

GULF TIMES

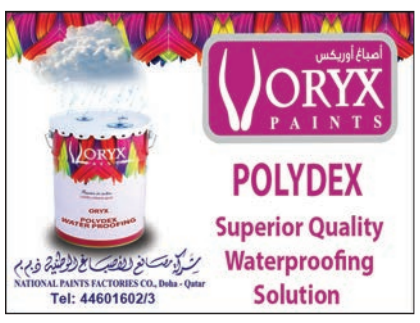
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US voters set for midterm verdict

Americans voted yesterday in a midterm election seen as a nationwide referendum on Donald Trump that could wrest control of Congress from his Republican Party and impose major restraints on the remaining two years of his presidency. **To Page 8**

Mediator Qatar eyes 'glimmer of hope'

By Sara Eljack
Staff Reporter

Qatar sees a "glimmer of hope" in its mediation between the United States and Iran even as escalation continues across the region. Adviser to the Prime Minister and Spokesperson for Ministry of Foreign Affairs HE Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari said both sides remain committed to the negotiating process and are reviewing the proposals on the table, though no specific breakthrough has been reached.

Speaking at the ministry's weekly media briefing yesterday, al-Ansari said a mediator cannot afford to lose hope, pointing to ongoing developments in communications between the parties. Mediators are exchanging proposals in real time, he said, and both sides are weighing the ideas put forward within different contexts.

The Qatari delegation travelled to Tehran on Monday, its third visit in a week. The talks lasted around three hours, during which the two sides exchanged views on several proposals under consideration before the delegation returned to Doha that evening. Al-Ansari described the meetings as positive, while stressing that building trust requires concrete steps and measures.

Qatar is working toward a preliminary agreement that would pave the way for implementing mutual commitments. Guarantees, he said, will be discussed once an agreement is reached. **To Page 8**

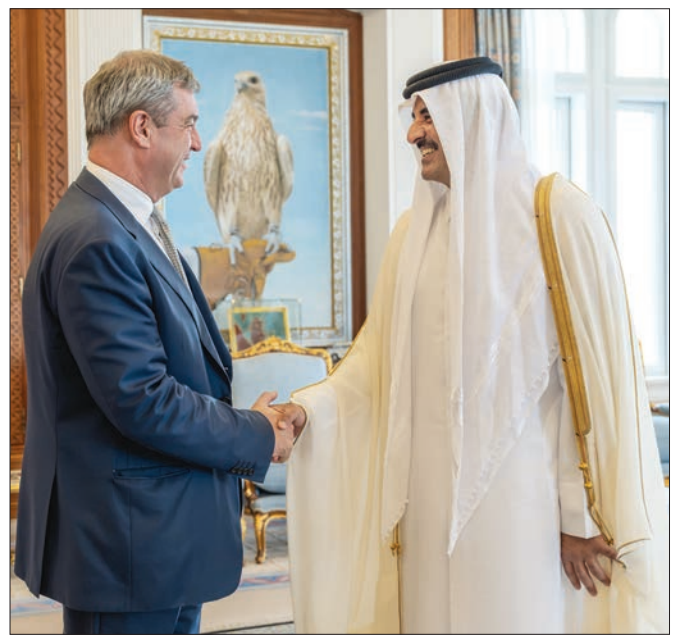
Qatar sees tourism surge

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

Qatar's doors swung wide in 2026, with 2.95mn visitors streaming through its land, air and sea gateways in the first ten months of the year, and October gave the momentum a decisive shove. Data released by Qatar Tourism shows arrivals rose 21.7% in October to 336,000, up from 276,000 in September.

The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) remains the anchor of that flow. Visitors from member states made up 39.9% of the total, or 1.176mn arrivals, the largest share of any market between January and October. **To Page 8**

Amir, Bavaria minister-president hold talks



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at his office at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with Minister-President of the State of Bavaria in the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Markus Soder and his accompanying delegation during their visit to the country.

They discussed bilateral co-operation, particularly in the fields of defence, security, economy, technology and innovation as well as investment opportunities of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, along with a number of Their Excellencies Ministers and senior officials.

Also attending were several members of the official delegation accompanying the Minister-President of Bavaria. (**QNA**)

PM underscores diplomacy in peace push

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has stressed Qatar's support for every diplomatic effort aimed at ensuring freedom of maritime navigation and paving the way for a comprehensive agreement that delivers sustainable peace in the region.

In a call with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah al-Saud, they discussed co-operation between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and ways to strengthen it, along with the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts and joint co-ordination to de-escalate tensions and bolster security and stability.

The prime minister also spoke with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty discussing bilateral co-operation and ways to deepen it. They also reviewed regional developments, focusing on diplomatic efforts and joint co-ordination to ease tensions and promote security and stability, and the prime minister reiterated Qatar's backing for initiatives on freedom of navigation. Turkiye's Foreign Minister, Hakan Fidan joined a call with the prime minister covering bilateral ties and how to build on them. They also discussed the regional situation with the same emphasis on de-escalation and security.

Separately, the prime minister discussed relations between Qatar and the European Union with the EU's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas and how to strengthen them. They reviewed the latest regional developments, including diplomatic efforts and joint co-ordination to ease tensions, and the prime minister restated Qatar's support for a comprehensive, sustainable peace.



QATAR

PM meets minister-president of Bavaria



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held talks yesterday with the Minister-President of the State of Bavaria in the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Markus Soder, who is visiting the State of Qatar.
The talks focused bilateral co-operation and explored opportunities to expand the partnership, particularly in investment and economic development.
Discussions also covered prospects for collaboration in advanced technologies, artificial intelligence and defence manufacturing, alongside a number of other issues of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

Amir sends congratulations to president of Panama

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Panama Jose Raul Mulino on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. (**QNA**)

Amir sends congratulations to president of Dominica

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to the President of the Commonwealth of Dominica Sylvanie Burton on the occasion of her country's Independence Day.
HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister and Minister for Investment and Governance of the Commonwealth of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. (QNA)

Environment minister meets Dutch ambassador



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie met yesterday with the ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the State of Qatar Ferdinand Lahnstein. During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen co-operation between the two countries in environmental protection and climate change, as well as a range of matters of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

Municipality minister meets Swiss ambassador



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met the ambassador of Switzerland to the State of Qatar Florence Tinguely Mattli yesterday to discuss bilateral relations and opportunities to enhance co-operation. The meeting covered areas of collaboration between the two countries, with a focus on issues of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

Al-Muraikhi meets Cyprus ambassador



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with the ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the State of Qatar Elpidoforos A Economou. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries. (**QNA**)

Al-Khulaifi holds phone talks with Venezuela FM

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi held a phone call yesterday with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Venezuela Oliver Blanco.
The two officials discussed bilateral relations and explored ways to support and expand cooperation, in addition to exchanging views on recent developments across Latin America. During the call, HE al-Khulaifi reaffirmed Qatar's support for all efforts aimed at promoting security and stability in the region. (**QNA**)

Al-Muraikhi receives copy of credentials of Sierra Leone's ambassador

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi received yesterday a copy of the credentials of the ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the State of Qatar, Professor Foday M Jaward. HE al-Muraikhi wished the ambassador success in his duties, emphasising his utmost support to enhance bilateral relations and foster closer co-operation in various fields. (**QNA**)



UN strongly condemns Qatar LNG carrier attack

The United Nations (UN) has strongly condemned the attack on the Qatari liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier, stressing that all parties concerned must ensure freedom of navigation to and from the Strait of Hormuz.
Speaking at his daily press briefing, UN Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Stephane Dujarric said the Secretariat was deeply concerned about the growing number of attacks on commercial vessels. He stressed that such attacks violate international law, further undermine freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and drive up the prices of essential commodities, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable populations, who are least able to bear the additional costs. (**QNA**)

Qatar leads midterm evaluation of Alecso Action Plan

A committee chaired by the State of Qatar has completed the first comprehensive midterm evaluation of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Alecso) 2023-2028 Action Plan, proposing improvements for its remaining period under an initiative titled "Towards Sustainable Progress".
Established in May 2025, the committee held nine meetings over 11 months, with the participation of 11 Arab countries, to review implementation and recommend ways to strengthen the plan's objectives and programmes. The evaluation assessed progress against targets, proposed improvements for 2027-2028 and laid the groundwork for the next strategic plan, promoting evidence-based planning and institutional development. Its methodology included document reviews, gap analysis, lessons learned and measurable performance indicators.
Key recommendations included launching preparations for Alecso's 2029-2034 Action Plan, led by the organisation, with support from a specialised non-profit academic or research institution and experts from member states.
The new plan should draw on the evaluation findings and input from Arab national committees.
Alecso Executive Council Vice-President and committee chairman Ali al-Maarafi said the initiative reflected the conviction that strategic plans require continuous implementation monitoring, impact assessment and improvement, not merely approval.
The committee reviewed reference documents, assessed the outcomes of the first phase (2023-2024) and available data for the second phase (2025-2026), and proposed practical improvements for the third phase (2027-2028), alongside preparations for the 2029-2034 plan.
Al-Maarafi described the work as a model of joint Arab action, demonstrating member states' commitment to improving planning, monitoring and evaluation in line with institutional best practices and maximising the impact of Alecso's programmes.
He thanked the participating member states, Alecso's General Administration, Arab national committees and all those who supported the committee's work, praising the cooperation that produced consensus-based recommendations. (**QNA**)

Qatar attends Arab transport ministers council session



The State of Qatar participated in the 39th Session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport, held yesterday at the headquarters of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) in Alexandria, Egypt, and attended by the minsters of transport and heads of delegations.

HE the Minister of Transport Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Thani represented the State of Qatar at the meeting.

The meeting discussed several topics relating to enhancing ground, maritime, and air transportation ecosystem among Arab states.

Key agenda items discussed included the Arab Agreement to Regulate Passenger Land Transport between and across the Arab States, the Arab Agreement for the Regulation of Road Transport of Passengers and Goods between Arab States, the electronic portal as the designated online gate for land transportation information across Arab countries, a draft agreement on regulating maritime transportation of passengers and goods between Arab States, the developing of a comprehensive Arab maritime transportation agreement, and the technical committee for rail and guided transportation.

The meeting also addressed developing a unified Arab strategy for road safety, a Morocco proposal to draft an Arab strategy for digital transformation in the transportation industry aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, streamlining services, and ensuring transparency and traceability within supply chains, and ways to support the Palestinian economy and put into effect the strategic plan for sectoral development in Jerusalem.

Furthermore, the meeting addressed the topic of standardising dimensions and axle-load specifications for trucks operating between Arab countries - a move intended to enhance the seamless flow of ground transportation across the region - as well as the protocol for the transporting of HAZMATs, the Arab Program for Reducing Marine Disasters, the impact of geopolitical developments on supply chains within the Arab region, and cooperation with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), in addition to mechanisms for coordinating joint Arab efforts to modernise ports and shipping fleets in alignment with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) standards for green transition and decarbonisation. (**QNA**)

Minister meets Algerian, Palestinian counterparts

HE the Minister of Transport, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Thani, held yesterday meetings with the Minister of Transport of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Kamel Beldjoud and the Minister of Transport and Communications of Palestine, Assem Salem. Held at the headquarters of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Alexandria, the meetings took place on the sidelines of the ٣٩th session of the Council of Arab Transport Ministers. The meetings focused on bilateral co-operation between the State of Qatar, Algeria, and Palestine in the transport and communications sectors and discussed ways to further strengthen and develop these relations. The ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, Salem bin Mubarak al-Shafi attended both meetings. (**QNA**)



Qatar, Mozambique hold political consultations



A round of political consultations between the foreign ministries of the State of Qatar and the Republic of Mozambique was held in Maputo yesterday.
The Qatari delegation was headed by HE Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi, while the Mozambican side was headed by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Mozambican Communities Abroad Maria de Fatima Simao.The consultations discussed bilateral co-operation and ways to support and strengthen it. (**QNA**)





Safari Thattukada serves up authentic Kerala flavours

Safari Hypermarket, one of Doha's leading hypermarket chains, has launched its Thattukada (Street Food) promotion in the Bakery and Hot Food section, featuring traditional Kerala flavours, from November 1. Zainul Abideen, deputy chairman and managing director of Safari Group, inaugurated the promotion at Safari Mall, Abu Hamour. Other Safari management representatives were also present.

Preserving the authenticity of traditional Kerala flavours and reviving nostalgic memories, the Thattukada Festival in Safari's Bakery and Hot Food section offers tea and snacks such as parippuvada, ilayada, uzhunnuvada, pazham pori, ulli vada, sukhiyan and vechu cake. The menu also features Kunjan Kozhikkoottu, fried quail, pepper-coated chicken, karimeen pollichathu, navarasa kozhi, kozhi vellulli kizhi, egg and potato curry, tapioca with sardine curry, fried anchovies, charcoal-grilled quail, jackfruit seed and raw mango curry, charcoal-grilled goat leg, bone and tapioca, dry-roasted prawns, beef tripe pepper fry, tapioca with chicken parts, spicy clam roast, ghee-roasted chicken, thattukada chicken biryani and chicken roasted in banana leaf. In all, more than 75 dishes have been prepared to bring back the flavours of cherished memories.

In addition to the Safari Bakery and Hot Food section, a traditional Thattukada has also been set up in the food court at Safari Mall, Abu Hamour. The setting recreates the atmosphere of authentic roadside eateries, with vintage film posters and old radio songs. Following the overwhelming customer response to the Thattukada promotions in previous years, this year's edition has once again been organised on a grand scale, featuring dishes from Thattukadas across all districts of Kerala. The promotion will be available at Safari Mall, Abu Hamour, Safari Hypermarkets Al Khor and Barwa Village.



Qatar Aeronautical Academy opens its doors to international students



(**From left**) Khalid al-Janahi and Abdulla Akhayareen.

By Shaima Sheriff
Doha

Qatar Aeronautical Academy is seeking to broaden access to aviation training by welcoming international applicants and simplifying admissions, while preparing students for careers across Qatar and the wider region.

The academy is encouraging students from different backgrounds to consider aviation careers, with opportunities for training, guidance and potential sponsorship support, according to Hassa al-Hajri of the academy's Foundation Administration. Al-Hajri said the institution offers five main areas of study: pilot training, engineering, air traffic control, meteorology and operations management.

"Our aim is to have students who have passion towards aviation, start with us, finish, and be the future for our country, whether it is international or in GCC," she said.

Addressing the perception that aviation education in Qatar is primarily intended for Qatari nationals, al-Hajri stressed that the academy welcomes applicants of all nationalities.

"Our doors are open for all students from all ages, all internationals," she said, adding that the academy welcomes those coming from other countries to gain aviation knowledge.

She said the application process had also been made easier, with prospective students able to visit the academy or apply online by completing the required documents.

The academy is also seeking to support students through potential partnerships with companies that may offer sponsorships, helping them pursue their studies and work towards their career goals after completing their training. For students interested in becoming pilots, the programme combines classroom-based learning with practical flying experience.

Khalid al-Janahi, a cadet pilot enrolled in the academy's training programme, said his experience included two main components: the theoretical phase and flight school.

Asked about the admission process, he described it as straightforward, saying: "Everything was easy thanks to the academy."

Fellow cadet pilot Abdulla Akhayareen said the academic demands were among the main challenges he had encountered during his training, but that consistent effort had helped him manage them. "Actually, the challenging part was only the studying part, but everything by working became easy," he said.

Akhayareen said the course takes approximately two years, after which he hopes to graduate and become a pilot. Al-Hajri said the academy guides students towards the qualifications and licences relevant to their chosen fields, while directing them to the appropriate programme representatives for details of the credentials they receive upon graduation.

As aviation continues to offer career opportunities across the region, the academy's emphasis on accessibility, practical training and industry support highlights its aim of developing students into future aviation professionals.

Huawei and Axora Sign Strategic MOU to Accelerate Digital Transformation in Qatar AEC Sector



Doha, Qatar – October 28, 2026 : Huawei Technologies Qatar and Axora Technologies & Engineering signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at Huawei's Qatar office to accelerate digital transformation across the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) sector, in support of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The partnership focuses on three core domains:

- **Smart Construction:** Combining Huawei's ICT Technologies with IoT and AI solutions co-developed with Axora Technologies & Engineering to enable smarter, safer, more energy-efficient and cost-controlled construction projects.
- **Digital Twins:** Integrating Intelligent Building Information Modeling (BIM) models with real-time operational data to enable 3D simulation, risk monitoring, and Middle East climate-adaptive energy modeling across the building lifecycle.
- **Smart Facility Management:** Deploying AI-driven predictive maintenance to reduce downtime, extend asset lifespans, and optimize energy consumption in line with Qatar's green building objectives.

Steven Zhang, Deputy CEO of Huawei Qatar, stated:

"Building on years of close collaboration, this strategic partnership with Axora marks a new chapter in expanding our depth and breadth in AEC digitalization. Together, we are confident in shaping a bright, intelligent future for the industry."

[Mohammed Nasser A S Al Emadi], Chairman of Axora Technologies & Engineering, added:

"We are thrilled to partner with Huawei. By integrating cutting-edge ICT with our engineering expertise across digital, smart, and green domains, we aim to deliver efficient, low-carbon benchmark projects for Qatar."

QATAR

CRA launches updated Qatar Domains Registry policies to strengthen security and trust


Ali al-Suwaidi

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) announced the launch of updated Qatar Domains Registry policies, which took effect on October 22, 2026, alongside the new domain registry system.

The policies aim to enhance the security and reliability of Qatar's national domain names (.qa) and (.), streamline registration and management procedures, and provide greater flexibility and clarity for individuals, businesses, and government entities in Qatar.

Key updates include extending the maximum domain name registration period from five to ten years, giving domain holders greater flexibility in managing their domain names. The policies also regulate registration, renewal, transfer, and recovery procedures, clarify domain holders' rights and responsibilities, and strengthen the protection of their registration information. In addition, the updates introduce clearer eligibility requirements to help reduce domain name misuse, identity impersonation, and phishing attempts.

Ali al-Suwaidi, Technical Affairs Department director at CRA, said: "Through these updates, we aim to provide a safer and more reliable digital environment for individuals and businesses, while simplifying the management of national domain names to better meet their needs. The updated policies also contribute to the sustainability of Internet infrastructure and support the growth of Qatar's digital economy, in line with the objectives of the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030."

The updated Qatar Domains Registry policies are available on CRA's website at:

https://www.cra.gov.qa/regulatory-framework/domain-management/qatar-domains-registry-policies


The conference featured a session titled "Integration between the Judiciary and Arbitration: From Judicial Oversight to Supporting the Arbitral Process". **PICTURE**: Thajudheen

Legal experts highlight integration between judiciary and arbitration

By Sara Eljack

The growing co-operation between courts and arbitration institutions has reshaped the dispute resolution landscape, with the judiciary increasingly supporting the arbitration process beyond its traditional supervisory function, HE Dr Masoud bin Mohammed al-Amri, former president of Qatar's Supreme Judicial Council and former Minister of Justice, has said.

He was speaking at the first session of the 6th World Conference on International Arbitration, organised by the Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) at Qatar Chamber, Fairmont Doha, yesterday. The conference coincided with the centre's 20th anniversary.

Held under the theme "ADR in a Changing World: From Judicial Oversight to AI", the conference featured a session titled "Integration between the Judiciary and Arbitration: From Judicial Oversight to Supporting the Arbitral Process".

Dr al-Amri explained that although arbitration is an independent process based on agreements between parties, it still relies on the judiciary for legal and procedural support. This includes taking urgent protective measures, assisting with certain procedures, and recognising and enforcing arbitration awards.

He stressed that effective judicial support depends not only on making the right decisions but also on how quickly those decisions are made. Delays in issuing urgent measures, he noted, could make them ineffective even when they are legally justified.

Dr al-Amri also highlighted developments in Qatar's digital judicial system, including the Qatar International Court, the Supreme Judicial Council's expansion of electronic services, and the establishment of the Investment and Trade Court.

He said the shift towards digital services, which accelerated during the Covid-19 pandemic, had made it easier to submit documents, exchange legal papers and attend hearings remotely. These improvements, he added, raise questions about whether arbitration will continue to offer the same advantages in terms of speed and cost as judicial proceedings become more efficient.

He also addressed the challenges posed by artificial intelligence, particularly in verifying digital evidence and assessing the reliability of information generated by new technologies. He stressed that technology should support legal work rather than replace human judgement and responsibility.

Dr al-Amri called for greater specialisation among judges dealing with arbitration matters, joint training programmes for judges, arbitrators and lawyers, and closer monitoring of the time taken to provide judicial assistance and enforce arbitration awards.

Meanwhile, Judge Dr Mubarak bin Nasser al-Hajri, Vice-President of Qatar's Court of Cassation and a QICCA arbitrator, presented judicial figures covering approximately 200 arbitration-related cases, including 57 applications to set aside arbitration awards. Of these, four resulted in awards being set aside.

Dr al-Hajri explained that Qatar's Arbitration Law No 2 of 2017 limits judicial intervention in arbitration proceedings, while allowing the judiciary to ensure that basic legal requirements and public policy are respected.

He said Qatar's judiciary does not reopen disputes or reassess evidence when considering applications to set aside arbitration awards. Instead, judges examine whether the legal grounds for challenging an award have been met.

He added that the judiciary also plays an important role in recognising and enforcing arbitration awards, with the power to intervene in specific circumstances set out under the law, including cases involving public policy or disputes that cannot legally be resolved through arbitration.

Sheikh Dr Thani bin Ali al-Thani, Vice-Chairman of QICCA's Board of Directors, said QICCA had signed an agreement with Lusail University for an academic master's programme in arbitration.

He said the programme took three years to develop and had received approval from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Sheikh Dr Thani also highlighted QICCA's role in resolving several disputes connected to major FIFA World Cup projects through mediation, noting that reaching agreements outside formal proceedings can help businesses maintain their commercial relationships.

He explained that in some cases, parties begin discussing a settlement shortly after submitting an arbitration request, underscoring the importance of mediation alongside formal arbitration proceedings.

He also referred to QICCA's updated arbitration rules, which came into effect in January 2025 and introduced procedures including emergency arbitration and expedited arbitration to help resolve disputes more efficiently.

Sheikh Dr Thani discussed the Qatari judiciary's role in resolving disagreements over arbitrators' fees, particularly in cases conducted outside arbitration institutions. He said judges had, in some instances, referred to QICCA's rules when assessing fees and related costs.

He also cited a ruling by the Paris Court of Appeal on the centre's decisions on appointing and replacing arbitrators, describing it as an important development for QICCA's international standing.

Speaking about international developments, Judge Nabil Omran, head of the Commissioners' Office at the Dubai Court of Cassation and Vice-President of the Egyptian Court of Cassation, said arbitration had become an important part of the global economy, particularly in international business and investment.

He stressed that effective arbitration institutions, supported by a judiciary with the necessary legal expertise, can help create a more reliable environment for resolving commercial disputes.

Omran said arbitration systems across the Gulf were continuing to develop in response to changes in international business, technology and investment.

He warned that the growing use of digital arbitration brings new risks, particularly in cybersecurity, handling electronic evidence, and protecting sensitive commercial and financial information.

He referred to a case heard by the Dubai Court of Cassation involving the validity of an arbitration agreement signed electronically, noting that such cases require judges to understand the technologies used in arbitration proceedings.

Omran also raised concerns about using artificial intelligence to prepare legal documents, including the risk of generating inaccurate legal references or citing judicial decisions that do not exist.

He said AI could assist legal professionals but should not replace independent legal judgement or the responsibility of judges and arbitrators to verify the information before them.

He further highlighted challenges arising from international economic sanctions and third-party funding of arbitration cases, particularly when determining financial responsibilities and enforcing awards across different jurisdictions.

Omran said judges, arbitrators, and legal professionals need to keep pace with technological and legal developments.

Doha Golf Club
Qatar

INVITATION TO TENDER

Doha Golf Club ("DGC") is pleased to announce the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender Title	Tender Bond (QAR)	Tender Fee (QAR)	Last Date to Issue RFP	Tender Closing Date	Email Address
DGC/TC/26/009	Provide Housekeeping Service to Doha Golf Club	3% of Commercial proposal value	QAR 1000	16 Nov 2026	19 November 2026	tender@dohagolfclub.com

DGC is keen to invite reputable companies to Tender for Managing House Keeping Services to Doha Golf Club.

Who should respond to this invitation?

Local companies that have experience and expertise in Hospitality Industry in state of Qatar.

Tender Process:

- Applicants/s should register and submit their Expression of Interest letter, along with accompanying copy of valid Commercial Registration and Computer Card by email to the relevant email address listed in the table above.
- Upon receipt, the applicant/s will receive an email with attached Confidentiality Agreement (CA).
- The Applicant/s should then pay the non-refundable tender fee to below DGC Bank Account.

  DOHA GOLF CLUB
  Bank: Commercial Bank of Qatar
  Account No.: 4580-583247-004
  IBAN: QA24CBQA000000004580583247004
- Applicants will return a completed CA and Tender fee payment slip with bank stamp to DGC by email to the relevant email address, and submit a hard copy of the CA (in 2 copies) and Tender fee payment slip to the address below:

  DOHA GOLF CLUB
  West Bay Lagoon
  P.O. Box 13530, Doha, Qatar
- Upon Receipt of a conformant CA and proof of payment of the tender fee, the applicant will be issued a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) through the appointed aforementioned address.
- Requests for RFP documents after ***16 Nov 2026*** *will* be rejected.
- The decision to issue RFP documents to an applicant rests solely with DGC.
- Technical and Commercial Offers should be submitted by hand in separate sealed envelopes with two (2) copies of each to Doha Gulf Club as per the above mail address.
- Tender Bond must be in a separate envelope with the offer.
- Any queries in relation to this tender should be addressed in writing to the email address above.

قطر ستيل
QATAR STEEL

Qatar Steel Tender Committee is pleased to announce the following tender:

Tender description	Tender No.
Sales and Disposal of Lime Calcination Plant (LCP) By-products Qatar Steel invites companies interested to buy the Lime By-products to participate in this tender. **Brief Scope of Work:** Qatar steel intends to sell the following by-products generated from its Lime Plant operation:	SLS/LCP/TD/01/2026

N°	Product name	Est. Qnty (MT)
1	Undersize limestone	16,000
2	Undersize Dolostone	21,750
3	Pulverized Limestone	150
4	Lime Fines	4,700
5	Dololime fines	10,850
6	Hydrated lime fines	8,775
	TOTAL	62,225

Bids for partial quantities are accepted; however the minimum quantity shall be 5,000 MT.
All other terms and conditions would be in the Tender document.

11 November 2026	Last date to express interest
16 November 2026	Date of issue of tender
30 November 2026	Date for Submission of bid

Interested companies are requested to send the following details to our email:
sales_marketing@qatarsteel.com.qa
1- Tender number and title
2- Confirm the email to which tender to be issued

Qatar Steel shall issue Tender document through email on the "Date of issue" (mentioned above).

For queries, you may contact Sales, Qatar Steel Co., telephone number +974 44576690

www.qatarsteel.com.qa

Qatar-Korea seminar on air quality monitoring

Assistant Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) Youssef al-Hamar stressed the importance of strengthening co-operation and exchanging expertise between Qatar and Republic of Korea in air quality monitoring, and leveraging modern technologies and innovative solutions to develop environmental monitoring and control systems in support of sustainable development in both countries.

He made the remarks at the opening of the Qatar-Korea Seminar on Air Quality Monitoring, attended by the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the State of Qatar Hong Jinwook, representatives of Korean environmental institutions and companies, Earthna Center for a Sustainable Future, Qatar University, and environmental specialists.

Al-Hamar said the seminar builds on the close friendship and cooperation between the two countries and offers an opportunity to exchange knowledge and expertise and explore new avenues for technical cooperation in air quality, helping develop innovative solutions to shared environmental challenges.

He noted that Qatar has made environmental protection and sustainable development national priorities under Qatar National Vision 2030. **(QNA)**

SVN
SVN Real Estate, CR No. 143841, Doha, State of Qatar

INVITATION FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS

ACQUISITION OF CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
LUSAIL BOULEVARD – DOHA, QATAR

SVN invites qualified companies, institutions, and investors to submit competitive purchase offers for **Building C12**, a completed freehold commercial property strategically located on Lusail Boulevard, near Lusail Towers, within Qatar's emerging financial and business district.

The property offers an opportunity for organizations seeking to establish a prestigious corporate headquarters with office accommodation, retail facilities, and dedicated parking.

PROPERTY SPECIFICATIONS

Description	Details
Property	Building Name: C12
Location	Lusail Boulevard, Fox Hills
Ownership	Freehold
Land Area	2,440 sqm
Total Built-Up Area	13,626 sqm
Net Leasable Area	5,332.59 sqm
Office Accommodation	25 office units across 5 floors
Retail Accommodation	4 commercial units
Parking	Approximately 125 spaces
Configuration	3 Basements + Ground + Mezzanine + 5 Floors + Roof

COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS

Interested parties are invited to submit their best purchase offers for the **entire building**. Detailed property information, independent valuation, existing tenancy details, and site inspections will be made available to qualified bidders upon request.

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 25th NOVEMBER 2026

Offers should include the **proposed purchase price, payment terms, evidence of financial capability, and anticipated completion date**.

The seller reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or negotiate directly with selected bidders. Completion is subject to applicable approvals, existing property rights, mortgage release, and definitive agreements.

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Culture Minister honours writers in ceremony

Members of literary community recognised for their contribution at an event organised by Qatari Forum for Authors

HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, yesterday recognised a pantheon of writers and authors during an annual ceremony organised by the Qatari Forum for Authors, which also saw the launch of a package of new cultural projects and events aimed at supporting authors, nurturing literary talent, developing services provided to members, and fostering a culture of reading and knowledge across society.

Upholding the motto that a pen elevates its bearer, the ceremony honoured the writers in recognition of their incredible efforts and contributions to enriching the Forum's path and promoting its cultural action, reflecting their belief in the crucial role thought and literature undertake in building society and advancing the national cultural theatre.

HE Sheikh Abdulrahman honoured writers Saleh Gharib, Rawda al-Hammadi, Rawda al-Amri, Aisha al-Muftah, Aisha al-Henzab, Nora al-Marri, Badriya Hamad, Shamma Shaheen al-Kuwari, Dhuha al-Malki al-Juhani, Rawda al-Nuaimi, and Hassan Abdulrazzaq al-Sayed.

Forum Director Iman al-Kaabi spoke with Qatar News Agency (QNA) about the theme of the event, highlighting that the pen is a cherished tool that enhances awareness and thought. She affirmed the axiom that culture is a bedrock of nations' advancement and progress, recalling that the record turnout of Forum members from different generations at the ceremony suggests their commitment to elevating Qatar's cultural theatre.

Regarding the foremost initiatives and projects the Forum will undertake to advance the cultural landscape, al-Kaabi asserted that they include launching the cultural corner events, which aim to make culture accessible to everyone through agreements with multiple cultural cafes nationwide to distribute cultural publications at those venues, as one of the means of encouraging reading among cafe patrons.

Al-Kaabi further pointed to the launch of the second seeds of knowledge initiative, a major cultural project that will bring new writers on board, enabling researchers to turn their academic research and studies into cultural publications targeting broader segments of readers.

This edition follows its forerunner, which yielded six printed books, al-Kaabi said, adding that it strives to move beyond the confines of academic specialisation and make research findings and studies accessible to the wider community, thereby contributing to enriching Qatari and Arab libraries, strengthening the circulation of knowledge, and maximising the benefits derived from it.

Al-Kaabi explained that the Forum's new projects include launching its website, ensuring that members remain in constant touch with its activities and initiatives while facilitating more effective access to its services. These efforts, she noted, also include launching an online blog, a distinctive platform dedicated to publishing members' creative works, intellectual and critical articles, cultural reviews, and introducing their publications.

This will contribute to enriching digital cultural content, documenting literary and intellectual output, and making it accessible to a broader audience of readers and those interested in cultural affairs, she pointed out.

On the impact of these initiatives on elevating Qatar's cultural theatre, al-Kaabi stressed that considerable attention is being devoted to advancing and developing the cultural scene through initiatives and projects that serve writers and readers alike. She noted that there is a strong commitment to enriching the cultural arena with new writers and authors, thereby further enriching Qatar's cultural scene.

The Director said the new initiatives form part of a combined vision that places authors at the heart of the Forum's priorities, responds to their needs and aspirations, and unlocks broader prospects for creativity, publishing, and engagement with readers. She suggested that listening to homegrown writers and authors and engaging with their proposals constitute a fundamental starting point for developing the Forum's work and strengthening its cultural impact.

She explained that the new projects and events are not isolated initiatives, but rather interconnected components of a comprehensive vision that places writers at the centre of the Forum's priorities, supports them in developing their literary experience, celebrates their output, and opens doors to publishing, dialogue, and wider outreach.

Al-Kaabi underscored the paramount importance of authors continuing to contribute their proposals and initiatives to developing the Forum's mission and strengthening its cultural impact.

Overall, the Forum's new events include a writer's birth, celebrating emerging authors and first-time publications; a window onto a publication, showcasing new releases and engaging readers in their ideas; a glimpse into world literature, introducing diverse literary experiences; and mashareb, strengthening ties among authors and fostering the exchange of cultural experiences.

The programme also features monthly panel discussions on various cultural issues, alongside in the balance of thought, which examines literary, intellectual, and research publications with critics, academics, and specialists. **(QNA)**

Podar Pearl School retains prestigious Qatar 1+ honour for second consecutive year



Podar Pearl School has been named Qatar's 1+ School in the Education World Global School Rankings 2026–2027 for the second consecutive year, recognising its quality teaching, effective leadership, and holistic student development.

School president C Muhamed Nizar received the award on behalf of the school at the ceremony in Delhi on October 23, where school leaders and educationists discussed the future of school leadership, the responsible use of AI in learning, regular reading and the role of teachers.

Receiving recognition at an international platform is a moment of pride for the school's management, leadership, teachers, students and parents. The school's planned new campus in Al Mansoura, Doha, marks another milestone in its growth, reaffirming its commitment to educational excellence and to nurturing confident, capable and responsible global citizens.

The new campus follows the signing of the land allocation agreement by Nizar with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education assistant undersecretary for Private Education Affairs, Omar Abdulaziz al-Nuaimi, in the presence of HE Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, Minister of Education and Higher Education; HE Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Engineer Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Meer, president of the Public Works Authority (Ashghal); and other senior officials.

After the official signing, Nizar was joined for the commemorative event and photo session by vice presidents Dr Steffy Rachel Sam and Pranav Pradeep, and Board of Directors members Dr Mohamed Althaf, Shamna Althaf, Sam Mathew, Asharaf Madathil and Anwar P P.

"This dual milestone is a testament to a shared vision: that excellence in education is built on trust, sustained effort and an unwavering commitment to every learner," said Nizar. "We are deeply grateful to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for entrusting us with the opportunity to extend that vision to Al Mansoura."



As many 26 long-serving employees from various departments and professional disciplines were reognised by the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) for completing 15 years of service with the QFMA .

QFMA staffers lauded for dedicated service

The Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) honoured 26 long-serving employees from various departments and professional disciplines who have completed 15 years of service with the QFMA.

The ceremony recognises their valued contribution and distinguished professional achievements in advancing its institutional journey, supporting the realisation of its strategic objectives, and strengthening its regulatory and supervisory role in the Qatari capital market.

Dr Tamy bin Ahmad al-Binali, CEO of the QFMA, emphasised that the recognition reflects the QFMA's commitment to its human capital and its dedication to fostering a culture of appreciation and recognition for those who have contributed to enhancing institutional performance and embedding the values of excellence and professionalism.

He said: "Through their dedication and expertise, they have contributed to strengthening the QFMA's standing, supporting its regulatory and supervisory mandate, and advancing the institutional work environment."

"Human capital is our most valuable asset, and our workforce remains the cornerstone of success, sustainability, and institutional excellence," he also said, commending the honoured employees for their dedication, loyalty, and hard work throughout their years of service. He noted that their contributions have played a vital role in enhancing institutional performance and supporting the implementation of the QFMA's strategic plans and initiatives.

Dr al-Binali further emphasised that the achievements realised by the QFMA over the past years are the result of collective effort and the unwavering commitment of its employees, who have consistently demonstrated a high level of professionalism and dedication to advancing the QFMA's strategic objectives. Their contributions have also helped foster the development of Qatari capital market.

He underscored the QFMA's commitment to fostering a culture of appreciation and recognition for the talented professionals who have contributed to its success, affirming that this recognition serves as a token of gratitude to the honorees and as an incentive to continue striving for excellence, innovation, and the continuous enhancement of institutional performance.

Dr al-Binali congratulated the honourees, wishing them continued success in their professional careers and reaffirming the QFMA's commitment to investing in its human capital, which he described as its most valuable asset and the primary driver of its future vision and aspirations.

The ceremony, attended by the QFMA's department directors and employees, featured a presentation highlighting key milestones and achievements accomplished by the QFMA over the years, many of which were made possible through the dedicated efforts and contributions of the honoured employees.

The honourees were presented with certificates of appreciation and commemorative shields in a celebratory atmosphere that reflected the QFMA's gratitude and recognition for their years of dedicated service and commitment.

The event also included an awareness and motivational seminar for the QFMA's employees titled 'Relationship Management in the Workplace', delivered by human development and relationship-management speaker, Yasser al-Hazimi.

The seminar was organised as part of the QFMA's commitment to cultivating a positive and motivating work environment, while promoting a culture of effective communication and continuous professional development.

It provided participants with a valuable opportunity to gain practical insights and inspiring perspectives on building successful professional relationships, strengthening communication and interpersonal skills, and fostering a more collaborative, productive, and positive workplace culture.

Authorities seize over 150kg of non-compliant tobacco products during inspection campaign

In co-operation with the competent authorities, more than 150kg of non-compliant tobacco products were seized and confiscated during an inspection campaign targeting several commercial establishments. The campaign formed part of efforts to combat illicit trade in excise goods and strengthen compliance with tax legislation.

The campaign identified violations at several retail outlets, including selling tobacco products without approved tax stamps and excise goods not authorised for sale. Inspections included reviewing licences, documents and relevant records to verify compliance with the requirements governing trade in these goods.

The General Tax Authority's Anti-Tax Evasion Team took the necessary action against the establishments concerned and prepared official violation reports ahead of further legal proceedings.

The campaign forms part of ongoing enforcement efforts, including supply chain analysis and auditing, to detect violations and curb illicit trade in tobacco products, helping strengthen tax compliance and protect consumers and public health.



The Authority urged commercial establishments and importers to comply with tax laws and their executive regulations. It stressed that importers of cigarettes and other tobacco products must register on the Dhareeba platform under the Digital Tax Stamp system and ensure that products covered by the system carry valid, activated stamps before being imported or traded within the country, to avoid legal liability.

The General Tax Authority continues its awareness efforts to help taxpayers understand and fulfil their obligations, alongside monitoring and inspection activities, reinforcing a culture of voluntary compliance.

LIQUIDATION ANNOUNCEMENT "2"

Based on the Extraordinary General Assembly Resolution

To Liquidate
FALCON TRAVEL WLL (The Company)
(under Voluntary Liquidation)

The Liquidator
Linsar Karuppamveettil Shamsudheen

Kreston SVP Chartered Accountants

Announce the Liquidation of

FALCON TRAVEL WLL
Commercial Registration No. (112116)

Any party who has any claims from this Company should send a registered letter, including all supporting documents, to
P.O Box 82297, Doha – Qatar
7712 9898 or 6668 8575 or info@krestonsvp.com
Within the remaining legal period of 20 days.

QATAR

QU delivers Qatar–UK Fellowship on AI in Humanitarian Action

Qatar University (QU) has concluded the inaugural Qatar–UK Fellowship on AI in Humanitarian Action, supported and funded by the British Embassy in Doha.

The fellowship formed part of the "Strengthening AI Capacity for Humanitarian Organisations in Qatar" project, implemented by the Department of Public Health at QU's College of Health Sciences in collaboration with the British Embassy in Doha. Held over four days in London and Cambridge, the fellowship brought together leaders and representatives from government, humanitarian, and academic institutions in Qatar to exchange expertise and strengthen institutional capacity for responsible AI use in humanitarian and development work.

The fellowship was delivered under the strategic leadership of HE Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, Minister of State for International Co-operation, as part of the Qatar–UK partnership in development and humanitarian action. It underscored the importance of collaboration among academic institutions, government entities, and humanitarian organisations in developing innovative solutions to humanitarian challenges.

QU delivered the programme in collaboration with the British Embassy in Doha, bringing together scientific research, ethical guidance, and institutional engagement to lay the foundations for responsible AI adoption in Qatar's humanitarian sector. The fellowship marks a significant step forward in this endeavour, connecting these efforts with British expertise and opening new avenues for practical collaboration.

The Qatari cohort included representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Qatar Fund for Development, the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities, Qatar Charity, the Qatar Red Crescent Society, the Education Above All Foundation, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, and QU. Their participation strengthened the exchange of expertise among national institutions engaged in humanitarian and development work.

Dr Diana Maddah, assistant professor of Public Health at the College of Health Sciences and Programme Lead at QU, said: "The true value of science lies not only in generating knowledge, but in translating evidence into action that saves lives. Implementation science bridges the gap between what we know and what we do, while AI offers transformative opportunities to strengthen humanitarian response. Our ambition is to go beyond research and innovation to ensure that AI is used responsibly, ethically, and inclusively, with people at its heart, delivering tangible, meaningful impact for communities facing the greatest challenges."

British ambassador Neerav Patel said: "The fellowship on AI in humanitarian action represents a distinctive new partnership, bringing together Qatar's ambition and expertise with the United Kingdom's (UK) world-leading innovation ecosystem. It reflects the depth of the partnership between our two countries, building new connections across government, technology, research, and humanitarian action. Together, the UK and Qatar have the capacity to turn innovation into practical impact in some of the world's most challenging settings."


QU concludes the inaugural Qatar–UK Fellowship on AI in Humanitarian Action.

Dr Kwalombota Kwalombota, head of Development and Humanitarian Co-operation at the British Embassy in Doha, emphasised that the fellowship's true value lies in bringing together leading experts from Qatar and the UK to help shape approaches that can make a substantial difference to the delivery of humanitarian programmes worldwide.

The fellowship programme featured a series of meetings with government, humanitarian, academic, and technology institutions in the UK. Discussions explored AI regulatory policies, governance and ethics, and risk management, alongside practical applications of emerging technologies in humanitarian endeavours.

As part of the programme, the delegation participated in roundtable discussions with representatives from several British government and regulatory bodies, including the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade; the Met Office; the Charity Commission; the UK Health Security Agency; and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Participants exchanged expertise on regulatory frameworks, the responsible use of AI, and the challenges of adopting it within institutions.

A visit to Google was another highlight of the programme, allowing participants to explore AI applications that address humanitarian challenges.

On the academic front, the QU-led programme provided opportunities for engagement and knowledge exchange with several British universities, including the University of Oxford, Imperial College London, University College London, King's College London, the University of Manchester, and the University of Leeds.

The fellowship concluded with a visit to the University of Cambridge, where participants explored advanced research and applications in genomics, radiology, noncommunicable diseases, robotics, and AI ethics. The visit emphasised the importance of translating scientific knowledge into practical approaches that meet humanitarian needs.

The programme also included a visit to the UK House of Lords, where Lord Jeremy Purvis of Tweed hosted the delegation.

Ministry of Culture holds workshop on Qatar's 2005 Unesco report

The Ministry of Culture, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), held a three-day training workshop yesterday on preparing Qatar's national periodic report under the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

The workshop brings together around 50 representatives of government entities, private institutions and sectors involved in culture and the cultural and creative industries.

Dr Salim Dada, Algerian composer and conductor and an international expert in cultural policies overseeing the workshop, said it aims to strengthen participants' capacity to understand the 2005 Convention and its new monitoring framework, study the methodology for preparing quadrennial periodic reports, and identify the data and information required from various entities.

He stressed that the diversity of participating entities is essential to gathering the necessary information and building a comprehensive picture of Qatar's cultural policies and creative industries.

Dada said the workshop is part of Unesco's capacity-building programme for monitoring cultural policies.

He noted that the Convention's monitoring framework was revised and updated this year, introducing new objectives, areas and indicators for upcoming reports. (**QNA**)

QMC attends 105th session of Arab Media permanent committee

The Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) participated in the 105th ordinary session of the Permanent Committee for Arab Media, held today at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo, with the participation of representatives from Arab nations and relevant media organisations.

Director of the International Co-operation and Agreements Office at QMC, Abdullah Ghanem al-Mohannadi led the Corporation's delegation to the session.

During the meeting, the Qatar Media Corporation presented a paper on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into Arab media and its impact on the human workforce. This was part of the session's broader focus on utilising AI technologies within the media sector to enhance media performance and strengthen its role in supporting Arab causes.

The session addressed several topics, including the promotion of joint Arab media action, the development of the Arab media ecosystem, and keeping pace with digital and technological transformations. Discussions also covered strategies to counter rumours and misinformation, enhancing the presence of Arab media on the international stage, and addressing priority issues, primarily the Palestinian cause, as well as fostering co-operation among Arab media institutions.

The meeting of the Permanent Committee for Arab Media precedes the 56th session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers, held at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo. The session will address various draft resolutions and recommendations aimed at advancing joint Arab media co-operation.

It will also discuss the selection of Doha as the "Capital of Arab Media" for 2027, in preparation for the formal presentation of the title to the State of Qatar during a meeting scheduled for the end of this month.

The participation of the Qatar Media Corporation reflects the State of Qatar's commitment to supporting joint Arab media efforts, fostering co-operation and co-ordination among Arab media institutions, and facilitating the exchange of expertise and experience, all in line with the rapid developments within the media industry.

At the conclusion of its 55th ordinary session, held on November 26, 2025, at the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo, the Council of Arab Information Ministers decided to designate Doha as the "Capital of Arab Media" for 2027. (**QNA**)

Years of Culture celebrates creative connections at MIHAD Gallery

QNA
Doha

Years of Culture will celebrate the Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture through exhibitions and creative presentations at MIHAD Gallery, QC+'s contemporary commercial art and design gallery in Doha Design District.

Opening on Nov 5, 2026, the exhibitions form part of a wider programme spanning art, design, and culinary experiences, highlighting the role of creativity in connecting people and cultures.

The programme will also introduce audiences to creative voices from Egypt and Greece, providing a glimpse into Qatar's 2027 Year of Culture.

Years of Culture Adviser on Latin America Mohammed Jassim al-Kuwari, said: "Cultural diplomacy begins when people meet, share what matters to them and leave with a new perspective. MIHAD brings together creative voices from Qatar, the wider region and internationally. Within this broader programme, connections with our Years of Culture partner countries offer opportunities to explore shared ideas through art, design and food. We hope these encounters spark conversations and lasting connections, building on this year's exchanges with Canada and Mexico as we look ahead to Egypt and Greece in 2027."

Throughout the programme, artists and designers consider how landscapes shape identity, script carries cultural knowledge, and handmade objects preserve memory. These themes connect distinct creative practices while giving visitors an accessible starting point for encounters with the cultures of Qatar and its partner countries.

Mexican creativity will be featured in MIHAD's wider programme through ceramics by designer Perla Valtierra in the gallery's retail and collectible design selection. A culinary presentation by Panadería Rosetta, Chef Elena Reygadas's Mexico City bakery, running from Nov 5 -15, 2026, extends the exchange into food traditions, connecting the cultural year with the objects and experiences of everyday life.

The exchange between Qatar and Canada takes shape in rooted/ elsewhere, which brings together Canadian artists Joanna Johnston, Tessar Lo, and Karl Mata Hipol with Qatari artists Wadha Alathba, Amna al-Baker and Hamad AlFayhani. Working across photography, textiles, and mixed media, they explore landscape as a source of memory, identity and belonging.

Familiar plants, animals, terrain, and textures provide a shared visual language through which different personal histories and environments come into conversation.

Moving between close observation and remembered places, the exhibition considers how people carry the landscapes of home into new surroundings and how a sense of belonging can encompass more than one geography.

Johnston's atmospheric photographs draw on the Canadian Prairies and her experiences of living abroad. Philippine-born Canadian artist Hipol combines archival imagery, painting and Ilocano Abel weaving traditions to explore migration and Filipino identity within the Canadian landscape. Indonesian-born, Toronto-based artist Tessar Lo explores memory and perception through layered paintings that draw on his Asian heritage and blur the boundaries between everyday experience and imagined worlds.

Their works sit alongside the Qatari artists' reflections on local ecology, nature and the emotional associations of place.

Beyond the Letters, presented in collaboration with Design Doha Biennale and curated by Basma Hamdy and Ali Asali, explores Arabic and Persian typography through its historical, geographical, spiritual, and performative contexts. The exhibition invites visitors to encounter lettering as a visual, tactile, and spatial experience, showing how script can carry cultural knowledge and personal expression across different forms of making.

The exhibition will also feature the work of Canada-based interdisciplinary artist and researcher Arshia Sobhan, whose practice brings together calligraphy, performance and projection. Through the use of generative technologies, Sobhan transforms Arabic and Persian letter-forms into evolving digital compositions.

Building on this exploration of lettering across different mediums and cultural contexts, the exhibition also brings together a group of Egyptian artists, establishing an early connection with Qatar's forthcoming 2027 partnership. Among them is Cairo-based lettering artist and graphic designer Mariem Abutaleb, whose fabric works explore Arabic writing as both language and image. She is joined by fellow Cairo-based artists Nada Hesham, Mina Maurice, Tasneem Hozaien, Tarek Wagih Hamdy and Nora Aly, whose participation further highlights the diversity of contemporary artistic practices engaging with Arabic lettering.

Presented by Sanae Collective, Traces of the Desert Light includes Greece-based Josef Gereige, extending the programme's connections with the countries participating in Years of Culture in 2027. The exhibition explores the relationship between craftsmanship, light and architectural space, considering how illumination changes the way an object's form and surface are perceived.

Kirstin Mearns, QC+ CEO said: "MIHAD is a gallery built on a clear belief: great art and design deserve a home with a strong philosophy and purpose". Our ambition is to champion exceptional talent and the creativity that drives it, bringing together artists and designers from Qatar, the region and around the world whose work challenges, inspires and endures. This opening programme celebrates our collaboration with Years of Culture through creative voices and perspectives from across its partner countries, creating meaningful connections through art, design and culinary experiences. We are proud for MIHAD to provide a platform for these exchanges and for the relationships they can continue to build beyond the opening programme."

Launched in 2012, Years of Culture builds relationships between Qatar and partner countries through cultural, educational and creative exchanges. The presentations at MIHAD, reflect this continuing commitment, connecting the current year's partnerships with the artistic conversations taking shape ahead of 2027.

QMIC to showcase Qatar-built technologies at MWC Doha 2026

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The Qatar Mobility Innovations Centre (QMIC), a national research and innovation centre at Qatar University, will showcase four technology demonstrations at MWC Doha 2026, from November 8 to 10, at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

The showcase reflects QMIC's strategic focus on two domains: Embodied Intelligent Systems (EIS) and Smart City Systems. It highlights the centre's research and development in artificial intelligence, robotics and intelligent technologies. Developed locally in Qatar by QMIC's research and engineering talents, the technologies demonstrate local capabilities in advancing cutting-edge R&D and building intelligent systems with applications across multiple sectors.

Falcon-I is an AI-powered intelligent camera system that combines computer vision with Vision-Language Model (VLM) capabilities, enabling users to search across connected cameras and recorded footage using natural language or reference images.

Going beyond predefined alerts such as motion or person detection, Falcon-I enables users to understand and describe scenes, ask questions about footage, identify people, vehicles and objects based on their appearance and activities, and summarise activity over time.


Dr Mohammed al-Sada

Waleef is another technology to be showcased at the event. It is the first in-vehicle companion robot built on a locally developed and fine-tuned Arabic large language model, designed specifically for companionship and natural interactions in Arabic, including regional dialects. Developed in Qatar by QMIC's research and engineering teams, Waleef combines conversational intelligence with physical interaction and practical assistance.

AiN is another innovation which is a remotely operated search-and-rescue system designed to provide operators with immersive situational awareness and AI-assisted victim detection in challenging environments. The system provides live 360-degree panoramic video at 4K/8K resolution, viewed through a VR headset that lets operators look around by turning their heads without rotating the vehicle.

Finally is HUMIDEX, an automated heat-stress monitoring and management system that combines continuous, site-specific environmental monitoring with automated assessment and actionable alerts to support school safety decisions. It monitors local conditions continuously and generates warnings when predefined risk thresholds are reached. The system provides accessible on-site information through fixed displays, data visualisation and reporting, helping school leaders, facilities teams and activity supervisors assess conditions before and during outdoor activities.

QMIC will contribute to discussions on the future of smart mobility, artificial intelligence and digital innovation through industry panels and strategic engagements at MWC Doha 2026.

QMIC will moderate on November 9 a panel at the Qatar University booth titled "How AI and IoT Are Empowering Smart Mobility in Qatar," featuring representatives from Ashghal and Qatar Rail.

QMIC will also formalise two strategic partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding with Es'hailSat and Vodafone Qatar. The agreements will cover AI-powered troubleshooting and innovation, and technology and innovation collaboration, respectively.

"QMIC is advancing the development of embodied intelligence and smart city systems in Qatar. From Arabic-language conversational robotics to AI-powered visual intelligence and automated heat-stress assessment, our technologies demonstrate how locally developed research can address practical needs and contribute to the future of intelligent systems," said Dr Mohammed al-Sada, executive director of QMIC.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, SIVA MITHRAN

holder of

INDIA Passport No. V8546489
QID No. 31735603433

hereby change my name

from

SIVA MITHRAN

to

SIVA MITHRAN SUBRAMANIAN

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



QF Green Island launches Corporate Passport to advance sustainability

As Qatar Sustainability Week 2026 takes place, Qatar Foundation's (QF) Green Island has unveiled its new corporate sustainability initiative, the Green Island Corporate Passport.

The programme aims to help organisations across the country move beyond one-off environmental activities and embed long-term, measurable sustainable practices into their daily operations.

The structured, year-long programme is already underway at Green Island, a recycling hub and edutainment platform based in QF's Education City that raises awareness of environmental issues while encouraging individuals and organisations to take practical steps to reduce environmental impact and foster a culture of sustainability. Several companies have already begun their sustainability awareness sessions as the first step in their Corporate Passport journey.

The Corporate Passport can be renewed annually, bringing together four key areas of engagement: sustainability awareness, tree planting, recycling, and car-free days.

Through these interconnected activities, the initiative aims to strengthen employee participation, encourage environmentally responsible behaviour, and help organisations turn sustainability commitments into practical actions and measurable outcomes that can be built upon over time.

"Sustainability should not be a one-time activity or a commitment that ends when an event is over. Real impact comes when sustainable practices become part of how organisations operate and how employees make decisions every day," said Ouassim M Alami, strategic initiatives adviser at Qatar Foundation.

"Through the Green Island Corporate Passport, we are moving beyond isolated initiatives to build long-term partnerships that turn awareness into action, action into measurable impact, and environmental responsibility into a lasting workplace culture. Our ambition is not simply to encourage companies to participate in sustainability, but to help them make it a continuous commitment that grows stronger year after year."

To obtain the Green Island Corporate Passport certification, organisations must successfully complete all four stages.

They will then receive a certificate highlighting their participation, achievements, and quantified environmental contributions, including the estimated carbon emissions reduced through their engagement.

The programme is open to organisations across Qatar, inviting them to join a growing network committed to translating sustainability goals into tangible practices and lasting impact.

'Aviation safety must be insulated from conflicts'

QNA
Doha



Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Arab Air Carriers' Organisation (AACO) Hamad Ali al-Khater affirmed that the organisation's 59th AGM, held in Doha, comes following a period in which regional conditions have imposed significant challenges on airline operations and air traffic management.

He underscored the importance of Arab co-operation and integration to ensure the continuity of operations.

In a statement delivered on behalf of the AACO, al-Khater condemned all attacks targeting airports and civil aircraft in the region, noting that the protection of airports, civil aircraft, passengers, and personnel is a collective responsibility that allows for no selectivity or double standards.

He said that the recent period has clearly demonstrated the importance of joint action among Arab airlines, which took the initiative to co-ordinate, exchange support, and work together to find practical solutions that would help them navigate these exceptional circumstances and ensure the continuity of their operations as much as possible.

He added that these collaborative efforts among the carriers were complemented by the facilities provided by the relevant authorities in the region, which directly contributed to supporting operations and maintaining the smooth flow of air traffic, despite security and operational complexities.

The AGM Chairman underscored the AACO's firm position, saying that they must reiterate their condemnation of all attacks targeting airports and civil aircraft in our Arab region, attacks that have resulted in casualties, damage, and the disruption of air transport operations.

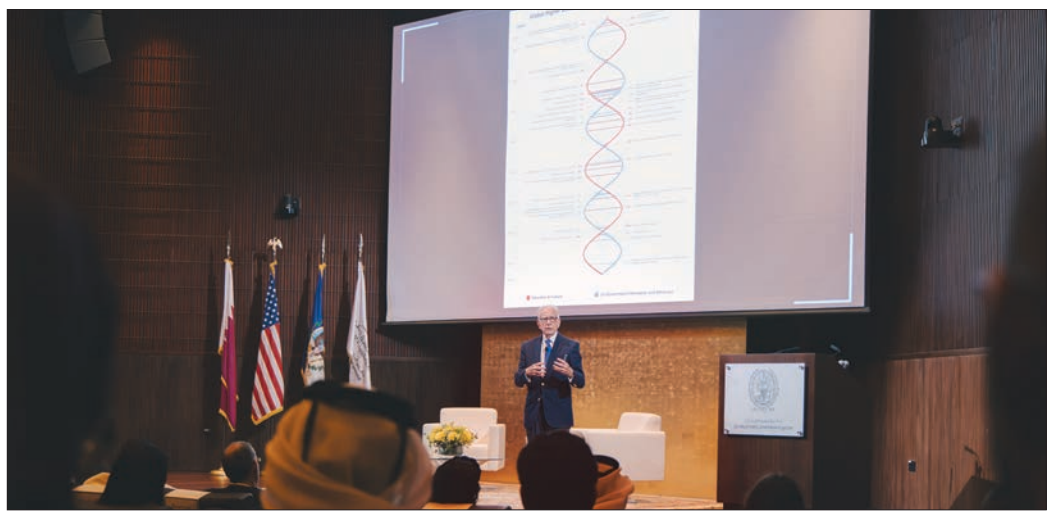
He emphasised that civil aviation and its safety must remain insulated from political conflicts and disputes, asserting that the protection of civil aviation infrastructure is not the concern of any single state, but rather a collective responsibility of the entire international community, one that cannot be addressed through double standards or selectivity, regardless of the reasons or justifications.

Despite the scale of the challenges and crises the region has faced, al-Khater expressed an outlook for the future characterised by optimism and confidence.

He noted that history has demonstrated the region's aviation sector possesses the resilience and adaptability to manage crises efficiently, even while a crisis is still unfolding, for continued growth.

The AGM Chairman noted that this flexibility has enabled the sector to provide better services to both passengers and shippers, and to continue its role as a key driver of economic development and regional and international connectivity.

International education, exchange can help build a safer world, says GU-Q's senior fellow Goodman



Allan Goodman, during his return to Qatar as a senior visiting fellow at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), noted that international education is not just about studying abroad but a vital bridge of diplomacy and human connection.

For 28 years, Goodman, the former executive dean of Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, led the Institute of International Education (IIE), overseeing foundational programmes such as Fulbright, advancing research on global student mobility and protecting scholars imperilled by conflict worldwide. His talk centred on his forthcoming book, *American Odyssey: Past, Present and Future of International Education and Exchange*, a milestone volume he partially wrote in Doha.

Tracing nearly four centuries of academic history, Goodman decoded the unique DNA of American higher education. Beginning in the 1630s with the founding of Harvard by early immigrants, universities began building independent global engagements long before the federal government regulated them.

Over time, key historical milestones, from Yung Wing becoming the first Chinese graduate of Yale in 1854 to the establishment of the Boxer Indemnity Scholarship in 1901, the creation of the Fulbright Programme in 1946 and the development of the Scholar Rescue Fund, established a powerful legacy of mutual exchange. These initiatives received funding and support through partnerships forged through international peace and reconciliation negotiations.

Reflecting on the metaphor of Homer's *Odyssey*, Goodman described how international education has continually navigated political "monsters" and isolationist "sirens." Yet he offered an optimistic outlook: Historical data shows that the flow of international scholars and students to America has consistently increased through world wars, the Cold War, global pandemics and changing political administrations. He attributed this resilience to "Zeus's law of guest hospitality," pointing to countless instances of individuals and institutions reaching out to support international students in times of need.

Among these heroes, Goodman identified more than 50 Georgetown alumni working in government on both sides of the aisle to advance international educational exchange, helping ensure that cross-border academic engagement remains resilient across generations.

'This is where international education for the 21st century is being practised every day. And it's bound to make the world a safer and better place for us all,' — senior visiting fellow at GU-Q Allan Goodman said about Education City in Doha

Looking ahead to 2030 and beyond, Goodman highlighted Doha and Education City as living examples of modern international education. Since the early 2000s, he has worked with Qatari leaders through Qatar Foundation to build a robust educational ecosystem, helping launch global initiatives such as the World Innovation Summit for Education and the Education Above All Foundation.

Goodman said Education City represents a new paradigm, offering top-tier global education in and of the world. In an era of shifting global demographics and emerging challenges, he said, "This is where international education for the 21st century is being practised every day. And it's bound to make the world a safer and better place for us all."

WCM-Q launches "Research Bites" — new initiative for pre-medical students


Dr Marco Ameduri.

Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) has launched Research Bites, a new initiative to foster a culture of research among pre-medical students and help them connect with faculty researchers, explore scientific projects and identify opportunities to participate in research.

Developed by the Pre-medical Education Division under the leadership of Dr Marco Ameduri, senior associate dean for pre-medical education and Education City collaborative curricular affairs, the initiative is being delivered in collaboration with the Research Division, with contributions from Dr Khaled Machaca, vice dean for research, innovation, and commercialisation, and Dr Nayef Mazloum, associate dean for student research. Research Bites will feature regular one-hour lunchtime sessions that bring together pre-medical students, faculty researchers and research leadership in an informal, interactive setting. Each session will include short presentations introducing ongoing research projects, discussions of potential student roles and the skills students can develop, and opportunities to connect with mentors.

The initiative will also help students navigate existing research programmes and funding opportunities, including the Student Research Mentorship Programme and the Undergraduate Research Experience Programme. Additionally, it will introduce students to the Pre-medical Research Structured Mentorship Portal, a new pathway designed to help prepare students for research and connect them with suitable projects and mentors. The inaugural session brought the initiative to life, with presentations outlining the role of research in pre-medical education, the opportunities available to students, and the practical steps to find and undertake a research project.

Dr Mohammad Yousef, professor of physics and director of pre-medical student research, opened the event by explaining Research Bites' purpose. Dr Ameduri then outlined the vision for integrating research into pre-medical education; Dr Mazloum followed, discussing existing opportunities and how students can participate. Three faculty mentors then gave short presentations on their research projects, beginning with Dr Yousef, who spoke about a project investigating molecular switches in proteins. Dr Dalia Zakaria, associate professor of biology, spoke about COVID-19 research, and Dr Ali Chaari, associate professor of biology, discussed a project testing mechanisms underlying metabolic brain disease. Two pre-medical student representatives then explained how the Research Bites platform will connect students with projects and mentors whose research interests match their own.

Katara, GPDNet to develop academic, training programmes in cultural diplomacy

QNA
Doha

The Advisory Council of Katara Public Diplomacy Centre reviewed ways to strengthen integration between the centre and the Global Public Diplomacy Network (GPDNet), identify strategic priorities for the coming phase, and establish an organisational framework for the council's work.

The proposed framework includes drafting by laws and a code of practice defining members' responsibilities and rights, as well as formulating a shared vision, mission and objectives for the centre.

The council also discussed developing academic and training programmes in cultural diplomacy, heritage management and international communication. It explored ways to draw on the expertise of institutions and academies in member countries through exchange visits, workshops and joint programmes, to use culture and the arts to foster communication among peoples.

The discussions took place during a meeting held yesterday, chaired by General Manager of the Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) and GPDNet President, Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti.

Among those who attended the meeting included Saif Saad al-Dosari, Deputy General Manager and Human Resources Director at Katara, and Maryam Majid al-Saad, Secretary-General of the Network and CEO of the centre, alongside members of the Advisory Council.

Participants proposed launching joint cultural initiatives, including an international coffee and tea festival, art exhibitions, cultural pavilions representing member countries, and events showcasing national cuisine, music and heritage. These initiatives are intended to strengthen communication among peoples and provide member countries with opportunities to showcase their cultures.



They also agreed to continue coordination and monitor the implementation of recommendations through electronic channels. A virtual meeting is scheduled to be held in about six months to assess progress and review implementation steps.

The Katara Public Diplomacy Centre is an institutional platform launched by Katara in 2021 to use culture, the arts and knowledge to foster communication among peoples, promote the concepts of public diplomacy and soft power, and implement cultural and training programmes in co-operation with embassies, institutions and specialised academies.

The centre has an advisory council comprising experts and members from within and outside the public diplomacy network. The council provides advice and proposals to develop the centre's strategy and programmes, identify future priorities, and strengthen co-operation and the exchange of expertise.

During the meeting, Dr al-Sulaiti underscored the importance of the council in strengthening institutional work and expanding co-operation in public diplomacy. He said the network members' decision to renew Katara's mandate as its chair for three consecutive terms reflected their appreciation of Qatar's efforts to support the network and develop its activities.

He noted that the establishment of the Katara Public Diplomacy Centre built on the network's experience, to preserve accumulated expertise and ensure the sustainability of its work. The centre, he said, serves as a supporting arm of the network and a complementary platform for expanding its activities and programmes.

Al-Sulaiti also reviewed the centre's activities since its establishment through 2026, which totalled approximately 35 events and programmes.

These included specialised courses in public diplomacy and soft power conducted in co-operation with diplomatic academies; training programmes in partnership with the Centre of Excellence at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies; and cultural and language events organised in co-operation with embassies, as well as art and cultural exhibitions.

Qatar Reads brings families behind the scenes of local food production at Mazzraty

Qatar Reads, an initiative of Qatar National Library, organised an educational visit to Mazzraty for families subscribed to its Family Reading Program (FRP). The trip offered children a firsthand look at local dairy and juice production and the importance of sustainable farming practices in Qatar.

Held on October 31, the visit formed part of an ongoing collaboration between Qatar Reads and Mazzraty, bringing the themes explored in the Family Reading Programme to life through an interactive experience designed to encourage curiosity, discovery, and learning beyond books.

During the visit, families were welcomed by Mazzraty's mascot before embarking on a guided bus tour introducing children to the company's integrated farming model. Families then visited the dairy processing factory and quality control laboratory, where children learned about the different stages of dairy and juice production and observed how products



are tested, packaged, and prepared for distribution. The experience also introduced children to the role of local agriculture in supporting Qatar's food security and environmental sustainability.

The visit concluded with interactive arts and crafts activities, allowing children to reflect creatively on what they discovered and reinforcing the connection between reading, observation, and hands-on learning.

Fatema al-Malki, manager at Qatar Reads, said: "Every book a child reads opens a door to the world, and through the Family Reading Programme we want children to step through it. Visiting Mazzraty brought to life the stories and themes children read about, from where their food comes from to why sustainability matters. Experiences like this spark curiosity, and curiosity is what turns children into lifelong readers and learners."

Saad Mohammed al-Mana, Board Member at Mazzraty, added: "At Mazzraty, we believe that building a sustainable future for Qatar starts with the next generation. We were pleased to welcome families from Qatar Reads and introduce young visitors to the journey behind the dairy and juice products they enjoy every day. By showcasing our production processes and sustainable farming practices, we hope to raise awareness of the importance of local agriculture and its contribution to Qatar's food security and environmental sustainability."

Through its Family Reading Programme, Qatar Reads supports families in building regular reading habits and gives children opportunities to connect what they read with everyday experiences. The visit to Mazzraty, a leading Qatari agricultural and food production company known for its integrated farm-to-table model, reflects the program's approach to complementing reading activities with educational experiences through collaborations with local organisations.

Mediator Qatar eyes 'glimmer of hope'

From Page 1

Freedom of navigation is non-negotiable, HE al-Ansari said, and Qatar rejects any threat to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and the Arabian Gulf, whether aimed at a Qatari vessel or any other. Qatar has condemned the targeting of its gas carrier Al Mayeda. Any escalation, whether through military strikes or attacks on vessels, would threaten the entire region and undermine negotiations, he warned.

Regional co-ordination is at a very high level, al-Ansari said, with leaders across the Gulf in daily contact. Each state is playing its part within a joint effort to spare the region the ravages of escalation. Qatar welcomed the steps taken by fellow Gulf nations, adding that co-ordination continues at the highest levels to end the escalation and establish a new regional security framework that guarantees stability for the region's peoples.

The Qatari-Pakistani mediation remains a priority for Doha, he reaffirmed, and any escalation in the coming period would not serve the interests of any party.

On Yemen, Qatar has clearly condemned Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, reaffirmed its support for the legitimate Yemeni government, and stood by its commitment to agreements reached under the GCC umbrella.

During his visit to Russia,



HE Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari at the MoFA press briefing yesterday. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed the regional crisis and the role Moscow could play alongside other permanent members of the UN Security Council. Energy ties were also on the agenda, including the Amir's participation in the Gas Exporting Countries Forum summit. Al-Ansari said the Amir's meeting with Iran's president is part of ongoing bilateral engagement, and that Qatar values Iran's positive role in the negotiations.

Al-Ansari also dismissed Israeli allegations that Qatar interfered in the Israeli elections as baseless, and said Doha will not accept being used as a scapegoat. He urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address his country's internal challenges rather than export its political crises abroad, adding that such campaigns would not deter Qatar's mediation on Gaza or Iran.

Iran, US still far apart on peace deal

Retuers
Dubai

Iran and the United States are still far from a deal to end their war, a senior Iranian official told Reuters yesterday, while mediator Qatar stepped up efforts to bridge differences and avert a renewed escalation after the US midterm elections.

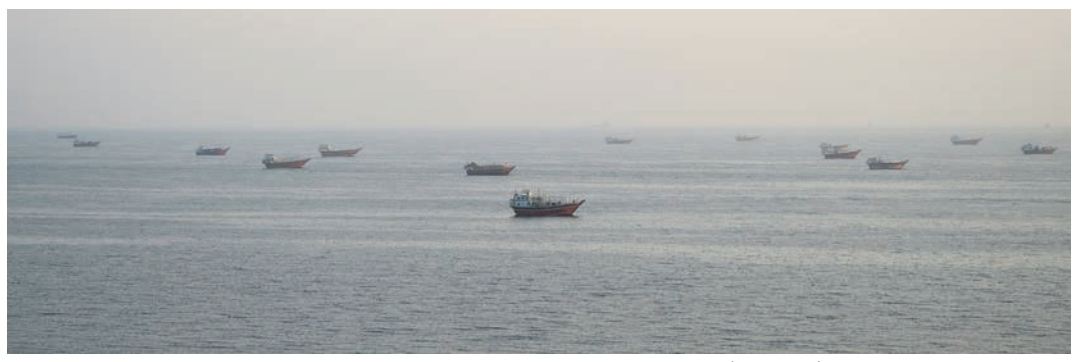
Overnight, the United States carried out "defensive" strikes on Iran's Qeshm island targeting surface-to-air missiles used against US assets, a US official said. Another official said the strikes appeared limited and did not signal a return to major combat operations.

US President Donald Trump yesterday renewed threats of possible military action, telling Fox News Channel: "I'm not looking to ... kill lots of people. If we have to, we'll have to."

Qatar has intensified mediation efforts amid fears the conflict launched by the United States and Israel in February could flare up again after yesterday's midterms.

"Mediators are working hard to narrow gaps between Tehran and Washington," the senior Iranian official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Qatari mediators travelled to Tehran on Monday night for talks on a version of a draft US-Iran deal discussed over the past eight days.

"Tehran's conditions must be met if the US wants Hormuz reopened," the Iranian official cautioned, referring to Iranian demands including waiving oil sanctions, ending the US naval blockade and releasing frozen Iranian funds.



Vessels at the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman, yesterday. (**Reuters**)

Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, later said the US response to Iranian demands "was not convincing", adding that Washington "must fully and explicitly address Iran's seven conditions and act upon them".

"Only in this case will the Strait of Hormuz be reopened," he wrote on X.

On Monday, Trump raised doubts about whether he would follow through on a threatened resumption of military strikes against Iran and said a deal with Tehran could happen.

An official briefed on the talks said feedback from Washington and Tehran was expected within the next 36 hours.

A senior Iranian official told Reuters later yesterday that there is no deadline for exchanging messages with Washington through mediators or reviewing responses.

The senior Iranian official said Tehran would not accept Washington's "excessive demands" and that nuclear talks could begin only after Iran's conditions were met.

Tehran would respond forcefully, in the region and beyond, to US strikes, the official added.

Oil prices rose about 1.3%, having dropped more than 7% the previous day on hopes diplomacy was progressing.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they downed a US MQ-9 drone and two Lucas drones in the skies near the Strait of Hormuz.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said the ball was in Washington's court after Tehran had delivered what he described as a "strong and rational response".

"The enemy seeks to force the Iranian nation into submission through threats and military action, but they are sorely mistaken; Iran will not submit," Ghalibaf said. He added that Tehran's response to any US miscalculation would be unpredictable and unconstrained by geography.

The head of Iran's armed forces general staff, Ali Abdollahi, said Iran's military was updating target lists that included US and Israeli assets and would respond immediately to any threat.

Since Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei ordered the armed forces last week to respond immediately and without "geographic limits" to any enemy threat, Iranian officials and media have increasingly raised the prospect of striking bases beyond the region used to launch attacks on Iran.

Hardline newspaper *Kayhan* said yesterday that US facilities in Britain, Italy, Greece, Romania, Albania and Cyprus could be targeted in the event of renewed war.

Alongside indirect exchanges between Tehran and Washington, regional powers are pursuing diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation. The conflict has also widened, with Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis stepping up attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said yesterday that talks with Saudi Arabia were continuing to seek new regional security arrangements that would exclude foreign military involvement.

Last week, senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Pakistan met Iranian counterparts in Tehran, the first such high-level contacts since August.

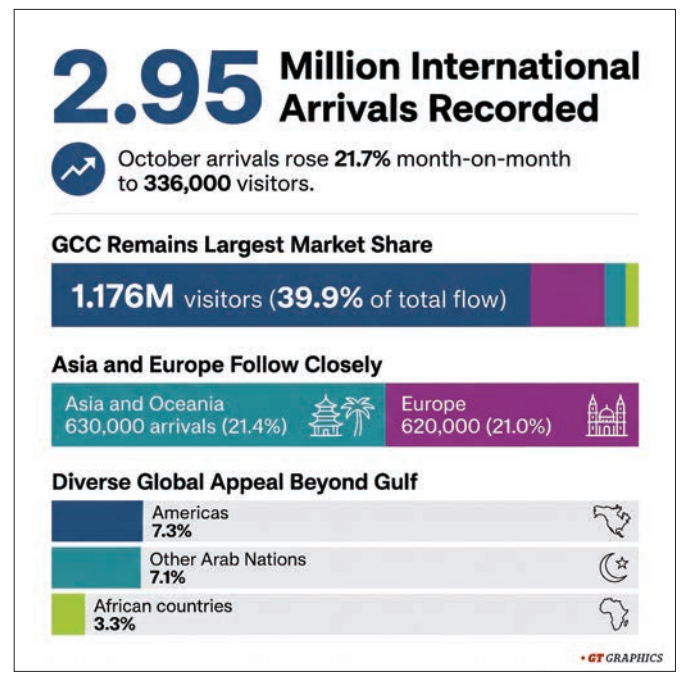
Qatar sees tourism surge

From Page 1

Asia and Oceania followed in second place with 630,000 arrivals, or 21.4% of the total, while Europe came third with 620,000 visitors, representing 21%.

Further down the table, the Americas accounted for 216,000 visitors, or 7.3%. Other Arab countries ranked fifth with 209,000 visitors, a 7.1% share while other African countries rounded out the top six with 96,000 arrivals, or roughly 3.3%.

The mix points to a destination with broad appeal, drawing as readily from neighbouring Gulf capitals as from distant markets across Asia, Europe and the Americas.



US voters set for midterm verdict

From Page 1

Polls predict the Democrats will win a majority in the House of Representatives and possibly seize the Senate on the back of voter resentment at an unpopular president, soaring energy costs and the ongoing conflict with Iran.

Republicans losing the House would give Democrats the power to stall the 80-year-old Trump's legislative agenda and launch sweeping investigations of his administration.

A Senate defeat would threaten his ability to appoint Supreme Court justices and senior officials.

Trump defended his record in a final TV phone-in pitch to voters yesterday, saying he had rebuilt the country through his immigration crackdown, war on Iran and tariff policies.

"We have to keep America great. We're great now. We were terrible two years ago," Trump told *Fox & Friends*.

All 435 House seats and 35 of the 100 Senate seats are at stake, along with governorships in 36 states. Democrats need only three House gains and a net four seats in the Senate to wrest both chambers from Republican hands.

Trump returned to office promising to bring down prices, but inflation, tariffs and fuel costs inflated by the Middle East conflict have squeezed Americans.

Republicans insist that Trump's tax cuts and anti-migrant stance will benefit voters, and they are portraying Democratic candidates as left-wing radical socialists.

But in his final public campaign appearance on Monday, Trump barely touched on the election and gave a rambling talk about his problem-plagued renovation of Washington's Reflecting Pool.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer branded it a "pathetic closing message."

Republicans currently hold a 53-47 Senate majority, but the battlefield has extended into once reliably conservative states like Kansas, Texas, Iowa, Ohio and Alaska.

Democrats must also defend competitive seats, including in Michigan, where a bitter internal dispute saw congresswoman Haley Stevens endorse Republican Mike Rogers rather than the Democratic nominee, Abdul El-Sayed.

Decision Desk HQ's final forecast projected 241 House seats for Democrats against 194 for Republicans, and a narrower 52-48 Democratic Senate majority.

More than 57mn Americans had already voted early before yesterday, indicating high engagement.

The campaign has attracted more than $11bn in political advertising, and mega-rich Trump ally Elon Musk has poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Republican efforts.

As soon as polls close, concerns will mount over whether results will be accepted by the Republicans.

The Justice Department, run by a close Trump ally, has already sued to potentially block certification of Alaska's Senate race if Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan narrowly loses, although a court ruled against the effort.

And the Supreme Court rejected on Monday an emergency bid to force California to set aside the mail-in ballots of more than 20,000 people on the grounds they may not be American citizens.

Trump, who was watching the midterms results at the White House last night, signaled that if he does lose control of Congress he has a plan to defy Democrats.

"I veto everything," he said. (**AFP**)

Aramco expanding East-West Pipeline that avoids Hormuz

Reuters
Dubai

Saudi state oil giant Aramco is working to expand a crude pipeline that circumvents the Strait of Hormuz as the world continues to experience the biggest energy supply shock in history, CEO Amin Nasser said yesterday.

The effective blockade of the chokepoint that links the Gulf to world markets, previously a conduit for 20% of global oil supplies, has redrawn global energy flows and infrastructure investment priorities among the region's oil producers.

Last month, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said the kingdom was looking to expand its capacity to export crude by pipeline to as much as 10mn barrels per day by repurposing a domestic gas pipeline and investing in its existing East-West network.

"With regard to the expansion to our East-West pipeline and the additional networks that we are building, this work has already started," Nasser told analysts on a call following the company's results yesterday.

Aramco currently has three export route options — the Gulf via the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Suez Canal.

The company, which reported a more than one-third surge in third-quarter profit on Tuesday, is doing engineering



Satellite imagery shows repairs and bypass construction of the Saudi Arabia East-West pipeline, near Al Dhekra, Al Madinah Province. (**Reuters/File Photo**)

work for export routes in addition to these, Nasser said.

The East-West pipeline, which has been attacked several times throughout the US-Iran war, has the capacity to carry up to 7mn barrels of oil a day. Nasser has previously described it as a critical lifeline.

Nasser said until final investment decisions are made, the company will not disclose details on the new export routes being worked on.

The impact of the crisis extends far beyond the energy market, Nasser said earlier in a statement to Reuters. Aramco is also exploring additional storage capacity abroad, he said.

"Higher transportation costs, fertiliser shortages, and impacts on food and consumer goods are feeding into inflationary pressures across the global economy," he said.

More than 130 attacks on tankers have been reported so far during the Iran conflict, mainly against very large crude carriers, causing freight rates to surge more than 15 times from a year ago, Nasser said. VLCCs can carry 2mn barrels of oil.

"Demand fundamentals remain strong and the world cannot afford to plan its energy future around short-term market conditions. We remain ready to rapidly ramp up production when the situation calls for it," Nasser said.

US intelligence sharing has fractured under Trump

Reuters
Washington

US intelligence sharing on Iran and other global threats with Congress and across the federal government has slowed and, in some cases, temporarily stopped during President Donald Trump's second term, according to eight current and former officials and people briefed on the matter.

Former officials and outside experts said the disruptions risk leaving policymakers with an incomplete picture of threats facing the country, echoing intelligence failures exposed after the September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda attacks. The slowdown comes as the administration weighs whether to resume strikes on Iran after the midterm elections yesterday.

The problems emerged during Tulsi Gabbard's tenure as director of national intelligence, amid deep tensions between her office and the CIA. While those tensions have subsided since her resignation in June, problems stemming from the clash persist, according to two US officials familiar with the matter.

The CIA has stopped co-authoring assessments with the National Intelligence Council (NIC), an analytical group within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the officials said, reducing the number of reports that pull together the intelligence community's views for decision-makers on subjects including Iran.

Lawmakers and their staffs also briefly stopped receiving intelligence reports from Gabbard's office in the days after the US military intervention in Iran in June 2025 and again after the capture of former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in January 2026, according to two people familiar with the matter. Gabbard's team had accused lawmakers of leaking to the press.

CIA spokesperson Liz Lyons said the CIA "participates fully" in the process of providing intelligence assessments through the Presidential Daily Brief, which is led by ODNI, and through the NIC. Now, some former officials are working on a bipartisan basis at Stanford University's Hoover Institution to draw up plans to rebuild the intelligence community in the next administration, four former US officials said.

"All of these things are adding up in a really complex world where policymakers need to have a more sophisticated, nuanced, and integrated view of the world, and they are getting less," said Beth Sanner, a former deputy director of national intelligence during Trump's first term.

The problems inside the intelligence community started last year amid significant cuts to national security agencies, including the ODNI and the CIA, as Trump moved to remove or sideline officials he viewed as disloyal.

Some analysts who remain at the intelligence agencies are now careful to not write assessments at odds with White House's views for fear of political retaliation, two former officials and a current US official said. The officials did not say which topics the analysts were avoiding.

"Analysts still do the work, but this White House has made them irrelevant because the president treats unwelcome information as disloyalty," said Julia Curlee, a former CIA analyst who said she was fired from the Trump National Security Council last year.

Syria foils Hezbollah-linked plot to bomb oil refinery

Syrian authorities said yesterday they had prevented a sabotage attempt against an important refinery by figures linked to Lebanon's Hezbollah group, which denied the accusation. The announcement comes after a series of unclaimed attacks against oil and gas pipelines across several parts of Syria.

Domestic intelligence and security forces "foiled a terrorist plot by a cell affiliated with the Hezbollah militia that was targeting the Homs refinery", the security forces said in a statement.

They said they had arrested two members of the cell and seized explosives intended for use in the attack. In a statement later, Hezbollah denied the accusations "in their entirety", condemning "the repetition of these accusations".

It reiterated that it "has no presence or connections in Syrian territory and has nothing to do with any activity that undermined Syria's security and stability".

The Homs refinery, in central Syria, is the only operational one in a country devastated by more than a decade of civil war that ended in late 2024. Another refinery, on the coast at Banias, is undergoing maintenance.

Damascus has previously announced the dismantling of cells linked to Hezbollah, which has denied the allegations each time.

Hezbollah took part in Syria's war on the side of the since-overthrown Bashar al-Assad, fighting against those now in power in Damascus. On Sunday, SANA reported a foiled plot against the refinery, while in early October Damascus reported sabotage attacks first against an oil pipeline and then a gas one.

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa and Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem have both raised the possibility of meeting each other. (**AFP**)

US to stop $4bn in aid to Israel by end of this year

Reuters
Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday said he made a deal with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Washington would stop $4bn in funding to Israel after the end of this year, but will still sell weapons to its close Middle East ally.

The announcement came on the last day of midterm elections campaigning. Trump, however, did not provide details and it was not immediately clear which funding he meant. He also did not explain how the funding would be stopped at the end of the year, given that the Memorandum of Understanding that provides $3.8bn in US military aid to Israel each year does not expire until September 2028.

Conversations have been under way on how Washington's assistance to Israel would evolve beyond that date. Trump told Fox News' "Fox & Friends" programme that Israel no longer needed the funding and that some Democrats and left-wing politicians were using the US financial support to Israel as a talking point to criticise his fellow Republicans.

"Now, as far as paying Israel, Bibi Netanyahu and I have made a deal that we give Israel $4bn a year, and we made a deal months ago that we're stopping," Trump said. "We've already agreed that by the end of this year we won't be paying Israel. Now we'll help Israel if they need it," he said.

It was unclear why Trump chose to announce yesterday a deal he said he made months ago.

Israel's future leadership is uncertain after an October 27 election in which Netanyahu — who has allied himself tightly to US Republicans — lost his governing majority but denied his opponents a clear path to unseat him. The election results paved the way for what are expected to be protracted negotiations over a new government. US public support for Israel has fallen since the Gaza war began in 2023, particularly among Democrats. A June Quinnipiac University poll found 48% of voters and 66% of Democrats believe the US is too supportive of Israel, up from 16% and 20%, respectively, when the question was first asked in 2017.

Support for Israel among Democratic voters has plummeted, candidates critical of Israel are winning Democratic primaries and even moderate lawmakers are increasingly willing to challenge decades of US support for Israel.

In a key battleground race, Democratic candidate Abdul El-Sayed is vying to represent Michigan in the Senate. El-Sayed, who would become the first Muslim to serve as a US senator, has opposed unconditional military aid to Israel, saying US funding should prioritise US citizens.

Trump said the left used the US funding as a "signal of unfairness" and that he could not allow that to happen. Underscoring the political nature of his comment, Trump specifically mentioned El-Sayed when explaining why he said Washington was stopping the money. "Because they (Israel) don't need it, and because why should we suffer the slings from lunatics like an El-Sayed when they don't need it? It's a bad, it's a bad talking point," Trump said.

US voters to deliver midterm verdict on Trump's powers

Reuters
Washington

Americans headed to the polls yesterday to deliver a verdict on the first two years of President Donald Trump's second term, with surveys and nonpartisan analysts favoring Democrats to wrest the House of Representatives from Republicans while control of the Senate remains uncertain.

The battle for the Senate is unfolding across nearly 10 closely contested statewide races, most in Republican strongholds.

History is against Trump's Republicans: the sitting president's party has lost ground in Congress in all but two midterm elections since World War Two. Trump's approval rating is hovering near his all-time lows, dragged down by deep voter frustration over the war with Iran and the resulting rise in fuel prices.

There is little doubt this year's election is all about Trump, the central US political figure for most of the last decade. Trump himself has told his supporters repeatedly to "pretend I'm on the ballot," a message Democratic leaders have happily echoed.

Trump, in a television interview yesterday morning, boasted of what he billed as his achievements in Venezuela and Iran and declared optimism for fellow Republicans in an election he has said should be treated as if he were on the ballot himself.

"I think the results are going to be better than you think," he told Fox News, adding that he would be watching the results come in later yesterday night at the White House, where he is hosting a viewing reception.


A Warren County resident fills up his fuel tank in Ohio. (**AFP**)

In remarks that appeared aimed at swaying largely Democratic-leaning voters unhappy with US support for Israel, Trump said that Washington would stop $4 bn in annual funding to Israel after the end of this year.

US policy towards Israel has been a particular focus in Michigan, where progressive Democrat Abdul El-Sayed is running a closely watched campaign for Senate. The president has sought to energise his base with more than two dozen campaign rallies since the start of October, the vast majority in states he easily won in 2024, underscoring the extent to which Republicans are playing defence.

Led by Trump, Republicans have portrayed Democratic candidates as radical, un-American and even communist.

"The Democrat Party has nominated the most extreme and dangerous slate of candidates in American history," Trump said on Monday during a speech in Washington.

But opinion polls show voters are most concerned about affordability, and disapprove of Trump's handling of the issue, after his sweeping tariff policy and his decision to attack Iran in February increased domestic costs.

Republican candidates, meanwhile, have struggled to distance themselves from a president who demands fealty and rarely acknowledges mistakes.

All 435 seats in the US House of Representatives are up for election, along with 35 of the Senate's 100 seats, though the majority of contests are not considered competitive. Democrats must flip at least three House seats and four Senate seats to win a majority in each chamber.

Democrats have little margin for error. The party must defend all of its current seats while winning at least two states that voted for Trump by a double-digit margin two years ago: Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas.

Opinion polls show Democrats either narrowly leading or within striking distance in all of those states.

The Michigan Senate contest between El-Sayed, 42, and Republican former US Representative Mike Rogers, 63, received a fresh jolt on Sunday when Democrat Haley Stevens, who narrowly lost to El-Sayed in the party's primary election, endorsed Rogers in a surprise reversal.

In addition to the implications for Senate control, the Michigan race represents a high-profile test of whether Republicans' identity-based attacks — El-Sayed would be the nation's first Muslim senator — prove effective in a battleground state.

A win for El-Sayed, who has criticised Israel and supports liberal policies such as universal healthcare, would also be seen as a boost for the party's left wing ahead of the 2028 presidential election.

Korea to double spending on AI and chips in 2027

AFP
Seoul

Republic of Korea will double spending on artificial intelligence and semiconductors in 2027 to a record high of $16bn, President Lee Jae Myung said Monday in his annual budget speech to parliament.

The country is a tech powerhouse home to Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, two of the world's three biggest makers of memory chips — computer components in huge demand. "We will allocate 21.3tn won ($16bn) to semiconductors, physical AI and AI data centres, the 'three mega-projects', as well as investment in artificial intelligence, nearly double this year's amount," Lee said.

"We will make bold investments in AI and future growth engines to boost our economy's growth potential, which is the foundation of its economic strength," said Lee. He added that the government will invest 4.7tn won to support "frontier AI development projects, with the aim of achieving world-leading performance for our own AI model, a national strategic asset."

The proposal was made in a speech outlining his government's spending plans for 2027.

Overall, the budget plan totals 821tn won, a 12.8% increase from this year, making it the largest budget proposal on record.

Lee now needs parliament to pass the budget proposal, which is likely given his party's majority.

On the defence budget, the president said his government wants to see an 8.2% increase from this year to 73.3tn won.

The government will aim to secure nuclear-powered submarines and KF-21 fighter jets, and "rapidly transform our military into a smart, elite force by establishing integrated manned and unmanned systems based on AI, robots and drones," said Lee.

French judges probe war crimes plea against Israeli army in Lebanon: lawyer

France has opened a judicial investigation into a war crimes complaint over an Israeli strike on a residential building in Lebanon in 2024, lawyer Clemence Bectarte told AFP yesterday.
French-Lebanese artist Ali Cherri, whose parents were killed in the Beirut strike, filed the complaint as a civil party last spring alongside the International Federation for Human Rights, Bectarte explained.
The crimes against humanity unit of the Paris Judicial Court has appointed two investigating judges to the case, she added, hailing the move as "a first" "For nearly two years, I have been fighting... to ensure that the Israeli bombing that killed my parents and five other civilians does not go unpunished," Cherri said of the November 2024 strike on the residential building in central Beirut. He added: "What happened to my parents is not an isolated case... I hope this investigation will help break the impunity enjoyed by Israeli officials responsible for attacks against civilians in Lebanon and Palestine." (**AFP**)

Precision killings


Palestinians surround a car that that was targeted in an Israeli strike as members of the civil defence extinguish the flames in Gaza on Monday. Israeli strikes yesterday killed at least four people in the Palestinian territory, including a member of Hamas's security service and a teenage girl. Nasser Hospital said three people were dead on arrival, and several others were wounded after an Israeli strike hit a tent sheltering displaced people west of Khan Yunis in the south. Hamas's interior ministry also said a member of its internal security service, Mohammed Shalouf, was killed in an airstrike in Al-Mawasi, west of Khan Yunis. (**AFP**)

Lahore, Delhi choke as air pollution spikes in S Asia

Reuters
New Delhi/Lahore

Air quality deteriorated sharply in parts of northern India and adjoining Pakistan yesterday, with the onset of pre-winter smog making Lahore the world's most polluted city and authorities in Delhi imposing curbs to fight the toxic haze over the capital.

Air pollution becomes a severe problem for the region around this time of the year when cold, dense air traps emissions from vehicles, construction sites and crop waste burning, pushing pollution levels to the highest in the world and exposing residents to serious respiratory risks.

Fireworks during the Hindu festival of Diwali, which falls on November 8 this year, worsen the pollution in India. Early yesterday, the air quality index (AQI) in Lahore stood at 447, according to IQAir, a Swiss group that measures air quality levels based on the concentration of toxins. An AQI reading of up to 50 is considered good with little or no health risk.


Badshahi Mosque in Lahore; India Gate in Delhi amid smog. (**Reuters**)

Lahore's PM2.5 concentration was 60 times higher than the World Health Organisation's annual PM2.5 exposure guideline. PM2.5 refers to particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less in diameter that can be carried into the lungs, risking deadly diseases and heart problems. A significant drop in temperatures and sluggish winds have affected air quality in Lahore, authorities said.

Pakistan's government has intensified action against brick kilns violating environmental regulations and continues to urge farmers not to burn crop residue after harvesting.

The AQI in Delhi was lower at 215, as per IQAir. India's Central Pollution Control Board rated the capital city's air quality "very poor" with a higher AQI reading of 332. The Swiss and Indian readings vary due to the different AQI scales and methodologies used to calculate and classify air pollution levels.

Delhi's graded pollution control measures — including restrictions on polluting vehicles, construction activities, the use of coal and firewood in eateries, and boosting public transport services — took effect on Monday.

With Diwali over the weekend expected to add to the pollution, India's Supreme Court has allowed only low-polluting fireworks to be burst for three hours each on Saturday and Sunday.

OPINION

Shifting AI market narrative amid dizzying capex projections

Cumulative spending globally on data centres alone could top $30tn by 2050, according to a projection by PwC, almost matching the value of outstanding US Treasuries. Of late, however, less-than-stellar earnings results of tech titans and alarming cash burn rates have forced investors to heavily scrutinise whether massive corporate investments in artificial intelligence infrastructure will ever yield real, near-term profitability.

Collectively, 20 of the most valuable global AI and semiconductor stocks shed more than $1tn in value last week. In October, over $2tn in market value evaporated from the tech-heavy Nasdaq-100 index as Big Tech earnings intensified investor scrutiny of whether the billions being poured into AI can generate returns quickly enough.

Several megacap tech giants and semiconductor plays faced eye-watering individual market cap reductions across the 31-day period. Intel cratered 45.3%, fueled by a disastrous 29% crash on October 30 alone following a poor Q4 revenue outlook and PC sales bottlenecks. Google parent Alphabet slumped 18.7% as it recorded its worst single-day drop in history of 12.6% on October 29 after posting a negative free cash flow of $9.07bn.

Meta Platforms dropped 15.2% as investors reacted negatively to plans for accelerated 2027 infrastructure spending.

The semiconductor space took a massive hit, with Nvidia falling 10.4% and AMD sliding nearly 11%. "It may be that we've overestimated how strong the growth might be, but they're not going negative in aggregate," said John Bilton, global head of strategic research, multi-asset solutions at JPMorgan Asset Management. "We have an insatiable and growing demand for data."

Microsoft is reportedly planning to raise about $25bn through its first US investment-grade bond sale in more than nine years. Among other hyperscalers, Meta, Amazon and Alphabet have issued hundreds of billions of dollars in bond sales over the past four years, worrying investors about overreliance on the medium for raising capital. JPMorgan expects global AI capex to reach $5.5tn by 2030, and sees $900bn being spent in 2026 alone.

AI companies' growing reliance on debt funding is emerging as a new risk for investors, challenging the view that the companies at the heart of the boom are insulated from macroeconomic pressures. There are already mounting signs that global growth is cooling. An AI-driven stock market slump could sharply deepen the slowdown and even tip several major economies into recession, according to Jamie McGeever, columnist for Reuters.

The AI boom's role in the bull run on Wall Street and other stock markets around the world is well documented. It has also propped up the global economy, offsetting one of the biggest energy crises in history, rising global inflation and deepening geopolitical uncertainty.

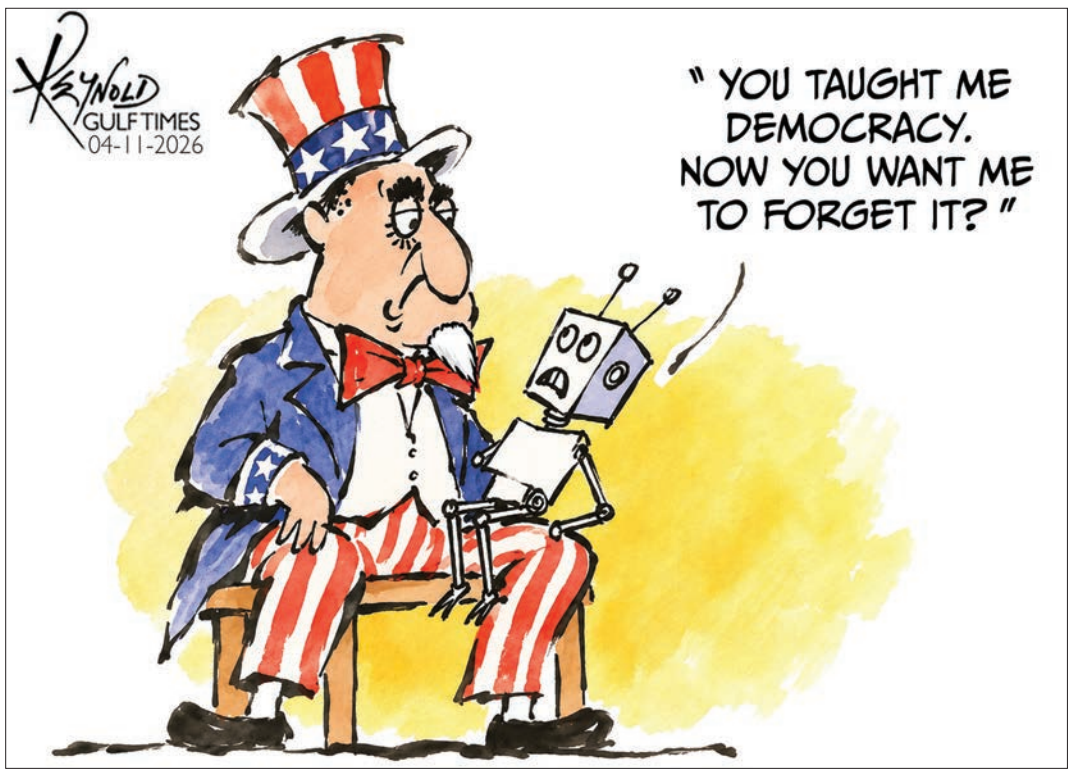
Any deflating of the AI bubble could have significant economic implications.

In a wider sense, there are two schools of thought. The first dismisses serial scare stories about the power of AI as merely hype to build excitement around upcoming initial public offerings, according to Mike Dolan, a columnist for Reuters. The other is that AI development is now too big to fail strategically, and governments and the Big Tech have no option but to press ahead. For sure, a total AI capex bust and complete market meltdown are both unlikely. The infrastructure build-out is still in its infancy, as is the AI revolution itself. But for the investors, the AI market narrative and sentiment are clearly shifting.

Messaging in Michigan



A car with notes in support of Michigan Democratic Senate candidate Dr Abdul El-Sayed is seen outside a voting location yesterday in Hamtramck, Michigan. Americans went to the polls in consequential midterm elections, where control of the House and the Senate is at stake for the remainder of President Donald Trump's second term in office. (**AFP**)



US-Iran tension renews Gulf fears of a war it didn't choose

■ Trump's rhetoric puts the Middle East on edge

■ Mediators push for diplomacy as conflict looms

By Samia Nakhoul, Alexander Cornwell and Timour Azhari
Manama

US President Donald Trump's threat to strike Iran again confronts America's Gulf allies with a stark prospect: another war decided in Washington in which the US bases built to protect them could instead make them targets for Iranian reprisal. Iranian missiles that struck US military bases and Gulf energy facilities in the last round of fighting exposed a vulnerability at the heart of Washington's decades-old security architecture. Rather than deterring Tehran, America's sprawling regional footprint gave Iran fixed targets and the Gulf states hosting them pressure points it can exploit.

That prospect dominated discussions among ministers, policymakers and security officials at the annual Manama Dialogue security conference in Bahrain over the weekend, as governments weighed what another round of war could mean for US forces and the countries that host them. The urgency has grown as Trump again threatened military action, saying he could launch "another little Operation Epic Fury" after Tuesday's midterm elections, referring to the US-Israeli operation that began on Feb 28. Four European officials said the US had amassed enough forces and assets in the region to attack Iran at short notice, possibly as soon as this week. "War is coming," said a fifth European official who has close contact with Gulf leaders. "Nobody is in favour of this war."

Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty told the Manama conference another round of fighting would be more dangerous and destructive than the last: "It will lead to nowhere."

FROM SHIELD TO TARGET

Two of the European officials told Reuters any US attack would likely target Iranian nuclear sites, including research and development facilities. Among likely locations is Pickaxe Mountain, a site linked to Iran's nuclear program, although the officials said military action would probably be able only to weaken Tehran's capabilities rather than destroy them.

Iranian officials have told Reuters that Tehran has drawn up detailed target lists in retaliation for another US-Israeli attack, including undersea communications cables and military bases, some covert.

The strategy could widen the cost of war beyond the battlefield, with energy infrastructure, desalination plants, communications networks and highly visible targets in Gulf cities at risk.

Iran cannot match the United States and Israel militarily. But it does not need to, three delegates said. Its strategy is increasingly one of attrition: make US forces expensive to defend and sustain, turn the Gulf states hosting them into pressure points, and leverage any American retrenchment as evidence that Washington cannot protect its partners.

"What the Iranians really care about is the departure of US forces from the region," said Emile Hokayem, director of regional security at The International Institute for Strategic Studies, which organises the Manama conference.

Tehran's message to Gulf powers, he told Reuters, is mainly: "You spent four decades investing in the US and after 40 years, those bases didn't protect you, they exposed you." Nowhere is that argument more potent than Bahrain, headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet and for decades an anchor of American military power in the region. Near its base in Juffair, the scars of strikes were still visible metres from residential areas: the corrugated iron roof and front of a warehouse were torn open and charred where projectiles had struck, while a radar facing Iran was missing a third of its dish.

The damage has forced Washington to confront a question far beyond Bahrain: whether to rebuild, harden or withdraw a military footprint built to project US power, not withstand sustained missile and drone attacks.

THE PRICE

For Bahrain, fears of Iranian threats are layered onto an older sectarian and historical faultline. In 2011, mass protests led largely by the Shia community challenged the Sunni Al Khalifa monarchy. Bahrain's rulers crushed the revolt and accused Iran of manipulating the unrest, a charge Tehran denied.



An Iranian woman gestures next to a portrait of Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei during a rally in Tehran's Enghelab Square yesterday. Iran unveiled a massive billboard and banners against US president across Tehran , bringing to a new level the official rhetoric displayed in the capital. (**AFP**)

Since the latest war began, some Iranian hardliners have again invoked Bahrain as Iran's "14th province", despite Tehran abandoning its territorial claim in 1970. Against that history, strikes on US facilities threaten not only America's military presence in Bahrain but the kingdom hosting it.

"We're basically looking at the worst-case scenario," a Gulf official told Reuters, anticipating that the US would soon strike Iran, leading to Iranian retaliation against civilian infrastructure across the Gulf.

Another Gulf official said that "in the end, only one person decides" whether conflict resumes and how intense it becomes, a reference to Trump that underscored the Gulf states' limited power to shape a conflict whose consequences they would bear.

In response to questions for this article, a White House official said "all options" remained available and Iran faced "the easy way or the hard way," adding: "President Trump holds all the cards." "The Iranian campaign is to exhaust the Americans. It's not to win," Hokayem added. "They can force you to spend more energy, more weapons, more money over time."

DIPLOMACY PUSH

That concern is pushing Gulf states towards diplomacy. Senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan held talks with Iranian officials in Tehran last month, with Saudi Arabia saying the effort was intended to "prevent the return of military escalation." Qatari officials also held meetings in Tehran and Doha over the weekend to avert renewed war.

"We are hoping that there is a diplomatic breakthrough. We don't really want to see another round of confrontation in the region," United Arab Emirates senior official Anwar Gargash told the Manama conference. The UAE was, however, "braced for the worst," he said.

The European official close to Gulf leaders said there was deep pessimism about whether diplomacy can bridge the Washington-Tehran divide, with renewed war seen as a matter of when, not if.

The question is no longer whether Washington remains committed to the Gulf, but what a US security guarantee means when the infrastructure underpinning it is itself a target. The contest may be shifting from who can inflict the greatest military damage to who can endure the costs longest. For Washington's Gulf partners, the fear is that another round of war could leave them paying much of the price. (**Reuters**)

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Watan 2026: Officials review readiness of National Response System






HE the Minister of Municipality, Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah; HE Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces, Lieutenant General (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai; HE President of the National Cyber Security Agency, Eng Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki; and Assistant Undersecretary for Security Affairs at the Ministry of Interior, HE Sheikh Naif bin Faleh al-Thani visited, separately, the National Command Center (NCC). They reviewed, during the visits, the readiness of the national response system within the framework of the 'Watan 2026' exercise, including the procedures and mechanisms in place to address the various scenarios simulated in the exercise.(**QNA**)

Hoax bomb threats cause flight disruptions in European cities, no explosives found

AFP
Warsaw

Four European flights were targeted by bomb threats yesterday, forcing the temporary closure of one Warsaw airport, but all planes landed safely and no explosives were found, authorities said.

Two bomb warnings targeted flights heading to the Polish capital Warsaw, including an SAS Scandinavian Airlines flight from Copenhagen and one from London's Heathrow airport operated by Polish airline LOT.

In a third incident Aena, the Spanish airport operator, confirmed an emergency protocol was activated "due to a bomb alert" on a Ryanair flight from the northwestern UK city of Manchester to Murcia in southeastern Spain.

A a Wizz Air flight from Bergamo, Italy, was inspected after landing at 0910 GMT in the Bulgarian capital Sofia, a Bulgarian interior ministry spokesperson told AFP.

The incidents come after fighter jets were scrambled on Monday when a Wizz Air flight from London's Luton airport to Sofia was diverted following a bomb threat and forced to make an emergency stop in Budapest.

Yesterday's Ryanair flight landed without incident in Murcia, and the emergency plan was deactivated after checks by Spain's Civil Guard.



An SAS aircraft flying from Copenhagen lands, after receiving a bomb threat, at Warsaw Chopin Airport in Warsaw. (**Reuters**)

Scandinavian Airlines said it could "confirm that a threat has been made against flight SK751 between Copenhagen and Warsaw".

"The aircraft landed normally in Warsaw and the passengers have disembarked."

It arrived at Warsaw's Chopin airport, which closed one runway as the plane underwent a security inspection, but no explosives were found. The LOT flight, which had also been scheduled to arrive at Chopin, was diverted to the Polish capital's other airport, Warsaw Modlin. Authorities closed that airport following the alert, but the Boeing 737 MAX also landed safely.

"The passengers were evacuated and the plane underwent security checks. Nothing was found," Modlin airport spokesman Adam Szablowski told AFP. "The airport has been reopened and is operating normally."

Hungary's defence minister Romulusz Ruszin-Szendi said on Facebook that on Monday Nato's air defence alert service had issued an alert for the Wizz Air flight from Luton. "The Hungarian Defence Forces' Gripen fighter jets took to the air within minutes and ensured the safe landing of the passenger aircraft in Budapest," he said.

Last month, a similar threat forced a flight from Tel Aviv to Vienna to reroute to Bulgaria.



Protestors participate in a demonstration organised by highschool students, in Paris yesterday. (**AFP**)

Students blockade dozens of French schools, universities

AFP
Paris

Students blockaded dozens of high schools and universities across France yesterday to maintain pressure on the government over education reforms as trade unions prepared for a nationwide strike.

After returning from a two-week autumn break, some students resumed their protest campaign Monday, calling on the authorities to renovate dilapidated schools, reduce class sizes and create more university places.

Authorities said yesterday that 48 out of France's 3,700 high schools were blocked amid tight security, including in Paris, Rennes and Lyon. The USL student union said 500 schools were blocked.

Fifty-one higher education institutions out of 184 were also disrupted, officials said.

The USL union denounced what it called heavy-handed tactics, with "young people pinned against walls and riot police units deployed" outside schools.

A union representative said the authorities appeared to want to blunt a new day of blockades on Thursday when trade unions have called a nationwide strike.

"We don't even have the right to vote, we can't do anything, so this is our only way of expressing ourselves," a high school student in northwestern Paris said on condition of anonymity.

Thousands of students also marched in Paris and several other cities. Education Minister Edouard Geffray spoke out against the action, saying students needed to study and prepare for exams.

"Preventing them from entering their school deprives them of a fundamental right: the right to an education," he said on X, adding that some staff members had "once again been subjected to violence".

In the northwestern city of Rennes, around 30 students blocked the Brequigny High School, one of the country's largest secondary schools. Tensions quickly flared between students and the school administration. "You are not the majority," a staff member protested.

"If we're doing this, it's because everything we've tried before hasn't worked," a student replied.

At a school in the southwestern city of Toulouse, students brandished placards, one saying "Angry, not far right". "Young people are sticking it to the education system," read another.

Dozens dead in Russian strike on Ukraine before US talks

AFP
Berlin

Thirty-three people were killed and more than 50 could be trapped in rubble a day after multiple Russian strikes on a Ukrainian village, President Volodymyr Zelensky said in Berlin yesterday, calling it one of Moscow's worst attacks of the war.

Russia pummelled Ukraine Monday and yesterday after a rare truce between the enemies ended at the weekend, with the strikes dampening hopes for a breakthrough at US-led negotiations set for next week in Abu Dhabi.

Rescue operations were ongoing in the frontline southeastern village of Komyshuvakha, where Russian forces had struck a former school building that Ukraine said was being used to distribute aid every Monday.

"Just one strike killed 33 people. Five people were rescued and more than 50 may still be trapped under the rubble," Zelensky said, describing it as "one of the largest Russian killings of this war".

The attack hit hours after a ceasefire held for several days in the Kherson region, allowing for a rare humanitarian mission.

A Russian strike on a hospital in Kharkiv also wounded dozens yesterday, Zelensky said, with Ukrainian authorities reporting another four dead across the country.

Zelensky, the Kremlin and Washington confirmed their negotiators will meet in Abu Dhabi on November 10-11 for the first talks between all three sides since February.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (L) and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz leave after a press conference in Berlin. (**AFP**)

Visiting Berlin yesterday, Zelensky said he hoped that the gathering will pave the way for his meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin. "We are counting on the fact that work in this format and our other diplomatic steps will open the way to a trilateral format at the level of leaders," he told reporters.

Zelensky has consistently pushed for a meeting with Putin — who sent Russian troops over the border in 2022, unleashing Europe's worst war since World War II. Putin, however, has repeatedly refused face-to-face talks with Zelensky.

Speaking alongside Zelensky, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he saw no sign that Russia was willing to engage seriously in ending its invasion.

"It is important that Russia finally and seriously engages in negotiations about a ceasefire and a subsequent peace agreement," he said. "I do not see that happening so far."

Kyiv and its European allies have feared US President Donald Trump — who signed a diesel deal with Putin recently and who has criticised Zelensky — is siding with the Kremlin.

Merz said that if Trump invites Putin to the G20 summit in Miami then Zelensky should be invited, too. "If Ukraine is to be discussed, then the president of Ukraine must be at the table."

Last week's ceasefire in Kherson — brokered by US First Lady Melania Trump — had provided a glimmer of hope that a negotiated end to the conflict could be on the horizon.

Zelensky said Kyiv had offered Russia an extension of the ceasefire, but shortly afterwards Moscow unleashed deadly strikes.

"We proposed to Russia to prolong and expand the ceasefire," Zelensky said.

"But in response, we got this, this kind of attack. New shelling, new strikes, new killings."

Merz said that while the Kherson ceasefire could have served as "a model" for other truces, "Russia has so far stubbornly refused this." "Our message to Russia is therefore clear: it is time to bring this war to an end," Merz, who leads one of Ukraine's main military and financial backers, said.

Putin has repeatedly said Russia does not want a temporary ceasefire in Ukraine and that Moscow intends to seize the rest of east Ukraine by force.

Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff said US negotiators would also meet European and Nato officials today in Brussels.

Representatives from Ukraine, the US, France, Germany, Britain, Nato and the World Bank will take part, the European Commission said. In Russia, Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin said nearly 500 drones heading towards the capital region were destroyed.

The strikes came as Britain and France announced that around 2,800 troops from 10 European countries will stage military drills this month in support of Ukraine.

The troops will gather in Poland for the first exercise of a new multinational force that could be deployed once a ceasefire is agreed. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said yesterday that his country had thwarted a potential "provocation" on the border with the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad overnight.

Greenland parliament ratifies security deal agreed with US

Reuters
Copenhagen

Greenland's parliament yesterday ratified the Arctic island's security agreement struck earlier this year with US President Donald Trump, although some opposition party members questioned the deal's economic value. The United States, Denmark and Greenland in September signed the agreement, aimed at ending tensions after Trump's repeated threats to take control of the strategically located and mineral-rich island, a self-governing Danish territory.

The deal expands the US military's role in Greenland, paving the way for two new military bases and Trump's "Golden Dome" missile defence system, while reaffirming Danish sovereignty and Greenlanders' right to self-determination. A majority of lawmakers had already signalled support for the deal in a first debate last month.

Yesterday's vote was 16 in favour and none against, with 7 abstentions.

The White House in January said Trump was discussing options for acquiring Greenland, including potential use of the US military, alarming governments in Europe and triggering intense diplomatic efforts to calm the situation.

Greenlandic Foreign Minister Mute Egede said yesterday that ratification of the deal was an important step for the island.

"We must accept that peace and stability are no longer something we can take for granted," Egede told lawmakers in Nuuk shortly before the vote.

Opposition party Naleraq, the most prominent political voice for Greenland's independence, questioned the deal's economic value during the debate.

"We are looking for a better agreement that we can benefit from when we become an independent state. But no economic benefit has been gained from the agreement," Naleraq chair Pele Broberg said.

Gunmen kill two police officers escorting polio workers in Pakistan

Gunmen attacked a police vehicle assigned to protect a polio vaccination team, killing two officers and wounding another in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province yesterday. Militants opened fire on the officers' vehicle near the Afghan border in Mohmand district, police official Ali Rehman Khan said, without specifying which group they believed was behind the attack. "Two police personnel were killed and another was injured in the attack. However, no polio vaccination staff were present in the police vehicle," he said. No group immediately claimed responsibility. Security forces are battling an intensifying militancy in the province they say emanates from Afghanistan — a claim Taliban government denies. In a separate incident in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Tank district, four police officers on their way to provide security for a polio vaccination team were abducted on Monday. (**AFP**)

QATAR



Olympic champion Mutaz Barshim inspires Qatar Foundation students

Tariq Bin Ziad School, part of Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education (PUE), welcomed Qatari Olympic champion, Mutaz Barshim for an interactive session with middle school students, during which he shared key milestones from his sporting career and his achievements on the international stage.

Barshim also answered students' questions and shared personal experiences and lessons learned throughout his journey, highlighting the importance of perseverance, discipline, and teamwork in achieving goals, as well as the role of sports in fostering friendship, mutual respect, and sportsmanship.

The visit also highlighted the educational and human values reflected in Barshim's journey, which are explored in the illustrated children's book '*Winning Beyond Gold*', published by Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press. Inspired by the historic moment when Barshim shared the gold medal in the high jump event at the Tokyo Olympic Games, the book explores the meaning of winning beyond individual achievement, emphasising the values of friendship and sportsmanship.

The session concluded with a book-signing event, reflecting QF's commitment to providing learning experiences beyond the classroom that support students' personal development, encourage them to discover their talents, and inspire them to pursue their aspirations.

QC Talks brings leading voices in art and culture closer to the public

By Joey Aguilar
News Editor

Qatar Museums' (QM) QC Talks programme is bringing leading international and regional voices from art, architecture, design and culture closer to the public through curated conversations exploring ideas and issues shaping contemporary cultural life.

Presented as part of Qatar Creates, the programme provides a platform for intellectual exchange and public dialogue, offering audiences opportunities to discover new perspectives and engage directly with influential figures across the creative industries.

Developed under the vision and leadership of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, QC Talks contributes to Qatar's cultural calendar by making discussions on contemporary creative practices accessible to a broad audience, including cultural professionals, students and members of the public.

According to QM, the Qatar Creates Fall/Winter 2026–27 programme features six curated conversations exploring subjects ranging from what makes artworks and buildings iconic to the influence of collectors on art history, Doha's evolving urban identity, fashion and the challenges facing cultural leaders.



Dr Jelena Trkulja

Dr Jelena Trkulja, editorial director of QC Talks and senior adviser for Academic and Cultural Affairs at QM, told Gulf Times that the programme brings together prominent international and regional figures to explore ideas that extend beyond their respective disciplines.

"QC Talks is Qatar Museums' platform for thought-provoking conversations about art, architecture, design, and culture, bringing together leading international and regional voices to explore ideas that resonate beyond their respective disciplines," she said.

Unlike traditional lectures, she noted that the sessions take the form of moderated discussions, allowing speakers from different professional and cultural backgrounds to share their experiences, exchange perspectives and respond to audience questions.

The programme aims to encourage conversations that are relevant to audiences in Qatar while connecting local discussions with wider international debates, according to Trkulja.

Previous sessions have featured artists, designers, architects, curators and cultural leaders, giving the public direct access to individuals whose work has influenced contemporary creative practices and cultural institutions.

Dr Trkulja said the programme also seeks to reach audiences beyond specialist circles by making discussions intellectually engaging without being overly academic.

"You do not need to be an art historian, architect, or designer to enjoy a QC Talk. Curiosity is enough. We want our conversations to be intellectually substantial without becoming overly academic, and engaging and entertaining without sacrificing depth," she said.

Audience participation is central to the experience, with informal coffee gatherings before and after sessions providing opportunities for attendees to meet speakers, ask questions and exchange ideas with fellow participants.

These gatherings help make the programme more accessible and personal while encouraging connections among people with shared interests in art, design and culture.

As Qatar's cultural calendar continues to expand, Trkulja said QC Talks provides a regular platform for discussions that complement the country's exhibitions, museums, public art and creative initiatives. Its interdisciplinary approach also encourages audiences to explore subjects beyond their usual interests and discover connections between different areas of cultural practice.

She noted that the programme aims to build a community of returning participants who regard QC Talks as a place for learning, exchanging ideas and forming connections.

"Ultimately, we want QC Talks to become a place where people return not only for the ideas, but also for the connections and sense of community it offers," Dr Trkulja added.

QC Talks sessions are free and open to the public, with advance registration available at https://qacreates.com/qc-talks

From desert dunes to Mexican dance, Qatari artist brings cultural fusion to F1

By Joey Aguilar
News Editor

The sweeping skirts of Mexican folkloric dancers and the flowing curves of Qatar's desert dunes may come from different cultural landscapes. Still, Qatari artist Hissa al-Khuzaei sees a connection between them.

Through a specially commissioned Formula 1 helmet design, she brings these influences together in a visual celebration of cultural identity, movement, and belonging.

Selected by Years of Culture to design the helmet of Formula 1 driver Pierre Gasly for the 2026 Mexico City Grand Prix, al-Khuzaei draws on elements of Qatari and Mexican heritage to create a composition that connects two cultures through movement, geometry and artistic expression.

The concept begins with a loop, inspired by the flowing forms of racing circuits. For al-Khuzaei, the shape represents movement, rhythm and connection, providing a foundation for bringing together influences from two distinct cultural traditions.

"The connection began with movement. I was drawn to the way Mexican folkloric dancers' skirts flow and create sweeping shapes, which reminded me of the curves and rhythms of Qatar's desert dunes," she told *Gulf Times*.

She translated these impressions into painted strokes that wrap around the helmet, allowing the different influences to merge into one continuous composition.



Pierre Gasly displays the helmet designed by Qatari artist Hissa al-Khuzaei for the 2026 Formula 1.

Her approach also draws on Al Sadu weaving, a traditional Qatari textile craft, alongside Mexican textile patterns. Both traditions feature distinctive geometric elements, repetition and rhythm, which became important considerations in developing the design.

"What stood out to me visually was the use of geometry, repetition and rhythm," she said, explaining how individual shapes can come together to create patterns with a strong sense of identity.

She was particularly interested in the triangle inspired by Al Sadu weaving and how it could sit alongside the composition's flowing forms. The contrast between structured geometry and freer painted strokes became a defining feature of her visual approach.

Translating the concept onto a Formula 1 helmet, however, required more than adapting an artwork to a different surface. Its curved form meant considering how the strokes would wrap around it, how patterns would appear from different angles and which details needed emphasis.

Al-Khuzaei refined the scale and placement of the elements to ensure the composition remained balanced and visually continuous, while retaining the painterly quality of her work.

"My artistic vision was to bring a painterly quality to the helmet, using expressive strokes that reflect my style as an artist," she said.

The design also needed to complement Gasly's identity as a driver, including the colours of his car and race suit, while giving the helmet a distinctive artistic character. Her contribution focused on the visual artwork, with particular attention to creating a composition that conveyed energy and movement.

For al-Khuzaei, the commission represents more than an opportunity to showcase her artistic abilities on an unconventional canvas. It also offers a chance to introduce contemporary Qatari art to an international audience through a sporting platform with a global following.

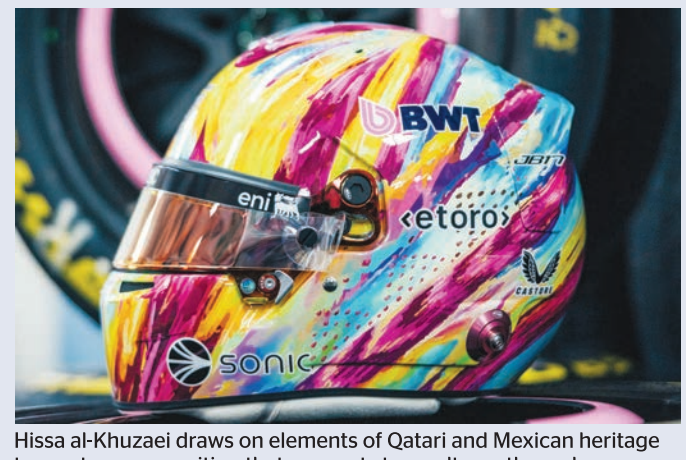
She said she felt proud and grateful that elements of Qatar's heritage could reach people through an experience they already connect with.

Coming from a background in art and interior design, al-Khuzaei enjoys working across disciplines. The project has encouraged her to explore how artistic expression can extend beyond traditional exhibition spaces and become part of objects that are used, worn and seen in motion.

The cultural references also carry personal significance. The desert landscape, Al Sadu motifs and maroon colour serve as reminders of home, allowing her to bring elements of her identity into a different cultural setting. She also associates the triangle with shelter and protection, giving the motif meaning that reflects the helmet's purpose.

Engaging with Mexican culture, she said, prompted her to look more closely at the elements she associates with Qatar and why they matter to her.

"It reminded me that belonging is expressed through both the landscapes we know and the traditions we carry," she said.



Hissa al-Khuzaei draws on elements of Qatari and Mexican heritage to create a composition that connects two cultures through movement, geometry and artistic expression.

The experience reinforced her belief that artists can remain rooted in their identities while finding meaningful connections with other cultures.

This exchange is central to the Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture, which seeks to build lasting relationships between communities through cultural and artistic collaborations.

Al-Khuzaei believes such initiatives are important in giving Qatari artists opportunities to interpret different cultures through their own perspectives, rather than simply being expected to represent their home country.

She said cultural exchange becomes more meaningful when artists have opportunities to learn, respond and contribute their own interpretations. Such encounters also expose audiences to a wider range of voices from Qatar's art and design community while encouraging artists to develop their practices beyond familiar surroundings.

Through the helmet design, she hopes Mexican audiences will become more curious about Qatar's creative scene and discover how elements of its heritage can inspire contemporary artistic work. For Qatari audiences, she hopes the project will generate interest in Mexican dance and textile traditions, particularly their expressive movement and celebratory spirit.

Al-Khuzaei hopes the collaboration will leave an impression beyond the Grand Prix itself, encouraging conversations about the cultures and artistic traditions behind the design.

The positive feedback from new audiences has been particularly rewarding, she said, demonstrating how bringing art into sport can introduce contemporary artists to people who might not otherwise encounter their work.

For her, the project's lasting value lies in these conversations and the possibilities for further artistic collaboration.

"Bringing Qatari and Mexican influences together can invite audiences from both countries to recognise connections and appreciate their differences," she said.

QM's Teen Hub, Earthna unite for Youth Fest 2026, Qatar's National Youth Festival

Qatar Museums' (QM) Teen Hub and Earthna have announced a strategic partnership to deliver Youth Fest 2026, bringing together more than 35 partners and sponsors and over 120 community contributors to deliver one of Qatar's largest collaborative platforms for young people.

The festival will take place from November 5–7, between 3pm and 9pm daily, at Teen Hub, Expo Building, Al Bidda Park.

Returning for its second edition, Youth Fest brings together young people and organisations from across Qatar for a programme designed to encourage the exchange of ideas, build skills and create opportunities for connection and discovery, with youth consultations led by the Unicef Gulf Area Office among this year's highlights.

The festival brings together more than 35 partners and sponsors and over 120 community contributors working across education, arts and culture, sustainability, health and well-being, technology and gaming, sport, entrepreneurship and youth development. Primarily aimed at young people aged 13–19, Youth Fest also welcomes families and the wider community.

Through the partnership, Youth Fest will serve as the youth-focused platform of Qatar Sustainability Week, bringing a sustainability lens to the issues that matter most to young people. Led by Earthna, Qatar Sustainability Week is a national initiative that unites organisations, communities, institutions and businesses through events, activations and public engagement focused on sustainability. Youth Fest will be delivered entirely through in-kind support, with partners and contributors providing their time, expertise, materials, equipment, activities and services, making it a festival built by the community, for the community.

Abdulrahman al-Ishaq, director of Teen Hub, said: "The scale of Youth Fest 2026 reflects the growing commitment across Qatar to creating meaningful opportunities for young people. Its significance lies not only in the number of organisations and contributors involved, but in the active roles young people themselves are taking as creators, performers, entrepreneurs, volunteers and leaders. As Youth Fest continues to grow as a national platform, our focus remains on enabling young people to contribute, lead and build lasting connections with opportunities, organisations and the wider community."

Dr Gonzalo Castro de la Mata, executive director of Earthna, said: "We are pleased to see Qatar Museums' Teen Hub Youth Fest return for a second year, providing young people with a platform to share their ideas, develop their skills and take an active role during Qatar Sustainability Week. Our youth have valuable perspectives on the sustainability challenges that affect their lives, and we must create opportunities for them to put their ideas into practice. Supporting their contribution from an early age is essential to advancing Qatar's sustainable future."

Across three days and 18 public opening hours, Youth Fest 2026 will present 39 programme features, including 16 timed sessions alongside interactive activities, performances, live art, demonstrations and youth market experiences.

The programme is organised across three areas. LABS – Learn & Try will turn curiosity into practical experience through workshops and sessions exploring creativity, sustainability, communication, university preparation and career pathways. Village – Discover & Access will celebrate emerging talent through live performances, art, independent makers and youth businesses, giving young creatives and entrepreneurs a platform to present their work and connect with the community. Impact – Join & Act will connect visitors with well-being support, sustainability initiatives, education opportunities and community organisations through activities that encourage participation and action.

Programme highlights include youth consultations led by the Unicef Gulf Area Office and linked to COP31 and the United Nations Water Conference, giving young people a dedicated space to share their perspectives on climate and water issues and contribute to international conversations about the future. Other highlights include esports and arcade experiences presented by Store974, live graffiti by artist Walid Brabri, and youth-led music, dance and creative performances.

Youth participation remains central to the festival, with young people involved not only as attendees, but also as creators, performers, entrepreneurs, volunteers and activity leaders. Most structured sessions are designed for participants aged 13 and above, while performances, exhibitions, market experiences and selected activities will also welcome families and the wider public.

Youth Fest continues to grow as a national platform for participation, development and opportunity. Its inaugural edition in 2025 welcomed more than 8,900 attendees, while the 2026 festival aims to attract more than 10,000 visitors. Beyond attendance, the festival aims to strengthen connections between young people, cultural institutions, community organisations and opportunities across Qatar.