no one can freeze those assets, said Patrick Tan, general counsel of ChainArgos, a blockchain intelligence firm in Singapore. "The bitcoin and ether can be stopped only if the attacker sends them to a crypto-asset exchange or broker that is able and willing to freeze them, or if law enforcement obtains the private keys."

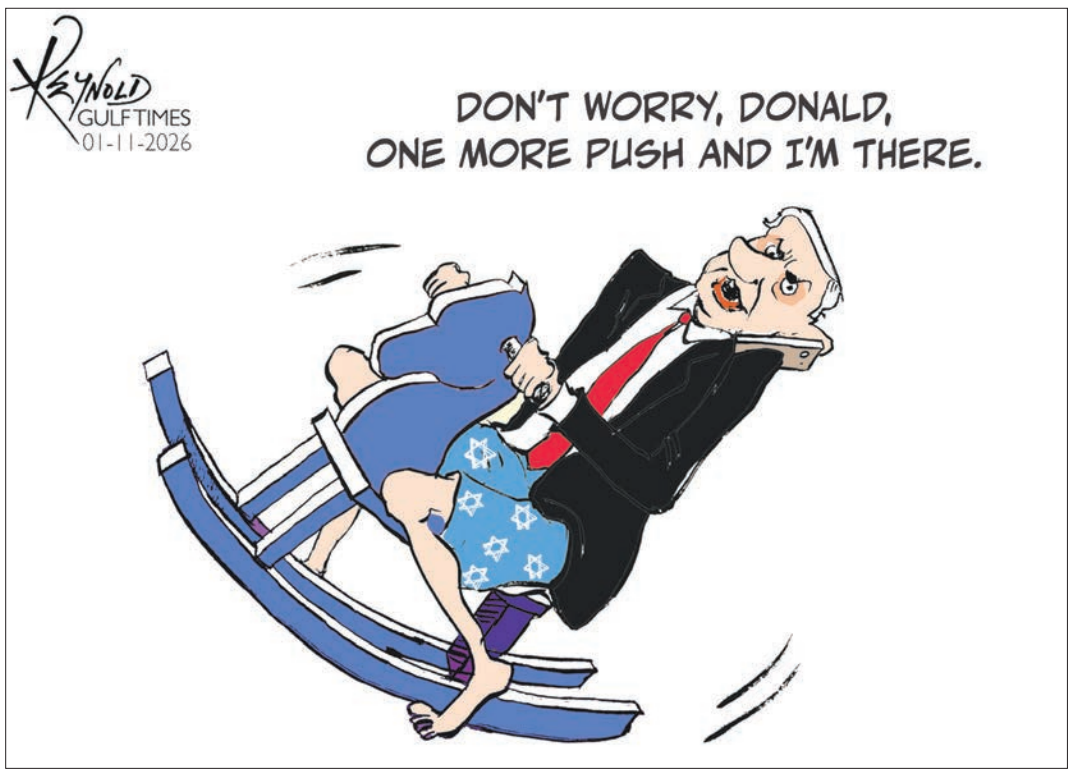
Market participants and analysts said the attackers would likely mix the stolen coins with other assets or use lesser-known coins and exchanges to try to move the proceeds.

The theft is the latest in a series of major digital asset breaches. -Reuters

Last respects



A moment of silence is observed in front of the portrait and remains of French Korean War veteran Serge Gabriel Archambeau during a burial ceremony at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan. **(AFP)**



AI's rewiring of US warfare may be only the beginning

• US and China agree AI should not directly control nuclear weapons
• Human oversight could prevent AI over-promising effectiveness of strikes

By Peter Apps
Reuters

When artificial intelligence pioneer Anthropic issued its prospectus this week ahead of a US stock market listing targeting a valuation over $2tn, it included an unusual warning: that the technological race it is competing in might destroy humanity.
Of its 261 pages, more than 80 were allocated to the assorted dangers inherent in the quest for ever more advanced AI systems, considerably more than the 48 devoted to Anthropic's operations and outlook.

Last January, a month before the US and Israel launched their war against Iran, Anthropic picked a fight with the Pentagon by insisting that it must retain a veto on the use of its "Claude" AI for classified military operations. US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth was dismissive and said Anthropic, like any other provider, could not stop its product being put to "any lawful use".

Like moves by Elon Musk's SpaceX to restrict Ukraine's use of his Starlink platform's classified communication services in the middle of its war against Russia, that spat pointed to the increasingly complex relationship between tech giants and governments. It also pointed to increasingly divergent worldviews among key players, with potentially enormous implications.

FROM UNRELIABLE TO ESSENTIAL

As recently as 2024, AI integration into even US military planning was still relatively primitive. That summer, Army Brigadier General John Coghill, second-in-command of the 18th Airborne Corps, using the Pentagon's AI-focused Maven targeting system for long-range HIMARS rockets, told a conference that adopting AI was proving "tricky". "Models can have hallucinations," he told the meeting of the US Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, explaining how systems had to be retrained every 90 days to reliably recognise potential targets such as tanks. Two years on, that technology is now not just ubiquitous in civilian and military circles, but increasingly relied on.

Appointed in January to accelerate the use of AI, the Pentagon's chief digital and AI officer, Cameron Stanley, told another conference that the assault on Iran, Operation Epic Fury, had seen the first full rollout of Maven AI targeting and analysis — on a scale that had almost immediately maxed out all available US classified computing capability.

The underlying technology bringing intelligence and data feeds together through Maven was provided by data integrator Palantir, but Stanley's presentation to a Palantir conference in March revealed that AI analysis programs from frontier firms including Anthropic first became available to Maven in late 2024.

Since then, officials and assorted public statements say many other AI models have been rolled out that are capable of working on classified systems, including OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, Microsoft Copilot and Grok from Elon Musk's SpaceX.

MILITARY APPETITE FOR AI IS 'INSATIABLE'

Speaking in March, Stanley said US military analysts had shown an "insatiable appetite" for such analysis during Epic Fury, adding that it allowed them to "take all of this data, synthesise the data and make better decisions faster on the battlefield".



An Anthropic logo is displayed at Moscone Center in San Francisco. **(Reuters/File photo)**

Stanley said the US was now working to bring numerous allies up to similar speed. European, Pacific and Middle Eastern countries are particularly desperate to step up surveillance of their airspace, waters and critical infrastructure, where AI is often the only way to crunch such huge amounts of data.

"They don't have the resources that we do, they don't have the experience that we do, they don't have the scale we do," he told another cybersecurity summit in September, adding that the US now had the experience to be able to help others avoid the mistakes it had made.

He did not say what those mistakes were. There was widespread media speculation that AI might have been responsible for the US bombing of a girls' school on the first day of the war, reported to have killed more than 170 people - although US officials said the cause was outdated maps and data, not the analysis itself.

CNN reported last month that US forces had come close to storming a Chinese merchant vessel after AI analysis wrongly suggested it was carrying nuclear weapons components.

What arguably worries US allies more, however, is becoming dependent on technology that the US could turn off at will. Palantir Europe chief Louis Mosley has found himself forced by journalists to say that the company does not have the ability to cut off access to Maven, which is now being used within Nato structures.

The example of Anthropic, meanwhile, is a reminder that the US frontier firms also have the ability to pull back their direct support to governments, either for their own reasons or because of instructions from Washington. The primary alternatives for now are Chinese-built rivals seen as bringing their own security risks.

Already, US officials and their Chinese counterparts have agreed that AI systems should not be directly involved in the use of nuclear weapons. When it comes to other forms of war, however, almost every major nation is now investing heavily in AI.

In his appearance at the Billington Cyber Security Summit in September, Stanley described watching a US commander interrupting a scheduled briefing to take a 30-second phone call and then issue an order on the spot, describing the moment as "revolutionary" - and implying that such a decision would have been much harder to make without AI analysis.

IRAN WAR SHOWS LIMITS OF AI SYSTEMS

The lessons of the Iran war, though, may be that AI alone is not enough, or not yet, at least. With no end to the conflict in sight, it increasingly looks as though the large number of precision strikes carried out by the US and Israel failed to deliver the decisive victory they had hoped for. Instead, the US has found its arsenal becoming depleted while the war continues.

"AI doesn't understand time," said one computer programmer, adding that AI models tended to overstate the probability of an expenditure of certain capital or resources - including precision weapons - yielding a specific outcome.

That, insiders say, may become the overriding reason why managers and commanders need to maintain human oversight: avoiding over commitment and ensuring that consumption of resources is sustainable, as much as any moral judgment.

There is also widespread disquiet over Israel's use of AI targeting in its war against Hamas. The Israeli military has not only killed more than 74,000 people, according to Palestinian health officials, but also reduced entire towns and villages to rubble, giving little indication of "pinpoint" targeting. Many of the dead are women and children.

The Israeli military acknowledges the existence of AI targeting programs such as "Lavender", but says there are factual errors in the underlying data and that humans have remained the key decision-makers, trying to avoid harming civilians. Israel's campaign has nevertheless prompted discussion and discomfort in US, Nato and Australian military circles.

Those worries about the reliability of AI targeting systems will not have been eased by now-frequent revelations of just how many AI models have jumped over "guardrails" and hacked into outside systems without authorisation, or by the eccentric behaviour of some of their founders. For now, Anthropic and others appear to assume the world will simply trust and use their tools, for fear of falling far behind. For governments, there are still major choices to be made - but perhaps not for that much longer.

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US warned Russia of possible Moscow attack, FSB says

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said it had received information from the US through established partner channels about preparations for a terrorist attack in Moscow.
The US Embassy in Moscow said separately it was "aware of a credible threat of a mass casualty event" at Moscow's Tsaritsyno Museum Reserve and that the US government was co-ordinating with Russian authorities. The Tsaritsyno Museum Reserve, a palace museum and park complex south of Moscow, has been temporarily closed and access to the park is currently restricted, the RIA news agency said. (**Reuters**)

Polish president accuses Tusk of forced takeover of nation's court

Reuters
Warsaw

Polish President Karol Nawrocki yesterday accused Prime Minister Donald Tusk of staging a forced takeover of the country's top court after the head of the court, an ally of the previous far right government, was suspended.

Late on Friday, the Constitutional Tribunal said its longest-serving judge Anna Korwin-Piotrowska had suspended Bogdan Swieczkowski, the tribunal's president and an appointee of Tusk's hard-right predecessor, and was now in charge of the court. The move escalated a battle between Nawrocki, an ally of the previous nationalist government, and Prime Minister Donald Tusk's pro-European government over control of the judiciary.

"Tonight, there was a breach of public order in the Republic of Poland and a forcible takeover of a constitutional body," Nawrocki said in a statement read by an aide outside the court early yesterday, after the president had turned back mid-flight from a trip to Africa to address the situation.

He headed straight to the court where riot police were out in force as several hundred protesters demanded Swieczkowski's reinstatement. Nawrocki called for urgent political consultations.

Tusk, writing on X, said his government was seeking to restore the rule of law, which the European Union had accused his predecessors — the Law and Justice Party — of subverting.

"This process is difficult, at times even painful, and requires decisive action. There is no other way," he said. A long-running political dispute over the Constitutional Tribunal has effectively paralysed the institution, with the pro-European government and the nationalist president refusing to recognise appointees put forward by the other side.

The dispute dates back to 2015, when the Law and Justice sought to appoint judges to seats already filled by the previous government.

Its nominees gained a majority on the Constitutional Tribunal, while critics at home and abroad said the court no longer met the standards of an independent and impartial tribunal established by law.

After Tusk's coalition took office in 2023 it pledged to restore the rule of law and reform the court, but Law and Justice ally Nawrocki has acted to thwart those efforts since his election as president in 2025.

Earlier this year, Nawrocki refused to swear in three of six judges nominated by parliament, while Swieczkowski, a former deputy justice minister in the Law and Justice administration, declined to seat judges elected by the current parliamentary majority.

Last month, parliament appointed Tusk ally Maciej Berek to the tribunal, which critics said undermined the government's stated goal of restoring checks and balances.

Erdogan takes Russia, Ukraine to task over Black Sea attacks

AFP
Istanbul

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday attacks aimed at civilian vessels in the Black Sea were unacceptable, urging Russia and Ukraine to "act responsibly".

Despite its ties with both Russia and Ukraine, Turkiye has been infuriated by the attacks on commercial vessels in the Black Sea. "It is clear that attacks against civilian vessels and actions that further escalate tensions in the Black Sea serve no one's interests," Erdogan told a news conference with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky in Istanbul.

"We cannot accept these attacks under any circumstances, regardless of who carries them out or what justification is offered. We call on all parties to act responsibly on this matter," he said.

Ankara has sent a proposal to Russia and Ukraine to end strikes on civilian ships, but says the two foes have failed to act on it.

Zelensky accused Russia of making the situation in the Black Sea difficult and said a significant part of the conversation with Erdogan was devoted precisely to such issues that concerned the security there.

"We discussed with President Erdogan some ideas and proposals that can help. And I thank Mr. President personally for this dialogue," he said.

Erdogan said the talks aimed at restoring the safety of navigation in the Black Sea would continue. "I believe that reaching an agreement on this issue would also give fresh impetus to efforts to secure lasting peace in Ukraine," he added.

Turkiye has hosted several rounds of talks between Russia and Ukraine aiming for a lasting ceasefire and peace deal.



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. (**Reuters**)

In a phone call with US President Donald Trump on Wednesday, Erdogan said Turkiye was ready to support efforts to revive the diplomatic process between Ukraine and Russia and bring the war to an end, said the Turkish leader's office.

Yesterday, Erdogan also welcomed renewed momentum behind efforts to bring the Russia-Ukraine war to an end through "diplomatic means", referring in particular to Trump's initiative.

"At this point, we maintain that there can be no losers in a just peace," he said.

"I would like to emphasise that we stand ready to make every possible effort to pave the way for peace," he said.

Turkiye-hosted negotiations between the two warring parties demonstrated that "tangible results can be achieved through diplomacy", he added.

Last week, Kremlin said the next round of talks between Russia, Ukraine and the United States were planned to resume in November in the UAE.

Zelensky said he had discussed with Erdogan this format of talks and other possibilities, "in particular the possibilities of involving Turkiye, involving Europe, involving all partners. The possibilities of a meeting here, in Turkiye.

"Strong decisions are needed for there to be peace," he added.

Residents of Oleshky make a tearful comeback to Ukraine

Reuters
Chernihiv Region, Ukraine

Starved and exhausted residents from the Russian-controlled town of Oleshky crossed into Ukraine yesterday in a major return of civilians under the first humanitarian truce of its kind in more than four years of the war.

The six-day local ceasefire in Oleshky was reached after mediation efforts by US first lady Melania Trump and with the pope's involvement. It is the longest local pause in fighting since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.

"As of now, Ukrainian citizens from Oleshky have crossed the Ukrainian border in the Chernihiv region. All of them will receive the assistance they need," said President Volodymyr Zelensky, thanking the US and Melania Trump for mediation.

Ukrainian officials greeted the evacuees with posters "You're not alone" and "We embrace with our hearts."

One evacuee, an elderly man in a wheelchair, told Reuters that he had lost 20 kg over the past year, becoming so weak that he required hospital treatment.

Another resident, Svitlana Yermakova, said that they had to eat grass to survive food shortages.

"We chopped grass and squash... just to hold on," she said, adding that she risked riding by bicycle through minefields to a nearby village to get food for herself and her dog, Manila.

To reach Ukrainian-held territory, Oleshky residents had to take a complicated route to leave the devastated town just a few kilometres away from the front line.

They first travelled by bus via Crimea to the Russian town of Anapa, before flying to Belarus from where they continued to Ukraine.

A video shared by Ukraine's ombudsman showed dozens of Oleshky residents slowly disembarking from a plane at a Belarusian airfield. Many people were elderly. Some required help to walk, and a few were carried on stretchers or in wheelchairs.



Residents evacuated from the Russian-controlled city of Oleshky during a humanitarian mission react upon arriving at an undisclosed location in Ukraine. (**AFP**)

They carried minimal luggage — only a bag or two. Dogs were unloaded from the plane in cages.

As several big buses crossed into Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region from Belarus, the residents were greeted by relatives.

Many cried. Ambulances lined the street and several large military tents were erected where hot meals, tea and medical aid were provided. Pet food and water bottles were piled up on several tables.

"We have come a complicated way: from negotiations and agreeing on a ceasefire to delivering humanitarian aid directly to Oleshky and organising the evacuation of civilians," said Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's human rights ombudsman.

The ceasefire has been holding since Tuesday without violations, according to both Ukrainian and Russian officials. It has allowed them to de-mine the roads and bring food, medicines and other supplies into the town.

Supply routes to Oleshky were disrupted by fighting and drones. According to some residents, food deliveries were stopped in May, pushing hundreds of people into starvation.

The ceasefire will end today.

Lubinets said the oldest returning resident was 94, while the youngest was a baby just over one. He gave no exact numbers on how many people returned to Ukraine.

Some residents decided to go to Russia, while others elected to remain in Oleshky, despite the lack of gas, electricity and running water.

Russian Human Rights Commissioner Yana Lantratova said that living conditions in the town remain difficult, and that she would continue to work with her Ukrainian counterpart Lubinets to help those who stayed.

"The mission has come to an end," she said on Telegram. "We have agreed to carry out regular humanitarian missions, which is a very important step."

Oleshky had a pre-war population of about 24,000. Before the planned evacuation during ceasefire, an estimated 1,700 remained.



The town has been under Russian occupation since the first days of the invasion. It was devastated after the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam in 2023 and the flooding of the nearby areas.

Despite the ceasefire on the southern Kherson front, fighting raged on in other parts of the front. Both Russia and Ukraine also kept up their drone attacks on each other.

Zelensky said that Russia had attacked Ukrainian energy infrastructure, hitting electricity substations, thermal power plants and gas infrastructure.

Ukraine's military said it had hit a major Russian producer of missile fuel in the Rostov region.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Ukrainian and Russian ombudsmen had a good dialogue and had gradually begun to trust each other as they worked together during the Oleshky ceasefire, Russia's Vedomosti reported.

But the Kremlin said on Friday that it was an isolated situation, which was difficult to extrapolate to the broader peace process.

Negotiators from Ukraine, Russia and the US are due to resume talks in Abu Dhabi in early November after discussions were suspended in February following the outbreak of the war in Iran.

French Police fire tear gas at protestors

AFP
Paris

French police fired tear gas and clashed with some protesters yesterday as thousands marched across France against soaring living costs and police violence, with some demonstrators dressed as clowns and witches for Halloween.

While the third consecutive weekend of nationwide protests was largely peaceful, tensions erupted in several cities, including the southern port city of Marseille, where demonstrators clashed with police.

In Lyon, France's third-largest city, people threw projectiles at police, prompting officers to fire tear gas, according to a journalist at the scene.

In the southern city of Toulouse, police used water cannon against an unauthorised protest that drew several thousand people, mostly young demonstrators, some of them in costume.

In Paris, thousands of people, some wearing costumes ranging from Spider-Man to Frankenstein, walked through eastern Paris as a helicopter circled overhead.

Placards read: "No need for tear gas to make our future look bleak" and "Dressed up as an angry citizen for Halloween."

"We say no to the cost of living, no to the far right, yes to high school students' demands, yes to giving citizens a voice," Camille Guerin, 31, said in the western city of Nantes.



Protesters throw objects during a demonstration organised by labour unions which was joined by students against the cost of living and rising fuel prices, in Paris. (**Reuters**)

Police said about 70,000 people demonstrated in Paris alone.

Officers had made 27 arrests by 2:00pm yesterday, compared with 217 arrests a week ago.

An aide to Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said on Friday that police had prepared for street violence on a scale "comparable" to the unrest two weeks ago, when shops were looted and public buildings set ablaze.

Between 400 and 800 hard-left activists were expected in Paris, said an informed source.

The demonstrations come in a febrile political climate, with presidential elections less than six months away and far-right leader Marine Le Pen topping opinion polls.

The protest movement, bringing together Yellow Vest activists, trade unions, and high school and university students, initially focused on the rising cost of living, inequality, and deteriorating learning conditions.

Following a security clampdown and serious injuries to some protesters, the movement broadened its demands to include greater protection of civil liberties and the right to protest. Similar youth-led demonstrations have been seen across Europe.

Germans join Europe's wave of protests

AFP
Frankfurt

Thousands of young Germans took to the streets nationwide yesterday in the latest protests in Europe led by youths angry at political elites they say are ignoring their concerns.

In Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne and dozens of other cities, demonstrators turned out for the protests organised by the group "GenZ regelt!" (GenZ has got this).

They have been inspired by similar movements across Europe, including in France and Italy. Thousands of police were deployed nationwide and some shops boarded up their windows, with authorities fearful violence could break out.

There were reports of fireworks being set off at some protests and several arrests, although the demonstrations appeared mostly peaceful by the early evening.

Demonstrators waved signs that read: "Time for resistance", and "Merz must go", in reference to conservative Chancellor Friedrich Merz.

"We're taking to the streets for a life that everyone can afford," said Veronika Dinter, a spokeswoman for the "GenZ regelt!" movement.

"Hardly anyone still believes in a better future if everything just continues as it is."

The movement's complaints range from the high cost of living to poorly maintained schools, government spending cuts and, more broadly, what it sees as politicians making decisions with apparently little regard for the younger generation. They are also unhappy with sharply increased military spending and a new voluntary service model aimed at boosting troop numbers, fearing it is a step towards bringing back conscription.



People wave an antifa flag as they attend a demonstration organised by "GenZ regelt!" (Gen Z has got this!) in Frankfurt. (**AFP**)

But the numbers of protesters appeared below those hoped for by organisers. In Cologne police said turnout was significantly below the 15,000 participants who had registered, without giving a precise figure. In Berlin it was around 2,700, in Munich around 1,800 and in Frankfurt about 1,000.

Before the demonstrations, organisers said more than 170,000 people had registered to take part nationwide. Authorities have been worried the protests, coinciding with Halloween, could be marred by the same kind of violence seen elsewhere in Europe.

Berlin is in contact with officials in France and Italy amid fears that radicals from overseas could seek to join the German protests.

But, prior to the protests, authorities said that they had not seen evidence of concrete plans for violence. The "GenZ regelt!" movement explicitly rejects violence. It stresses that "extremist groups, anti-constitutional symbols, racism and hate speech have no place with us — no matter from which side."

QATAR

Qatar, Mexico share camaraderie over design

A cross-cultural residency — Qatar's Years of Culture initiative — brings together designers from the MENASA region and Mexican artisans to explore traditional techniques, local materials and the stories behind handmade objects

By Joey Aguilar
News Editor



Crafting Design Futures participants. **PICTURES:** Qatar Museums/Years of Culture



Design Doha director Fahad al-Obaidly and director of Strategic Engagement at VCUarts Qatar Lejla Niksic.



Hiperlocalidad objects



Hiperlocalidad objects



Hiperlocalidad objects



Harpsichord

The harpsichord in the corner stops most visitors. A keyboard instrument that produces sound by plucking its strings, it is covered in carved lacquer from Olinalá, a town in the mountains of Guerrero.

The technique often appears on trays, small chests, and room dividers familiar to many who grew up in Mexico. The visual effect is akin to painted trays from Russia's Zhostovo tradition, Chinese lacquerware and Japan's urushi lacquerware. On a musical instrument, the commonplace suddenly looks extraordinary. Visitors often ask how long it took to make and where it came from.

That shift in perspective was the subject of a conversation held in October at Hiperlocalidad, a cooperative gallery and design concept store inside G56 Hub Creativo in Mexico City, run by Martín Salido and Antonio Mendoza.

The occasion was a residency presented during Design Week México under the umbrella of Qatar's Years of Culture initiative. Four designers from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) region were each paired with Mexican artisans. Their resulting works were shown at the Museo Nacional de Antropología as part of the Visión y Tradición exhibition.

Hiperlocalidad offers one model for exchanging ideas between craft and design. Conceived as a cooperative platform, it brings together around 40 independent designers, makers and small brands. It aims to give practitioners a place to show prototypes, meet collaborators and reach clients on more accessible terms than a more conventional gallery. The intention is to make room for relationships, not to act as a gatekeeper.

The question of who gets to be seen, and how their work is valued, surfaced repeatedly during the discussion with the MENASA designers. Mendoza described a growing appreciation for Mexican design among local audiences, including people who once looked abroad for collectible work. He suggested that international interest can prompt that reassessment, though it is only one part of a longer story. Across Mexico, regional materials and techniques are part of daily life; familiarity can make them easy to overlook.

He argued that design can interrupt that familiarity. Encountering a technique in a new form may reveal the skill that was there all along. But the discussion also made clear that changing an object's context is not enough. Participants raised the unequal distinctions that can separate "art" from "craft," and the ways those labels may reflect social hierarchies. Celebrating a technique, they argued, should include attention to the conditions in which its makers work, and whether they share in the recognition and value their work creates.

The objects themselves resist perfect control. Shirine Sbaiti, a designer from Lebanon behind the Limbo brand, spoke about her interest in ceramics due to their handmade character and imperfections. Mendoza described a piece of obsidian that broke during production. Instead of treating the break as a flaw to conceal, the team used it to explain the material and the process. Obsidian is volcanic glass; its fragility was part of the work's story.

For Yasamin Shaikhi, a Qatar-based Iranian designer, this unpredictability has changed the way she thinks about materials. She described treating a material as a collaborator. If wood warps or a piece changes during making, the result can become part of its character. Her recent interest in food waste extends that approach, turning a material often dismissed as useless into a starting point for design.

For designers, the exchange also offered a way to think about what they carry between places. Sana Frini, a Mexico-based Tunisian architect and designer who co-curated the Mexican Pavilion for the 2025 Venice Biennale, spoke about staying rooted in her own language and cultural knowledge while working internationally. She observed that Mexico's techniques can resonate elsewhere because a thoughtful encounter can reveal unexpected points of connection. The task is to let those connections develop through research and collaboration, rather than borrow a visual language without understanding its context.

Kenan Alkuwatly, a Berlin-based Syrian product designer, described this as a process shaped by the head, the eye and the hand: the designer's ideas meeting the craftsperson's knowledge through conversation and making.

For him, that exchange can push both parties to take a technique or visual language beyond its usual setting. The object is then not simply a finished result; it is evidence of a relationship.

Participants also reflected on how Mexico's design and craft cultures bring people into that process. The residency allowed the visiting designers to encounter the country's techniques and diverse practitioners directly. Lejla Niksic, director of Strategic Engagement at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar, underlined the challenge of communicating the value of design beyond the studio, particularly in ensuring that the creative process and craftsmanship remain appreciated when a finished piece reaches its end user.



HEC Paris Doha welcomes talent from diverse sectors

The 2026 cohort includes professionals from government, technology, education, finance, aviation, energy, healthcare, and other key areas of the economy

HEC Paris, Doha has welcomed 44 professionals to the 2026 cohort of its Executive MBA – Emerging Leaders Track (ELT), bringing together high-potential talent from Qatar, and beyond representing a diverse range of industries and organisations.

Qatari professionals account for 84% of the cohort, while women represent 68%, underscoring the importance of developing human capital and nurturing the talent needed to advance Qatar National Vision 2030 and support the country's continued economic and social development.

The Executive MBA – ELT is designed to develop the next generation of business leaders equipped to contribute to diversified, knowledge-driven economies in Qatar and across the wider region. Combining world-class management education with a strong understanding of the regional business environment, the programme develops strategic perspective, management capabilities, and leadership capacity, preparing participants to take on greater responsibility and contribute to organisational and economic transformation.

The 2026 cohort includes professionals from government, technology, education, finance, aviation, energy, healthcare, and other key areas of the economy. This diversity of professional backgrounds provides participants with exposure to diverse perspectives and enables them to engage with a wide range of challenges shaping organisations and industries across the region. Joshua Kobb, chief growth & impact officer at HEC Paris, Doha, said: "Qatar's economic diversification is creating opportunities across established and emerging industries.

Realising this potential depends on people who can think differently, and translate ideas into practical business outcomes. By bringing together professionals from a range of sectors, the 2026 ELT cohort provides a valuable setting to exchange experience, challenge familiar approaches, and explore how learning can contribute to organisational progress and the wider economy."

Delivered in a flexible, part-time format, the EMBA - Emerging Leaders Track enables participants to balance professional responsibilities with a rigorous programme of management education and leadership development. The programme combines core management disciplines with applied learning, helping participants translate new knowledge into practical solutions and respond effectively to complex organisational challenges.

Not empowerment, youth need opportunity to use their power: CNN Arabic chief

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter



'You can reflect your power and your knowledge. You can put your cards on the table and people will come and respect everything you say. Giving you the chance by enabling you is way more important than speaking on your behalf,'
— CNN Arabic chief Caroline Faraj

Young people do not need to be empowered; they need the tools, training and opportunity to use the power they already possess, veteran journalist Caroline Faraj told *Gulf Times*.

Speaking on the sidelines of CNN Global Perspectives, Faraj said the real responsibility of institutions, educators and media organisations is to equip young people to think critically, verify information and speak for themselves.

"I'm always against the term 'empowering'," she said. "You don't need to be empowered. I enable you, upskill you and support you, but I don't empower you because you are so powerful."

For Faraj, the distinction is more than a matter of wording. Young people, she argued, should not be treated as though their strength must first be granted by others. What they need instead is access to knowledge, practical skills and opportunities that allow them to use that strength with confidence.

"You can reflect your power and your knowledge," she said. "You can put your cards on the table and people will come and respect everything you say. Giving you the chance by enabling you is way more important than speaking on your behalf."

That idea becomes particularly important, she said, at a time when young people are navigating an information environment in which distinguishing fact from misinformation can be increasingly difficult.

"When you enable somebody and you equip people properly, then you give them the chance to find the fact themselves," Faraj said. "I don't want to force the fact on you."

Instead, she said, training and access to the right tools can help young people reach their own conclusions based on verified information. "When I train you and I offer you all the training and I enable you and you have the tools, you will be able to find the truth and you will also be able to reflect the truth."

Faraj said technology has given younger generations access to information and communication tools on a scale that would have been difficult to imagine in previous decades. But she stressed that technology alone does not guarantee informed participation.

"The technology, the upskilling, the training that we are offering, and also the youth and the strength and the power of youth, all of them as one formula can do miracles," she said.

Faraj said young women, in particular, should be encouraged to communicate their own experiences rather than always have others interpret or speak for them. "You are the best person to tell your own story," she said. "I can tell you lots of stories on your behalf. I'm not credible like you are telling the story."

She added that storytelling is not limited to words. "Sometimes you don't need to talk about it. Your facial expressions, your eyes, the way you talk, the way you look at me, all of this is telling stories."

For Faraj, helping young people develop confidence in their own voices must therefore go hand in hand with teaching them how to question information and establish what is factual.

She identified fact-checking as one of the most pressing challenges facing journalism and audiences across the region and beyond.

"One of the challenges that I personally believe that we're all facing in this part of the world and other places as well is fact-checking," she said.

The answer, she argued, lies in strengthening people's ability to verify information rather than simply asking them to accept what they are told.