

GULF TIMES

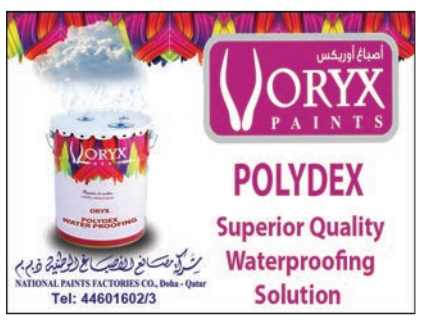
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Amir graces Al Jazeera's 30th anniversary





QNA/GT Report
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani attended the celebration marking the 30th anniversary of the launch of Al Jazeera Media Network held at the network's headquarters last evening under the slogan "And the Story Continues".

Ahead of the event, HH the Amir viewed a visual presentation and interactive display highlighting key milestones in the network's history since its establishment and its media experience over the past three decades.

His Highness also watched a documentary presentation featuring selected speeches delivered by HH the Late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, may Allah have mercy on him, at various forums and events, highlighting the network, its role in the media landscape, and the vision upon which it was founded.

The celebration featured speeches by HE Chairman of Al Jazeera Media Network's Board of Directors Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani; Director General of the Network Sheikh Nasser bin Faisal al-Thani; along with an opening video presentation and two presentations highlighting the network's key facts and figures and future plans.

Following the celebration, HH the Amir visited the new studios and newsroom, where he was briefed on the latest equipment and technologies used in broadcasting and television news production.

The celebration was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani; a number of Their Excellencies the sheikhs and ministers; members of Al Jazeera Network's Board of Directors; its staff; a distinguished group of media professionals and intellectuals; as well as guests of the celebration, including Their Excellencies the ministers and senior officials from brotherly and friendly countries.

Thirty years after it first went on air from Doha with six hours of programmes a day, Al Jazeera reaches more than 430mn homes in over 150 countries. Its 3,000-plus staff, drawn from more than 95 nationalities, work across over 70 bureaus.

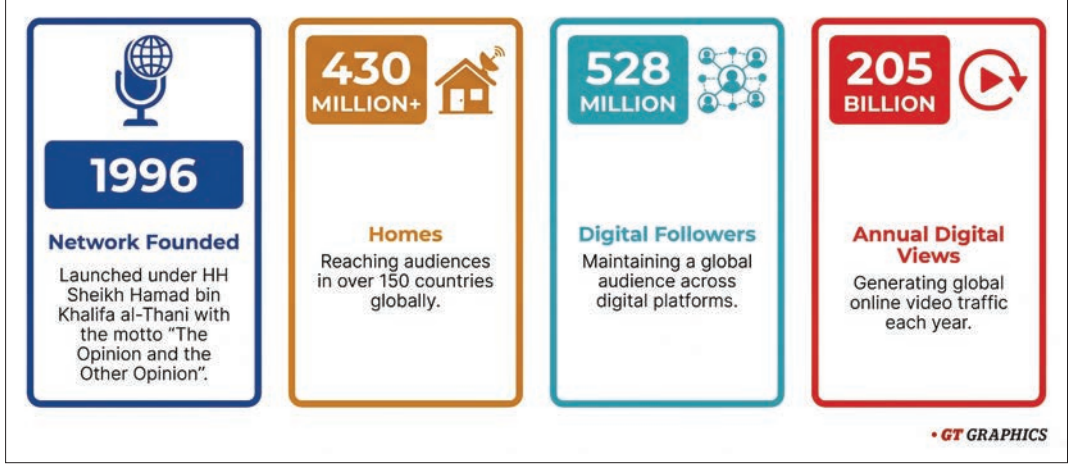
The channel was launched in 1996 under the late HH the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, with the motto "The Opinion and the Other Opinion" and a newsroom staffed largely by journalists from the BBC's shuttered Arabic television service. In 1998 it aired exclusive coverage of Operation Desert Fox from inside Iraq, and by 1999 it was broadcasting round the clock.
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تميم بن حمد
@TamimBinHamad

The Al Jazeera Media Network has succeeded, over the past three decades, in solidifying its position in the Arab and global media landscape and contributed to having the voice of the region and its causes heard around the world. I wish Al Jazeera Media Network and its staff further success and progress

THE NETWORK: HISTORY AND GLOBAL REACH



Doha to host Unesco forum on Arab higher education



Farida Aboudan, Chief of Education, Unesco Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen.

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Doha will host the fifth Unesco conference on higher education in Arab states from tomorrow, bringing together leading experts and policymakers to examine how artificial intelligence and digital technologies are reshaping universities across the region.
Held under the patronage of HE Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed AlKhater, Minister of Education and Higher Education, the two-day event at Marsa Malaz Kempinski, The Pearl Island, is themed "The New Learning Landscape in Higher Education in the Arab Region".
It is being organised by the ministry in collaboration with Unesco and the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science.
Speaking to *Gulf Times*, Farida Aboudan, Chief of Education at the Unesco Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen, said the conference would focus on developments in the higher education sector and explore opportunities for collaboration across different fields of education.
"Higher education in the Arab region is undergoing a profound transformation, driven by rapid advances in artificial intelligence, digital technologies and scientific research. This conference provides an important platform to explore how these developments are reshaping teaching, learning and the future of work, while strengthening regional co-operation and ensuring that higher education systems remain inclusive, innovative and responsive to emerging challenges," she said. To Page 7

Talks could reopen Hormuz in 2 days if US agrees: Iran

Monitoring Report
Doha

Talks with Qatari mediators on reopening the Strait of Hormuz are continuing, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said, with Tehran now prepared to reopen the waterway within two days, down from an earlier seven-day window, if the United States responds to its conditions.
"Consultations are ongoing but we have not yet reached a definitive conclusion because this conclusion depends on the answers the other side gives to our questions," Araghchi said.
"There was no plan to negotiate with the American side during this trip."
He made the comments on the sidelines of a meeting of parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.
Araghchi stressed that Tehran remains firm on its seven previously stated conditions and is awaiting a US response. After two days of Qatari-mediated talks, Iranian authorities have signalled that a deal remains possible provided their demands are met.
In an interview with Al Jazeera, Araghchi said the seven-day window Tehran had previously offered before reopening Hormuz had now come down to two days.
Araghchi has also briefed President Masoud Pezeshkian and the cabinet on the latest developments in Iran's negotiations with the US through mediators, according to a Telegram post by the president.
The post said he presented the briefing at the cabinet's session on Wednesday, updating ministers on "the latest developments and diplomatic processes".
A security source told Al Jazeera Iran is continuing to negotiate with Washington through Qatar and other mediators but remains deeply sceptical of US President Donald Trump's intentions. To Page 7



Qatar vows to protect assets after attack on LNG carrier

- **No crew injured; vessel operational**
- **Region rallies behind the country**

GT Report
Doha

Qatar yesterday strongly condemned the attack on the liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier Al Mayeda in the Arabian Gulf, saying it reserves the right to take all necessary measures, in accordance with international law and the UN Charter, to protect its assets and safeguard its vessels and their crews.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the attack on the vessel, owned by Qatar Gas Transport Company (Nakilat), as a dangerous act that threatens the safety of maritime navigation and the security of global energy supplies.

Nakilat said the carrier was hit by unidentified objects while transiting the Arabian Gulf on Friday evening. None of the crew members on board were injured, and there was no impact on the environment, the company said in a statement published by the Qatar Stock Exchange.

The vessel is in a safe condition and operational, and the impact of the incident is being assessed, Nakilat added. It said it remains in direct co-ordination with the vessel, its crew and the relevant maritime security authorities in the region to ensure the crew's safety, while continuing to closely monitor the situation.

The ministry said the relevant authorities had initiated the necessary investigations to determine the circumstances of the incident and identify those responsible.

It warned against the dangers of such reckless and irresponsible actions and their grave repercussions for regional security and stability and for the global economy. It singled out the potential environmental risks of targeting energy carriers and the serious consequences for the marine environment and the water security of countries in the region.

The attack drew swift condemnation across the region.

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi condemned the attack in the strongest terms. He said targeting energy tankers constitutes a dangerous escalation that threatens regional security and endangers lives, property and the global economy, and stressed that maritime corridors must remain secure for navigation and trade.

Albudaiwi warned of the potential consequences of targeting gas tankers for the marine environment, the steady flow of energy and market stability, and underscored the need to hold the perpetrators of the "heinous attack" accountable. He affirmed the GCC's support for the measures taken by Qatar to safeguard its assets and property and to confront any threats to its security and interests.

The Arab League also condemned the attack, stressing that targeting commercial vessels threatens maritime navigation and the safety of crews and violates the rules of international law.

In a statement, the League expressed solidarity with Qatar and support for efforts to establish the circumstances of the incident and identify those responsible. It emphasised the need to uphold freedom of navigation, ensure the safety of vessels and protect international trade. To Page 2

QATAR

Amir graces Al Jazeera's 30th anniversary

From Page 1





Covering the wars that followed came at a price: its Kabul bureau was bombed in 2001, and correspondent Tareq Ayyoub was martyred when a US strike hit its Baghdad office in 2003.

All the while, the network kept expanding. Al Jazeera Mubasher, a live channel, launched in 2005, Al Jazeera English went on air in 2006 and Al Jazeera Documentary followed a year later. Al Jazeera English's coverage of the 2011 Arab Spring won a Peabody Award; during Egypt's uprising, traffic to its live stream jumped 2,500%. Al Jazeera America ran from 2013 to 2016, and AJ+ arrived in 2014, the year Al Jazeera Sport became beIN Sports.

The network has weathered sustained pressure, staying on air despite calls for its closure during the 2017 Gulf crisis. Israel banned it in 2024 and later raided its Ramallah bureau. At least 24 of its journalists have been martyred in the line of duty, among them Shireen Abu Akleh, shot while reporting in Jenin in 2022, and Anas al-Sharif, martyred with colleagues in an Israeli strike in Gaza in 2025.

As it turned 30, Al Jazeera launched a new channel, Al Jazeera Now, and more than 30 new programmes. Online, its platforms count 528mn followers and draw 205bn views a year.

Qatar vows to protect assets after attack on LNG carrier

From Page 1

The League warned of the repercussions that any recurrence of such attacks could have on the security of energy supplies and market stability. It also pointed to the environmental risks of targeting energy carriers, including potential harm to the marine environment and the water resources of states in the region.

It called for stronger regional and international co-operation to safeguard maritime navigation and trade routes, and urged an end to actions that endanger civilian vessels and facilities, in order to de-escalate tensions and preserve regional security and stability.

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the kingdom's strongest condemnation of the targeting of Al Mayeda. It reiterated the kingdom's rejection of all violations that threaten the security and safety of maritime navigation and global energy supplies.

The ministry stressed the kingdom's solidarity with Qatar in all the measures it may take to protect its vessels and ensure the safety of its international trade. It also underlined the importance of the international community taking urgent measures to ensure maritime security and the safety of international trade, and to enforce international law.

Kuwait strongly condemned the attack, stressing its outright rejection of acts that threaten maritime security and the safety of global energy supplies. Its Ministry of Foreign Affairs underscored the need to respect international law, ensure freedom of navigation and safeguard vessels and their crews. It warned of the environmental and economic risks of targeting energy tankers and the serious repercussions for regional security and stability.

The ministry called for the circumstances of the incident to be established and for those responsible to be identified and held accountable. It reaffirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with Qatar and its support for all measures taken to protect Qatar's security and interests and safeguard its facilities and property.

Bahrain strongly condemned the attack on the Qatari LNG carrier Al Mayeda, owned by Nakilat, while sailing through the Arabian Gulf, describing it as a grave threat to maritime safety, the marine environment and global energy security, as well as a violation of international law. In a statement, the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed its full solidarity with Qatar and support for measures to safeguard its security, interests, vessels and crews.

Jordan described the incident as a violation of international law and a threat to freedom of maritime navigation. Its Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised the necessity of respecting international law and ensuring the safety of vessels and their crews. It warned of the grave repercussions that targeting energy tankers could have on regional security and stability, the international economy and the environment.

The ministry affirmed Jordan's absolute solidarity with Qatar and its full support for all measures Qatar may take to protect its security, interests and assets.

Egypt strongly condemned the attack targeting Al Mayeda. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed Egypt's complete rejection of these attacks, which constitute a grave breach of international law and threaten the security and freedom of international navigation

Palestine condemned the attack in the strongest terms, describing it as a dangerous assault that threatens regional security and stability, as well as the safety of maritime navigation and global energy supplies.

Its Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed Palestine's full solidarity with Qatar and its complete support for all measures taken by Qatar to protect its assets and vessels and safeguard its interests. The ministry also emphasised its absolute rejection of any actions that could undermine the security, stability and prosperity of Arab nations.

Minister of Labour meets ILO regional director for Arab states



HE the Minister of Labour, Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri, met today with Regional Director for Arab States at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Dr Ruba Jaradat. The meeting reviewed areas of co-operation between the State of Qatar and the International Labour Organisation, as well as ways to support and strengthen this co-operation in the coming period. (**QNA**)

Minister of Municipality meets Cyprus envoy



HE the Minister of Municipality, Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah, met yesterday with ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the State of Qatar, Elpidoforos A. Economou. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries in areas of mutual interest, particularly regarding food security and recycling. (**QNA**)

Amir sends congratulations to President of Algeria

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria Abdelmadjid Tebboune on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria Abdelmadjid Tebboune on the occasion of his country's National Day.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria Sifi Ghrieb on the occasion of his country's National Day. (**QNA**)

Amir sends congratulations to Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda Rodney Williams on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day.

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HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. (**QNA**)

Minister of Labour meets ambassador of Mali



HE the Minister of Labour, Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri, met today with ambassador of the Republic of Mali to the State of Qatar, Dedeou Ousmane Sidibe. The meeting discussed areas of joint co-operation on a number of matters relating to the labour sector. (**QNA**)

Speaker of the Canadian Senate meets Qatar's ambassador



Speaker of the Senate of Canada Raymonde Gagne met with ambassador of the State of Qatar to Canada Tariq Ali Faraj al-Ansari. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral co-operation. (**QNA**)

QRCS launches shelter project in Bangladesh

QNA
Dhaka

In partnership with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), the representation mission of Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) in Bangladesh has launched a new project to improve shelter, protection, and living conditions for the most vulnerable families at the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar district.

At a total cost of $517,877, the project involves the construction of medium-term shelters and distribution of nonfood items (NFIs) to meet the daily needs of 704 refugee families, or 4,224 individuals.

This initiative comes in response to the mounting challenges faced by refugee families at camps, including severe overcrowding; fragile shelter conditions; and frequent exposure to monsoon rains, high winds, and fires. These factors exacerbate their suffering and directly compromise their safety, privacy, and stability.

The beneficiaries are selected based on tangible eligibility and need criteria. Priority is given to female-headed households, persons with disabilities, older people, and under-six children.

In co-ordination with the implementing partner and competent authorities, a field assessment and verification mechanism was adopted to ensure a fair selection process and ensure outreach to those most in need.

Engineer Mohamed Thabet Safi, head of QRCS's mission in Bangladesh, stated, "This is a practical humanitarian intervention that addresses the needs of families living in highly precarious shelter conditions at the camps of Cox's Bazar. The project's design combines safe shelter and essential household supplies, thus preserving the dignity of the families and enabling them to manage their own daily life routines. Much attention was paid to high-standard implementation and rigorous beneficiary selection, to support the most vulnerable families and achieve the highest humanitarian impact possible."



Qatar's candidacy for ITU Council poll anchored on strategic priorities

QNA
Doha

The State of Qatar is standing for election to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council from Region E (Asia and Australasia) for the 2027-2030 term, building on its longstanding partnership with ITU, its advanced telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector, and its commitment to contributing to a secure, inclusive and sustainable digital future.

The ITU Council acts as the Union's governing body in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences. Comprising 48 Member States, the Council plays a key role in overseeing ITU's policies, strategies and activities, and in facilitating the implementation of the Union's decisions.

Council members will be elected by ITU Member States entitled to vote during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26), taking place in Doha from November 9 to 27, 2026. Region (E) is allocated 13 seats, with the candidates receiving the highest number of votes elected to the seats available for the region.

Qatar's candidacy builds on more than five decades of active partnership with ITU since joining the Union in 1973. Throughout this partnership, Qatar has actively contributed to ITU's work and initiatives, supporting international co-operation and the exchange of knowledge and expertise among Member States.

Qatar's advanced position in the ICT sector also serves as a key foundation for its candidacy, underpinned by its advanced digital infrastructure, an innovation-friendly regulatory environment, and long-standing experience in developing the sector and advancing digital transformation.

This experience enables Qatar to add value to the work of the Council and contribute to addressing the sector's shared priorities and challenges.

Qatar's candidacy is anchored in three strategic priorities. The first is recognising telecommunications as a fundamental human right to ensure universal access to vital information and services.

The second focuses on fostering globally inclusive innovation by strengthening regional co-operation and ensuring equitable access to emerging technologies such as 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and the Internet of Things.

The third aims to advance universal and meaningful connectivity through reliable, affordable, and secure digital infrastructure that bridges the digital divide and supports inclusive growth.

On this occasion, Engineer Hussain Abdulla Salatt, Public Relations and Communication Manager at CRA, said: "We look forward to Qatar's election to the ITU Council, enabling the country to leverage its expertise and capabilities to contribute effectively to the Council's work, strengthen co-operation and knowledge sharing among Member States, and help translate shared priorities into tangible outcomes.

We also look forward to the confidence and support of Member States for Qatar's candidacy and to working together to advance the future of ICT globally."

Through its candidacy, Qatar looks forward to continuing its role as an active and constructive partner within ITU, supporting international co-operation and contributing to a more connected, inclusive and sustainable digital future.

Safari 10, 20, 30 Promotion kicks off today





Safari Hypermarket, one of Qatar's leading hypermarket chains, has officially launched its much-awaited Safari 10, 20, 30 Promotion today (November 2).

Safari's 10, 20, 30 Promotion is the most popular promotion among Safari customers, eagerly awaited by Qatari nationals and expatriates alike. Even amid the many challenges currently affecting global logistics and supply chains, Safari has ensured that all products are fully stocked at every outlet, so customers will face no shortages or disruptions during this promotion.

Without compromising on quality, all product categories are available simultaneously at all Safari outlets. In addition to fresh fruits, vegetables, high-quality fish and meat, delicious bakery items, hot food and other food products, the promotion features cosmetics, household products, trendy ready-made garments, footwear, the latest electronic gadgets, computer accessories, daily essentials, food grains and premium textiles. Thousands of diverse products are offered at very low prices of just QR10, QR20 and QR30.

Safari Management said it is fully committed to providing a great shopping experience at minimal cost by bringing together essentials for schools, offices, and homes under one roof.

Some of the major attractions include 1.5-litre Hala Sunflower Oil for just QR10, 8Lbs of Riwayat Indian Extra Long Basmati Rice for QR20, a 1,200-watt Vinverth Iron Box for QR30, 3kg Tide Detergent for QR20, six 120-gram Lux soaps for QR10, a 1,300g Perdix Chicken Griller for QR10 and 800g of plain almonds for just QR30. The Safari Bakery and Hot Food sections have also introduced an extensive range of delicious dishes to delight customers. The promotion also includes a variety of Western, South Indian, North Indian, Arabic, and Chinese cuisines, along with attractive combo offers featuring different food selections. Popular dishes such as Chicken Biryani, Chicken Majboos and Choco Rolls are also among the highlights. In addition, the Daily section offers Butter Block, Feta Cheese, Formagio Paneer and Bake Off Tofu among its dairy items, along with Nemeh Beef Mortadella, Nemeh Smoked Economy Roast, Mix Pickle and Green Olives, all available as part of the 10, 20, 30 Promotion. The Frozen Food section features a wide range of products, including different varieties of juices, drinking water, chicken parts, chicken nuggets, assorted ice creams, milk and other dairy products, all available at QR10, QR20 and QR30. The Grocery section also showcases a wide selection of snacks and other food products at attractive prices.

Similarly, the Household section features a diverse collection of multipurpose products, while the Cosmetics section offers products from leading international brands such as Enchanteur, Dove, Sebamed, Pantene, Lux, Olay and Johnson & Johnson. Customers can also find perfumes, body sprays, makeup sets, various types of soaps, face washes, body lotions and a wide range of personal care and beauty products. The Stationery section has an extensive collection of essentials for school students and office use, including Faber-Castell products, Maped school kits and various stationery sets. The Toys and Sports sections also offer an impressive range of products at QR10, QR20 and QR30, exceeding customers' expectations with their wide variety of choices.

The Garments and Ready-made sections feature an extensive collection of quality products, including men's wear, ladies' churidars, churidar materials, ladies' denim jackets, kids' wear, footwear, ladies' bags and newborn baby essentials, all available at just QR10, QR20 and QR30. The Electronics section also offers a wide variety of products, including emergency lights, trimmers, torches, calculators, headsets, smartwatches and several other electronic accessories at highly attractive prices. With thousands of products across different categories, this year's Safari 10, 20, 30 Promotion brings customers an exciting shopping experience with exceptional value and variety.

Al-Khelaifi visits Shafallah Centre



Nasser al-Khelaifi, president of Paris Saint-Germain, visited the Shafallah Centre for Persons with Disabilities in Doha, where he learned more about the centre's work in supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism through specialised education and rehabilitation programmes.
The visit followed his support for the PSG QNB We Run Doha event at Lusail International Circuit, which featured a ۵km race and encouraged physical activity and community participation.

WCM-Q hosts ninth edition of Lifestyle Medicine Week



Dr Javaid Sheikh during the inauguration of Kick-Off a Healthier Lifestyle.

The Global Institute for Population Health (GIPH) at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) hosted the ninth edition of Lifestyle Medicine Week, an initiative designed to raise awareness of the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle.

The annual week-long initiative featured a diverse array of activities, including competitions and interactive sessions focused on promoting healthy lifestyle habits to help prevent, treat, and manage chronic diseases such as obesity, Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and hypertension, while improving overall health and well-being.

Titled "Kick-Off a Healthier Lifestyle," a one-day, in-person event was officially inaugurated by Dr Javaid Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q, at the college. Dean Sheikh emphasised the growing importance of lifestyle medicine in healthcare worldwide, and thanked GIPH for organising the event. The event included several fun, interactive activities promoting key aspects of lifestyle medicine, including physical activity, a healthy diet, stress management, restorative sleep, social connectedness and avoidance of risky substances. Attendees also had the chance to win gifts through raffle drawings throughout the day.

Another activity, dubbed the "Get Connected Trivia Quiz," brought teams together for a competition highlighting the importance of social connectedness, emotional resilience and overall health.

Two online competitions also formed part of the activities. The "Cornell Cook-Off" was a healthy cooking competition in which participants showcased their culinary talents through video submissions. The second activity, titled "Say 'Yes' to Life. Say 'No' to Smoking and Addictive Substances," aimed to raise awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco and other addictive substances. Participants were invited to submit creative entries, such as photos, infographics, memes and posters for a chance to win prizes.

Dr Ravinder Mamtani, WCM-Q professor of population health sciences and vice-dean for population health and lifestyle medicine, said: "For the ninth consecutive year, Lifestyle Medicine Week has provided a valuable platform for raising awareness of how lifestyle choices can directly influence health and well-being. The growing body of scientific evidence supporting the effectiveness of lifestyle medicine in preventing, managing and, in some cases, reversing chronic conditions such as heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, cancer and mental health disorders is extremely compelling."

QNA holds training course on AI-powered media content production

QNA
Doha

The Qatar News Agency (QNA) yesterday held a three-day training course on producing media content using artificial intelligence, bringing together several of its staff members and personnel from several government entities as part of its Training Centre's 2026 plan.

The course, presented by QNA AI specialists Osama Othman and Maryam Jihad, aims to substantially augment participants' skills in leveraging AI-powered applications across the media sector and enhance their ability to produce innovative written, audio and visual content. It also seeks to help participants keep abreast of rapid technological advances and the evolving demands of the digital media environment.

When it comes to applying AI in media production, the course familiarises participants with the theoretical foundations and core concepts of these applications, while equipping them to harness the tools to accelerate and enrich content production and integrate the technologies into written, audio and visual production workflows.

These applications are instrumental in improving efficiency and fostering creativity, while the program also seeks to develop participants' skills in assessing the quality of AI-generated media content and verifying its credibility.

The two trainers also focus on strategies for integrating AI into media workflows and the mechanisms for harnessing it at every stage of content production, suggesting an increasingly substantive role for technological capabilities in complementing human creativity.

The course likewise addresses ethical standards governing the use of AI-generated outputs, underscoring the importance of credibility, accuracy and professional responsibility when producing and disseminating media content.

The training forms part of QNA's broader pursuit of enhancing professional and media skills and substantially strengthening the capabilities of media-sector personnel to keep pace with digital transformation.

It also seeks to harness the potential of AI applications to advance the content-production industry, improve operational efficiency and elevate the quality of media output, in accord with the rapidly evolving demands of the digital age.



TAAMEER Holding Group, Artan Holding sign MoU to develop international education projects







TAAMEER Holding Group LLC and Artan Holding LLC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on developing education projects across several international markets, aiming to strengthen strategic co-operation between the two parties and explore new investment opportunities in the education sector and related infrastructure.

The MoU aims to draw on the complementary expertise and capabilities of both parties. Artan Holding will contribute its expertise in education, academic planning and operational guidance, while TAAMEER Holding Group will provide its expertise in real estate development, engineering, construction and project management.

The proposed collaboration encompasses the development of schools, universities, education campuses and associated facilities, contributing to the creation of integrated learning environments that meet international standards and address the growing needs of the education sector in the target markets.

As part of this collaboration, TAAMEER Holding Group intends to engage its subsidiary, TAAMEER Real Estate Projects, as its specialist arm for real estate development, project management and delivery, drawing on its technical and engineering expertise and execution capabilities to develop the targeted education projects.

Nasser Hassan al-Naimi, CEO of Artan Holding, said: "The MoU with TAAMEER Holding Group represents an important step towards expanding our international presence in the education sector by combining our educational expertise with TAAMEER's capabilities in real estate development and project delivery. Through this collaboration, we look forward to developing integrated educational institutions that provide modern learning environments in line with the highest international standards, contribute to improving the quality of education and prepare future generations."

Ali Ibrahim Abdullah al-Ali, vice-chairman of TAAMEER Holding Group, said: "This MoU forms part of TAAMEER Holding Group's strategy to diversify its investments and strengthen its presence in international markets through the development of distinctive projects that combine investment viability with sustainable development value."

He added: "We view education as a promising sector that offers long-term investment opportunities and contributes to economic and social development. Through our collaboration with Artan Holding, and by drawing on the expertise of our subsidiary, TAAMEER Real Estate Projects, in development, project management and delivery, we look forward to developing integrated education projects that meet international standards and strengthen the presence of Qatari companies in global markets."

The MoU reflects both parties' commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships and exploring new opportunities to develop sustainable education projects that support growth and expansion in international markets.

QATAR

QF unveils inaugural award for social work champions

QNA
Doha



Qatar Foundation for Social Work (QFSW) held a press conference yesterday to announce the launch of an inaugural award for social researchers, specialising in the social work sector with the aim of advancing social programmes and services in the country, while making a concrete and consequential impact on beneficiaries' quality of life.

The award has official backing from the Social and Sports Activities Support Fund (DAAM) and is as part of efforts to substantially advance scientific research in social work, encourage researchers to examine high-priority social issues, and put forward solutions and recommendations grounded in scientific evidence.

The award's vision, across the gamut from research to knowledge, and from knowledge to impact, embodies QFSW's thrust towards entrenching scientific knowledge as a bedrock for developing social practices and services so as to ensure that research findings move beyond the confines of study and documentation.

Research entries and proposals will be accepted from November 1 to 15, 2026, across three categories targeting secondary-school students, university students and academics, and personnel working in the social sector.

Overall, the award centres on promoting a tight-knit family in accord with Qatar National Vision 2030's pursuit of building a cohesive society rooted in strong family and social bonds. It also aligns with QFSW's priorities of strengthening family stability and advancing sustainable social development.

The targeted research is threefold: social phenomena and transformations; social services, interventions and impact; and policies, advocacy and societal change.

These areas are intended to encourage research into the socioeconomic and cultural transformations affecting families and society through examination of policies, legislation and initiatives that contribute to strengthening social protection. The targeted research groups also include persons with disabilities, older adults, women, children, families, orphans without family support, young people most vulnerable to risks, and caregivers.

The award offers three main participation tracks, designed to accommodate different levels of experience and academic and professional backgrounds while promoting an interchange of knowledge between academic research, field practice and community awareness.

The school track targets secondary-school students at public and private schools in Qatar. Entries may be submitted individually or by a research team, provided that the research is overseen by an educational supervisor.

The university and academic track is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students, researchers and faculty members. The social-sector professionals track, meanwhile, targets employees, practitioners and specialists working at institutions, centers and other entities operating in the social sector.

Applicants must be Qatari citizens or residents of the State of Qatar. Submitted work must be original, prepared by the applicant or applicants, and must not have previously won another research award.

Participants must also consistently uphold academic honesty and integrity, adhere to research ethics, protect participants' rights and privacy, and maintain the confidentiality of their data.

Technical requirements vary by track. Research submitted under the school track must range from 6,000 to 8,000 words and include a simplified list of sources. Entries under the university and academic track and the social-sector professionals track must range from 8,000 to 12,000 words, excluding appendices and references.

Both tracks also require an executive summary of no more than 250 words and compliance with established scientific methodologies and citation requirements.

In this regard, QFSW's Director of Strategic Planning, Shaima Ahmed al-Janahi, affirmed that the award seeks to raise awareness of high-priority social issues and encourage participants to propound innovative insights and solutions grounded in scientific research.

Al-Janahi explained that the award is committed to supporting this approach from the early stages of education, helping develop analytical and innovative skills among emerging generations. She added that the award's association with QFSW and its specialised service centres provides a valuable opportunity to connect research findings with the realities of professional practice and implementation.

For his part, Director of the Shared Services Department at DAAM, Yousef Mohammed al-Nuaimi, said the Fund's support for the award underscores its belief in the importance of scientific research in exploring social issues and laying out practical solutions that contribute to the overall betterment of the community.

Lowdown on award categories

The award offers cash prizes to the top three entrants in each track, distributed as follows:

- School Track: QR 20,000 for first place, QR 15,000 for second place and QR 10,000 for third place.
- University and Academics Track: QR 50,000 for first place, QR 30,000 for second place and QR 20,000 for third place.
- Social-Sector Professionals Track: QR 50,000 for first place, QR 30,000 for second place and QR 20,000 for third place.

The award process begins with the receipt of entries and proposals from November 1 to 15, 2026, followed by the evaluation of proposals from November 16 to 30. The results of the first stage will be announced on December 3, 2026.

The selected research projects will be carried out from December 3, 2026, to March 7, 2027. Completed studies will then be evaluated from March 7 to April 7, 2027. The results of the second stage and the final presentations are scheduled for April 2027, while the final results and closing ceremony are set for May 2027.

QFSW invited those interested in participating to visit its website, www.QatarSocial.org.

Qatar Foundation, Reina Sofía School of Music celebrate Arab-Iberian musical heritage

Qatar Foundation, in partnership with the Reina Sofía School of Music, organised the second Conference of the Chair of Arab Studies in Madrid, Spain, bringing together academics, musicians, and experts from around the world to explore the historical connections between Arab and Iberian musical traditions and their influence on contemporary artistic creativity.

Held over three days under the theme "Shared Histories, Living Traditions: Arab–Iberian Musical Encounters from Historical Sources to Contemporary Creation," and opened with a concert by the Doha Ensemble for Classical Maqam, the conference explored three centuries of musical heritage associated with Segah, drawing on manuscript research and early sound recordings and moving from historical repertoire to contemporary works.

It also featured academic presentations and discussions on medieval Iberian repertoires, al-Andalus and Cantigas de Santa María, maritime connections between the Arab world and the Iberian Peninsula, and their role in exchanging knowledge and cultural and musical influences over the centuries.

Teachers from Qatar Music Academy, part of QF's Pre-University Education, led interactive workshops on the oud, nay, and qanun, giving participants the chance to learn about the characteristics of these traditional instruments, explore playing techniques, and experience aspects of Arab musical heritage firsthand.

Taoufik Mirkhan, head of Arab Music at Qatar Music Academy, said: "Our participation in the conference provided an opportunity to highlight the richness of Arab musical heritage and its historical roots through performances informed by research into musical manuscripts and early sound recordings, tracing the evolution of melodies and performance styles over three centuries. Through the Doha Ensemble for Classical Maqam, we were also able to introduce Arab maqam music to an international audience and promote cultural dialogue through music."

Mirkhan also highlighted one of the most memorable moments of their participation, meeting a Qatar Music Academy alumnus in Madrid. The alumnus, a qanun player currently based in Spain, joined them in performing during the workshop and closing concert.

"We believe that Arab music is a living and evolving tradition capable of connecting with people from different cultures. Music is a universal language that transcends linguistic and cultural barriers, opening new opportunities for dialogue and mutual understanding."



قطر للطاقة QatarEnergy LNG

FUGRO

Public Announcement

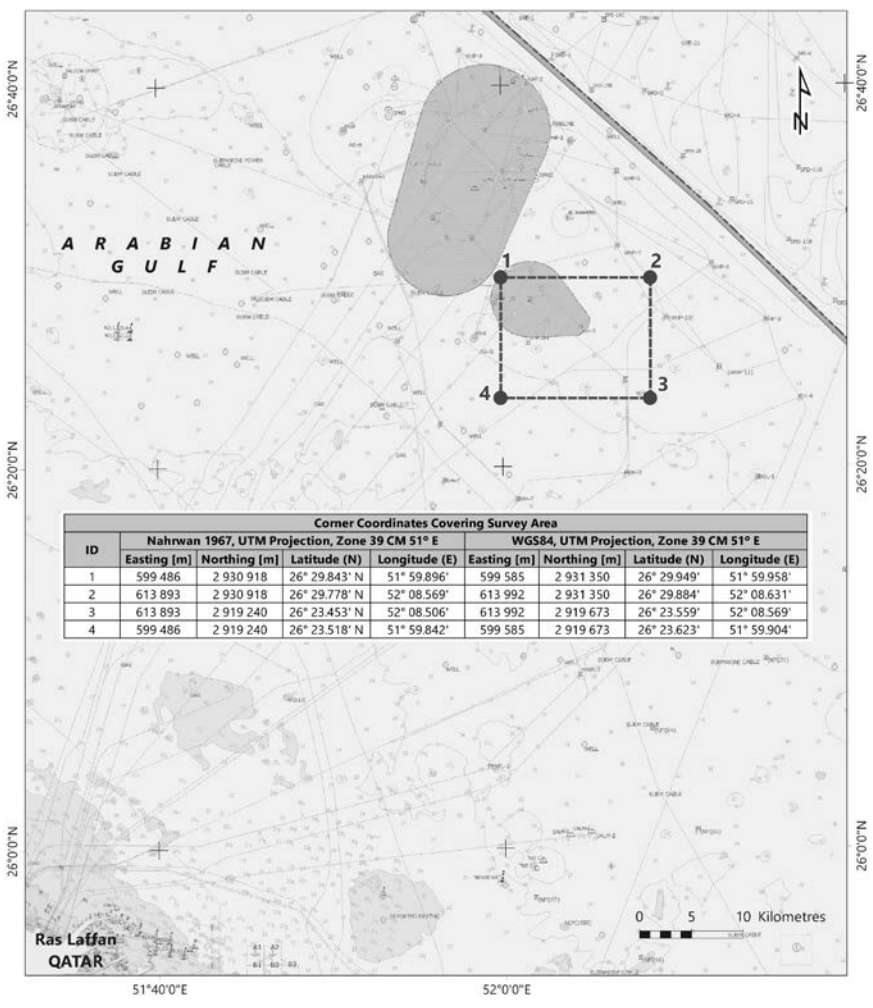
To all Ships, Fisherman, and Mariners
Subsea Survey Works Offshore in "North Field"
By the Vessel "Fugro Resilience"

Subsea Survey Works Offshore Qatar from 2nd November 2026 to 27st December 2026

In pursuant and under directives from the Marine Safety Department, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners, and Fisherman that "QatarEnergy LNG" formerly known as Qatar Gas Operating Company Limited intends to undertake geotechnical survey by the vessel "Fugro Resilience" in North Field locations, bound by the coordinates and location map shown below.

All Vessels, Mariners, and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the survey locations during the operations.

QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation following the publication of this notice.



Corner Coordinates Covering Survey Area								
ID	Nahrwan 1967, UTM Projection, Zone 39 CM 51° E				WGS84, UTM Projection, Zone 39 CM 51° E			
	Easting [m]	Northing [m]	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Easting [m]	Northing [m]	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
1	599 486	2 930 918	26° 29.843' N	51° 59.896'	599 585	2 931 350	26° 29.949'	51° 59.958'
2	613 893	2 930 918	26° 29.778' N	52° 08.569'	613 992	2 931 350	26° 29.884'	52° 08.631'
3	613 893	2 919 240	26° 23.453' N	52° 08.506'	613 992	2 919 673	26° 23.559'	52° 08.569'
4	599 486	2 919 240	26° 23.518' N	51° 59.842'	599 585	2 919 673	26° 23.623'	51° 59.904'

For more details contact **+974 33033020**

Katara hosts 11th GPDNET consolidating network of 29 countries for co-operation



Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti



Maryam Majid al-Saad

Katara Cultural Village is hosting the 11th General Assembly of the Global Public Diplomacy Network (GPDNET) today, bringing together a network of 29 countries to strengthen international co-operation and promote the role of culture and soft power in fostering understanding among peoples.

The assembly was attended by Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, general manager of Katara and chair of the network; and Maryam Majid al-Saad, the network's secretary general and CEO of Katara Centre for Public Diplomacy.

The meeting focuses on advancing the network's work, strengthening co-operation among member institutions and developing joint initiatives that promote cultural exchange, dialogue and understanding amid rapid global changes.

Prof al-Sulaiti said Katara's hosting of the assembly reflects its commitment to international co-operation and strengthening GPDNET as a platform for public diplomacy, cultural exchange and dialogue.

He said the meeting provides an opportunity to review the network's achievements, explore new avenues for co-operation and develop practical initiatives that translate shared objectives into tangible results.

He noted that member states and institutions had renewed their confidence in Katara by nominating it for a third consecutive term as network chair, following its leadership over the previous two terms. He said the decision recognised Katara's efforts to develop the network's work, strengthen its international presence and expand co-operation among members.

Al-Sulaiti described the continued chairmanship as both a recognition of Katara's standing and a responsibility to improve the network's performance and meet its members' aspirations.

He said priorities for the coming phase include investing in knowledge and young talent, keeping pace with digital transformation and strengthening collaboration among member institutions. These efforts would help develop public diplomacy tools and reinforce the network's role as a bridge between peoples and cultures.

Al-Saad said the assembly holds particular significance as GPDNET continues to expand its international presence, with membership comprising 29 countries across different continents. Members share a belief in the importance of public diplomacy and the role of culture and soft power in promoting understanding among peoples.

She described the network's geographic and cultural diversity as an asset that creates opportunities to exchange expertise and develop joint initiatives in culture, the arts and knowledge. Such co-operation, she said, can deepen ties between societies and open new avenues for international engagement.

The assembly will discuss ways to strengthen the network's international presence, expand co-operation among member states, exchange public diplomacy experiences and develop cultural and knowledge-based programmes and joint events.

Al-Saad hopes the discussions will produce practical recommendations that lead to joint programmes and projects with lasting impact.

She welcomed participants to Qatar and said she hoped the assembly would mark another milestone in advancing public diplomacy and fostering dialogue and communication among peoples.

Food brings Mexico, Qatar closer, one flavour at a time

World-renowned chef Elena Reygadas discovers common ground in hospitality, coffee and spices while introducing Mexican flavours to Doha

By Joey Aguilar
News Editor

Food has a way of bringing cultures closer, even when they are thousands of miles apart.

For Mexican chef Elena Reygadas, bringing Panadería Rosetta to Doha is an opportunity to explore the connections between Mexican and Qatari traditions, from their shared appreciation of hospitality to the spices, flavours and everyday rituals that bring people together around the table.

Named The World's Best Female Chef in 2023 by The World's 50 Best Restaurants, Reygadas believes food offers an immediate way to understand a culture, its history and the people who shape it.

Her decision to bring Panadería Rosetta, her celebrated Mexico City bakery, to Qatar was driven by more than the opportunity to introduce Mexican breads and pastries to a new audience. It was also an invitation to discover another culture through its culinary traditions.

"It's a Mexican cultural year in Qatar, and I feel it's very important to understand other cultures in order to understand yours," Reygadas told *Gulf Times*. "And that's why I wanted to come to Doha and do this culinary experience here."

The residency, running from November 4 to 15 at Mihad Café in Doha Design District, forms part of the Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture, a year-long initiative promoting connections through art, heritage, creativity and shared experiences.

One of Reygadas's most interesting discoveries has been the similarities between Mexican and Qatari approaches to hospitality. She said people in both countries take pride in welcoming visitors and sharing their traditions, with food playing a central role in bringing people together.

"Mexicans and Qataris share a hospitable relationship," she said. "They like to welcome people, they like to show people their country, their culture."

She has also found common ground in ingredients and flavours, particularly spices and certain fruits.

Coffee, for instance, offers an interesting comparison. Qatar's traditional spiced coffee and Mexico's café de olla both celebrate aromatic spices and sweetness, although each has its own cultural identity and preparation.

"We also have a similarity in our sweet tooth in Mexico and Qatar and also with spices," she said.

These familiar flavours, she believes, could help her bakery's offerings resonate with local customers. Among the selections are the guava roll, a Panadería Rosetta staple, and tres leches cake, a popular Mexican dessert made with three kinds of milk. Served chilled, the latter is particularly suited to Qatar's warm climate.

The menu introduces traditional Mexican flavours while considering ingredients and tastes that might appeal to people in Doha. It includes products made with Mexican honey, alongside pastries that showcase the country's culinary heritage.

But Reygadas sees the exchange as a two-way experience. Equally interested in discovering local ingredients, she has already visited souqs, spice shops and cafes, where she encountered different varieties of dates and combinations featuring saffron, pistachio, lemon and coconut.

Dates, in particular, have caught her attention, and she hopes to experiment with them and eventually introduce a creation inspired by the ingredient to Mexican audiences.

"I want to introduce and do something with dates for sure because I think the dates you have here are very impressive," she said.





She acknowledged that she still has much to learn about Qatari culture, but sees this curiosity as central to the residency's purpose: creating an opportunity for culinary traditions to inform and enrich one another.

Developed by QC+, Mihad, the contemporary commercial art and design gallery is guided by the concept of "Living with Art and Design", bringing together Qatari, regional and international creatives through exhibitions, collectible design and cultural programming.

The Panadería Rosetta residency is the first initiative under its Chef-in-Residence programme, which aims to bring internationally recognised and emerging culinary talents to Doha and create encounters between food, art and design.

Reygadas stressed that the combination is natural, as dining is itself a social and cultural experience. "When you see art, when you are next to design, it's always also good to stop and share your thoughts and share your feelings around the table."



Mexican chef Elena Reygadas shares how food, hospitality and familiar flavours bring Mexico and Qatar closer during Panadería Rosetta's Doha residency, part of the Qatar-Mexico 2026 Year of Culture.
PICTURES: Joey Aguilar



Having coffee in such an environment, she added, offers another way of experiencing culture. "And in the end, food is what reflects immediately what culture is about."

The residency will also feature ceramic works by Mexican designer Perla Valtierra, whose practice explores the relationship between materials, form and function, particularly how handmade objects become part of everyday life.

Reygadas, who is also the chef-owner of Rosetta, the Michelin-starred Mexico City restaurant celebrated for its approach to Mexican ingredients and culinary heritage, has built her work around local produce, traditional techniques and the stories behind everyday food.

Her bakery similarly celebrates the place of bread and pastries in Mexican life, where they are part of daily routines as well as occasions for gathering.

She sees the Qatar-Mexico Year of Culture as an opportunity to deepen understanding between the two countries through encounters that let people experience traditions instead of learning about them from a distance.

"It's good to have these years of culture because then you get to know the culture of other regions, of other countries," she said. "And then that brings us together."

Although Mexico and Qatar have different histories, geographical characteristics and culinary identities, Reygadas believes their shared appreciation of hospitality and food offers meaningful opportunities for connection.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT NOTICE

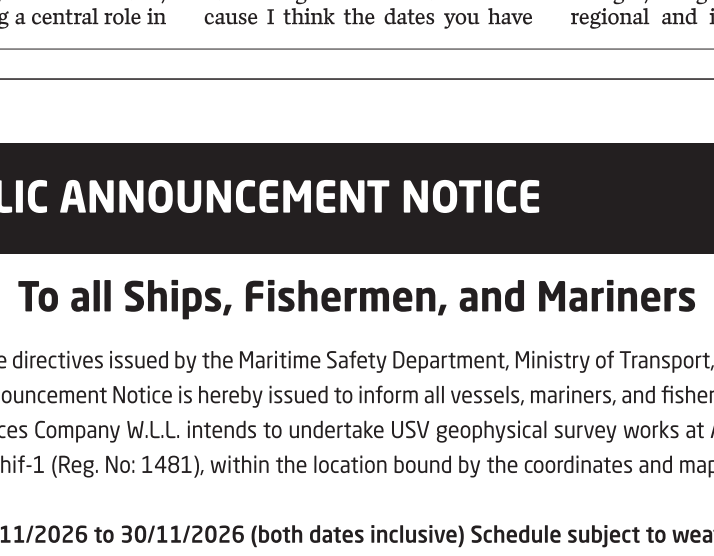
To all Ships, Fishermen, and Mariners

Pursuant to the directives issued by the Maritime Safety Department, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this Public Announcement Notice is hereby issued to inform all vessels, mariners, and fishermen that Halul Offshore Services Company W.L.L. intends to undertake USV geophysical survey works at Al Wakra, using the Milaha Kashif-1 (Reg. No: 1481), within the location bound by the coordinates and map shown below.

Schedule: 01/11/2026 to 30/11/2026 (both dates inclusive) Schedule subject to weather conditions and operational requirements.

The operations will be conducted within the area bounded by the following coordinates:

Proposed Location Coordinates (Geodesy: WGS84)		
Location	**Latitude**	**Longitude**
Launch Point	N25°09'40.8063"	E51°37'04.7548"
A	N25°09'25.6688"	E51°39'21.3334"
B	N25°09'25.9485"	E51°41'06.3902"
C	N25°07'42.4543"	E51°41'07.3171"
D	N25°07'42.1745"	E51°39'21.9514"



Important Notice:
All vessels, mariners, and fishermen are advised to exercise caution and required to keep well clear in any event at least 500m, of the above-mentioned operational area for the duration of the activities. Following publication of this notice, Halul Offshore Services Company W.L.L. shall not be responsible for any loss or damage incurred by third parties in connection with this operation.
For more details contact: **+974 4494 9666**
For emergencies during operational schedule: **VHF CH16**

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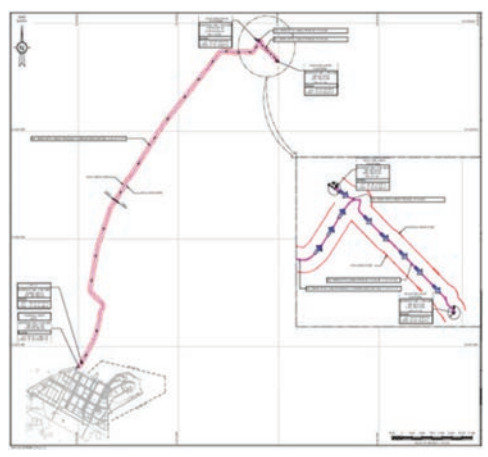
To all Ships, Fishermen, and Mariners

Pursuant to the directives issued by the Maritime Safety Department, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this Public Announcement Notice is hereby issued to inform all vessels, mariners and fishermen that North Oil Company intends to undertake stabilisation mattress installation and cable repair works using the Dive Support Vessel CONSTRUCTOR (IMO No. 9524932) chartered by Halul Offshore Services Company W.L.L along the New Fibre Link (NFL) cable route, from 1.3 km of the Landfall Point (LFP) to the Al Shaheen field at AB and BA Platforms, within the location bounded by the coordinates and map shown below.

Schedule: 01/11/2026 to 30/11/2026 (both dates inclusive). The schedule is subject to weather conditions and operational requirements.

The operations will be conducted within the area bounded by the following coordinates:

ID	NAHRWAN 1967, UTM Zone 39N, CM 51° E		WGS84 [Deg° Min' Sec"]	
	Easting (m)	**Northing (m)**	**Latitude (N)**	**Longitude (E)**
CONSTRUCTOR at KP 1.3	550854.248	2871282.092	25° 57' 47.770" N	51° 30' 32.306" E
CONSTRUCTOR at KP 6.0	553170.961	2875371.898	26° 00' 00.415" N	51° 31' 56.213" E
CONSTRUCTOR at Branching Unit	595417.428	2945717.363	26° 37' 58.951" N	51° 57' 34.555" E
CONSTRUCTOR at Al Shaheen AB	599647.050	2941230.240	26° 35' 32.065" N	52° 00' 06.240" E
CONSTRUCTOR at Al Shaheen BA	594530.050	2946162.050	26° 38' 13.619" N	51° 57' 02.584" E



Important Notice:
All vessels, mariners and fishermen are advised to exercise caution and are required to keep well clear in any event at least 500m of the above-mentioned operational area for the duration of the activities. Following publication of this notice, Halul Offshore Services Company W.L.L. shall not be responsible for any loss or damage incurred by third parties in connection with this operation.
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QATAR

Humanoid robots poised to transform industries: Dr Lee

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter


Dr Yifan David Lee in conversation with CNN's Richard Quest during a session at CNN Global Perspectives in Doha. **PICTURE**: Thajudheen

Humanoid robots capable of performing a wide range of everyday tasks can transform workplaces and improve productivity, an expert said, while noting that their growing adoption also raises questions about employment, ethics and potential misuse.

Speaking at a discussion at the "CNN Global Perspectives: In Doha" forum, Dr Yifan David Lee, CEO and founder of Hesai Technology, and co-founder of Sharpa, in conversation with CNN's Richard Quest, highlighted that general-purpose humanoid robots, equipped with humanlike hands and artificial intelligence, can reshape industries and give people more time and comfort.

"The industry's priority should be developing affordable, general-purpose machines that can operate in environments designed for humans, rather than producing numerous specialised robots for individual tasks," he said.

He noted that a common robotic platform capable of learning and adapting to different activities would offer greater long-term potential, allowing machines to perform multiple functions using the same underlying model, data and physical design.

"The world is built for humans. So if you want one product to be able to do everything we do, they need to have hands," Lee said, explaining the importance of developing versatile robotic systems.

He noted, however, that humanoid robots do not necessarily need to replicate every aspect of human anatomy.

In commercial environments with flat floors, wheels could be more practical for mobility, while a human-like upper body and hands would enable robots to interact with equipment, tools and objects designed for people.

Developing robotic hands remains one of the biggest technological challenges, he said, as they require precision, tactile sensing and sufficient dexterity to operate conventional tools and handle objects in confined spaces.

Addressing concerns about job displacement, Lee said the impact of robotics should be assessed beyond the immediate loss of individual jobs, taking into account wider productivity improvements and changes in the employment landscape. "If you take the micro view, it's always jobs gone. If you look at the macro view, it is productivity enhancement and job shifts," he said.

The food and beverage industry is among the sectors where such applications are beginning to take shape. A video presented during the discussion showed robots performing operations at Dairy Queen, replicating movements traditionally carried out by employees.

Dr Lee stressed that the objective was to develop machines capable of carrying out useful tasks in actual workplaces rather than simply demonstrating technological sophistication.

On international competition in robotics, Lee highlighted China's manufacturing ecosystem, particularly its electric vehicle supply chain, as an important contributor to advances in both hardware and software.

However, he said the global race should be seen primarily as an opportunity to develop more useful technologies rather than solely through a geopolitical lens.

He also acknowledged concerns about the potential misuse of advanced robotics, including military applications, agreeing that appropriate regulations and ethical safeguards would be necessary as the technology develops.

Asked about the possibility of autonomous robots becoming dangerous, Dr Lee said such risks could not be ruled out and stressed the importance of ensuring that technological progress was accompanied by adequate safeguards. For him, however, the most promising applications of robotics are not necessarily the spectacular, futuristic ones but the routine tasks that consume people's time.

Lee said his company's mission was ultimately to give people more time by allowing robots to undertake tasks that would otherwise require human effort. "The aim is to free people to spend more time with their families and pursue activities they enjoy instead of being occupied with routine responsibilities," he noted.

Nevertheless, human creativity and ingenuity would continue to distinguish people from machines, particularly in areas requiring original thinking and creative expression," added Dr Lee.

Al-Hammadi meets Finland official


Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Security Policy of the Republic of Finland Outi Holopainen, who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, the co-operative relations between the two countries were reviewed, in addition to a number of topics of common interest. (**QNA**)

Ericsson to showcase role of AI-powered intelligent networks at MWC Doha 2026

Ericsson will participate in Mobile World Congress (MWC) Doha 2026 from November 8–10 in Qatar, highlighting how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced connectivity are transforming networks, enabling new digital experiences and unlocking growth opportunities across industries.

Under the theme "Enter New Horizons," Ericsson will demonstrate how AI and high-performing networks are coming together to enable more intelligent network operations, support increasingly advanced digital services and help service providers unlock new business opportunities. Through its demonstrations, Ericsson will highlight how these capabilities can support intelligent operations, differentiated services, enterprise transformation and mission-critical communications.

Marking 150 years of innovation in communications technology, Ericsson continues to build on its longstanding presence in Qatar, working closely with customers, industry partners and public-sector stakeholders to support Qatar National Vision 2030 and the country's Digital Agenda 2030. Combining global technology leadership with local expertise, Ericsson is helping accelerate digital transformation, advance intelligent and resilient networks, and contribute to Qatar's ambition to build a competitive, diversified and knowledge-based digital economy.

MWC Doha 2026 will bring together industry leaders, policymakers and technology innovators to explore the future of connectivity and digital transformation. Visitors can explore Ericsson's demonstrations at booth F30.

Sketch, build and play: QM unveils Nov 2026 list of public programmes

Calligraphy workshops, jewellery-making sessions, architecture activities and beach football are among the highlights of Qatar Museums' November 2026 public programme, offering audiences of all ages opportunities to explore art, heritage, creativity and sport across Doha. The programme features workshops, hands-on learning experiences and sporting activities across QM's museums, cultural spaces and community venues.

Activities include calligraphy sessions at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), drawing and painting workshops inspired by Mathaf's Baghdad Modern Art Group exhibition, creative design activities at M7, and beach football events celebrating the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2026.

At MIA, Outdoor Sketching for Adults competition which is open to the public will be organised on November 2, from 3pm to 6pm. Participants will capture the museum's architecture and surrounding landscape with pencil and watercolour. On November 18, children can attend Journey Through Islamic Art, a storytelling session from 11am to noon, followed by the Planet Kids Club End-of-Year Celebration and International Day of Islamic Art from 4pm to 5pm.

The MIA Library Book Club will discuss Amin Maalouf's *Samarkand* on November 18, while its Film Club screens David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia* on November 19. Other activities include Advanced Ruq'ah Calligraphy on November 21 and 28, and Creative Artwork with Arabic Calligraphy for adults on November 24.


Planet Kids Club at MIA.

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art will present workshops inspired by "What Lingers in the Artist's Mind: Experiments and Legacies of the Baghdad Modern Art Group", through drawing, painting and storytelling.

Adults can develop portraiture skills during Art Lessons with Ismail Azzam, held every Sunday and Tuesday. Other sessions include Realms of Rhythm on November 7, exploring movement, sound and visual art, and Drawtastic with Iraqi Modernism on November 14 and 28, featuring drawing and painting with a live model.

On November 18, Action Model Drawing with Iraqi Modernism will explore Iraqi modernist techniques. Children and young people aged 9 to 17 can join After the Tour, the Story Begins, an illustrated story-writing workshop that day, combining a guided exhibition visit with writing and drawing. The programme continues with Beyond Reality: Through Dr Alaa Bashir's Vision on November 25, a surrealist drawing workshop for adults, and Yassin's Kite on November 28, a storytelling session for children aged 6 to 14 marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum will bring football activities to West Bay Beach from November 3 to 27, between 4pm and 7pm. Celebrating the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2026, activities include beach football, penalty shootouts, dribbling races, crossbar challenges and mini tournaments. Activities are open to the public and require no registration.

M7 will offer workshops in jewellery design, fashion, architecture and cultural traditions, including activities linked to its "Around the World in Jewellery" exhibition. The programme begins on November 2 with How to Pitch Your Fashion Brand: PR, Press & Celebrity Dressing, led by Bianca Brigitte Bonomi, Qatar director of ITP Media.

Children aged 9 to 13 can explore jewellery-making through Gifts from the Sea on November 7 and Body Adornment on November 14. Adults can attend Sea & Ocean: Pearl Beading on November 11, led by Kaltham Al Majed, and Cosmos: Galaxy-Inspired Collection on November 25. Discover Architecture, led by MYMAR, takes place on November 14 and 21, while Customs & Ceremonies on November 21 invites children to design miniature versions of traditional garments, including the Thob Al Nashel and Bisht.

QM's Archaeology Department will present activities exploring Qatar's archaeological and maritime heritage. Paper Beads, on November 3, invites children to make colourful beads from recycled newspapers, inspired by archaeological finds from prehistoric Qatar. In collaboration with Seashore's Wasm initiative, Wasm Cleanup at Archaeological Sites will take place on November 4, 5, 7 and 26 at Al Zubarah Archaeological Site, Freiha Archaeological Site and Al Maffjar Heritage Village. The activities combine environmental conservation with learning about Qatar's heritage.

The programme concludes with Dive into Al Zubarah's Past, running from November 18 to 21 in collaboration with Unesco Doha Office, Alghais Diving Centre and Seashore Group. Divers will explore the maritime history of Al Zubarah, Qatar's first Unesco World Heritage Site, while learning about underwater archaeological recording and responsible diving practices.



Public Prosecution receives participants for foundational investigations training course

QNA
Doha

The Public Prosecution received a delegation of participants in the foundational investigations training course organised by the Military Police Command, as part of an educational and training visit aimed at strengthening institutional cooperation and exchanging expertise between the legal and military authorities.

During a comprehensive tour, the delegation visited key facilities of the Public Prosecution, including the Criminal Studies Institute, where members were briefed on its role in developing legal professionals through advanced training programmes and its efforts to enhance the capabilities of the country's national legal workforce.

The delegation also learned about daily investigative procedures and the handling of reports at several local prosecution offices.

A number of Public Prosecution members explained the nature of their duties and responsibilities.

The visit also included a tour of the Public Prosecution's library, where the delegation viewed its collection of legal references and specialised academic encyclopedias in criminal law.

In this context, the Public Prosecution underscored the importance of such visits in building bridges of knowledge between legal, judicial and military authorities, thereby contributing to improved institutional performance and the development of national talent.

For its part, the delegation of participants in the foundational investigations training course under the Military Police Command highlighted the value of the visit and the practical knowledge and expertise it provided. They stressed the importance of drawing on these insights to strengthen both the training and practical components of the course.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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holder of

SOUTH AFRICA Passport No. A10022255
QID No. 29271000424

hereby change my name

from

ESTHER RELEBOGILE MALOKA

to

ESTHER RELEBOGILE KANANA

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

Heenat Salma brings farm-to-city concept to Old Doha Port

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter



Heenat Salma Farm has brought its regenerative, craft-led philosophy from Al Shahaniya to Old Doha Port, opening a new city space that combines food, workshops, retail, and community learning.

The new store, which opened on October 30 at Store 34 in Mina District, marks Heenat Salma Farm's first permanent move into the city and extends its experience beyond the farm itself.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* at the opening, Pallavi Mhardolkar, head of Marketing and Communications at Heenat Salma Farm and Caravane Earth, said the idea was simple: bring "a little of the farm" closer to people in Doha.

"A little of the farm has to come to the city, so Heenat Salma took the initiative to bring it to the city," she said.

The space brings together several elements associated with the farm, including the Heenat Salma Café, food and drinks, coffee and tea, dairy products, bakery items and a small nursery.

Mhardolkar said visitors can also find Dar Salma, the farm's concept store featuring craft and artisanal products, alongside educational workshops that will bring parts of the farm's learning experience into an urban setting. "As you are aware, Heenat Salma speaks about sustainability," she said. "We are regenerative agriculture, we are traditional architecture, and we also speak about education and craft."

She added that the concept is intended to connect these different elements rather than operate simply as a retail outlet. "The Farm to City concept is a natural extension of what Heenat Salma represents," she said. "Our intention is to bring a little closer to the city the things that are central to the farm — our relationship with the land, the value of seasonal food, the knowledge behind traditional practices and the work of artisans and makers."

The store also offers Heenat Salma's own food products, with Mhardolkar saying its cheese, dairy and other farm produce are part of the brand's organic offering. "They are all Heenat Salma products, and they are pure organic," she said.

Hands-on workshops will form another part of the programme, giving families, friends and community groups opportunities to explore traditional crafts, natural practices and creative techniques through shared learning. The space also offers pre-orders for selected prepared foods, bakery items, tarts, birthday cakes and seasonal offerings.

Mhardolkar said the wider aim remains rooted in sustainable living and education. "We are bringing a little educational craft education here," she said. "When I speak about regenerative agriculture, our nursery is back to the city. So yes, that's our concept of bringing the farm to the city."

The opening also reflects the wider work of Caravane Earth Foundation across regenerative agriculture, traditional architecture, crafts, education and cultural practices.

QF unveils ambitious education vision



Qatar Foundation (QF) has unveiled an ambitious roadmap to transform pre-university education by 2040, placing personalised learning, artificial intelligence and critical thinking at the heart of efforts to prepare future generations for a rapidly changing world.

The Pre-University Education Vision 2040 seeks to reshape the learning experience for children aged three to 18, turning schools into hubs of innovation and creativity while redefining teachers' roles as mentors rather than traditional instructors.

Abeer al-Khalifa *(pictured)*, President of Pre-University Education (PUE) at QF, told QNA that the vision responds to sweeping changes in technology, labour markets and learning behaviour, while ensuring that students remain firmly rooted in their national identity and cultural values. She said the initiative aims to nurture a generation capable of adapting to global developments, equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

At its core is a shift away from conventional, uniform teaching methods towards flexible, personalised learning pathways tailored to each student's abilities, interests, academic progress and individual needs.

Al-Khalifa explained that the vision treats the educational journey from early childhood through secondary school as a continuous process of development rather than a series of disconnected academic stages.

Teachers will increasingly serve as mentors, motivators and facilitators, helping students develop critical thinking, problem-solving and independent learning skills. Schools, meanwhile, will become centres where innovative teaching methods and curricula can be tested before wider implementation.

Artificial intelligence will play a central role in this transformation, offering opportunities to personalise instruction, improve teaching methods and support informed educational decisions through data-driven insights.

However, al-Khalifa cautioned that the growing reliance on AI as a source of information makes it essential to equip students with the ability to question, verify and critically assess the content they encounter.

She identified three major challenges driving the vision: the unprecedented pace of technological advancement, changing learning and communication patterns among younger generations, and the rapid evolution of labour market requirements.

These developments, she said, demand more engaging and interactive teaching methods, alongside a stronger emphasis on adaptability, lifelong learning and the continuous acquisition of new skills.

Another priority is to provide students with greater educational choices and smoother pathways into higher education or employment, while strengthening collaboration between schools, parents and the wider community.

Al-Khalifa stressed that the transformation would preserve Qatar's national identity, language and heritage while incorporating international educational standards and preparing students to compete regionally and globally.

The vision aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's strategic frameworks and the National Human Resource Development Strategy.

Unlike conventional education plans focused on short-term outcomes, Vision 2040 adopts a generational perspective, recognising that meaningful educational transformation requires sustained investment and time.

A three-year review cycle will allow QF to evaluate progress and adjust its priorities in response to emerging technological, economic and social developments.

Al-Khalifa said the success of the vision would be measured not only through academic performance and operational indicators but also through its tangible impact on students, educators and society.

Successful initiatives will be documented as case studies to inform educational policies at the national level.

She emphasised that the ultimate objective is to develop confident, capable and socially responsible young people who can contribute to Qatar's development while serving as ambassadors for its values and culture internationally. **(QNA)**



QC wraps up cardiac care mission for kids in Somalia

Qatar Charity has concluded a campaign to treat heart defects in children, in co-operation with Somalia's Ministry of Health, the Somali Sudanese SpecialiSed Hospital and the Mogadishu Heart Center. Held under the '27th Night of Ramadan' initiative, part of the "Dafa'Al-Bala" campaign, it aimed to support and strengthen specialised healthcare services in Somalia.

The closing ceremony was attended by ambassador of Qatar to Somalia Dr Abdullah bin Salem al-Nuaimi. The campaign provided medical examinations and diagnostic assessments for 144 children with heart conditions and congenital heart defects. A total of 40 cardiac catheterisation procedures were performed on children whose conditions required specialised treatment, under the supervision of a team of consultants and specialists in paediatric cardiology and cardiac catheterization.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, director of Qatar Charity's Somalia Office Abdulfattah Adam Moallim said the campaign had exceeded its target of treating 35 cases by performing 40 cardiac catheterisation procedures for children. This was a direct response to growing medical needs. He also announced that Qatar Charity is preparing to launch a specialised campaign for paediatric open-heart surgery before the end of the year. The campaign will address cases requiring advanced surgical interventions whose treatment needs could not be met through cardiac catheterisation and heart defect repair campaigns.

Partners and doctors described the campaign's success as a significant medical and humanitarian achievement, with Consultant in Pediatric Congenital Cardiology and Cardiac Catheterization at the Mogadishu Heart Center and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at Mogadishu University Dr Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed affirming that the campaign's results had given dozens of children a new chance at life and a more hopeful future.

Consultant in Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Catheterization Dr. Iyad al-Amouri praised the trust placed in the medical team by Somali families and the considerable efforts of young Somali medical professionals, whom he described as an important asset for the future of the country's health sector.

Qatar Charity previously carried out three specialised campaigns in Somalia to treat heart defects and conditions in children, benefiting 97 boys and girls. With the 40 cardiac catheterization procedures performed during the current campaign, the total number of children benefiting from therapeutic procedures and cardiac catheterisation has risen to 137.



FIBA 2027 countdown fuels ambition in Doha

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Qatar's preparations for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 gathered momentum in Doha, as basketball legend Hidayet "Hedo" Turkoglu expressed confidence in the hosts' readiness, while young national team player Muhanna al-Hardan shared his ambitions ahead of the tournament.

The official countdown clock was unveiled at Barahat Msheireb, marking 300 days until the global basketball showpiece tips off in Qatar and signalling another milestone in the country's preparations. The event, organised by the FIBA Basketball World Cup Qatar 2027 Local Organising Committee and the International Basketball Federation, also highlighted the significance of Qatar hosting the competition as the World Cup comes to the Middle East and North Africa region for the first time. Former Turkish basketball player Turkoglu said Qatar's experience in staging major international events gave him confidence in its ability to deliver the tournament successfully.

"If you look at Qatar and Doha, they are capable of doing different organisations, and they've been doing it really well and really successfully," Turkoglu told Gulf Times. "I'm sure the FIBA World Cup 2027 will also be a good example for them to be able to host and do it in the best way."

Turkoglu, who enjoyed a long professional basketball career before moving into sports administration, said he expected the tournament to draw large numbers of international visitors to Doha. "I'm sure next year there will be a lot of people visiting here in Doha, in Qatar, watching the FIBA World Cup 2027," he said.

For Qatar national basketball team player Muhanna Khalid al-Hardan, the countdown carries a more personal meaning. Standing at the unveiling, the young player said the prospect of a home World Cup was already pushing him to raise his own level. "This is something amazing," al-Hardan said. "This is something that excites me to train more and try to reach this level of basketball."

He said seeing Qatar prepare to welcome the basketball world had strengthened that motivation. "It excites me too much to train more and try to reach this level of basketball," he added. The contrasting perspectives, from an established international basketball figure and a player still striving to reach the highest level, captured the countdown's wider significance.



(From left) Muhanna al-Hardan and Hidayet "Hedo" Turkoglu at the event in Doha.

Iconic Khalifa Stadium turns 50

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

Aspire Zone Foundation celebrates the 50th anniversary of Khalifa International Stadium, one of Qatar's most iconic sporting landmarks and a symbol of the nation's remarkable sporting achievements and milestones, which helped strengthen Qatar's position on the regional and international sporting map.

Since its inauguration in 1976, Khalifa International Stadium has witnessed five decades of sporting development in Qatar.

Throughout its history, the stadium has hosted numerous major sporting tournaments and events, welcoming some of the world's leading athletes and national teams.

It has become an integral part of Qatar's national sporting legacy and one of the region's most prominent sports venues.

Over the past five decades, the stadium has been associated with several significant sporting milestones, reflecting its remarkable history and its role in hosting major sporting events. These include:

•1976 – The Beginning: The stadium was inaugurated alongside Qatar's hosting of the 4th Arabian Gulf Cup.

•1992 – Gulf Champions: The stadium witnessed Qatar's national team being crowned champions of the 11th Arabian Gulf Cup.

•2006 – Asian Games: Hosted competitions during the 2006 Asian Games in Doha.

•2011 – AFC Asian Cup: Hosted several matches of the AFC Asian Cup, including the final.



•2019 – A Global Sporting Stage: Hosted the World Athletics Championships, the first edition to be held in the Middle East.

•2022 – FIFA World Cup Glory: Hosted eight matches during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, including the third-place play-off.

•2023 – Asian Football Excellence: Hosted matches during the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023.

• 2025 – A Celebration of Arab Football: Hosted matches during the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025.

The 50th anniversary of Khalifa International Stadium represents five decades of unforgettable sporting moments and achievements that have left a lasting mark on Qatar's sporting history. It also reflects the stadium's continued role in supporting the development of the sports sector and hosting major sporting events, further strengthening Qatar's position as a leading destination for international sporting events.

Aspire Zone Foundation looks forward to continuing this remarkable journey and building on this rich sporting legacy, in line with Qatar's ambitions for an even more distinguished and sustainable sporting future.

Doha to host Unesco forum on Arab higher education

From Page 1

Aboudan added that the conference aims to strengthen the role of scientific research, innovation and digital transformation in building more sustainable education systems that respond to future demands and the needs of the learning community.

Speakers at the opening ceremony will include the minister; HE Dr Nasser bin Hamad al-Hinzab, Chairperson of the Unesco Executive Board and Qatar's Permanent Representative to Unesco; and Salah Khaled, Director of the Unesco regional office.

After the opening session, breakout sessions across both days will address major themes and emerging trends in higher education. These include the recognition of academic qualifications across Arab states, digital transformation, the responsible and ethical use of AI, and strengthening academic competencies and supportive working environments for faculty members. Discussions will also turn to the future of higher education and the post-2030 development agenda.

On the opening day, a session titled "Shaping the Future of Higher Education in the Arab Region: From Recognition to Transformation" will see the launch of the Arabic version of UNESCO's roadmap "Beyond Limits: New Ways to Reinvent Higher Education".

A university exhibition on the sidelines will allow participating institutions to showcase their academic programmes and their research and innovation initiatives. The conference will close on Tuesday with a set of final recommendations.

Talks could reopen Hormuz in 2 days if US agrees: Iran

From Page 1

"Tehran continues negotiations with the American side through Qatari mediators and others, but it does not have the slightest optimism about Trump's intentions even for a moment," Al Jazeera quoted the source as saying.

The source was cited as saying Tehran had assessed positively a message received from US Vice President JD Vance and was considering its response.

"We think that there may be different voices in the US, but experience has shown that the US president and his circle are succumbing to the temptations of [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and the warmongering extremists who support him," the source said.

"For this reason we are obliged to maintain our focus on being fully prepared for a decisive and punitive defence against any aggression and crime by the United States and Israel."

Separately, an adviser to the supreme leader said Iran's defence doctrine was evolving rapidly, with Tehran no longer limiting its response to the geographical location of a threat.

"The geography of the threat no longer determines the geography of the response," Mohammad Mokhber said, according to the ISNA news agency.

UDST crowns winners of third Gulf Universities Championship

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has successfully concluded the third Gulf Universities Championship (GUC), bringing three days of university sporting competition to a close with a celebration of athletic achievement, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The closing ceremony was attended by HE Dr Ibrahim al-Naimi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and president of the Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation; Dr Salem bin Nasser al-Naemi, president of UDST; Dr Ahmed Khalil al-Abbasi, executive director of Competitions and Football Development at the Qatar Stars League; Rashid Adiba, secretary-general of Qatar Collegiate Sports Federation; and a number of representative from the participating entities.

The championship concluded with the crowning of winners across four competitions, recognising the dedication, skill and determination demonstrated by participating student-athletes throughout the tournament. In men's futsal, Qatar University secured first place, followed by the University of Doha for Science and Technology in second and the University of Technology and Applied Sciences – Oman in third.

In men's basketball, UDST claimed the top spot, while Qatar University (QU) finished second and Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) placed third. QU also emerged as champions in men's volleyball, with UDST taking second place and the University of Technology and Applied Sciences – Oman finishing third.

In women's volleyball, UDST secured first place, followed by CMU-Q in second and MIE – Savitribai Phule Pune University in third. The championship's success reflects the collective efforts of the participating universities, athletes, coaches, officials, and organising teams, whose contributions helped deliver a memorable sporting event. The tournament also gave student-athletes valuable opportunities to challenge themselves, demonstrate their abilities, and connect with peers from other university communities.



The championship reflects UDST's continued commitment to enriching the student experience through opportunities that support personal growth, physical activity and social engagement. These priorities are also reflected in the University's Wellness Strategy 2025–2027, which promotes a comprehensive approach to well-being across physical, mental, social and other dimensions.

Hamad Alkuwari, director of the Sport & Wellness Directorate at UDST, said: "Hosting the third Gulf Universities Championship reflects UDST's commitment to advancing university sports, promoting healthy competition and enriching the student experience. We are proud to provide opportunities for students to develop their skills, build connections and embrace the values of teamwork and sportsmanship."

As the host institution, UDST remains committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen university sports and encourage students to pursue excellence in different aspects of university life. The successful delivery of this edition marks another milestone in the University's efforts to contribute to a vibrant and connected university sports community in Qatar and across the Gulf.

WORLD

Trump's team charts path to govern without Congress

Reuters
Washington

President Donald Trump's White House has spent months preparing for a possible Democratic takeover of Congress, developing plans to keep advancing major parts of his agenda through executive power while bracing for investigations of his administration, according to a White House official and two people familiar with the plans.

Senior officials, including deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller and budget director Russell Vought, have been working with the White House Counsel's Office since April to identify executive actions on immigration, tariffs, housing costs and federal spending that Trump could pursue without congressional approval, said the three people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

White House counsel Will Scharf and his team also are looking at "what Trump can legally do on his own, where he could push the limits of his authority and how to defend those decisions in court," the official said.

The planning underscores a paradox of Tuesday's midterm elections: Capturing control of Congress would give Democrats the power to investigate Trump, block legislation and constrain his spending priorities. But Trump would retain broad executive authority over trade, foreign policy and the federal bureaucracy that he has already used aggressively during his second term.

If Republicans lose control of Congress, Trump said he expects he could issue vetoes for "a month or two" before reaching compromises with Democrats. "I guess I'll become Mr Veto," Trump told *the New York Post*'s Pod Force One podcast yesterday. "And then at some point, we'll probably make deals."

Democrats need a net gain of four seats in the US House of Representatives as well as the US Senate to overturn Republicans' narrow 218-214 and 53-47 majorities. Opinion polls favour Democrats to win the House, while the Senate remains too close to call.


The sun sets behind the the US Capitol Building. (**AFP**)

For the past month, Trump has held rallies across the country trying to preserve Republican control of Congress, even as his aides privately prepare for a very different political landscape in 2027. The White House pushed back on the prospect of Republican losses and accused the media of promoting a false narrative.

"This administration and commonsense Republicans will continue to secure our borders, restore law and order, putting more money back into the pockets of hard-working Americans, and deliver wins for the American people," White House spokeswoman Lauren Bis said.

Among the executive actions under consideration are new tariffs on imports of critical minerals and wind turbines, tighter rules on visas for international students and temporary foreign workers, and measures aimed at lowering housing and construction costs, the White House official said.

Federal agencies have submitted proposals and legal reviews of actions the administration could take unilaterally, one of the people with knowledge of the plans said.

Vought, whose US Office of Management and Budget oversees federal spending, is examining which priorities can move forward using money already appropriated by Congress, two of the people said.

He also wants to change federal grant rules to give political appointees more say in which government programmes receive taxpayer money, they said, potentially giving the White House more influence over federal spending without seeking congressional approval.

Trump has been briefed on the preparations and has taken part in discussions, the official said.

Trump has already tested the reach of presidential power since returning to office in January 2025, using executive authority to impose sweeping tariffs, intensify immigration enforcement, shrink the federal workforce, and pursue foreign-policy goals including the war against Iran without Congress' approval or new laws.

A major exception was Trump's massive package of tax and spending cuts that was passed by the Republican-controlled Congress and signed into law by the president in July 2025.

"President Trump in the last two years has basically ignored Congress and tried to do as much as possible through executive orders and executive power," said Nathan Gonzales, editor at Inside Elections, which provides nonpartisan political analysis. "I think he will only continue if there are Democratic majorities."

Trump has repeatedly invoked national emergencies to expand his ability to act without new legislation. Congress can vote to end those emergencies, but Trump could veto such a move, requiring two-thirds majorities in both chambers to override him.

A Democratic Congress could still create significant obstacles. Control of the Senate would allow Democrats to block Trump's judicial and executive-branch nominees, including any Supreme Court pick.

"I would anticipate they will be very reluctant to approve any of the president's appointments," said Andrew Busch, a public policy professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and author of a history of midterm elections.

Democrats could also refuse to pass Trump-backed legislation. But Trump could veto Democratic legislation he doesn't like, and Democrats are unlikely to have enough votes in the House to override him.

Courts could block executive actions that exceed Trump's legal authority. The White House plans to seek legal opinions from the Justice Department to determine what Trump can do without Congress and how to defend those actions if they are challenged in court, one of the people said.

One challenge, however, cannot be sidestepped through executive action: congressional investigations.

Reuters previously reported that senior House Democrats and committee aides have discussed using hearings, subpoenas and document requests to examine whether Trump has used his presidential power to benefit himself, allies or donors.

White House lawyers have been briefing political appointees and agency leaders on how to handle congressional inquiries, document requests and subpoenas, one person said. They have advised officials to be careful about what they put in writing.

They also sought a Justice Department opinion that could allow Trump to invoke executive privilege to shield communications with private advisers from congressional scrutiny, the person said.

Trump heads to Kansas, Iowa for election rallies

Reuters
Washington/Anchorage, Alaska

President Donald Trump returns to the campaign trail yesterday with rallies in Iowa and Kansas, Republican-leaning Farm Belt states where his party is fighting to hold Senate seats, two days before midterm elections.

Trump, who spent Saturday at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida after weeks of campaigning across multiple states, won Iowa by double digits in 2024. But polls show Democrats tied with or leading Republicans in many of the state's races, and Trump's approval among rural Americans fell to a new low of 45% in October, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling. Kansas, which last elected a Democratic senator in 1932, is also facing an unexpectedly close race.

Thirty-five Senate seats and all 435 House seats are on the ballot on Tuesday. Republicans hold a 53-47 Senate majority and a narrow edge in the House. Losing either chamber would let Democrats block Trump's agenda for his final two years in office, apart from launching investigations of an administration.

More than 52mn Americans have already voted in person or by mail, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab, a record for a midterm and up from nearly 46mn who voted before Election Day in 2022. Senate control could come down to a handful of states, including Alaska, where polls show incumbent Senator Dan S Sullivan, a Republican, in a tight race with Democrat Mary Peltola.

Sullivan yesterday said he would accept the results of Tuesday's election even as the Trump administration presses a criminal investigation into the presence of another challenger named Daniel J Sullivan Jr on the ballot.

The US Justice Department has asked a federal court to prevent the certification of Alaska's vote if the incumbent senator loses narrowly. Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy, a Republican, has suggested he may not certify a victory by Peltola after *the New York Times* reported her campaign was involved in recruiting Daniel J Sullivan Jr into the race.

Although the senator said he would accept the election result, he declined to say whether he would support efforts to refuse certifying it if he lost. "They got the decoy guy on the ballot," Senator Dan S Sullivan said on CNN. "I'm sure I'm going to lose a lot of votes to that trickery. So what I say to Alaskans is, don't let them get away with the tricks."

Peltola and the campaign committee have denied involvement, and Sullivan Jr has denied co-ordinating with Peltola's campaign.

Voters who spoke to Reuters on Saturday in Anchorage, Alaska, had mixed views on the investigation and legal fights. "I am concerned that the longer it takes for those votes to be counted, the more shenanigans will happen," said Ames Tonneson, 24.

Art Paul, 52, took the potential upheaval in stride. "In this case, if there's a close race or investigation, I understand. ... It's part of the process," Paul said. "And you gotta be patient. ."

Separately, the Trump administration signaled it would likely ask the Supreme Court to take up its legal battle with California over alleged noncitizen voting.

Dozens of settlers storm Al-Aqsa Mosque under Israeli forces protection

Dozens of Israeli settlers stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque yesterday under the strict protection of Israeli occupation forces.
Local sources reported that settlers entered the mosque's courtyards in successive groups through Mughrabi Gate, conducting provocative tours and performing religious rituals in the eastern area and in the vicinity of the Dome of the Rock.
The sources added that Israeli occupation forces continue to permit these daily incursions into the eastern section of Al-Aqsa Mosque while simultaneously enforcing restrictive measures against Muslim worshippers, preventing them from accessing areas occupied by the settlers or utilising the paths designated for settler tours during morning and afternoon incursions. (**QNA**)

Sudan says drone attack from Ethiopia killed, injured hundreds

AFP
Khartoum

Sudan yesterday accused Ethiopia of enabling drone attacks from its territory that have killed or wounded hundreds of civilians and soldiers since mid-February, citing evidence from downed aircraft, flight data and military records.

Sudan's military has repeatedly accused Ethiopia of aiding the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), against which it has been fighting since April 2023, including through drone attacks launched from Ethiopian territory.

Ethiopia, which denies the accusations, has in turn accused the Sudanese army of backing rebels linked to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), an allegation Khartoum rejects.

In a report, the army-led Transitional Sovereignty Council said it had documented 70 attacks between February 15 and October 27 involving 187 one-way attack drones and 82 munitions fired from drones. The attacks killed or wounded 484 civilians, while 176 Sudanese soldiers were killed and another 200 wounded, it said.

"Since February 2026, armed drones have taken off from Ethiopian soil... to strike Sudanese cities and civilians," the report said, adding that there were launch sites at Asosa airport in western Ethiopia, the Kurmuk-Gizen border area and Bahir Dar air base in Ethiopia's northwestern Amhara region.

The report said the campaign had intensified in recent months, with October alone accounting for 28 attacks and 97 of the recorded one-way drones. Among the deadliest incidents cited was an October 9 attack on displaced families in Wad el-Mahi, in Sudan's Blue Nile State near the Ethiopian border, which it said killed 30 civilians, 26 women and four children, and wounded 100 others.

Armed men kidnapped a dozen children in Nigeria

AFP
Minna, Nigeria

Armed men have kidnapped around a dozen children in central Nigeria, local and security sources told AFP yesterday, in the latest mass abduction in the country's troubled Niger state.

Gunmen on motorcycles seized the children on Saturday near the town of Maigujeri in Rafi district while they were returning from a farm where they had been helping their Qur'anic school teacher harvest maize, the sources said.

A security report seen by AFP said 18 children had been abducted, while local resident Mohammed Abdullahi said the number was closer to 12.

The kidnapping is the latest in a wave of attacks by heavily armed criminal gangs, known locally as bandits, who have intensified violent raids, abductions and cattle theft in Niger State in recent months.

"They were kidnapped on their way back home from their teacher's farm," Abdullahi said, adding that one child was shot and was receiving treatment at a hospital in Minna, the state capital.

Police did not respond to AFP requests for comment.

The abduction follows a string of mass kidnappings in the state by criminal gangs, some of which have forged links with militant groups operating in northwestern and central Nigeria.

Israeli strikes kill eight people in Gaza

Reuters
Cairo

Israeli strikes killed at least eight Palestinians, including five police officers, in the Gaza Strip in two separate attacks yesterday, according to medics and the Hamas-run interior ministry.

Medics said three people were killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City. The interior ministry said the five police officers were killed in another strike in western Khan Younis, in the south of the enclave. The Israeli military said it struck several fighters in Khan Younis, without giving further information. It did not immediately comment on the Gaza City strike.


Palestinian boys stand amid the rubble after an Israeli strike. (**AFP**)

Israel, which says the Hamas group has been rearming and launching attacks in violation of a year-old ceasefire, has stepped up strikes on the group in recent weeks. Hamas has denied trying to carry out attacks or rebuild its arsenal and accuses Israel of undermining the Gaza peace deal.

Last year's US-brokered ceasefire calls for eventual reconstruction of Gaza. But progress has stalled due to lack of agreement on Hamas disarmament or withdraw of Israeli troops, who control about two-thirds of the territory and have ordered residents out.

Trump's Republicans scramble to stop Democratic midterms wave

AFP
Washington

Republicans made a final push yesterday to prevent a predicted thumping in US midterm elections where Democrats are gunning to win Congress and impose a first political check on President Donald Trump's unprecedented pursuit of power.

Polls show Democrats are all but certain to take the majority from Republicans in the House of Representatives and — against all previous expectations — with a shot at winning the Senate. But after a decade of Trump defying political gravity and two years of a second presidency in which he has ridden roughshod over every norm, Democrats remain nervous.

"Nauseously optimistic," Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock told CNN to describe the mood.

Along with making lurid claims that Democrats will turn the country communist, Trump is dangling the promise of $5,000 payments to everyone in the country if his party wins.


Republican candidate Michael Bouchard Jr with Republican Representative Lisa McClain during a midterm campaign event. (**AFP**)

"I feel good," Trump told reporters at his luxury golf club in Florida late Saturday. "The country has never done better."

Polls, however, show the Republican is the most unpopular US president in decades and while his efforts may galvanise a hardcore base of right-wing supporters, a growing majority has turned on him.

An NBC News poll released yesterday showed 60% of Americans disapprove of Trump's performance, particularly over high prices exacerbated by his now eight-month, sputtering war against Iran.

While Tuesday is election day and results will start landing that night, early voting has already seen a record 53mn people cast ballots around the country.

A Democratic House would impose the first real political constraints on Trump since he swept back into office in 2025.

The Republican's second term has featured a relentless expansion of presidential power.

He has torn down part of the White House to build a ballroom, put his image on money and official buildings, disrupted the global economy with sweeping economic tariffs, and threatened to invade or annex allies like Canada and Greenland.

Winning the House would give Democrats serious power. They'd be in charge of the budget and take control of committees set to probe allegations of mass corruption and other explosive topics.

As for the Senate, where Republicans have a slender majority, only a third of the Senate's 100 seats are being contested and few of the races were seen as favourable to Democrats. However, with surprisingly strong challenges mounted in deeply Republican states like Texas and Kansas, pollsters now say the odds of a Democratic flip are at minimum even.

A Democratic Senate would be able to shut down Trump's appointments to courts — especially the Supreme Court.

Reflecting the high stakes, these midterms have seen about $11bn spent on advertising, with large chunks coming from individual mega-donors. Elon Musk, a close Trump ally, has given a staggering nearly half-billion dollars to help get Republican candidates elected.

The campaigns have also been marked by blistering language and insults, such as Trump's repeated false claims that Michigan's Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed is a "jihadist."

Hanging over everything is concern that Republicans will refuse to accept a loss, leading to a constitutional crisis.

The White House continued to undermine Americans' confidence in their elections over the weekend, slapping down a post that explained it is "normal" that the counting process in complex districts may show a candidate ahead at first, but losing once all ballots are in. "No it isn't," the official presidential X account said.

China's Communist Party demands loyalty, vows to tighten discipline

Reuters
Beijing

China's ruling Communist Party put the demand for loyalty front and centre in an official resolution on toughening internal discipline, and vowed to keep waging its high-pressure anti-corruption campaign to cleanse the party of "impurities and viruses".

The resolution, adopted during a key party leadership gathering this week and previewed in a shorter communique on Thursday, stressed the need to intensify efforts to instil loyalty to the party within its ranks, vet and promote officials based on their "party spirit" assessed through their day-to-day work, personal conduct and remarks, social contacts and family values, and carry forward its "self-revolution".

"The party's ranks are sound overall, but problems of ideological impurity, organisational impurity, and impure work style have not yet been fundamentally resolved," according to the resolution released by the state-run Xinhua news agency on Sunday.

The detailed document provided an updated framework for the party's more than decade-long discipline and anti-graft drive, which has ensnared millions within the country's vast bureaucracy.

It came roughly a year ahead of a leadership reshuffle when its leader, President Xi Jinping, is expected to secure another five-year term.

The party leadership called for closer, career-long oversight of cadres, including tighter checks on officials' personal disclosures and investigations where family assets or spending appear out of line with legitimate income.

It also called for routine scrutiny of the business activities of officials' family members.

The anti-corruption drive would take aim at hidden and tech-enabled graft, including proxy shareholdings, and the use of cryptocurrencies, blockchain and cross-border funds to facilitate corruption, the document showed.

Although the party drew attention to collective leadership and said party organisations must not require subordinates at successive levels to uphold the "personal authority" of those ultimately in charge, the provision appeared directed at curbing personalised rule in lower-level party and government bodies, rather than limiting the already consolidated authority within the central leadership.

The document called on party members to resolutely safeguard Xi's status as the party's "core" and to remain fully aligned with the top leadership "in thought, politics and action".

Thousands join Indian protest demanding poll chief's resignation

Reuters
New Delhi



A supporter waves India's national flag during a protest rally by the opposition alliance INDIA bloc (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi yesterday. (**AFP**)

Thousands protested in Delhi yesterday to demand the resignation of India's election chief over a revision of voter lists, the latest in more than a month of opposition demonstrations challenging Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Led by Rahul Gandhi, a leader of the opposition Congress Party, Sunday's protesters say the revision benefits Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

The protests and growing support for the opposition form the worst crisis for Modi since he came to power in 2014, though his government remains stable and the next general election is not due until 2029.

Authorities tightened security and warned of traffic diversions before protesters began a march from central Delhi to the designated rally site, where thousands had already assembled.

Hundreds of security personnel, some of them carrying batons and shields and accompanied by riot-control vehicles, surrounded the historic Ramlila Maidan ground as hundreds of people, many waving national and party flags, began moving towards it. Opposition party leaders led the march in an open-top jeep.

Speaking at the rally, Gandhi said Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar would have to vacate his post, and his removal would be the first step towards bringing the country "back on the right track".

The voter roll purge "is the theft of the voice of every single citizen of India. It is the theft of every citizen's right to expression," Gandhi said from the stage."This is an act of betrayal against the nation. This is treason."

Among the protesters listening to him was Reena Mahto, a member of the Congress' student wing, who said four people from her family had been deleted from the voter list due to a false record that they had moved elsewhere.

She told Reuters the family had long lived in Jagdalpur in the central state of Chhattisgarh, but "now all of a sudden we have been marked as shifted from our own house," adding, "There should be accountability, and we are here to seek that."

The change to voter rolls removed over 130mn names — more than the population of Japan. Opposition parties allege the deletions disproportionately affected Muslim voters and members of other minorities who are unlikely to support the BJP.

The Election Commission says the aim of the voter revision is to update voter lists to remove duplicate and ineligible voters. It has denied favouring any party and said wrongly deleted voters can re-enrol. The BJP has accused rivals of trying to undermine democracy by questioning legitimate electoral processes.

Dinesh Singh said he was joining the protest for the sake of his children's future.

"I am not affiliated with any political party," he said. "I am here for a cause. I want the children to remember that we fought for their future."

Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, however, called the protest a "carefully orchestrated drama".

"What is unfolding today at Ramlila Maidan is not an act of respect for democracy. It is a calculated conspiracy to plunge the nation into anarchy, all in the name of democracy," he told news agency ANI.

The demonstration is the latest in a series of near-daily protests that opposition parties, student organisations and the youth-led Cockroach Janta Party have held since late September demanding the resignation of the election chief.

The protests erupted after the *Indian Express* newspaper reported that Kumar's two deputies had raised several concerns internally about voter list revisions, registration procedures and digital systems.

Charles to address Commonwealth with 'unflinching honesty' amid slavery focus

AFP
St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda


Britain's King Charles leaves after a church service during the 45th anniversary of Antigua and Barbuda's Independence Day, as part of a week-long autumn tour of Caribbean nations, in St John's, yesterday. (**Reuters**)

King Charles III will confront "shameful aspects" of UK history with "unflinching honesty" when he addresses Commonwealth leaders next week, Buckingham Palace said Saturday, amid renewed scrutiny of Britain's role in historical transatlantic slavery.

The comments come after Prime Minister Andy Burnham revealed he was open to the UK formally apologising for its role in the trade, but ruling out paying the financial reparations demanded by some Caribbean countries.

The issues have resurfaced as Charles tours the Caribbean before delivering a speech tomorrow at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting there, which Burnham is also set to attend.

"The King will not shy away from confronting the most shameful aspects of the past during this visit," a palace spokesperson said.

"You may therefore expect him to address them in his speech with unflinching honesty, sincere sorrow, and respect for the wider discussions that will be taking place between relevant governments on this issue."

The palace noted the monarch, who arrived in Antigua and Barbuda late Friday ahead of the summit there, will be speaking in his role as head of the 56-member Commonwealth, composed mainly of former British colonies.

"It would not be appropriate for him to address matters of particular policy relating to the UK government's position," the spokesperson said. They added that the king will "primarily focus on encouraging practical solutions and united efforts to address global challenges and opportunities".

Under pressure from Commonwealth countries over Britain's pivotal part in transatlantic slavery, Burnham penned a newspaper op-ed published earlier Saturday that argued: "We need to face up to the past."

Writing in *The Guardian*, he pledged to have "difficult conversations" to safeguard the Commonwealth's future, 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 wrote.

Expressing "sorrow and regret for the pain and suffering of so many millions" resulting from the trade and its links to the present day, he 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.

The centre-left British leader also announced he would 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 have loomed large over 77-year-old Charles's ongoing nine-day visit to three Caribbean countries.

"I do believe there should be an apology," receptionist Daliesha Murray told AFP as the king arrived Tuesday in The Bahamas, where small groups of protesters waved placards reading: "Pay what you owe us."

The monarch acknowledged "the great suffering of the past" during that stop. In Guyana on Friday, he visited a site of execution of local people during British colonial rule, pausing to reflect in a gesture seen as indicating his awareness of that past injustice.

Ahead of a meeting with Charles during that leg, Guyana's President Irfaan Ali told ITV News that recognising historical wrongs was just a "first step".

"Now, moving to the apology is the next step," he said.

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

The country profited for centuries from colonialism and slavery, 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.

In a sign of the domestic political opposition Burnham could face in issuing a formal apology, Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch said Saturday there was "no need" while reiterating her opposition to reparations.



Pro-Palestinian activists and supporters stage a protest in support of the proscribed group Palestine Action outside the US Embassy in London. (**AFP**)

325 people were arrested at Palestine Action demo

AFP
London

British police said yesterday they had arrested 325 people at a London protest in support of Palestine Action the previous day, ahead of a court appeal over the government's contentious ban of the group.

Demonstrators staged a "mass action" outside the US embassy ahead of the Supreme Court holding a two-day hearing from Wednesday on the UK government's July 2025 decision to outlaw Palestine Action under anti-terror legislation.

The US also designated Palestine Action as "terrorist" in August, as the administration of President Donald Trump intensifies its campaign against left-wing movements.

The British designation puts the group on a blacklist that also includes entities like Palestinian Hamas, and made membership of, or support for, Palestine Action a crime punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

It has resulted in more than 4,000 people, including many senior citizens and Holocaust survivors, being arrested for showing their support for the group, according to campaigners and police tallies.

"In total, 325 people were arrested yesterday," London's Metropolitan Police said in an update yesterday.

"The vast majority of arrests — 320 — were for expressing support for a proscribed organisation under the Terrorism Act."

A smaller number of protesters also rallied outside the US consulate in the Scottish capital Edinburgh on Saturday, but no arrests were made there at the time.

"Enquiries are ongoing to identify people seen wearing T-shirts and holding banners showing support for a proscribed organisation," Police Scotland said in a statement shared with AFP yesterday.

"Evidence is being reviewed and further action will be taken as appropriate."

German, Slovak die in electrocution at hotel pool

A German flight crew member and a Slovak business manager died as a result of an accident in a luxury hotel swimming pool in Bengaluru, which Indian media reported on Saturday was suspected to have been caused by an electric current in the pool.

The Conrad Bengaluru Hotel said it was "deeply saddened" by the deaths of two of its guests following a "tragic incident", without giving further details. Indian media, citing police, reported that the suspected cause was electrocution, and that investigators were trying to determine how an electric current had reached the water.

Police could not immediately be reached for comment.

The victims were brought to Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road, which said one was dead on arrival and the other arrived in a state of cardiac arrest and could not be revived, after what it called a "water-related incident" at the hotel. (**Reuters**)

Defence research institutes tested major weapon system: North Korea

Reuters
Seoul

North Korea's state media KCNA reported yesterday that the country's defence science research institutes tested a major weapon system.

The test was intended to "assess adaptation to combat and power of a cluster-bomb warhead to be tipped on tactical ballistic missiles," KCNA said.

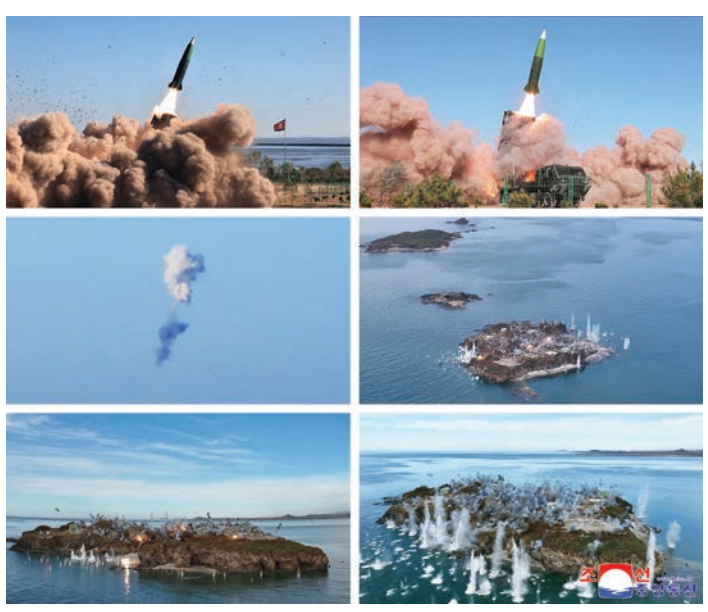
The test found that a standard Type 2 cluster bomb warhead can destroy a target area of 12 to 13 hectares at its highest density, KCNA said.

The cluster bomb warheads fall into four categories, an official at North Korea's missile administration said without elaborating.

North Korea will enable its military units by the end of 2026 to use all types of the bombs, depending on their operational purposes, KCNA said.

Pyongyang has ramped up its show of force in recent weeks with multiple missile tests and holding a drone exhibition. Analysts said the tests could be part of efforts to modernise the military. North Korea gained experience in modern warfare, sending troops to the war in Ukraine for its ally Moscow.

North Korea test-fired around 10 ballistic missiles from its east coast toward the sea on Thursday, when German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited Republic of Korea for a summit.


A combination picture shows what KCNA says is a test to evaluate the effectiveness of a major weapon system, yesterday. (**Reuters**)

5 killed in ethnic violence in India's Manipur state

Reuters
New Delhi

Five people were killed in two separate incidents in India's northeastern state of Manipur, police said yesterday, as fresh ethnic violence erupted in the conflict-hit region.

Three men from the Kuki tribal group were killed in an exchange of gunfire between "unidentified armed miscreants" in the state's Noney district on Saturday, according to a police statement.

The bodies of two other men from the same community, who had gone missing earlier this week, were recovered in Kangpokpi district yesterday morning after security personnel launched a search operation, a second police statement said.

A top Kuki tribal body blamed Naga separatist outfits for the killings, describing them as a "direct unprovoked assault . . . in their homeland."

The killings came amid mass protests attended by hundreds of thousands of people in the state capital Imphal and other areas, demanding the abrogation of a ceasefire arrangement between Kuki armed groups and the Indian state.

The predominantly Christian Kuki and Naga tribes have a long history of conflict over competing claims to ethnic homelands in the remote northeastern state.

The latest fighting erupted after a Naga man was allegedly assaulted by men from the Kuki community in February this year.

The killing of three Kuki pastors in May, allegedly by Naga armed groups, triggered a series of retaliatory abductions and killings by both sides.

The latest Kuki-Naga clashes have added to tensions in Manipur, where the Kuki community is also embroiled in a bloody ethnic conflict with the mainly Hindu Meitei community that began in May 2023 over economic benefits and job quotas.

More than 60,000 people displaced by the conflict, which has claimed more than 300 lives, continue to live in temporary shelters.

OPINION

Key questions around Oleshky

Residents of the Russian-held town of Oleshky in southern Ukraine began evacuating on Friday as part of a joint relief operation by the two sides, the first of its kind in four years and eight months of war. Many questions have been asked about the humanitarian operation and its wider significance under a deal that US first lady Melania Trump was involved in brokering, with the additional involvement of Pope Leo. Besides the safe evacuation of many of Oleshky's residents, Moscow and Kyiv are trying to use the operation to show US President Donald Trump they are serious about his efforts to secure an overall peace settlement.

Neither side wants to be blamed by Trump for something going wrong in Oleshky, an event that could burnish his self-professed credentials as a peacemaker before US midterm legislative elections.

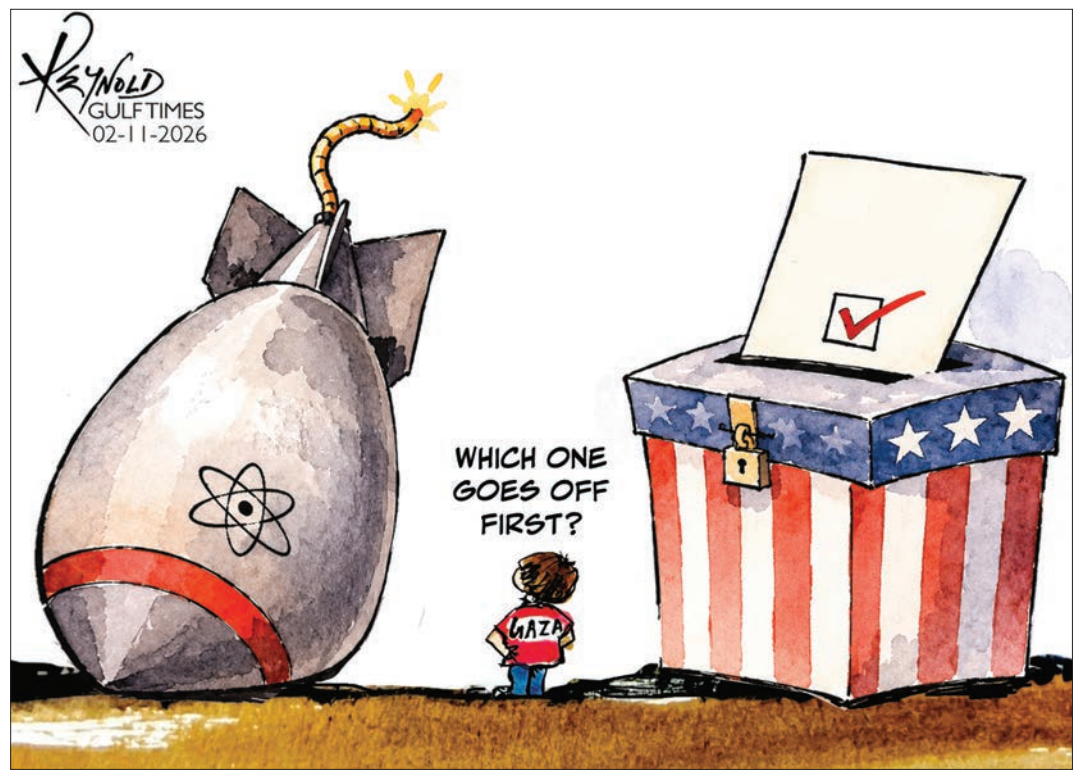
But the two sides remain far apart on potential terms for ending the conflict in Ukraine, and there appears to be no immediate prospect of it ending. Both sides want to keep Trump engaged in the peace process, even if it is moving slowly, as even if Trump's Republican Party performs badly in the midterms, he will be president for two more years and able to influence what is happening in Ukraine.

Moscow hopes Trump can pressure Kyiv into agreeing a deal that meets many of its conditions, such as full Russian control of Ukraine's Donbas region and a bar on Ukraine joining Nato. Kyiv wants to ensure US intelligence sharing continues, along with full access to Elon Musk's battlefield communications system Starshield, and that European-bought US military hardware, including Patriot interceptor missiles, continues to flow.

Moscow and Kyiv, keen to court the US president, have lavishly praised Melania Trump's role in making the operation happen.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has publicly recognised her importance in bringing about the ceasefire and aid operation, and Dmitry Peskov, his spokesman, cited her proven experience in reuniting children affected by the Ukraine conflict with their families as one of the reasons why Moscow agreed to the Oleshky operation. Special Envoy Kirill Dmitriev has repeatedly taken to X to highlight her role in what is happening.

Ukrainian human rights ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets has paid tribute to Melania Trump too, saying Kyiv wanted to extend its "special thanks" to someone who was "personally devoting her time and attention to the humanitarian mission and assistance to civilians in Oleshky". — **Reuters**



Tehran's new channel: Testing a security order from within

By Jasim al-Azzawi



On October 26, 2026, senior Saudi, Turkish, Pakistani, and Iranian officials met in Tehran for talks extending beyond routine diplomatic consultations. The gathering brought together members of a newly signed defence pact with Iran, signaling an effort by regional powers to build a security channel that relies less exclusively on American direction and protection.

The participants gave the meeting its significance. They included Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalın, Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, President Masoud Pezeshkian, and security council secretary Mohsen Rezaei.

Their presence combined military, intelligence, diplomatic, and political authority from states across the Middle East and South Asia. The official outcome was deliberately limited: the participants agreed to continue consultations and strengthen co-operation on regional peace and security. Iranian officials went further, arguing that regional states should manage security without foreign interference.

That position gives the meeting strategic weight, but it should not be mistaken for a shared commitment to remove American military influence from the region immediately. The importance should not be overstated. No detailed communique established enforcement mechanisms, timetables, or binding commitments. The available evidence therefore supports describing Tehran as an exploratory security channel rather than a formal alliance. Nevertheless, diplomatic structures often begin with selected participants, broad principles, and discussions about where national interests overlap.

The Houthi question

For Saudi Arabia, the most urgent consideration is operational rather than ideological. Riyadh again faces missiles and drones attributed to Yemen's Ansarullah movement, commonly known as the Houthis. Renewed attacks and attempted strikes during 2026 have threatened Saudi cities, airports, shipping, oil installations, and other strategic infrastructure far beyond Yemen's border.

Yanbu and the East–West oil pipeline are especially important. The pipeline carries crude from Saudi Arabia's eastern fields to the Red Sea coast, partially bypassing the Strait of Hormuz. Houthi missiles also reportedly struck vessels near Yanbu in August 2026, demonstrating that threats to this corridor could affect Saudi exports, maritime security, and global energy calculations during wider conflict.

Saudi Arabia therefore has a practical reason to engage Iran. Tehran's relationship with Ansarullah and its role within the axis of resistance give it influence that Riyadh cannot ignore. United Nations reporting indicates extensive Iranian and Hezbollah assistance but does not prove complete Iranian command. The Houthis retain their own leadership, resources, domestic interests, and meaningful decision-making autonomy within Yemen's fragmented political landscape.

The Saudi objective would be to obtain Iranian help in reducing attacks on critical infrastructure and preventing another escalation. In return, Tehran would gain recognition as an indispensable interlocutor. It might also seek Saudi concessions on diplomatic, economic, or regional questions, creating an exchange in which each government trades assets and influence the other cannot easily replace elsewhere.

The danger is that such an arrangement could become transactional rather than stabilising. If Iran's value depends partly on its ability to moderate threats associated with its partners, insecurity itself becomes a source of bargaining power. A durable understanding would therefore require verifiable restraint, reliable communication, and consequences for violations rather than temporary calm secured through private assurances.

Security from within

Tehran's broader political message is that regional states should build security from within rather than depend on extra-regional military powers. This argument challenges the order that has governed the Gulf for decades and reflects Iran's longstanding claim that foreign bases intensify insecurity rather than contain it over time.

Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Pakistan had already signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, creating a framework for mutual assistance, military co-operation, intelligence sharing, and joint planning. Their subsequent engagement with Iran did not bring Tehran into that pact. It instead created an interface between an emerging defence grouping and a power outside that pact.

These governments may be testing an additional channel rather than choosing between Washington and Tehran. Saudi Arabia remains tied to American military support, Turkiye remains in Nato, and Pakistan retains relationships with the United States, China, and Gulf monarchies. Regional dialogue may nevertheless expand their freedom to manoeuvre by preventing any single power from controlling all diplomatic options.

This regionalism permits selective co-operation without requiring governments to resolve their deeper disagreements. Saudi Arabia and Iran could coordinate over Yemen while remaining competitors elsewhere. Iranian officials also called for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the West Bank, southern Lebanon, and southern Syria. That position sharpens Tehran's message but should not automatically be attributed equally to every visiting delegation without corroboration.

Such rhetoric may appeal to governments facing public anger over regional warfare and Israeli military operations. It lets Tehran frame opposition to Israel and foreign intervention as a broader regional demand rather than an exclusively Iranian position. The meeting shows willingness to discuss that argument but not necessarily agreement on its implications or remedies.

The Russian connection

Pezeshkian's journey to Moscow immediately after the Tehran meeting added another dimension. The visit was formally linked to the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, but his talks with Vladimir Putin also covered Middle Eastern tensions, energy co-operation, trade, and regional diplomacy. The timing highlighted Tehran's pursuit of regional dialogue alongside strategic co-ordination with Russia.

Yet the Russian partnership has limits. Moscow and Tehran co-operate where their interests align, but their strategic treaty does not create an automatic mutual-defence obligation. Russia also maintains ties with Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates. The emerging structure therefore resembles overlapping partnerships more than a disciplined anti-American alliance system.

What would make the initiative credible?

The Tehran meeting should therefore be treated as consequential signaling, not proof of completed realignment. The participants agreed to continue dialogue, but no new four-state treaty emerged. The first test will be whether they establish regular consultations, working groups, military communications, or crisis procedures that can survive another confrontation amid renewed regional warfare and mistrust.

The second test will be Yemen. A measurable reduction in attacks on Saudi territory and shipping, accompanied by progress in Saudi-Houthi negotiations, would suggest that Tehran is both willing and able to use its influence for de-escalation. Washington's response will also matter because it may either reinforce existing alliances or cautiously tolerate regional dialogue for stability.

Finally, the durability of Saudi participation will be decisive. Riyadh is unlikely to trade American protection for Iranian assurances, but it may use dialogue with Tehran to diversify options and reduce threats. For now, this is not a new alliance. It tests whether regional coordination can become a durable security architecture.

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

War, midterms and the transition in between



By Kristian Coates Ulrichsen

Exactly two months separate the midterm elections on November 3, 2026, from the convening of the 120th United States Congress on January 3, 2027. The outcome of the vote for 35 of the 100 Senate seats plus all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, as well as gubernatorial elections in 39 states and other elections at state and local level, will shape the final two years of Donald Trump's second presidency.

After two years of a Republican 'trifecta' which saw the party control the White House and both chambers of Congress, a period of divided government may ensue, just as happened at this stage of Trump's first term in 2018.

The US is distinct from many other democratic settings in that political transitions unfold over a defined period of many weeks. In 1933, the Twentieth Amendment to the US Constitution set January 3 as the beginning of the Congressional term and January 20 as the start of the presidential term, moving both dates forward from the previous date of March 4.

This gives a transition period of about eight weeks for outgoing and incoming members of Congress and ten for presidents.

By contrast, in the United Kingdom, a prime minister who loses a general election leaves office the next day, and staff at 10 Downing Street assemble to 'clap out' the departing premier and then welcome in their successor within the hour. The sight of moving vans driving into Downing Street is a perennial feature of British political life.

This extended timeline has given rise to the concept of a 'lame-duck' session whereby the outgoing Congress continues to meet before its successor's term begins. Many of these lame-duck sessions have largely focused on approving federal funding packages, defence appropriations, or judicial nominations, while others have been mostly pro forma in which very little substantive business is concluded.

On occasions where a party faces the imminent loss of control of one or both chambers, it may seek to sign legislation into law, as happened during the lame-duck session of the 111th Congress in 2010-11. This time around, Congress must, at a minimum, agree a stopgap funding measure by 11 December to keep the federal government open and avoid a fourth shutdown in Trump's second term so far.

However, the lame-duck period this year is overshadowed by the threat of renewed war with Iran, as President Trump has repeatedly threatened to resume hostilities in the aftermath of the midterm elections, and media reports have spoken of plans for a 'short, intense' military campaign that would ostensibly target nuclear and energy infrastructure.

It may be that such rhetoric is part of the administration's ratcheting up of pressure on Tehran as the US seeks to compel the Iranian leadership to accept a deal very much on Washington's terms. However, it could also be the case that, should Trump face the prospect of the Democrats taking control of either or both House and Senate in January, he feels that the lame-duck session offers one last opportunity to strike Iran without any significant domestic constraint.

Whichever is the case, Iranian officials appear disinclined to make concessions that would cross their 'red lines' over issues such as the right to enrich uranium as part of a civil nuclear

programme. Amid a collapse of trust on both sides and a mutual conviction that the other party is negotiating in bad faith, the possibility of an escalatory spiral, whether intentional or not, is very real.

It is against this backdrop that mediators are racing to identify a framework for negotiations that could de-escalate tensions and form the basis for an eventual deal that would be more durable than the memorandum of understanding signed in June. The fact that Vice-President JD Vance sent a letter to Mohsen Rezaei, the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, reportedly suggesting the revival of negotiations, also suggests that there could be a divergence of view within the Trump administration as to the optimal way forward.

The unique style of President Trump's thought process and decision-making style makes it difficult to try and second-guess what he may say or do, and that adds a further layer of uncertainty to what is already an extremely unpredictable and volatile standoff.

For regional states, the stakes are high as they risk being caught in the middle once again, and incoming members of Congress will not be able to assert themselves until they take office in January. Getting through the next two months without any major incidents is therefore a priority, even if it seems an unlikely prospect given the sharp recent rise in threats and counterthreats.

There is also no playbook or recent precedent for a president or an administration which may choose to act in ways that do not appear rational to most dispassionate observers. If the Republicans lose the midterm elections it will be in part due to the public perception that the impact of the Iran war and associated economic and energy disruption has contributed to price rises and cost of living increases, thereby exacerbating the widespread concerns about affordability that did so much to propel Trump back into the White House in 2024.

It would thus seem perverse for the president to double down on a failing strategy in the aftermath of a political rebuke from the electorate, particularly as doing so might further damage Republican support as the party begins to move into an inevitable post-Trump era.

Perhaps the closest analogy is that of 2006, when the Democrats regained both the Senate and the House and President George W Bush responded by sacking Donald Rumsfeld, his Secretary of Defence associated with the faltering conduct of military operations in Iraq but then went against the recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group for a phased military drawdown and opted instead to increase the US presence. Against expectations, the surge did contribute to a reduction of violence in Iraq, but that calculated risk looks safe when compared to today's situation with Iran.

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



Former US President Barack Obama greets Democratic Senator Jon Ossoff next to Democratic gubernatorial nominee Keisha Lance Bottoms at a rally ahead of the midterm elections in Morrow, Georgia. (**Reuters**)

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Over 770 arrests made in France protests: ministry

More than 770 people were arrested during weekend protests in France, the interior ministry said in a statement yesterday, a day after hundreds of thousands had demonstrated in several French cities against soaring cost of living and inequality. The protests were joined by students.
The ministry said there had been "no major incidents" late on Saturday, adding that 779 people were arrested nationwide. (**AFP**)

German ministers vow tough response to Frankfurt riots, looting

Reuters
Frankfurt/Peissenberg

German ministers threatened tough penalties for looters and rioters who damaged stores and injured more than 100 police officers in Frankfurt overnight, while praising security forces for preventing wider violence.

Frankfurt emerged as the main flashpoint on Saturday after tens of thousands of people rallied in dozens of German cities to demand better education and lower living costs in protests organised by campaign group "Gen Z regelt" - "Gen Z takes charge".

In the financial hub Frankfurt, hooded rioters damaged 17 stores, of which five were looted, Roman Poseck, interior minister of the state of Hesse, told a press conference yesterday.

He said police deployed 1,300 officers, with more than 100 injured in clashes. Police arrested 54 people aged between 13 and 29.

"I am shocked by what I have seen, and there is no point in sugar-coating it. Let me make this very clear: Things cannot go on like this," Poseck said.

Poseck said most of those arrested were German nationals, adding that many of those involved in the disturbances were of an immigrant background, citing information from the police.

"Police currently estimate that they are dealing with between 1,000 and 1,500 violent troublemakers, predominantly from an immigrant background," he added.

Frankfurt police reported violent disturbances including windows being smashed and petrol bombs, rocks and bottles being thrown at the emergency services.

German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt, a member of the conservative Christian Social Union, said perpetrators would be identified and held to account.

"I expect there to be severe penalties. We are not prepared to accept, in the slightest, that such incidents and such rioting should take place here," he told reporters yesterday.

He accused "troublemakers from the immigrant community" of acting alongside left-wing extremists and other far-left groups, but did not provide evidence to support the claim or say which groups had joined the demonstrations. Dobrindt said a policing strategy based on a large security presence and deployments across multiple locations had proved effective.

In France, protests continued largely peacefully for a third weekend after extensive riots and looting on October 17 damaged shops, public buildings and businesses. Dobrindt said that border controls had been tightened ahead of the protests out of fear extremist groups from abroad could exploit them to stir riots.

New Russian strikes leave thousands without power

Reuters
Kyiv

Russian strikes left hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian households without power on Sunday, President Volodymyr Zelensky said, while Russian authorities reported major damage to an industrial site following Ukrainian drone attacks on Nizhny Novgorod region.

Even as a six-day local ceasefire held on its final day around the Russian-controlled Ukrainian town of Oleshky, there was no letup in fighting elsewhere along the front line and both sides kept up long-range air attacks.

Zelensky said Russia had hit power infrastructure in four Ukrainian regions, cutting electricity to hundreds of thousands of households. "The intensity of the strikes is very high, and the Russians are seeking to maximally exploit the deficit of ballistic missile interceptors," he posted.

He said Ukraine, meanwhile, had hit the Kamensky plant in Russia's Rostov region, which he said was involved in the manufacture of Russian missiles.

The governor of Ternopil region in western Ukraine, Taras Pastukh, said a Russian attack on infrastructure in a town in the region had knocked out power to localities. Emergency crews were working to restore it.

Moscow did not comment on the reported Ukrainian attack in Rostov. In Nizhny Novgorod region, however, Governor Gleb Nikitin said a large-scale overnight Ukrainian drone attack caused "significant damage" to an industrial facility.

He did not identify the site that was hit. The region is home to the NORSI oil refinery, one of Russia's largest.

Overall, Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces had downed 235 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions overnight.

Ukraine's air force said it had shot down 371 of 433 long-range drones launched by Russia since Saturday evening. In its morning update, the air force said dozens of Russian drones were still in the air as of yesterday morning. Six separate drone alerts had been issued in Kyiv since midnight.

Nizhny Novgorod's regional government did not identify the facility that was struck, but it said it was taking steps to ensure gas stations were supplied with fuel, urging motorists to "buy fuel only as needed and avoid panic buying," Interfax reported.

The warning suggests the damaged facility may have been linked to the region's oil-refining or fuel-supply infrastructure. Kyiv did not immediately claim responsibility for the Nizhny Novgorod attack.

On Friday, Russia said Ukraine had resumed strikes on its oil refineries and accused Kyiv of ignoring a request from US President Donald Trump to stop such attacks, which Trump has blamed for raising the cost of diesel before US midterm elections next week.

Ukraine says it supports a full ceasefire on energy targets, including its own battered power grid, but that Moscow is unwilling to agree to this.

In an interview with state TV channel Vesti yesterday, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, who oversees the energy sector, did not mention the Nizhny Novgorod strike, but said Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries were adding to global fuel market imbalances and affecting prices.

Divided Bulgaria votes in tense presidential runoff

AFP
Sofia

Bulgarians voted yesterday in a presidential runoff between two candidates with contrasting visions on the war in Ukraine, following a series of drone attacks on commercial vessels in the Black Sea.

The race pits President Iliana Iotova, who favours dialogue with Moscow and opposes military aid to Ukraine, against Andrey Gyurov, a banker and former caretaker prime minister backed by the pro-Western opposition, in the race for the largely ceremonial post.

Iotova won 35% of the vote in the first round last week, with Gyurov on 32% — a much narrower gap than the 20-point lead for Iotova predicted by opinion polls.

The first round recorded turnout of 23%, and election officials were expecting higher participation in the runoff.

Political analyst Teodor Slavev told AFP that voters were giving their verdict on "Iotova's unconvincing response regarding Russian threats in the Black Sea".

Several vessels were struck in the Black Sea off Bulgaria in October, leaving 21 people missing, in suspected spillover from the Russia-Ukraine war.

While centre-left Prime Minister Rumen Radev has said the attacks appeared to serve Russian interests and summoned the Russian ambassador, his government insists there is so far no evidence directly linking them to Moscow.


Bulgaria's incumbent President and Presidential candidate Iliana Iotova casts a ballot receipt to vote in Sofia. (**AFP**)


A man votes at a polling station during the second round of the presidential election, in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. (**Reuters**)

At a polling station in Sofia, 64-year-old teacher Krassimira Kostova said she voted despite dissatisfaction with both candidates.

"I don't like either of the two candidates, but I don't like the return of communism we've been seeing in recent years either. That's why I came to vote," she said.

Petar Doitchinov, a 67-year-old retired engineer, said he had skipped the first round because he expected a runoff. He said he voted for "the lesser evil", as neither candidate matched his "vision of democracy".

In rainy, windy weather across much of the country, turnout stood at 6.1% at 11:00am local time, compared with 5.8% at the same time in the first round, according to the Bulgarian electoral commission.

Polls opened at 7:00am and will close at 8:00pm, with exit polls shortly after that expected to give an indication of the winner.

After voting in Sofia, Iotova, 62, said she wanted "Bulgaria to be strong in a strong Europe" and remaining "sovereign in its decisions".

A longtime ally of Radev, she supports Bulgaria's EU and Nato membership while arguing that peace in Ukraine can be achieved only through negotiations.

Gyurov, 50, said after voting in Blagoevgrad that he had voted for a "secure, stable and European Bulgaria".

In a television debate before the runoff, Gyurov criticised Iotova for not explicitly blaming Russia for the Black Sea attacks.

"Russia must stop its aggression so that the next steps can be taken," said Gyurov, a former deputy governor of the Bulgarian National Bank.

Iotova maintained that "peace can come only through negotiations".

Radev has also argued that a ceasefire and peace talks offer the best chance of preventing further attacks on commercial shipping in the Black Sea.

He has presented Iotova as a pair of "safe hands".

A former journalist and member of the European Parliament, Iotova was elected vice-president alongside Radev in 2016 and 2021.

She took over as president this year when Radev stepped down to run in parliamentary elections.

If successful in the runoff, she would become the first woman president in the country of 6.4mn people.

Historically close to Russia, Bulgaria remains deeply divided over its relationship with Moscow.

Russia arrests minor after US warns of planned attack

Russian police have arrested a minor in connection with an alleged plot to attack Moscow, Russian news agencies reported yesterday, after Russia received a tip-off from the US about "a threat of a mass casualty event... at the Tsaritsyno Museum Reserve in Moscow".

Yesterday, Russia's FSB security service said it had arrested a minor who had posted photos of himself on TikTok wearing a balaclava, cap and goggles and holding what resembled an automatic weapon.

The unidentified male, who the FSB said was a Russian citizen, had shared photos taken at the Tsaritsyno museum reserve along with the caption: "I found a place" and was allegedly subscribed to a "neo-Nazi" Telegram channel.

The FSB did not name the male in question.

"We are grateful to the American side for the information provided," the FSB was quoted as saying yesterday.

The Tsaritsyno museum is an imperial palace and park complex in southern Moscow popular with residents and tourists. (**AFP**)

Serbians mark railway disaster that led to protests

Tens of thousands of people gathered at a Serbian railway station yesterday to mark the anniversary of a deadly roof collapse that gave rise to the protest movement that toppled longtime President Aleksandar Vucic in an election a week ago.
Crowds converged from across the city of Novi Sad on the main train station, where the concrete awning crashed down shortly before noon on November 1, 2024, killing 16 people. Mourners observed 16 minutes of silence before laying wreaths, flowers and candles near the site.
"On a personal, emotional, and social level, I hope for a collective healing," said Zorana Sijan Oborina, a student supporter. The disaster, which struck at a station renovated under a China-backed high-speed rail project, ignited Serbia's massive nationwide anti-corruption protest movement, culminating in last week's election victory by a student-led bloc. Protesters saw the collapse as symptomatic of corruption under Vucic. The protests forced resignations, including that of the construction minister, a government reshuffle and eventually snap elections.
Prosecutors indicted 13 people over the collapse, but pretrial proceedings have stalled. The defendants denied any wrongdoing. "I hope we have finally realised that we shouldn't wait... years to change what is bad, especially when it costs human lives," said Jelena Trajkovic, 32, an academic from Novi Sad.
On October 25, the Student List, a group that includes academics, professionals, farmers, actors and activists chosen by student assemblies, secured 141 seats in the 250-member parliament. (**Reuters**)

France launches 'attempted murder' probe after petrol bomb attacks

AFP
Paris

France yesterday launched an attempted murder probe after petrol bombs were thrown at security forces during Paris protests, as footage of an officer in flames sparked outrage.

On Saturday, clashes erupted in Paris and other cities after hundreds of thousands of people staged a third weekend of protests against soaring living costs.

The Paris police prefecture said that several hundred rioters had attacked security forces with projectiles, including a Molotov cocktail. While riots were less widespread than two weeks ago, when France experienced some of its worst unrest in years, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said on Saturday that the level of violence perpetrated by some was "extraordinary".

Dramatic images, including AFP photos and video, showed a homemade incendiary device exploding at the feet of a security officer in protective gear, engulfing his lower body in flames.

Prosecutors that said an investigation had been opened for "attempted murder of persons vested with public authority". "Explosive devices were thrown at around 15 gendarmes as well as police officers," the prosecutor's office said.

Gendarmes are military police officers who are part of the French armed forces. An assessment of the injured was ongoing, prosecutors said, injuries included second-degree burns.

Portuguese police clash with housing protesters, arrest 13

AFP
Lisbon



Portuguese housing activists hold a banner as they march during a protest in Lisbon. (**Reuters**)

Riot police with dogs stormed protest camps in Lisbon and Porto early yesterday, charging at demonstrators with batons, arresting 13 people and leaving dozens injured in the latest confrontation over Portugal's housing crisis.

Clashes quickly broke out as dozens of officers moved in on an encampment in Lisbon's Rossio Square and a smaller camp in Porto's Dom Joao I Square at around 4:30am.

Protesters shouted "Smells like a dictatorship", while police said some hurled bottles, fireworks and paint at officers as officers tried to take down the tents.

Police said in a statement that six people were arrested in Lisbon and seven in Porto for refusing orders to disperse. It said 13 police officers were injured in the process, with eight taken to hospital.

In Porto, police said three plain-clothes officers monitoring the protesters were assaulted after being spotted by a group.

One of the officers displayed his firearm as a deterrent, police said.

An unspecified number of civilians were also injured during the operation, which was carried out "with rigour, balance and respect for citizens' rights", the police statement said. Porto protest organisers said 38 people were injured, including three seriously, while Lisbon organisers reported more than 30 injured.

Activist group Acampada Lisboa called a fresh rally in the capital yesterday at 5:00pm to protest against the police operation.

"We will not be silenced," it said in a statement posted on social media, alongside photographs of protesters with bruises or bleeding from injuries it blamed on "police violence".

Some protesters carried red carnations, a symbol of Portugal's 1974 revolution, evoking the peaceful military-led uprising that ended nearly five decades of dictatorship.

Police said they seized 69 tents in Lisbon and 30 in Porto.

The camps had been set up late Saturday after peaceful marches through the two cities against soaring housing costs.

Officers have repeatedly dismantled encampments that have sprung up across Lisbon and Porto in recent weeks.

After police cleared protest camps in the two cities last weekend, Amnesty International said it was "deeply concerned by the excessive and disproportionate use of force by police".

A lawyer representing protesters at Lisbon's housing camps, Ricardo Sa Fernandes, said yesterday he would file a criminal complaint against Interior Minister Luis Neves and the national police chief for abuse of power.

"This is a dark night in the history of Portuguese democracy. This is absolutely intolerable and has crossed all limits," he told reporters outside a police station in Lisbon where some of the detained protestors were taken.

Neves has defended the police response to the protests, insisting that the encampments must end and warning that officers will use force when necessary to restore public order. "I feel deep sadness about what happened again last night. Nobody takes any pleasure in seeing this outcome," he said yesterday.

Protesters want the minority centre-right government to abandon plans to ease evictions and remove rent caps on new leases, warning the measures would push up housing costs and leave tenants more vulnerable.

Prime Minister Luis Montenegro has acknowledged that property prices have doubled in a decade, but blames the crisis on previous left-wing governments for failing to build enough homes and pursuing what he calls an overly permissive migration policy.

Portuguese protesters have taken inspiration from a similar movement in neighbouring Spain, where tents have stood in central Madrid and other cities for weeks.

QATAR





HE the Chairperson of Qatar Museums, Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, at the opening of Fables in Fashion 2026 exhibition at the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ). The exhibition runs until Nov 28.

A journey into the world of Wahy Al-Qalam at NMoQ



QNA
Doha

HE the Chairperson of Qatar Museums, Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, opened the exhibition Fables in Fashion 2026 at the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), in the presence of HE the Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library, Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari.

Presented by Qatar Reads, an initiative of Qatar National Library dedicated to fostering a culture of reading across Qatar, the multidisciplinary exhibition translates Wahy Al-Qalam, a major work of literature by Egyptian writer and poet Mustafa Sadiq al-Rafi'i (1880-1937) into contemporary fashion and visual art. Held in collaboration with NMoQ, with the Ministry of Culture as strategic partner, the exhibition is on view in Temporary Gallery 1 of the museum until 28 November 2026.

As part of Qatar Reads' One Book, One Doha 2026-2027, a community-wide campaign built around the shared exploration of a single literary work over a two-year cycle, the 5th edition of Fables in Fashion extends the campaign beyond the page.

Across essays, stories, and reflections, Wahy Al-Qalam explores questions of identity, society, morality, spirituality, relationships, and emotion-themes rooted in their historical and cultural context that nevertheless continue to resonate with audiences today. Fables in Fashion 2026 brings together seven fashion designers and 30 visual artists, each of whom developed an original response to the book. Fashion designers translated literary inspiration through silhouette, textile, embroidery, construction, material, colour, and symbolism, while visual artists interpreted the text through painting, textile art, illustration, mixed media, and other artistic approaches. Participating designers and artists include Ahmed al-Zahed, Amna al-Misned, Wadha al-Athba, Ghada al-Suwaidi, Aliya al-Obaidly, and Abdulla al-Fakhroo. Rather than illustrating the text literally, Fables in Fashion treats literature as a starting point for contemporary artists, where a passage becomes a garment, an emotion becomes a painting, and a century-old idea is reinterpreted through the perspective of a modern lens. Artists may respond to an entire essay, a particular passage, an image, or a broader theme, demonstrating how one literary source can generate an array of creative responses while maintaining a clear connection to the original text.

The multidisciplinary exhibition at National Museum of Qatar translates Wahy Al-Qalam, a major work of literature by Egyptian writer and poet Mustafa Sadiq al-Rafi'i (1880-1937), into contemporary fashion and visual art

Drawing inspiration from early 20th-century Egypt and the cultural atmosphere of the Arab Nahda, the exhibition unfolds as an immersive journey across three interconnected environments that reflect al-Rafi'i's inner world and upbringing, the literary salons he frequented, and the streets of Tanta, where he was raised. The collaboration with the National Museum of Qatar places Fables in Fashion within one of the country's leading cultural destinations, creating a meeting point between literature, heritage, and contemporary creative practice, and offering audiences a new way to understand Wahy Al-Qalam.

HE Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Hamad al-Thani, Director of the National Museum of Qatar, said: "Fables in Fashion reflects the National Museum of Qatar's commitment to being a place where stories are told, shared, and reimagined. By welcoming this exhibition into our galleries, we are pleased to offer visitors an experience where literature, heritage, and contemporary design meet, inviting new audiences to discover Wahy Al-Qalam by Mustafa Sadiq Al-Rafi'i, and the creative dialogue it continues to inspire across generations."

Tan Huism, Executive Director of Qatar National Library, said: "At Qatar National Library, we believe that reading does not end when a book is closed. It continues in the conversations, ideas, and creative work it inspires. Fables in Fashion embodies this belief by inviting the community to encounter Wahy Al-Qalam through new eyes, affirming the enduring relevance of Arabic literary heritage. Through One Book, One Doha, and in collaboration with the National Museum of Qatar, we are proud to open new pathways for the public to engage with reading and with the rich legacy of Arabic literature."

Fatema al-Malki, Manager of Qatar Reads, said: "With Fables in Fashion, we asked designers and artists a simple question: what happens when literature becomes the starting point for contemporary creativity Their answers are remarkably diverse, yet each remains rooted in Al-Rafi'i's words.

"We hope visitors, especially younger audiences, will leave the exhibition curious about the ideas behind the works they have seen and, most importantly, eager to read the book that inspired them. We are grateful to the National Museum of Qatar for hosting the exhibition and partnering with us on this experience, to the Ministry of Culture as our strategic partner, and to the designers and artists whose work has given Al-Rafi'i's words new life."

Fables in Fashion 2026 is open to the public at the National Museum of Qatar, Temporary Gallery 1, until Nov 28, 2026. Visitors are invited to experience the exhibition and to continue the journey by discovering Wahy Al-Qalam for themselves.

