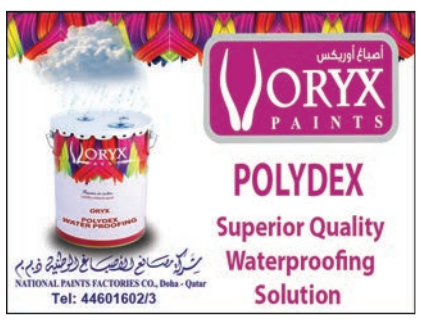


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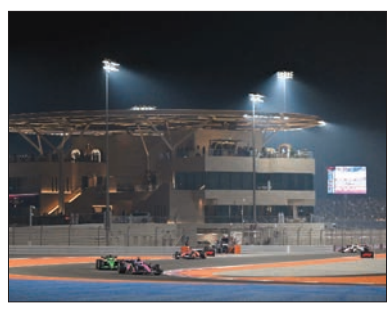
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SPORT | Page 1

Qatar, Abu Dhabi Formula 1 GPs to go ahead, says FIA chief







GCC to set up forward military command in Kuwait

GT Report
Manama

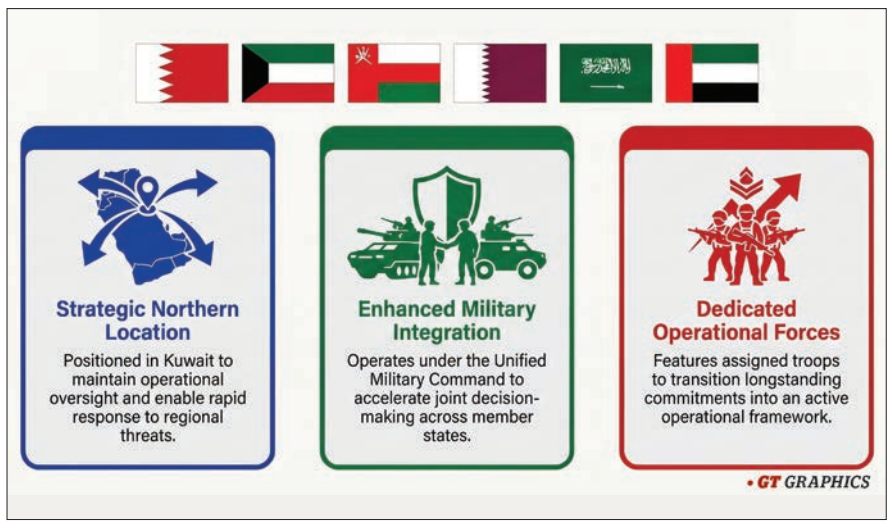
In a significant move towards deeper military integration and a more unified response to regional security challenges, Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) defence ministers have agreed to establish a forward military command in Kuwait, with dedicated forces assigned to the new headquarters.

The decision, announced yesterday by GCC Secretary-General Jassim Mohamed AlBudaiwi, marks an important step in strengthening the six-nation bloc's collective defence capabilities at a time of heightened tensions across the Gulf and growing concerns over threats to regional security, critical infrastructure and maritime navigation.

The new headquarters will operate under the GCC's Unified Military Command, providing a forward operational presence designed to improve co-ordination among member states, accelerate military decision-making and enable a more effective response to emerging security threats.

Its establishment represents a further effort to translate the GCC's longstanding commitment to collective defence into a more integrated operational framework, bringing the armed forces of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates closer together in addressing common security challenges.

The decision was taken at the 23rd session of the GCC Joint Defence Council, held in Manama under the chairmanship of Bahrain's Minister of Defence Affairs, Lieutenant-General Abdullah bin Hassan al-Nuaimi. To Page 7



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QatarEnergy earns coveted methane reporting status

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

QatarEnergy has achieved the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0 Gold Standard Reporting status for the 2025 data year. The OGMP 2.0 framework, managed by the UN Environmental Programme's International Methane Emissions Observatory, is the premier measurement-based reporting and mitigation framework for methane emissions in the oil and gas sector. Gold Standard is also the highest recognition that exists under this framework. Achieving OGMP 2.0 Gold Standard Reporting status reflects the significant progress made by QatarEnergy in its methane emissions measurement, reporting, and transparency across both its operated and non-operated assets. To Page 6

Brace up for strong winds, thundery rain

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Qatar is expected to see a noticeable drop in temperatures towards the weekend, along with strong northwesterly winds and the possibility of scattered rain and thunderstorms, according to the Qatar Meteorology Department.
The department's latest five-day forecast, issued on November 10, warned of strong winds across the country yesterday and today, with offshore areas expected to experience rough seas and possible thundery rain.
Daytime temperatures are forecast to range between 23C and 31C during the five days, while northwesterly winds are expected to persist through Saturday, November 14. To Page 8

PM, Macron review situation

French President Emmanuel Macron met HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani yesterday to discuss bilateral relations and ongoing diplomatic efforts to de-escalate regional tensions and strengthen security and stability.
At the outset of the meeting, the PM conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the French president along with His Highness's wishes for his good health and happiness and continued progress and prosperity for the French government and people.
Macron, in turn, entrusted the PM with his greetings to HH the Amir, wishing His Highness good health and happiness and the Qatari people further development and prosperity.
They also reviewed ways to strengthen bilateral co-operation across various fields, alongside the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic initiatives and joint co-ordination aimed at easing tensions and promoting lasting security and stability in the region. (**QNA**)



Qatar pursuing US-Iran deal

By Sara Eljack
Staff Reporter

Qatar is continuing a diplomatic drive to bring Washington and Tehran closer to a negotiated settlement, leveraging high-level engagements with the US leadership and sustained consultations with regional and international partners to defuse tensions and steer the region towards lasting peace, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said yesterday.

Speaking at the ministry's weekly media briefing in Doha, Ibrahim bin Sultan al-Hashemi, director of MoFA's Media and Communication Department, outlined Qatar's wide-ranging diplomatic engagements, including crucial talks in Washington aimed at advancing US-Iran negotiations and preventing further regional escalation.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met US Vice-President JD Vance in Washington on Monday, followed by talks with US President Donald Trump at the White House.

"The two meetings discussed the situation in the region, ways to make progress in US-Iran negotiations, and efforts to reach an agreement and bring peace to the region," al-Hashemi said.

The Washington meetings formed part of Qatar's continuing diplomatic efforts to promote dialogue, bridge differences and strengthen regional security and stability. To Page 7


Ibrahim bin Sultan al-Hashemi at the MoFA press briefing yesterday. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

Qatar pushes diplomatic solution at Paris talks

QNA,GT Report
Paris

Qatar has stepped up its diplomatic engagement to defuse regional tensions and advance prospects for a negotiated settlement, joining Saudi Arabia and four major European powers in high-level talks in Paris yesterday aimed at safeguarding maritime navigation, preventing further escalation and laying the groundwork for lasting peace.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani participated in the ministerial meeting bringing together Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the European Four (E4), comprising France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, on the sidelines of the G7 ministerial meeting in the French capital.

The discussions centred on the latest regional developments, with particular emphasis on strengthening diplomatic efforts and co-ordinating international initiatives to ease tensions, enhance regional security and prevent the situation from deteriorating into a wider confrontation.

A key focus was the need to guarantee freedom of maritime navigation, an issue of critical importance to regional and international trade, energy supplies and global economic stability. The participants also explored diplomatic initiatives that could pave the way for a comprehensive agreement addressing the underlying sources of tension and establishing the foundations for sustainable peace.

The meeting underscored the importance of sustained engagement between Gulf countries and leading European powers at a time when regional security challenges have heightened concerns over the safety of vital shipping routes and the broader consequences of prolonged instability. To Page 9



Qatar rushes aid to 45 Gaza camps

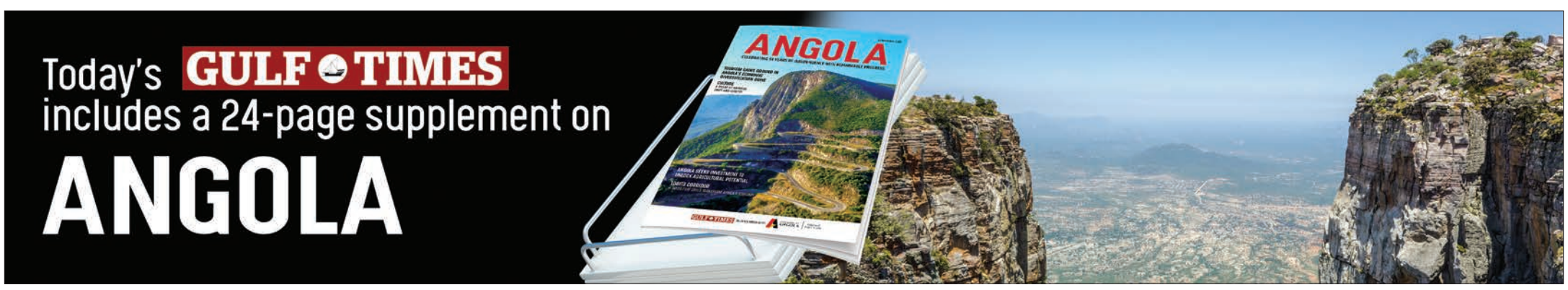
GT Report
Doha

Qatar has stepped up emergency relief operations in the Gaza Strip, reaching 45 displacement camps and several major roads with urgent interventions to protect vulnerable families from the impact of severe weather conditions.
The Qatar Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza launched the emergency response following a recent low-pressure weather system that compounded the hardships facing thousands of displaced Palestinians living in makeshift shelters.



The field operations focused on mitigating the effects of adverse weather conditions across 45 camps housing displaced families, alongside interventions on a number of main roads affected by the weather system.

As part of the relief effort, the committee distributed tents, emergency shelter kits, food supplies and healthcare assistance to families struggling with the consequences of the inclement weather.



QATAR

PM attends ministerial meeting in Paris



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani participated yesterday in a ministerial meeting bringing together the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the European Four (E4), comprising the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Republic, and the United Kingdom, on the sidelines of the G7 ministerial meeting held in Paris, France. (**QNA**)

Shura Speaker meets EU, Turkiye ambassadors





HE Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem met yesterday, separately, with the European Union ambassador to the State of Qatar, Antonino Maggiore and the ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to the State of Qatar, Yakup Caymazoglu. During the two meetings, co-operation relations between the State of Qatar and both the European Union and the Republic of Turkiye were discussed, as well as ways to enhance and develop them, particularly in the parliamentary field. Views on several issues of mutual interest were also exchanged, while emphasising the importance of continued co-ordination and consultation in a manner that serves shared interests. (**QNA**)

Amir sends condolences to Turkish president

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 condolences to the President of the Republic of Turkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on the victims of an explosion at a steel factory in the Province of Izmir, Western Turkiye, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. (**QNA**)



Kahramaa claims 2 GCC awards

Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has won two awards at the GCC Power 2026 Conference and Exhibition in Muscat, Oman, recognising its contributions to technical research and innovation in the electricity sector.

The corporation said it was honoured for the highest research contribution, as well as the award for Best Paper.

The Best Paper award went to a research paper prepared by engineers Shaikha al-Nuaimi, Suha al-Sulaiti and Mohamed El Sayed.

Kahramaa President Abdulla al-Theyab said the achievements demonstrated the the corporation's high-level national expertise and engineering capabilities.

He added that the awards highlighted Kahramaa's commitment to supporting scientific research, encouraging innovation and developing solutions to improve the efficiency and reliability of Qatar's electricity network.

Qatar's technical and research papers during the conference covering a range of issues related to electricity network management and development.

Topics included strategic planning and operational management of Qatar's electricity system during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, as well as an assessment of the impact of hosting the 2025 FIFA Arab Cup on electricity demand in the country.

Other papers examined power quality amid the growing contribution of renewable energy sources, the feasibility of integrating rooftop solar photovoltaic systems at distribution stations, and the use of real-time monitoring systems for electricity distribution networks.

The conference featured 20 exhibitors and 115 technical and scientific papers. It brought together more than 1,300 specialists, academics and industry professionals from across the region and beyond.

Kahramaa said its participation formed part of its ongoing efforts to develop national talent, promote research and innovation, and strengthen Qatar's position in the regional and international electricity sector. (**QNA**)

NCSA president meets Turkmenistan minister

HE the President of Qatar's National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), Engineer Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki, met yesterday with the Minister of Communications of the Republic of Turkmenistan, Hajymyrat Hudaygulyyev, and the accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation relations in the cybersecurity sector, and ways to develop and enhance the partnership in this field, in addition to other topics of mutual interest. (**QNA**)



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Brunei crown prince visits QNL



The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah and his accompanying delegation visited the Qatar National Library (QNL) yesterday as part of his visit to the country.
He was received upon arrival by HE the Minister of State and President of the Qatar National Library Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari. During the visit, the crown prince was briefed on the library's architectural design and its valuable collections, which include manuscripts, periodicals, rare artifacts, maps and antique books covering a wide range of fields of knowledge. The tour included the Heritage Library, which houses important documents on the history of Qatar, as well as the Children's Library and the Young Adults section. The Crown Prince also received a detailed briefing on the library's digital collections and electronic resources, and the various services it provides to researchers around the world.
He was also briefed on the services available to library visitors to broaden their cultural knowledge and make use of its facilities, equipment and resources, which support creativity and the dissemination of knowledge through a global vision. In a message written in the library's guestbook, the crown prince praised the treasures and collections of Qatar National Library. (**QNA**)





Qatar, UAE ministers meet

HE the Minister of Transport Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Thani met yesterday via videoconference with the Minister of Economy of the United Arab Emirates Abdulla bin Touq al-Marri. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen them in areas of common interest, particularly in air transportation and aviation. (**QNA**)

Qatar, UAE discuss ways to foster security co-operation



The State of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have discussed opportunities to foster bilateral security co-operation during talks in Doha. HE the Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Abdullah bin Khalaf al-Kaabi received the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Doha Saeed al-Qamzi to explore ways to strengthen and further develop existing areas of security collaboration and co-operation between the two countries. They also discussed a number of issues of mutual interest. The meeting reflects ongoing efforts by Qatar and the UAE to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation in areas of shared concern. (**QNA**)

Ooredoo expands Microsoft partnership to bring Copilot to its entire workforce



Ooredoo Qatar and Microsoft have expanded their collaboration to make Microsoft 365 Copilot available to all Ooredoo Qatar employees. The rollout extends access beyond the initial pilot groups as part of the Strategic Digital & AI Transformation Programme.

Ooredoo Qatar launched the programme earlier this year with Microsoft to build a more agile organisation, enhance customer experiences, and develop new digital services. The programme combines Ooredoo's expertise in connectivity and digital infrastructure with Microsoft's cloud, data and AI capabilities.

Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammad al-Thani, CEO of Ooredoo Qatar, said: "When we launched our Strategic Digital & AI Transformation Programme, we set out to improve how we operate and how we serve our customers. Our people are central to both. They know which processes could be simpler and what makes a difference to our customers. Through this next phase of our collaboration with Microsoft, we want colleagues across Ooredoo to help shape those improvements."

Alongside the rollout, Ooredoo is helping employees develop the skills to use Copilot confidently and responsibly in their daily work. The company is also working closely with Microsoft to prepare for the introduction of AI agents that employees can build and use to carry out specific tasks within Ooredoo's security and governance framework.

Ahmad El Dandachi, general manager, Microsoft Qatar, said: "Ooredoo Qatar is showing what it means to become a Frontier Firm. Extending Copilot access to every employee, with security built in from day one, is the kind of leadership that will help Qatar realise its ambition to become a leading hub for AI and innovation."

The initiative builds on Microsoft's longstanding partnerships in Qatar and supports Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Digital Agenda 2030.

Mediation is a necessity imposed by today's geopolitics: Al-Ansari



HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari participated in a plenary session titled "Peace Mediation Today: New Actors, New Coalitions, Lasting Results" on the sidelines of the Paris Peace Forum.

In his remarks, Dr al-Ansari said mediation was no longer merely a diplomatic option but a necessity imposed by today's geopolitical challenges.

He stressed that Qatar, given its geographical location and regional affiliation, could not remain a bystander to efforts aimed at achieving regional peace and stability.

He highlighted Qatar's mediation efforts dating back to the 1990s, citing its involvement in Yemen, Djibouti, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, as well as mediation efforts between Hamas and Israel and those related to Iran.

He noted that Qatar was not a neutral mediator in the traditional sense, as it was part of the region and directly affected by its developments. Nevertheless, it had continued its mediation efforts even while facing attacks, driven by its conviction that dialogue and diplomacy were essential to preventing further escalation.

Dr al-Ansari stressed that diplomatic solutions were the only way to spare all parties the consequences of escalation, warning that any alternative to a political settlement would result in losses for everyone, affecting economic interests, state sovereignty and legitimate security concerns.

He emphasised the need to take into account the security and sovereign interests of all regional countries when pursuing sustainable solutions.

He also discussed the concept of "Thriving States," introduced by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, describing such states as relatively small countries distinguished by their resilience, prosperity and ability to leverage their resources in the service of the common good through mediation, development and international co-operation.

He said changes in the international order had created opportunities for such states to play influential roles in supporting the rules-based international order, stressing the importance of preserving and strengthening this role.

Dr al-Ansari further highlighted Qatar's role in supporting the rules-based international order by strengthening its position as a facilitator of peace and mediator in conflicts, while working with regional and international partners to build what he described as "peace supply chains" through complementary roles and the effective use of each country's capabilities.

He also underscored the importance of co-operation between the State of Qatar, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and international partners, noting that each country had distinct capabilities and a role to play in advancing peace and regional stability.

Dr al-Ansari concluded by stressing that stronger partnerships and coordinated diplomatic efforts among countries were essential to building effective alliances for peace and achieving shared security and prosperity. (**QNA**)

MoCI hosts workshop for members of Qatar Cultural Center for The Deaf

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), represented by the Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department, in co-operation with the Qatar Cultural Center for The Deaf, organised an awareness workshop for the centre's members; hearing impaired individuals. The workshop aimed to educate this segment of society about their consumer rights and to help them avoid the risks of commercial fraud and misleading business practices.
In a statement issued yesterday, the ministry noted that this workshop is part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen consumer rights protection, raise awareness and knowledge across all segments of society, including the deaf and hard of hearing, regarding their consumer rights and the dangers of commercial fraud, and to foster a culture of sound consumption among the public.
The workshop covered several key topics designed to enhance participants' understanding of their consumer rights, methods for verifying product quality and compliance with standards, and the importance of checking prices and information displayed on goods and products. It also reviewed various forms of commercial fraud, along with ways to detect them and avoid associated risks. (**QNA**)

New Hamad clinic settles who really needs oxygen therapy

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The clinic sees patients with chronic respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, interstitial lung diseases and pulmonary fibrosis, along with other conditions that call for specialised assessment

Hamad General Hospital has opened a dedicated clinic to answer a question that matters to patients with chronic lung disease: do they actually need oxygen? The Oxygen Assessment Clinic, run by the Pulmonary Medicine Section of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), tests persistently low blood oxygen levels and determines, patient by patient, whether oxygen therapy is warranted.

The clinic sees patients with chronic respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), interstitial lung diseases and pulmonary fibrosis, along with other conditions that call for specialised assessment. It also sees patients discharged on home oxygen, to check whether they still need it.

Dr Mona Mohammed, Consultant Pulmonologist at Hamad General Hospital, stressed that oxygen needs can shift as a condition progresses or a patient recovers, which makes accurate assessment the foundation of good care. She added: "Determining whether a patient needs oxygen therapy requires a thorough medical assessment based on each patient's individual health condition.

Having a respiratory disease or experiencing shortness of breath does not necessarily mean that oxygen therapy is required. This makes proper assessment and regular follow-up essential to ensuring that patients receive treatment appropriate to their medical needs."

Dr Ibrahim Abdul Rasheed, Consultant Pulmonologist and Lead of the Oxygen Assessment Clinic, walked through the clinic's toolkit. Staff review each patient's medical history, symptoms and current medications, measure blood oxygen saturation at rest, and run an arterial blood gas (ABG) test. A six-minute walk test tracks oxygen levels during exertion, further measurements determine the right delivery device and flow rate, and overnight monitoring is added when necessary.

Those results, Dr Abdul Rasheed said, guide the flow rate a patient needs at home or during physical activity. Patients and caregivers also receive practical guidance on the safe use of oxygen equipment, and on when therapy may need to be adjusted or stopped as the condition changes.

Referrals come from the Internal Medicine Departments and subspeciality services across HMC. The clinic is part of HMC's wider push to advance specialised respiratory care, giving clinicians a structured pathway to assess and monitor oxygen therapy. The goal is safer, more effective oxygen use, better healthcare quality and smarter use of available resources.

Philippine envoy joins Qbake and almeera to launch new range of Filipino bakery favourites

Throughout Nov, freshly baked Filipino products are available exclusively at almeera



Philippine ambassador to Qatar Mardomel Celo D Melicor joined Qbake and almeera at almeera's Mansoura branch for the official launch of Qbake's new Filipino Bakery Range, a selection of Filipino products baked fresh every day in Qatar.

Accompanied by consul Jeffrey Batac, the ambassador cut the ribbon to reveal the new range in the presence of senior officials from Qbake and almeera. His presence underlined the significance of the launch for the Filipino community in Qatar. Community representatives, content creators and members of the media also attended, and guests and shoppers were invited to sample the products.

Bringing Familiar Flavours Closer to Customers

The range offers the Filipino community the familiar tastes of home, while giving other customers the chance to discover them.

The first four products are Pan de Sal, Tasty Slice Bread, Pan de Coco and Spanish Roll. Four more — Ensaymada, Cheese Bread, Pan de Ube and Banoffee Choco Chip Muffins — will be added soon.

The launch products went on sale on 1 November 2026 and are available exclusively at almeera stores across Qatar until 30 November 2026.

Supporting Local Production Through Partnership

The partnership combines Qbake's local bakery production with almeera's nationwide retail network, connecting products made in Qatar with customers across the country.

For almeera, the collaboration is part of its ongoing commitment to working with local producers and offering a diverse assortment that reflects the tastes and everyday needs of the communities it serves. It also helps local suppliers reach a broader customer base.

Abdella Ali Ismail, official spokesperson, Umm Said Bakery (Qbake), said: "Qatar is home to a wonderfully diverse community, and as the country's local baker, Qbake is committed to serving all of its communities with the highest-quality bakery products. We recognised that many of the Filipino breads the community grew up with were not widely available in Qatar. This range brings them a taste of home, baked fresh every day. We are proud to launch it with almeera a partner that knows its shoppers well."

The Qbake Filipino Bakery Range is now available in the bakery section of almeera stores across Qatar.

QATAR

Minister meets ambassador of Tuvalu



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, met yesterday with the ambassador of Tuvalu (non-resident) to the State of Qatar, Dr Tauisi Minute Taupo. During the meeting, they discussed means of co-operation between the two countries in the areas of adaptation to climate change and environmental protection, in addition to several topics of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

Qatar, Tatarstan discuss expanding cultural co-operation in Kazan talks



The President of the Republic of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov has discussed cultural co-operation with the State of Qatar during talks with HE the Minister of Culture Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani. The meeting took place in Kazan yesterday, with both officials exploring ways to strengthen cultural co-operation between the two nations. (**QNA**)

MCIT, MoJ and Scale AI sign two agreements to develop justice sector

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and Scale AI have signed two co-operation agreements to develop AI-powered solutions under the SAK and Shoor projects, aiming to enhance the efficiency of justice-related services and advance legal work tools within MoJ, in line with the targets of Digital Agenda 2030 (DA2030).

The pacts were signed on behalf of MCIT by Director of the Digital Innovation Department, Eman al-Kuwari, while, on behalf of MoJ, the SAK project agreement was signed by Director of the Documentation Department and Head of External Centers, Arij Mohsen al-Shammari.

The "Shoor" project agreement was signed by Assistant Director of the Litigation Affairs Department, Noor al-Zeinal. Both agreements were signed on behalf of Scale AI by the company's Regional Director in Qatar, Amr Samir.

The "Sakk" project aims to develop an AI-powered solution to enhance the efficiency of notarisation and authentication services at the MoJ, improve the accuracy and speed of procedures, and facilitate customers' access to services.

The "Shoor" project, meanwhile, aims to develop a digital solution to support MoJ's lawyers in managing state cases and conducting legal research, by facilitating access to and analysis of legal information, thereby enhancing the efficiency of legal work and supporting the speedy completion of tasks.

Both agreements fall under the Government AI Program led by MCIT, and represent an extension of the strategic partnership the Ministry established with Scale AI in February 2025.

This five-year partnership aims to develop more than 50 innovative AI-powered projects across government entities by 2029, and included the launch of the "Alif" Program to build the AI capabilities of government employees.

The two projects build on the existing cooperation between the three parties in the legal field, which included the development of the "Smart Legislative Advisor" program to support the drafting and review of legislation.

The program aims to reduce the legislative processing and review period from approximately 35 days to approximately five days, while maintaining human oversight and professional legal accountability. (**QNA**)



QMC attends GCC information ministries' meeting



HE Chief Executive Officer of the Qatar Media Corporation (QMC), Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani, joined a meeting of the undersecretaries of information ministries of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states, held via videoconference. The meeting discussed a range of issues aimed at strengthening Gulf media co-operation, as well as reviewing and aligning Gulf media policies, regulations and standards to consolidate them into a unified guide and establish an executive mechanism for their implementation. The gathering also addressed restructuring the GCC Program Production Institution and the Gulf Radio and Television Organisation to advance joint media action. The meeting builds on the co-ordination previously undertaken during the 29th meeting of the GCC Ministers of Information, held in the Kingdom of Bahrain on Oct 28. (**QNA**)

Diabetes Qatar launches 'Early Action on Diabetes' campaign; Diabetes Walkathon on Friday

Diabetes Qatar has launched its annual campaign to mark World Diabetes Day, observed on November 14 each year. As part of the campaign, Diabetes Qatar will hold its Diabetes Walkathon on Friday, November 13 at Aspire Park. Diabetes Qatar invites the public, including families, schools and organisations, to join the walkathon and take part in the accompanying activities and health screenings. Participants are invited to gather by the lake at Aspire Park at 3pm.

Under the theme 'Early Action on Diabetes,' this year's campaign highlights the importance of recognising the signs of diabetes, getting an early diagnosis and accessing timely care. It also raises awareness of the risk factors for type 2 diabetes and steps people can take to reduce their risk.

Over the past two weeks, Diabetes Qatar has conducted type 2 diabetes risk assessments at several government entities and public institutions, including Kahramaa, Al Daayen Municipality and the General Tax Authority. It also delivered awareness programmes and talks at several schools, held a training workshop for nursing staff, and provided training on using insulin pumps to manage type 1 diabetes.

Dr Abdulla al-Hamaq, executive director of Diabetes Qatar, said: "Through this year's campaign, we want to help people recognise the signs of diabetes, understand their risk and get tested early. The walkathon brings families and the wider community together and encourages people to make regular physical activity part of their daily lives. This can help reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes."

QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY

INVITATION TO TENDER

QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ 6000006922	Frame Agreement for Calibration of Batch Weighing Scales for 5 Years (Year 2027 to 2032)	500/- (Non-refundable)	91,550/- (ninety-one thousand five hundred fifty Qatari Riyals)	11.11.2026 12.11.2026 15.11.2026 16.11.2026 17.11.2026 18.11.2026 19.11.2026	28.12.2026

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
  - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
  - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
  - IBAN : **QA51QNBA000000000013025828058**
  - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender ***(Very Important)***, during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to rtolarde@qafco.com.qa on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date, you may contact at rtolarde@qafco.com.qa or on 44225815.
- Bidders not registered on the SAP Portal who have paid the tender bond are requested to contact Vendor Management at vm@qafco.com.qa or +974 4422-5762 to complete their registration process.
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of Tender Bond.
- **The Tender shall be strictly submitted using QAFCO's Supply Chain Portal – SAP / Ariba,** on or before the "Tender Closing Date". Tenderers who fail to adhere to this requirement will result in disqualification of their Tender.

Liwan launches 2nd volume of *Al Journal*

Liwan Design Studios and Labs has launched the second volume of *Al Journal* on the theme of 'Design and Resilience'. Gathering essays, articles, reviews and visual contributions from Qatar, Southwest Asia, North Africa and beyond, the new edition examines how design can support empowerment and self-expression in response to local and global challenges.

Published biennially, *Al Journal* is a platform for exchange between local and international design communities, presenting pioneering Qatari creatives alongside contributors from a range of disciplines and geographies.

This volume looks at how creative practice responds to conflict, displacement and environmental crises while sustaining cultural knowledge and helping communities adapt.

Aisha Nasser al-Sowaidi, Director of Liwan Design Studios and Labs, said: "*Al Journal* extends Liwan's commitment to supporting creative exchange and making space for perspectives rooted in Qatar and the wider region. This second volume considers how designers and communities draw on the knowledge, materials and experiences around them to respond to difficult circumstances."

Across its thematic sections, *Al Journal* examines how different art and design media, such as architecture, craft, film, music, food, photography and fashion can represent resilience. (**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.

ENQUIRIES & BID SUBMISSION
SVN Real Estate
All inquiries, requests for tender documentation, and purchase offers must be directed to SVN.
Email: admin@svnqatar.com
Tel: 00974 6647 7575

SERIOUS ENQUIRIES FROM QUALIFIED PURCHASERS ONLY

Qatar attends meeting to support the ILO's efforts in Palestine

QNA
Geneva



The State of Qatar participated yesterday in the Partners' Meeting to Support the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Programme of Assistance for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, held in Geneva and attended by Their Excellencies Ministers of Labour and representatives of workers and employers from the ILO's Member States.

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri represented the State of Qatar at the meeting.

In his remarks, HE al-Marri stressed that conditions in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory were witnessing a serious and alarming deterioration amid continued military operations and restrictions on the entry of aid into the Strip, further exacerbating the humanitarian and economic crisis.

He indicated that the data contained in the Office's background note indicated that more than half a mn jobs had been lost since October 2023, while unemployment rates had reached 28.6% in the West Bank and exceeded 80% in the Gaza Strip. He noted that these figures reflected the scale of the crisis facing Palestinian workers and employers, as well as the growing difficulties experienced by families in securing even their most basic needs. This underscored the importance of the ILO continuing to provide the necessary assistance.

In this regard, al-Marri expressed his appreciation for the ILO's efforts to respond to urgent needs through its Emergency Response Plan and the associated recovery programme. He also welcomed the Decent Work and Recovery Programme for the Occupied Palestinian Territory for 2026-2029, describing it as an important framework for supporting recovery efforts through a focus on three key areas: employment and enterprise recovery, social protection, and labour market governance.

He stressed that the worsening humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip and the deteriorating situation in the West Bank called for greater concerted efforts to ensure that those affected received the necessary assistance. He emphasised that Palestinian workers and employers, as well as the Palestinian people as a whole, remained in urgent need of the international community's solidarity.

He also thanked the ILO Director-General and the Organisation's Office for convening the meeting, commending the ILO's ongoing efforts to mitigate the effects of the devastating war in the Gaza Strip and the escalation of violence in the West Bank, and the resulting impact on the lives of workers, employers and the Palestinian people as a whole.

The Ministry of Labour's participation in the meeting with a high-level delegation reflects the State of Qatar's continued support for the Palestinian people through international forums. It also underscores the need for the ILO to take the necessary measures to assist workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, while strengthening its efforts to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to the three parties to production in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Al-Marri meets ILO director-general



HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met with Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Gilbert F Houngbo. During the meeting, they discussed mechanisms for strengthening co-operation between Qatar and the Organisation, as well as ways to support and further develop it. (**QNA**)

Qatar Rail receives Prestigious RoSPA Gold Award for health, safety excellence

QNA
Doha

For the second consecutive year, Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) has been recognised with the "Prestigious RoSPA Gold Award" for occupational health and safety excellence by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), UK, for the year 2026, reaffirming its commitment to the highest standards of health and safety across all operations.

This recognition adds to Qatar Rail's track record at the RoSPA Awards. In 2017, Qatar Rail won three international awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) for the Lusail Tram and the Doha Metro Gold and Green Lines. The Lusail Tram won the Gold Award for Health and Safety for the second consecutive year, while the Doha Metro Gold and Green Lines won the Silver Award, and the main stations won the Guardian Angel Award.

The Lusail Tram was awarded the RoSPA Gold Medal in 2020 for winning the RoSPA Gold Award for five consecutive years from 2016 to 2020. In 2025, Qatar Rail received the "Prestigious RoSPA Gold Award" for occupational health and safety excellence.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), founded in the United Kingdom over a century ago, is one of the world's leading voices in health and safety. Its annual awards program attracts nearly 2,000 entries from around 60 countries, reaching millions of employees worldwide, and is open to teams and organisations from across the globe.

MoEHE promotes early childhood development awareness through community event for 100 children

QNA
Doha



The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), represented by its Early Education Department, has organised a community awareness event titled "And the Story Continues", bringing together 100 children accompanied by their parents at OliOli Children's Museum in Katara Cultural Village. The event aimed to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood development and equip families with educational practices that support children's growth, development and learning.

In a statement yesterday, the ministry said the event was held as part of the "Enhancing Early Childhood Education" project, one of the strategic initiatives under the "Sunrise" Programme. It also builds on the previous event, "Here... The Story Begins", reflecting the ministry's ongoing efforts to strengthen the family's role as an essential partner in the educational process and lay a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

In this regard, Director of the Early Education Department and National Lead of the Enhancing Early Childhood Education Project, Dhabia Mohammed al-Khulaifi, underscored the importance of equipping parents with the knowledge and educational practices needed to create a stimulating home environment that nurtures children's development and helps them realise their full potential.

She also highlighted the ministry's commitment to strengthening partnerships with specialised national institutions, thereby providing enriching educational and awareness-based experiences for children and their families.

The programme featured two group parental counselling sessions organised in collaboration with Kanaf Parenting Centre. The sessions were led by the centre's Director, Dr Maryam Ibrahim al-Malki, and Educational and Social Consultant Dr Ibrahim Ahmed Atiya.

The first session, entitled "Children's Behaviour and Emotions", explored ways to foster positive relationships among siblings and establish effective communication with children during their first five years of life. The second session, "A Child's Daily Routine and Habits", focused on promoting balanced use of smart devices and preparing children for entry into kindergarten.

Both sessions also provided parents with an opportunity to raise questions and discuss everyday parenting challenges with the specialists.

The event further featured an interactive workshop bringing together children and their parents, alongside a range of play-based and exploratory educational activities held within the museum's exhibition spaces. These activities helped strengthen family interaction while fostering children's critical thinking, creativity, co-operation and problem-solving skills.

The initiative forms part of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's broader efforts to enhance the quality of early childhood education and expand partnerships among families, educational institutions and community organisations. It is also aligned with the human and social development objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030, contributing to the creation of a supportive environment that promotes children's growth and learning from their earliest years.

Land excavation violation spotted



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Wildlife Protection Department has detected an environmental violation involving the excavation and removal of soil in the Wadi Al-Dahoul area in northern Qatar.

Accordingly, the violator was apprehended and referred to the relevant authorities for necessary legal action, in accordance with the country's laws and regulations to protect the terrestrial environment and natural resources.

The Ministry confirmed that detecting this violation is part of its ongoing monitoring efforts and inspection campaigns aimed at identifying environmental violations and addressing practices that threaten the integrity of the terrestrial environment. It stressed that soil excavation is considered environmentally harmful because of its adverse effects on vegetation cover and ecological balance.

The Ministry further stressed that it will continue its field efforts to protect natural meadow areas (Rawdat), valleys and natural resources, as well as preserve biodiversity. It reaffirmed that it will take firm legal action against anyone found committing environmental violations, ensuring the protection of Qatar's terrestrial environment and the sustainability of its natural resources.

QC provides food baskets to refugees in Djibouti

QNA
Djibouti

Qatar Charity (QC) distributed 3,380 food baskets to refugee families in three camps in the Republic of Djibouti, benefiting approximately 17,000 people.

The distribution was carried out in co-ordination with the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Displaced Persons and the relevant authorities.

The project included the distribution of 700 food baskets in Markazi camp, 973 in Holl Holl camp, and 1,707 in Ali Addeh camp to help meet the basic food needs of beneficiary families and ease the financial burdens they face. Each basket provides enough food to meet a family's needs for one month.

The distribution of these baskets is particularly important as winter approaches, as it helps strengthen refugee families' resilience and protect their children from the risks of malnutrition in the coming months.

The Minister of Interior of the Republic of Djibouti Omar Abdi Said commended Qatar Charity's humanitarian and relief efforts for refugees, praising its role in supporting refugee families, meeting their basic needs, and easing their hardship.

For his part, Deputy Director of the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Displaced Persons (ONARS) Hussein Shardi praised Qatar Charity's projects and interventions to support refugees in Djibouti, emphasising the importance of food assistance in supporting beneficiary families and improving their living conditions.

He also highlighted the ongoing co-operation between Qatar Charity and the relevant national authorities, and its role in facilitating humanitarian interventions and reaching refugees in the targeted camps.

For her part, Director of Qatar Charity's office in Djibouti Ghada Ezz El Din affirmed that the project is a continuation of Qatar Charity's ongoing efforts to support refugees and those most in need, guided by its humanitarian mission and its commitment to promoting solidarity and mutual support.

She said: "The distribution of 3,380 food baskets, benefiting approximately 17,000 people in Markazi, Holl Holl, and Ali Addeh camps, reflects Qatar Charity's commitment to responding to humanitarian needs and helping alleviate the suffering of refugee families."



شبكة الجزيرة الإعلامية
ALJAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK

Al Jazeera Media Network announces the following tender:

Sr. No	Tender Ref. No.	Description	Tender Bond (QAR)	Tender Fee Non-Refundable (QAR)	Bid Closing Date and Time
1	LTC100-26	Operation and management of on-site first aid clinic at AJMN for 3 years	12,000	500	13-Dec-2026 (1:00 PM)

- Tenderer qualification requirement: The Tenderer must have at least ten (10) years of proven experience in medical services and the operation of medical or first aid clinics and have a valid license to operate outpatient clinics issued by the competent authority in Qatar.
- Tender documents can be collected from Al Jazeera Media Network, Procurement & Contracts Directorate Building 1st Floor, behind Al Jazeera Media Institute Building, TV Intersection Area, Doha by submitting an authorization letter showing the tender number and ID number of collecting person under the company letterhead, after paying the tender fee (as applicable) at QIB Branch inside Al Jazeera's Support Services building.
- Tender documents are to be collected from 11-Nov-2026 to 19-Nov-2026, between 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM (excluding Friday & Saturday).
- The offer must be valid for a period of 180 days from the bid closing date.
- The Technical and Commercial offers shall be submitted as per the instructions in the tender documents which shall bear the tender number and bid closing date.
- The last date for accepting the Tender offers shall be 01:00 PM of the bid closing date.
- For more information, please call 44897131.

www.aljazeera.net www.aljazeera.com

QATAR



Qatar takes part in 65th Arab health ministers council meeting in Cairo

QNA
Cairo

The State of Qatar has participated in the 65th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health and its Executive Bureau, held in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, yesterday.

The Qatari delegation was led by Assistant Undersecretary for Healthcare Regulatory Affairs at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Ghanim Ali al-Mannai.

The meetings discussed a range of key regional health issues, including support for the health sectors in Palestine and Sudan, as well as the health and humanitarian situation in Yemen.

Participants also examined a proposal to establish an Arab regional centre for applied epidemiology to strengthen regional capabilities in disease surveillance and public health response.

The agenda included discussions on the Arab strategy for leveraging migrant Arab health professionals to support healthcare systems in the region for 2026-2030.

Ministers also reviewed an Arab strategy for improving the health of mothers, children and adolescents across the region.

In addition, the meetings considered the achievements and activities of several regional health organisations, including the Arab Authority for Blood Transfusion Services, the Arab Board of Health Specialisations, and the Arab Centre for the Authorship and Translation of Health Science.

QCAA launches its new strategy

QNA
Doha

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Minister of Transport Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Thani today launched the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority's (QCAA) new strategy under the slogan "Leading the Sky, Inspired by Vision," during a ceremony attended by several high-ranking state officials.

The strategy is guided by a vision to establish a leading global civil aviation ecosystem that enhances safety and ensures secure and sustainable air transport, reinforcing the State of Qatar's international standing and leadership in civil aviation. Its mission reflects QCAA's role in empowering and supporting the sector, strengthening integration across its components, and promoting air connectivity and innovation.

This aligns with Qatar's aspirations for excellence and leadership and the ambitions and objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030. The strategy also complements the Ministry of Transport Strategy 2025-2030, which envisions an integrated, secure, resilient and sustainable transport ecosystem.



During the ceremony, Mohamed bin Faleh al-Hajri, In Charge of Managing QCAA, said: "We are pleased to launch QCAA's new strategy today. It represents an important step towards a more advanced and prosperous future and a key milestone in enhancing our readiness to adapt to change, address challenges and seize opportunities. It aligns with Qatar's aspirations and the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030, while complementing the Ministry of Transport Strategy."

He emphasised that the strategy provides a regulatory framework and a comprehensive roadmap through which QCAA will develop the aviation ecosystem, improve operational efficiency and enhance air connectivity. This will strengthen the sector's ability to keep pace with global growth and developments, reinforcing Qatar's standing and leadership in civil aviation.

Al-Hajri added: "We have developed this strategy based on a comprehensive, forward-looking vision to uphold the highest standards of safety and security, empower national talent and support the sector's sustainable growth. We reaffirm QCAA's commitment to improving the quality of its programmes and services, adopting modern best practices and enhancing organisational performance to realise this vision, guided by the core values that underpin our work."

He also reaffirmed QCAA's commitment to overseeing the strategy's implementation with dedication and responsibility in the coming period and translating it into pioneering initiatives, promising projects and tangible achievements. These efforts will reinforce Qatar's standing and leadership in civil aviation and contribute to sustainable development, in line with QCAA's direction and future ambitions.

The ceremony featured a video highlighting the strategy's key objectives, including strengthening safety, security and environmental sustainability standards, reinforcing Qatar's position as a leader in air transport, and digitising operational and regulatory processes.

The video also presented the strategy's values relating to security and safety, sustainability and resilience, innovation and leadership, and its pillars of operational efficiency, regulatory excellence and international influence. It also outlined key development initiatives and projects that QCAA plans to implement in the next phase in partnership with relevant entities.

These will enhance the readiness of Qatar's civil aviation ecosystem to address future challenges and capitalise on growth opportunities, strengthening the country's regional and international standing in this vital sector.

Student-built rescue robot highlights Qatar's drive to turn research into real-world solutions

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

A student-built search-and-rescue robot is highlighting how Qatar is turning university research into practical technologies, as the Qatar Mobility Innovations Centre (QMIC) showcases new systems and expands partnerships at Mobile World Congress (MWC26) in Doha.

Developed by Qatar University (QU) students, the prototype uses virtual reality (VR), a 360-degree camera and artificial intelligence (AI) to help locate people in search-and-rescue scenarios, offering a glimpse into how locally developed technology could support emergency response operations.

The project is among the innovations being underlined by QMIC where the centre is demonstrating how research and development can be translated into solutions for industry and national partners.

Explaining the system, student developer Marcus Wein Monteiro said the robot could be controlled remotely through a VR headset, allowing its operator to navigate towards a detected person.


Mohammed al-Sada

"We use a VR and a 360 camera with AI assistance in finding the victims," he said, demonstrating how the system responded when he moved the headset towards a hand used to illustrate its detection capabilities.

The robot is currently deployed at QU's H07 building for demonstration and remote-control testing.

Monteiro, who is working on the project with Syed Mohammed Hamza and Mohd Muhtasim Bashar, said the initial idea came from their thesis supervisor, Dr Osama Halabi.

The team spent about a year developing the prototype before dedicating the following four months to refining it.

"Qatar University basically provided us with a room, a lab to work on," Monteiro said, adding that their supervisors also helped provide the equipment needed for development.

Support from QMIC later enabled the students to obtain improved components to reduce latency and increase accuracy.

Reflecting on the opportunities available to young innovators, Monteiro said students should not be discouraged from approaching institutions and seeking support.

"It may seem scary at first, but starting out is always the hardest thing," he said. "Once you start out, you just need to get the ball rolling. There's a lot of support in Qatar that you can go to."

QMIC executive director Mohammed al-Sada said the centre's wider mission is to bridge the gap between research and practical applications, working with universities and research institutes to develop solutions that industry can adopt.

"QMIC is a national research and innovation centre," he said. "It takes the outputs of R&D from our collaborations with different universities and research institutes and converts them into solutions and systems that can be used by the industry in Qatar, focusing on national partners."

Established in 2009, the centre has been operating for more than 15 years, with specialised work spanning smart-city systems and embodied intelligence, including robotics and drones.

Al-Sada highlighted QMIC's contributions to national projects, including Qatar Rail, where its systems have been used to monitor different components of the train network, and smart traffic monitoring solutions deployed during the FIFA World Cup and at other national events.


The workshop introduced the core principles of sustainability, highlighting the need to meet today's needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own.

Qatar Chamber promotes sustainability awareness among students

Qatar Chamber recently organised an awareness workshop titled 'I Am Sustainable' for students at Al Bayan Primary School for Girls to promote sustainability awareness and encourage environmentally responsible practices at school and home.

Delivered by Fatima al-Kuwari, head of the Chamber's Training and Development Department, the workshop introduced the core principles of sustainability, highlighting the need to meet today's needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own.

The workshop forms part of Qatar Chamber's ongoing community initiatives to promote environmental awareness, responsible practices, and sustainable development across Qatar. It focused on water and electricity conservation, waste reduction, recycling, and reuse, in line with the Environmental Development pillar of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The programme included interactive activities and group discussions, enabling students to identify practical resource conservation methods and propose solutions to reduce waste within their school environment.

Al-Kuwari stated that the workshop reflects Qatar Chamber's commitment to fostering sustainability awareness across society, particularly among younger generations, and encouraging positive environmental habits from an early age.

She added that the initiative sought to link sustainability concepts with daily habits, reinforcing a personal sense of environmental responsibility.

Khulood Fallah al-Rumaihi, principal of Al Bayan First Primary School for Girls, stressed the school's commitment to instilling a culture of sustainability among students through awareness activities and initiatives.

She highlighted the importance of encouraging students to conserve water and electricity, reduce waste and promote recycling, noting that co-operation between schools and families is essential to building an environmentally responsible generation and preserving resources for future generations.

Amal al-Muaibid, Science co-ordinator at Al Bayan Primary School for Girls, highlighted the critical role of science in understanding natural systems, including clean energy, biodiversity, resource management, and waste recycling.

DI to host 7th Mena Adolescent Health Conference

The 7th Mena Adolescent Health Conference will begin on November 15, under the theme "A Generation Empowered: From Vulnerability to Strength."

The Social Work Programme at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI) is hosting the conference in partnership with the Arab Coalition for Adolescent Health and Medicine and the Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development.

The conference comes amid mounting challenges facing adolescents and young people across the region, including crises, conflicts, displacement, poverty, and economic instability, alongside climate change and digital transformation. These challenges have far-reaching implications for their mental and physical health, social well-being, opportunities for empowerment, and community participation.

The conference aims to provide a regional platform bringing together policymakers, researchers, practitioners, representatives of relevant institutions, and adolescents and young people to discuss the needs of this population from an integrated perspective encompassing health, psychological, social, educational, and economic dimensions. It also seeks to strengthen co-ordination and collaboration across relevant sectors to develop more inclusive and sustainable policies and programmes.

The conference will address several key themes, including the development of multisectoral policies and programmes; strengthening the biopsychosocial approach to addressing adolescent issues; expanding adolescents' participation in shaping policies and decisions that affect their future; securing sustainable funding for adolescent health and empowerment programmes; and promoting digital protection and safety, as well as safe and meaningful participation in the digital space.

It also seeks to facilitate the exchange of regional and international expertise and knowledge, showcase successful experiences and best practices, and formulate practical recommendations and solutions that promote adolescent health and rights and strengthen their resilience in the face of crises. Furthermore, the conference aims to shift the focus from vulnerability to investing in adolescents' capabilities and potential, recognising them as active partners in development.

The conference will open with an inaugural session on Sunday, from 5pm to 7pm at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Its proceedings and academic sessions will continue until November 17.

QatarEnergy earns coveted methane reporting status

From Page 1

It also demonstrates QatarEnergy's robust approach to methane management, including its adoption of comprehensive measurement-based reporting and credible implementation plans, underscoring the quality, robustness, transparency, and completeness of QatarEnergy's methane emissions reporting.
Minister of State for Energy Affairs HE Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, who is also president and CEO of QatarEnergy, said: "Obtaining OGMP 2.0 Gold Standard Reporting status is an important milestone in QatarEnergy's methane emissions management efforts. This accomplishment reflects our commitment to transparency, continuous improvement, and the application of advanced measurement technologies to manage methane emissions across our operations."
Al-Kaabi added: "I would like to express sincere appreciation to all teams at QatarEnergy and the joint ventures involved in the planning, execution, measurement, reporting, and co-ordination of activities that contributed to this success, which highlights the commitment and professionalism in advancing environmental performance and supporting QatarEnergy's sustainability objectives."
As QatarEnergy continues its methane management journey, it will look to build upon the lessons learned and progress achieved through the OGMP 2.0 programme, further strengthen its emissions measurement capabilities, implement targeted mitigation initiatives, and pursue continuous improvement when it comes to environmental stewardship.

Radisson Blu Hotel, Doha GM Emre earns 3rd consecutive recognition in Hotelier Middle East's GM Power List

Named among the Middle East's Top 200 Hospitality Leaders for the third straight year, reinforcing a track record of operational excellence, business growth, and people development, Emre Kocamustafaogullari, general manager of Radisson Blu Hotel, Doha, has earned his third consecutive recognition on Hotelier Middle East's prestigious GM Power List, following his inclusion in 2024, 2025, and now 2026.

The annual ranking recognises 200 of the region's most influential general managers who are driving business performance, elevating guest experiences, and shaping the future of hospitality across the Middle East.

The achievement highlights Emre's consistent leadership and reinforces his standing among the region's leading hospitality executives. As general manager of one of Qatar's largest and most established hotel operations, he oversees a diverse business encompassing 567 rooms, suites and apartments, 15 restaurants and bars, 17 meeting and event venues, extensive leisure and wellness facilities, an industrial laundry serving multiple locations across Doha, and a team of 600 employees.


Emre Kocamustafaogullari

Under his leadership, Radisson Blu Hotel, Doha has continued to deliver strong business performance while maintaining a clear focus on guest satisfaction, employee engagement, and operational excellence. In 2025, the hotel welcomed more than 250,000 in-house guests, while its restaurants, events, and catering operations served an additional 595,000 guests. Combined with more than 80,000 visits to Cabana Club, the hotel recorded over 925,000 guest touchpoints during the year.

A passionate advocate for talent development, Emre has made investing in people a key pillar of the hotel's success. Today, 154 high-potential employees are participating in a structured development programme designed to nurture future hospitality leaders and support long-term career progression within the organisation.

During his tenure, Radisson Blu Hotel, Doha has continued to strengthen its dining and events offerings, invest in facilities and guest experiences, and implement initiatives that support more sustainable hotel operations, further enhancing its position as one of Qatar's leading hospitality destinations.

This latest recognition adds to Emre's growing list of industry accolades. In 2026, he was recognised as General Manager of the Year at the prestigious Ambassadors of Excellence Awards by Hospitality Qatar and Qatar Tourism. Earlier, he was recognised in the City Hotel Category in 2025, demonstrating a consistent track record of leadership excellence and contribution to Qatar's hospitality industry.

"I see this recognition as a reflection of the dedication, passion, and commitment of our entire team at Radisson Blu Hotel, Doha. Every achievement we celebrate is made possible by our colleagues, partners, and guests, whose trust and support inspire us to continuously improve and deliver exceptional experiences every day," said Emre.

Qatar University, MoEHE launches ninth edition of Al-Qabas Programme

QNA
Doha



Qatar University's (QU) Foundation Programme, under the Deanship of General Studies, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), launched the ninth edition of Al-Qabas Programme under the theme 'For a Successful University Experience.' Approximately 400 sophomore and junior students from schools across Qatar participated in the programme.

The programme aims to prepare students for university life by strengthening their English language, mathematics, and critical thinking skills, while introducing them to effective strategies for placement and international examinations. It also supports students' readiness for STEM and health-related academic disciplines. Al-Qabas 2026 provides participants with an interactive university experience through a variety of educational workshops and sessions delivered by QU faculty members and specialists.

The programme also introduces students to QU's admission requirements, academic pathways, and student support services.

In this context, director of the Foundation Programme at Qatar University, Dr Nafja Sabah al-Kuwari emphasised that the programme represents an important educational initiative that reflects Qatar University's commitment to strengthening the integration between secondary and higher education by preparing students academically and developing their ability to make informed decisions about their future academic pathways.

The significance of the programme extends beyond preparing students for admission and placement tests to developing essential academic skills and strengthening their confidence and ability to adapt to the demands of university education.

The continuity of this initiative also highlights the importance of institutional collaboration with the MoEHE in providing a comprehensive educational experience that helps bridge the gap between secondary and university education, while ensuring that students are better prepared for a successful transition to higher education.

The initiative aligns with QU's Strategy 2023-2027 by supporting student readiness for higher education, strengthening foundational academic skills, and fostering a smoother transition from secondary school to university.

MWC26: Microsoft-MCIT collaboration accelerating AI adoption in Qatar



Microsoft and Qatar's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) highlighted the availability of Foundry models, including Azure OpenAI Service from Microsoft's Qatar Central cloud datacentre region during MWC26 Doha.

The milestone gives government entities and organisations across the country access to advanced generative AI models served from infrastructure located in Qatar, accelerating AI adoption while meeting local data residency and regulatory requirements.

The milestone supports MCIT's efforts to strengthen Qatar's digital infrastructure, advance digital government and enable responsible AI adoption, in line with the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030.

It builds on the long-standing collaboration between MCIT and Microsoft, through which more than 70 public entities have moved existing on-premises infrastructure to Microsoft Azure.

Microsoft Foundry offers a catalogue of more than 10,000 AI models, giving organisations a broad range of options for different business needs.

In Qatar, Microsoft plans to expand its regional model offerings to include Qatar, helping organisations access capabilities that support their AI priorities as those needs evolve.

These models can be used to build AI applications such as intelligent assistants, document and case analysis, content generation and knowledge search.

Sami Mohammed al-Shammari, assistant undersecretary for Infrastructure and Operations Affairs at MCIT, said: "Developing Qatar's cloud and AI infrastructure is a strategic priority for strengthening national digital capabilities. The availability of Azure OpenAI Service in Qatar supports government entities in adopting advanced technologies and delivering better services for citizens and residents."

"Our collaboration with Microsoft and our partners is focused on building resilient, scalable infrastructure that enables sustained innovation and supports the objectives of the Digital Agenda 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030," he added.

Ahmad El Dandachi, general manager, Microsoft Qatar, said: "Our collaboration with MCIT is about putting world-class AI capabilities in the hands of Qatar's government entities, on trusted infrastructure, right here in the country."

"The availability of Microsoft Foundry from our Qatar Central cloud region gives organisations the confidence to innovate with generative AI while keeping their data in Qatar," he added.

"We are proud to work alongside MCIT to help accelerate the country's AI ambitions, and we look forward to seeing how public-sector entities, customers and partners use these capabilities to deliver meaningful impact for people across Qatar," Dandachi explained.

Microsoft Foundry is designed for a diverse range of industries, including government, healthcare, finance, education and energy.

Developers can use its pre-trained models to build AI applications while maintaining ownership of their data.

Demand from Qatar's public sector already spans citizen services, healthcare, transport, justice, economic intelligence and digital government. Planned applications include citizen credential verification, building permits, AI-assisted case analysis, an economic intelligence data hub, maritime navigation and a Qatar Digital Twin.



GCC to set up forward military command in Kuwait

From Page 1

The choice of Kuwait carries particular strategic significance.
Situated at the northern end of the Gulf, bordering Iraq and Saudi Arabia and facing Iran across the water, Kuwait occupies a geographically important position in the region's security architecture.
A forward military command, unlike a central headquarters, is positioned closer to potential areas of military activity, allowing commanders to maintain operational oversight, co-ordinate the movement of forces and facilitate quicker responses to developing situations.
While the GCC has not disclosed the size, composition or precise operational responsibilities of the forces to be stationed at the new headquarters, the decision signals an intention to reinforce the bloc's ability to act collectively rather than rely solely on separate national military responses.
AlBudaiwi said the meeting was convened in implementation of directives issued by GCC leaders during their extraordinary summit in Jeddah in April, which called for strengthening joint military action and enhancing the preparedness of member states to confront shared threats.
He described the latest decisions as part of continuing efforts to develop the GCC's collective defence system and strengthen military integration among its members.
The secretary-general commended the level of co-operation and co-ordination demonstrated by the armed forces of GCC countries in responding to what he described as Iranian aggression against the region.
He said the collective response reflected the principle that the security of GCC member states was indivisible and that threats against one country had implications for the entire bloc.
His remarks came against the backdrop of escalating regional tensions, including attacks on civilian facilities and vital infrastructure, which have underscored the vulnerability of Gulf economies and the importance of co-ordinated defence arrangements.
AlBudaiwi strongly condemned Iranian attacks targeting GCC countries, saying they had caused damage to civilian sites and infrastructure and posed a serious threat to regional security and stability.
He paid tribute to the armed forces of member states for their efforts in safeguarding national sovereignty and protecting civilian populations and strategic facilities.
He also offered condolences to the families of those killed in the attacks and wished the injured a speedy recovery.
The meeting additionally addressed threats to Saudi Arabia, with AlBudaiwi strongly condemning attacks by the Houthis, including the targeting of holy sites.
He described the attacks as a flagrant violation of the kingdom's sovereignty and security and reaffirmed the GCC's unwavering solidarity with Saudi Arabia.
AlBudaiwi stressed that all six member states supported the measures taken by the Kingdom to defend its territory, safeguard its population and preserve its stability.
"The security of the kingdom is an integral part of the security of all GCC countries," he declared, reiterating the bloc's commitment to collective security.
The establishment of the Kuwait command also builds on the GCC's existing joint defence architecture, which includes the Peninsula Shield Force and the Unified Military Command, both conceived to strengthen collective military capabilities and interoperability among member states.
The Peninsula Shield Force, established in the 1980s, represented an early attempt to institutionalise collective defence, while subsequent initiatives sought to improve command structures, joint planning, military exercises and operational co-ordination.
The latest decision could give those arrangements greater operational depth by creating a forward headquarters capable of supporting closer co-ordination between national forces and the GCC's central military command.
The development is particularly consequential in a region where the protection of energy infrastructure, maritime trade routes and strategic installations remains central to both regional stability and the wider global economy.
The Gulf's waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz, are vital arteries for international energy shipments and commercial traffic, making any escalation of regional hostilities a concern extending well beyond the six GCC countries.
A more integrated Gulf defence posture could therefore contribute to improving military readiness, strengthening deterrence and reducing response times during security emergencies, although the command's eventual effectiveness will depend on its operational mandate, resources and the degree of co-ordination achieved among member states.
AlBudaiwi said the Joint Defence Council had adopted several other decisions intended to advance military co-operation to a broader and more sophisticated level of integration.
Although details of those measures were not immediately disclosed, the establishment of a forward command with assigned forces stands out as a significant institutional development in the GCC's continuing efforts to reinforce its collective defence architecture.
The move also underscores a growing recognition among Gulf states that rapidly evolving security challenges demand not only stronger national armed forces but also closer co-ordination, shared preparedness and an increasingly unified regional defence response.

Qatar pursuing US-Iran deal

From Page 1

Al-Hashemi said the PM had also held telephone conversations in recent days with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Kuwait, Cyprus, Egypt and Turkiye.

He also held talks by telephone with Kaja Kallas, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission.

The discussions focused on the latest regional developments and co-ordinated diplomatic initiatives to ease tensions, reinforce stability and advance prospects for peaceful solutions.

The briefing also highlighted Qatar's expanding diplomatic engagement with African countries through bilateral political consultations.

A round of political consultations between the foreign ministries of Qatar and Mozambique was held in Maputo last Tuesday. The Qatari delegation was led by MoFA Secretary-General HE Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi, while the Mozambican delegation was headed by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Mozambican Communities Abroad Maria de Fatima Simao.

The first round of political consultations between Qatar and Botswana was held in Gaborone last Wednesday. Dr al-Hammadi led the Qatari delegation, while Permanent Secretary of Botswana's Ministry of International Relations Thuso Ramodimoosi headed the Botswana delegation.

Al-Hashemi also highlighted Qatar's participation in the Paris Peace Forum 2026, which opened yesterday and concludes today.

HE Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad is representing Qatar at the forum, where she is scheduled to deliver an opening address at a session examining food security as a global strategic issue.

She will also address a session exploring the hidden costs of conflict on global development and hold meetings with officials participating in the forum.

The briefing further reviewed recent telephone conversations between HE the Minister of State at MoFA Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi and the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Bulgaria, as well as the Chinese government's special envoy on the Middle East issue. The conversations covered bilateral co-operation and a range of regional and international developments.

On regional security, MoFA reiterated Qatar's unequivocal condemnation of attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Al-Hashemi referred to Qatar's condemnation on Sunday of continued Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, including an attack targeting Riyadh with two ballistic missiles.

Qatar described the attacks as a threat to civilian lives, a violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and a breach of international law.

The briefing also highlighted Qatar's continuing humanitarian assistance to displaced families in the Gaza Strip, particularly those affected by adverse weather conditions.

The Qatar Committee for the Reconstruction of Gaza provided emergency assistance on Saturday and Sunday to displaced Palestinians affected by heavy rainfall.

Relief operations covered more than 19 displacement camps and included draining accumulated rainwater, protecting temporary shelters and distributing tents and essential supplies to affected families.

Qatar hosts NoW event to spotlight women's role in digital diplomacy at ITU PP-26



Qatar, represented by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), hosted the Network of Women (NoW) event, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and with the support of the Republic of Korea, under the theme "The Human Library of Digital Diplomacy: Women Connecting Nations in the Digital Age".

Held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre, the event was part of the activities accompanying the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26), organised by ITU and hosted by Qatar, represented by CRA, from November 9 to 27, 2026.

The event was attended by Engr Ahmad bin Abdulla AlMuslemani, chair of ITU PP-26 and president of CRA of Qatar, alongside several heads of delegation from ITU member states.

The event opened with an address by ITU secretary-general Doreen Bogdan-Martin, followed by remarks from Dr Bae Kyunghoon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea, reflecting Korea's support for the event and international efforts to strengthen women's participation in the ICT sector.

The event marked the launch of a Qatari initiative titled "The Human Library of Digital Diplomacy", featuring more than 25 profiles of women leaders from across ITU regions, including five Qatari women leaders in the ICT sector and academia.

The initiative highlights their experiences, achievements and challenges throughout their professional journeys, aiming to inspire future generations and promote knowledge-sharing.

ITU is expected to continue developing the Human Library and enriching its content in the coming years, creating a lasting knowledge legacy that extends from Doha to the world.

The event introduced an innovative interactive format inspired by the "Human Library" concept, where women leaders shared their stories and experiences in leadership, decision-making, building trust and strengthening international co-operation through direct conversations rather than traditional panel discussions.

Participants also had the opportunity to explore the profiles featured in the Human Library and engage in interactive discussions on the role of the international community in building a more inclusive digital future.

The main conversations featured



Amal Salem al-Hanawi

HE Reem Mohammed al-Mansoori, assistant undersecretary for Digital Industry Affairs at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and Helena Fernandes, chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Mozambique Communications Regulatory Authority (INCM).

Amal Salem al-Hanawi, director of Consumer Affairs Department at CRA, said: "Building a more inclusive digital future depends not only on technological progress, but on the diversity of experiences and voices that shape policy and decision-making. With this in mind, the State of Qatar has launched an initiative that goes beyond traditional dialogue, documenting the journeys of women leaders who have helped shape the ICT sector and strengthen international co-operation."

She added: "We are proud that five Qatari women leaders are featured in the Human Library, reflecting the contributions of national talent to this vital sector.

"I am delighted to share my own experience through this initiative, and to highlight the importance of international co-operation in protecting children in the digital space, a shared responsibility that transcends borders. We look forward to this initiative, which will be adopted by ITU, becoming a lasting legacy and a platform to inspire future generations and strengthen women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions at the international level."

The event was held as part of the activities of ITU's Network of Women, which aims to enhance women's participation, highlight their contributions to the ICT sector and encourage knowledge-sharing among women leaders from different ITU member states.



From CHOGM to COP31: Small islands will not be small talk

By Theon Ali

This week Prime Minister Gaston Browne leads the Antigua and Barbuda delegation at COP31 in Antalya, only days after Commonwealth leaders left St John's. Hosting CHOGM showed my small country what a summit can achieve when its host refuses to let it drift. The test now is whether COP31 can do the same.

A year ago I argued that small island states should be treated as partners and co-investors in the energy transition, and that Gulf capital and energy expertise could turn our islands into proving grounds for the grids of the future. Some of that has moved. Our government has committed to 100% clean power by 2030.

What has not moved fast enough is the money. Most of what reaches us still arrives as loans, stacked on debt we took on to rebuild after storms we did not cause. When Hurricane Irma flattened Barbuda in 2017 and the whole island was evacuated, the prime minister put the cost of rebuilding at about US$250mn.

Last week the Commonwealth moved that argument forward. Leaders called for debt frameworks that reflect climate vulnerability, including pause clauses that suspend repayments after a major disaster, and investors were shown a pipeline of more than US$52bn in projects from 28 developing countries.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is now Commonwealth Chair-in-Office for the next two years, and Michael Joseph, Minister of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs, co-leads CARICOM's climate finance negotiations. We intend to carry that mandate into every room.

Here is what Antalya must deliver.

First, hold the line on 1.5°C. Caribbean ministers warned before this summit that the world is now likely to overshoot that limit within a few years. For an island state, that number decides which coastlines we can still defend.

Last year the International Court of Justice confirmed that parties to the Paris Agreement are legally obliged to act to meet that goal. COP31 should treat that opinion as a floor, and the largest emitters should arrive with plans that match it.

Second, change the terms of climate finance. The world has promised at least US$300bn a year by 2035. A credible path to that figure must put grants and concessional money first for small islands, with simpler access, dedicated windows and a guaranteed minimum share.

Disaster pause clauses should be standard in every loan to a climate-vulnerable country, and eligibility for cheap finance should be judged by exposure to climate shocks rather than income figures that label us too wealthy for help. A grant that a country of fewer than 100,000 people cannot reach might as well be a press release.

Third, fill the funds that already exist. The Loss and Damage Fund has not kept pace with what islands are losing, and adaptation finance needs a clear route to tripling by 2035.

Every year of delay is paid for in sea defences we cannot afford to build. Beyond Antalya, the work moves from negotiation to delivery, and that is where my work in the Gulf matters.

Few regions understand energy markets as well as the Gulf, and its states are building the transition at home: Qatar alone has more than doubled its solar capacity in three years, to about 1,675 megawatts.

Gulf partners have also shown what they can do for islands like mine. A hurricane-resistant solar plant on Barbuda, financed through the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund, came online in 2024, and His Highness the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, has pledged US$100mn to help small island states and the least developed countries respond to climate change.

Melford Nicholas, Minister of Information, Communication Technologies, Utilities and Energy, puts the cost of producing a unit of electricity in Antigua at about 42 US cents, against less than 10 cents in oil-producing countries.

Over the two years of our Commonwealth chairmanship, I want to bring Gulf capital to the projects already in the Commonwealth pipeline and turn that goodwill into financed projects, built grid by grid.

Small islands did not come to Antalya to be pitied. We came with a court ruling on our side, projects ready to fund and the chair of a Commonwealth of 2.7bn people. The question for COP31 is whether the rest of the world will match our seriousness.

(Theon Ali is ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the State of Qatar and non-resident ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic)

'Presence in conflict zones part of mission to cover human suffering'

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter





Ibrahim Helal, director of News at Al Jazeera English.

Completing 30 years, Al Jazeera's global transformation reflects commitment to impartial journalism and giving voice to the unheard

Al Jazeera has evolved from a regional Arabic-language television channel into a major global news network by maintaining its commitment to impartial journalism, diversity, and reporting stories from the perspective of affected communities, Ibrahim Helal, director of News at Al Jazeera English, said.

Speaking to *Gulf Times*, Helal, who was part of the network's founding team in 1996, said Al Jazeera's development had passed through several defining stages, from its launch in Doha to its emergence as an international broadcaster with a significant presence across the global media landscape.

Recalling the network's early days, Helal said the original team did not anticipate that Al Jazeera would eventually achieve its current international standing. When journalists arrived in Doha in 1996 following the closure of the BBC Arabic television service in London, many initially assumed they would be joining another conventional state-run broadcaster. However, their first meetings with the network's management, particularly its then managing director, Mohamed Jassim al-Ali, offered a different vision.

"We were told to carry on our free thinking, our free professional journalism and our impartial journalism in Doha," Helal recalled, explaining that journalists were encouraged to work independently, provided they maintained accuracy, objectivity and presented the opinion and the other opinion opposing viewpoints.

He described the network's launch as a dream come true for journalists who wanted to report news according to its importance. Another significant milestone came in 1997 with the introduction of 'Hasad Al Youm' (Harvest of the Day), a one-hour news programme that Helal was assigned to establish and became its first editor.

He described it as a pioneering development in Arabic television, introducing a format that combined news summaries with deeper analysis, expert commentary and background information. The network subsequently expanded its broadcasting hours from 12 to 18 and eventually 24 hours a day, strengthening its position as a major regional news provider.

Its transformation into a global media organisation accelerated during the 1998 US military strikes against Iraq, when Al Jazeera became one of the principal sources of television footage from the country. International broadcasters, including CNN, used its material, bringing the network to the attention of audiences worldwide.

Helal stressed that Al Jazeera's decision to establish a presence in conflict zones was driven primarily by its commitment to covering human suffering rather than an interest in war itself. He cited Iraq, where the network reported on the humanitarian consequences of international sanctions, and Afghanistan, where it established a bureau in 2000, a year before the September 11 attacks, to document the difficulties facing ordinary Afghans.

The subsequent coverage of September 11 and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq in 2003 accelerated Al Jazeera's transformation into an international news organisation.

New channel

A further defining stage arrived in 2006 with the launch of Al Jazeera English. Helal, then deputy managing director, played a key role in ensuring the new channel's editorial direction reflected the broader network's principles.

He said one of Al Jazeera English's most important contributions to international journalism was its reliance on local journalists to report developments in their own countries and communities. Rather than depending predominantly on Western correspondents travelling to developing countries, the channel recruited journalists from the regions they covered, including Palestinian, Somali, Sudanese, Egyptian and Pakistani reporters.

"This is the difference we Al Jazeera in English decided to do," he said, describing the approach as reporting from within communities rather than relying on what he called "parachuting journalism".

Helal identified Al Jazeera's coverage of Gaza following October 7, 2023, as another defining moment. He said the network's English and Arabic services adopted a distinctive editorial approach, describing the events as genocide and maintaining extensive coverage of their humanitarian consequences. The coverage attracted millions of additional viewers, particularly in Europe and the United States, expanding Al Jazeera English's audience beyond its traditional following in the Global South.

He said the network's credibility was further strengthened during this year's attacks on Iran, when Al Jazeera had already established itself as one of the most trusted sources of English-language news. Discussing the network's influence on public opinion, Helal said its responsibility extended beyond delivering breaking news to explaining the circumstances, historical background and consequences of events. He argued that in an era when social media makes information widely accessible, the real value of professional journalism lies in providing context, connecting developments and giving a voice to both those affected by decisions and those responsible for making them.

Accordingly, he said that Al Jazeera would maintain its global outlook while increasing its focus on local and regional issues, particularly the cost of living and affordability, which he described as major challenges affecting societies worldwide. He explained that globalisation had made audiences increasingly interested in developments beyond their immediate surroundings, while local economic and social concerns remained central to their daily lives.

"The mix and match between global stories and local stories" would be central to the network's future strategy, he said.

He also outlined plans to explore multiple simultaneous news streams, potentially allowing viewers to choose between global and regional coverage based on their interests and location. On the challenges posed by social media, Helal warned against allowing audience clicks and engagement figures to determine editorial priorities. He said journalists must resist the temptation to pursue popular stories at the expense of issues that deserve attention but may attract fewer immediate viewers. He called for deeper audience research through scientific surveys rather than relying exclusively on digital performance indicators.

Further, he expressed optimism about younger audiences, arguing that the current generation is more informed, exposed to diverse perspectives and interested in understanding the meaning behind events than is often assumed. He said Al Jazeera's future success would depend on preserving three fundamental principles: diversity, impartiality and commitment to journalism as a mission rather than simply a profession.

Global North

Addressing the growing perception of Al Jazeera as an authentic news source in Western countries, Helal said the network had increasingly gained recognition among audiences in the Global North, particularly following its Gaza coverage.

He attributed this development partly to the mounting financial pressures on Western media organisations, which have weakened their ability to sustain comprehensive journalism and, in some cases, encouraged greater political polarisation and partisan reporting.

He noted that the resulting gap between right-leaning and left-leaning media outlets in the United States, Britain and Europe represented an opportunity for Al Jazeera to offer audiences an alternative based on impartiality and diverse perspectives.

Philippine restaurant group targets Gulf expansion via Doha

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor



Cabalen Business Development and Franchising Corporation executive director Ferdinand 'Dean' K Dayao. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

Dayao pointed out that partnering with local entities in Doha provides the operational guidance necessary to navigate regional regulatory environments and scale into broader markets

A Qatari-backed commercial partnership is positioning Doha as a strategic launchpad for a major Philippine restaurant chain expanding into the Middle East and international markets.

The initiative aims to utilise Qatar's geographic location and trade infrastructure to establish a commercial bridge connecting regional markets across the Gulf, the Middle East, and Europe, Cabalen Business Development and Franchising Corporation executive director Ferdinand "Dean" K Dayao told *Gulf Times* in an exclusive interview.

He explained that the company's expansion strategy relies on local institutional matchmaking to build cross-border supply chains. Dayao said the Philippine embassy in Qatar helped connect Cabalen with a local partner. "We will start in Qatar and subsequently expand outside the country," he said. "We hope to reach other markets beyond the region, such as Europe, among others."

Dayao pointed out that partnering with local entities in Doha provides the operational guidance necessary to navigate regional regulatory environments and scale into broader markets. "That's why we're partnering with a local company that can guide us and help identify other opportunities for expansion," he said.

Cabalen, which translates to "townmate" in Kapampangan – the language spoken in the province of Pampanga – was invited to Hospitality Qatar 2026 by the Philippine embassy to showcase traditional regional cuisine on an international platform.

"We would like to thank the embassy of the Philippines for inviting us as the only Filipino company showcasing Kapampangan cuisine and heritage," Dayao said.

"Our purpose here is to promote our culture and culinary traditions and share them with the world."

As part of its market entry model, the company plans a dual-track strategy featuring shelf-stable retail product lines alongside compact restaurant formats. The retail line, branded as Cabalen Signatures, includes ready-to-eat items packaged in cans, pouches, and bottles, which are scheduled for distribution within the year.

Meanwhile, the firm plans to debut its fast-casual concept, Cabalen Express, in Qatar as its first international outlet. "The Cabalen signature products, including canned and bottled goods and ready-to-eat meals, are expected to be available within the year," Dayao noted. "Cabalen Express, meanwhile, is targeted for launch in the first quarter of next year."

Addressing market potential, he emphasised that the strategy targets both the established expatriate community and mainstream consumers.

Qatar's population, he added, includes a large Filipino diaspora, providing an immediate customer base alongside wider regional demand for diverse dining options. "We conducted a competitive analysis of Filipino restaurants and found a thriving, highly competitive market," Dayao said.

"While the landscape is challenging, it's also exciting. We're confident in our offering because we serve authentic Kapampangan cuisine."

He further stated that specific traditional dishes, particularly plant-based and coconut-based offerings, have demonstrated strong crossover appeal among non-Filipino consumers in regional markets.

Brace up for strong winds, thundery rain

From Page 1

The latest forecast comes after a week of relatively warm conditions, with temperatures reaching the mid-30s Celsius during the first part of November. Weather reports between November 4 and 10 indicated changing cloud cover, occasional chances of rainfall, and thunderstorm warnings in some areas.

Temperatures ranged between 26C and 31C yesterday (November 10), with partly cloudy skies and a chance of scattered rain. Northerly to northwesterly winds will blow at 10 to 20 knots, occasionally reaching 30 knots.

Conditions today (November 11) are expected to bring the most unsettled weather during the forecast period. The department warned of possible thundery rain, strong winds, and poor horizontal visibility in some areas.

Temperatures are forecast to range between 25C and 29C, with partly cloudy to cloudy skies and a chance of scattered rain that could become thundery at times.

Wave heights could rise to 12 feet, while visibility may drop to three kilometres or less during thundery rain.

Conditions are expected to gradually improve from tomorrow, although scattered rain remains possible.

Temperatures will range between 24C and 29C, with northwesterly winds reaching six to 16 knots inshore and gusting to 26 knots at times.

The weather is forecast to become more stable towards the weekend, with partly cloudy conditions and no inshore weather warnings indicated for Friday and Saturday.

On November 13, temperatures are expected to range between 24C and 28C, while Saturday's readings could fall further to between 23C and 28C.

Northwesterly winds will continue at seven to 17 knots inshore, occasionally gusting to 27 knots.

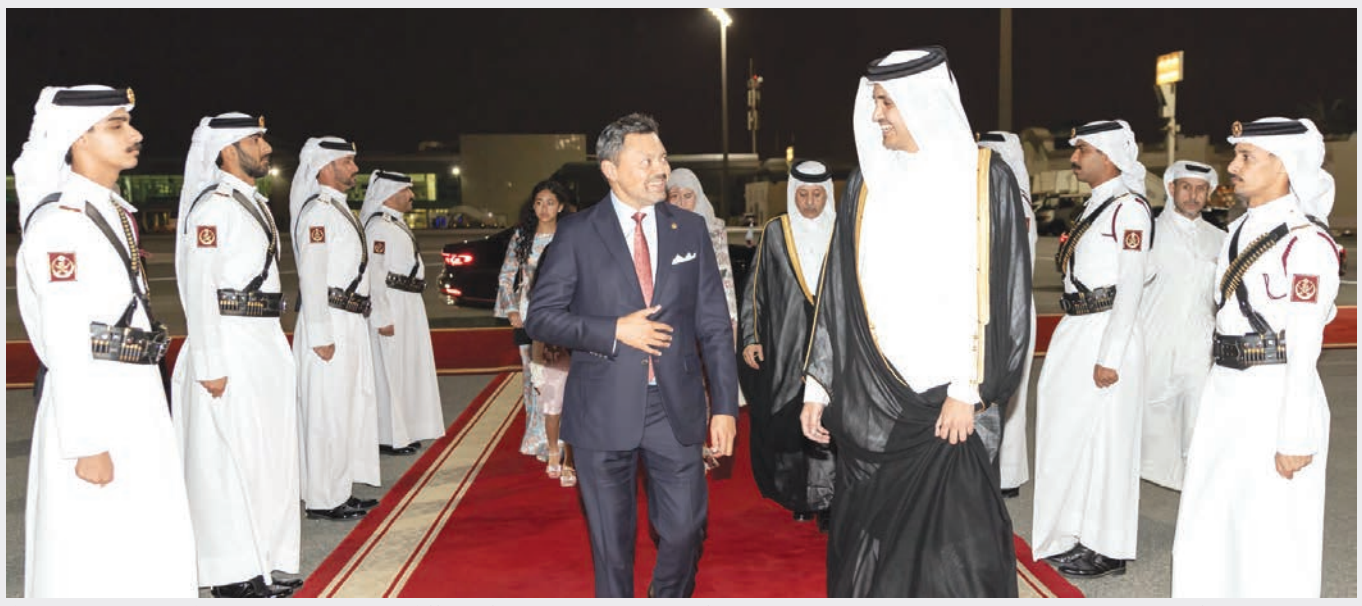
However, offshore areas will remain exposed to stronger winds of 15 to 25 knots, with gusts reaching 35 knots on Friday and 33 knots on Saturday.

The department also warned of strong winds and high seas in offshore areas throughout tomorrow and the weekend, with wave heights potentially reaching 11 feet. Visibility is generally expected to remain between five and 10 kilometres across inshore areas during the latter part of the forecast period.

Residents, particularly motorists and those planning marine activities, have been advised to exercise caution during periods of strong winds and thunderstorms and to follow the department's latest weather updates.

The gradual decline in temperatures is consistent with Qatar's seasonal transition towards cooler weather in November, when northwesterly winds become more prominent and the possibility of rainfall increases.

Crown prince of Brunei leaves Doha



Crown Prince and Senior Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Brunei Darussalam, Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah left Doha yesterday following an official visit to the country. The crown prince and the accompanying delegation were seen off at Doha International Airport by Chairperson of Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), HE Sheikh Thani bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani; ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the State of Qatar, Mohamed Bahrin Abu Bakar; and ambassador of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam, Abdullah Hamad Ali al-Adham al-Marri. (**QNA**)

Qatar pushes diplomatic solution at Paris talks

From Page 1

For Qatar, the discussions formed part of its continuing diplomatic engagement in favour of dialogue, de-escalation and negotiated solutions to regional disputes. It has consistently advocated peaceful conflict resolution, maintaining that sustained diplomatic engagement and constructive dialogue offer the most viable path towards preventing further escalation and achieving durable regional stability.

Qatar's approach has also emphasised the interconnected nature of regional security and global economic stability, particularly the importance of protecting international maritime corridors from disruptions that could have far-reaching consequences for energy markets and supply chains.

The Paris consultations provided an additional platform for co-ordinating Gulf and European diplomatic approaches, reflecting the shared interest in containing regional tensions and pursuing a broader political settlement rather than allowing the current crisis to deepen.



محمد بن عبدالرحمن
@MBA_AlThani_

I took part in Paris in a ministerial meeting with the foreign ministers of the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. We discussed developments in diplomatic mediation efforts and ways to support them, as well as the importance of intensifying joint coordination to de-escalate tensions and enhance the region's security and stability.

AlKhater meets Algeria's minister



HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater met yesterday with Minister of National Education of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Mohamed Seghir Saadaoui and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting Qatar. During the meeting, they discussed ways to support co-operation between the two countries in educational fields, in addition to several issues of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

Al-Misnad attends Paris Peace Forum 2026



HE the Minister of State for International Cooperation, Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad participated in the Paris Peace Forum 2026. The event brought together a distinguished group of political leaders, diplomats, and representatives from international organizations and institutions. Held under the theme 'From Sovereignty to Cooperation', the forum addresses key topics, including peace, geopolitics, and international security; emerging technologies and artificial intelligence; development, the economy, and health; as well as the environment, climate, and the planet. (**QNA**)

Israeli forces shoot dead 14-year-old in West Bank

AFP/Reuters
Ramallah and Cairo

Israeli forces shot dead a 14-year-old in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian officials said, with Israel saying it was responding to stone-throwing.

Moutaz Eyad Daghlas was killed in Burqa, northwest of Nablus, late on Monday, the Palestinian health ministry said.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said its teams treated two people with gunshot wounds and took them to hospital, but that Israeli forces blocked access to a third wounded person and detained three volunteer paramedics.

The Israeli military said yesterday it had acted to "thwart stone-hurling" in the area.

"The soldiers identified several terrorists who intended to hurl stones at a highway used by Israeli vehicles. This was in an area where stones have recently been hurled at Israeli vehicles," the military said.

"The soldiers responded by firing towards them in order to remove the threat."

Israeli forces have routinely opened live fire on Palestinians including minors who throw stones in the West Bank, which Israel has controlled since 1967.

The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said Israeli forces killed at least 241 children or teenagers in the territory between the time war in Gaza began and late June this year.

Violence has increased in recent weeks, especially in the run-up to Israel's October 27 election, before which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had sought to appeal to hardline settlers in the West Bank.

On October 23, Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint near Hebron before being killed by Israeli forces, who later responded with a major operation in the flashpoint city.

Israeli soldiers or settlers have killed at least 1,116 Palestinians, both civilians and fighters, in the West Bank since the start of the Gaza war, according to an AFP tally based on Palestinian Authority figures.

Meanwhile in the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces killed at least four Palestinians, including a father and his 13-year-old son yesterday, local health officials said. Medics said Fadi Rajab and his son Abubakr were killed in an airstrike that hit the roof of a displacement shelter in the Zeitoun neighbourhood in Gaza.

A third Palestinian was killed in an Israeli airstrike near a school in Gaza City's Daraj neighbourhood, health officials added. In Khan Younis, south of the enclave, a man was killed by Israeli gunfire, medics said, taking yesterday's death toll to at least four.

Republican lawmaker calls for defence chief's impeachment

AFP
Washington

A Republican lawmaker moved Monday to impeach US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth over the war in Iran, setting up a potentially explosive vote in Congress days after President Donald Trump's party suffered a crushing midterm defeat.

Kentucky congressman Thomas Massie introduced eight articles of impeachment accusing Hegseth of illegally waging war without congressional authorisation and abusing his powers as Pentagon chief.

The Republican-controlled House could vote as early as today, with some lawmakers from Trump's party signaling they might join Democrats in backing the charges.

Trump threw his support behind Hegseth on Monday, declaring he had done a "good job" and "won" wars in Venezuela and Iran — referring to the lightning raid that captured Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro in January, and the unresolved eight-month conflict with Tehran.

Asked what would happen if Hegseth is impeached, Trump told reporters: "Yeah, I'll stand by him."

Impeachment would be a humiliating blow for the Trump administration, but would not automatically remove Hegseth. Conviction requires a two-thirds majority in the Senate — a much higher hurdle, even after Democrats take control in January.



Secretary Pete Hegseth with Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz (L) at the Pentagon. (**AFP**)

The move has gathered momentum since Tuesday's midterms, when Democrats swept both chambers amid voter anger over the Iran war and soaring fuel prices. Republicans retain control until the new Congress takes office on January 3, but their defeat has fueled recriminations. Defeated Republicans could skip votes, making impeachment easier to pass.

Massie, a Trump critic who lost his primary to a candidate backed by the president, is using a special procedure requiring the House to consider his resolution within two legislative days.

Hegseth had "knowingly executed and implemented unlawful orders" by waging war without congressional approval, Massie said on the House floor.

His articles allege violations of the 1973 War Powers Resolution, as well as misconduct involving civilian casualties and operations in Yemen and Venezuela. The Pentagon has rejected the allegations.

Democratic House leader Hakeem Jeffries, expected to become speaker in January, said Sunday he was a "hard yes" on impeachment.

"The so-called secretary of defence has abused his power, undermined our national security and engineered this reckless and costly war of choice in Iran," Jeffries told ABC News.

"Pete Hegseth has got to go."

Some Republicans are wavering. Arkansas congressman French Hill said he wanted to hear the debate before deciding whether the accusations merited impeachment.

Under the Constitution, the House can bring impeachment charges by a simple majority. The Senate then holds a trial, with two-thirds of senators present needed to convict and remove the official.

Democrats would need substantial Republican support even after they take the Senate majority. Only two Cabinet secretaries have been impeached in US history, and neither was removed by the Senate.

Hegseth has called Massie's effort a "sham" and dismissed him as a "disgruntled" congressman. The Pentagon scheduled a rare Hegseth press briefing yesterday, while Trump on Monday dismissed Massie as a "stone cold loser."

Republican congressman Don Bacon questioned Massie's reasoning but argued Hegseth deserved impeachment for withholding aid to Ukraine and forcing out or blocking promotions for around 80 senior military officers.

"There's a bunch of us have been talking about it," Bacon told CNN, urging Hegseth to resign.

US aircraft evacuated from British base due to Iran threat

Reuters
London

The US military evacuated planes from a second British airbase on Monday after a threat from Iran, *the Wall Street Journal* reported, weeks after Washington withdrew bombers from another British base over suspected Iran-linked security threats.

Two US refuelling tankers that were using the RAF Mildenhall base were diverted to Germany earlier on Monday, while several other tankers at the base were moved to Germany and other locations later in the day, the *WSJ* report said, citing people familiar with the matter.

In September, the US removed bombers, which had been used to strike Iran, from RAF Fairford base on security grounds after a group of men were found approaching the base in white vans.



A US Airforce Boeing KC-135R Stratotanker at Prestwick airport. (**AFP**)

Two men were charged last month in relation to that incident, with prosecutors alleging one of them had tried to assist Iranian intelligence in Britain.

According to the *Journal*, the precise nature of the latest threat to RAF Mildenhall, a base in eastern England about 140 miles away from RAF Fairford, remains under discussion among US officials.

Asked about the reports, the US European Command said yesterday that the US Air Force moves aircraft between locations for a variety of reasons, but declined to comment on any specific movements.

"For operational security reasons, we are unable to discuss specific force protection measures," a spokesperson said. "We constantly assess a variety of factors that determine what measures are implemented or modified." The US upgraded the security posture at RAF Mildenhall and another UK base, RAF Lakenheath, to FPCON Charlie, the second-highest defensive threat level, the *WSJ* report said, citing a US official familiar with the matter.

Force Protection Condition (FPCON) Charlie occurs when intelligence indicates that a form of terrorist action is likely.

Asked about the situation at RAF Mildenhall, British education minister Lucy Powell told the BBC she could not comment on "ongoing operation matters".

"We take the security and safety of our bases incredibly seriously, and we will always act on security intelligence when we need to," she said.

Syria kills leader of armed cell in Alawite heartland

AFP
Damascus

Syrian authorities said yesterday that they had killed the leader of an armed cell linked to the former government and wounded another member during an operation in the countryside of Tartus.

The Internal Security Forces said they had carried out a "carefully planned ambush" after monitoring the four-member group, which was allegedly planning to carry out "terrorist attacks and armed robberies".

The forces said the ensuing clash resulted in the "neutralisation of the cell's leader" and the wounding of another member. They added that efforts were ongoing to track down and arrest the remaining suspects.

The Tartus region on Syria's Mediterranean coast is the heartland of the Alawite minority, to which overthrown leader Bashar al-Assad and his family belong.

His ousting in 2024 sparked widespread fears of sectarian reprisals against the community, which appeared to be borne out in March of last year when hundreds of Alawites were massacred.

Damascus said the violence was triggered by attacks from al-Assad supporters against the new authorities. But monitoring groups reported entire families being killed by government-backed forces, allied groups, etc.

The official death toll was put at 1,426, though the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights put it at more than 1,700.

The authorities later sent in reinforcements to calm the situation and put 14 people on trial — seven supporters of al-Assad and seven from the new regime .

OPINION

Poor nations face deepening stagnation as debt nears $10tn

Officials from international financial institutions have been sounding the alarm in recent months about high debt levels and the adverse impact of higher interest rates on developing countries. Low- and middle-income countries are borrowing more and the external debt of developing countries has risen 5.5% to a record $9.4tn, marking the fastest annual increase since 2021, the World Bank said last week.

A rebound in private financing and a nearly 35% jump in public bond issuances to $251bn fueled the expansion. Vulnerable nations are rolling over maturing debt through new bond issuances, locking in significantly elevated interest rates. A stronger US dollar accounted for over a quarter of the public debt increase by inflating non-dollar denominated obligations.

The bank said the jump in external debt in 2025 — the largest annual increase since 2021, just after the Covid pandemic — threatened to crowd out essential investments in education, infrastructure, health and jobs. It said access to international finance had improved, but the poorest developing countries were paying a steep 8.2% on new private-creditor commitments on average, the highest rate since 1989, and 9.4% on new bonds. By contrast, countries that were not eligible for low- and zero-interest loans under the International Development Association paid an average of 5.5% on new bonds, down from 5.8% in 2024.

Low- and middle-income countries paid $1.4tn in principal and interest in 2025, the fifth consecutive annual increase. That was fueled by a 13.7% increase in payments to private creditors to $363bn. Government debt across the world's advanced economies is expected to reach a record $75.8tn by the end of 2026, as persistent fiscal deficits, geopolitical uncertainty, and rising public spending continue to strain national budgets, according to a report from Fitch Ratings.

Global public debt stands at approximately $111tn, according to comprehensive sovereign debt tracking data from the International Monetary Fund. This reflects a steady climb from $102tn at the end of 2024 and $99.2tn recorded across general government balances by mid-2025.

Though more than two-thirds of the total stock is held by developed economies, debt has increased much faster in developing countries, according to UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). An estimated 3.7bn people live in countries where interest payments on public debt exceed spending on health or education, according to UNCTAD.

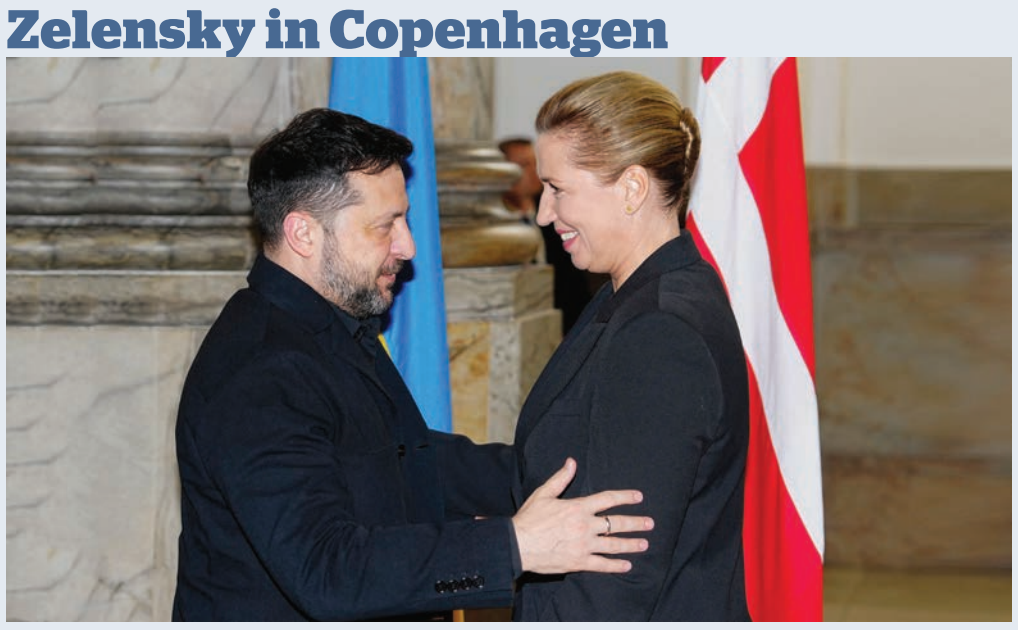
World Bank President Ajay Banga, who has led a drive that has more than tripled the private capital flowing to development projects since 2022, told the annual IMF and World Bank meetings that changes were needed to help countries address headwinds posed by persistent conflicts, a drop in official development assistance and rising debt burdens.

A huge demographic challenge is also unfolding in poorer countries, Banga said, with some 1.2bn young people likely to join the job market in the next 10 to 15 years, but only 400mn jobs in sight.

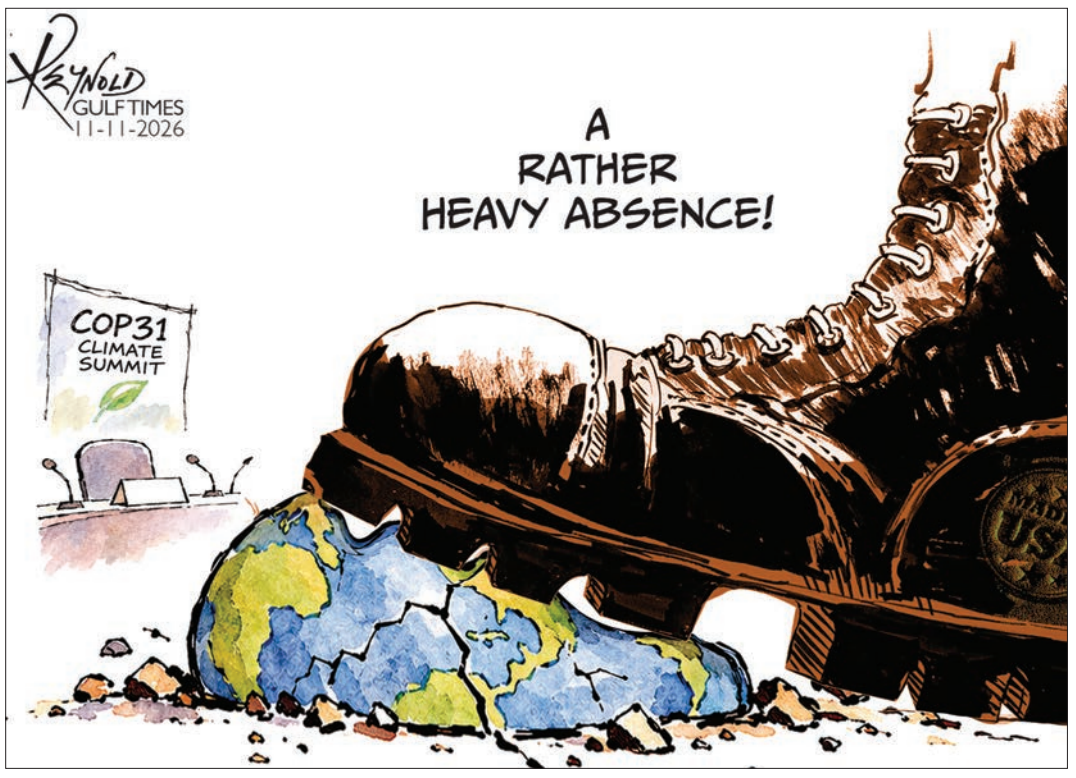
Addressing the debt crisis in developing countries requires a rethinking of both global finance and domestic governance. On the international side, creditors — especially private ones — must be part of the solution. Mechanisms for orderly restructuring, more concessional financing, and multilateral co-ordination are essential.

Governments must also make hard choices, reform inefficient systems, and invest strategically in people and resilience. The World Bank and other leading financial institutions have warned about a "lost decade" for poorer countries, as debt payments and lack of access to capital diminish resources that could otherwise be used for education, health and the environment.

Zelensky in Copenhagen



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky is welcomed by Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen upon arrival at Christiansborg Palace, seat of the Danish Parliament, in Copenhagen, Denmark, yesterday. The Ukrainian president arrived in Denmark to discuss military support, air defence and energy infrastructure security with Nordic leaders, Danish authorities said. (**AFP**)



Green groups embrace AI, even as they warn of data centre impacts

Environmental groups use AI to track forest fires, count wildlife

Many say AI's benefits currently outweigh its environmental costs

UN's COP31 climate summit to highlight tradeoffs of AI use

Environmental groups worldwide are using artificial intelligence (AI) to analyse climate data, track forest fires and count endangered wildlife — embracing a technology they also warn is driving a surge in electricity demand, water use and greenhouse-gas emissions.

The contradiction is forcing these organisations to justify their AI use in carrying out missions to combat climate change or protect natural resources. "We recognise that AI can come with environmental costs, and we need to be thoughtful about how we use it," said Ali Swanson, AI lead at the US nonprofit Conservation International. "But at a time when the climate and biodiversity crises are becoming more urgent, AI can help us move faster and make better use of the information we're collecting."

The group recently started using AI to assess hotspots detected by satellites and send real-time alerts to community forest patrols about potential wildfires in remote and environmentally sensitive parts of Cambodia. Reuters interviewed 15 major environmental, conservation and development organisations about their AI use. All said they used the technology in some form and expressed concern about the environmental impact of the data centres powering it. The centres, filled with servers, can require vast amounts of electricity, along with water for cooling.

GLOBAL DILEMMA

It's a global dilemma for individuals, governments and industries balancing AI's benefits with its enormous risks. The tradeoffs likely will grab attention at the UN's COP31 climate conference this month, when host Turkiye will call on governments, businesses and other institutions to sign a pledge outlining principles to ensure AI is developed and deployed sustainably.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres wants major AI companies to publicly disclose their systems' environmental impacts. Researchers at the UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health estimate the global data-centre footprint could more than double by 2030, reaching a size about twice that of Jakarta, the Indonesian megalopolis.

The International Energy Agency, meanwhile, estimates global data centres will consume about 945 terawatt-hours of electricity annually by 2030, producing the equivalent of more than 300mn metric tonnes of carbon dioxide. That's double current consumption and about equal to Japan's annual electricity use.

The agency also projects that global data centre water consumption will increase from about 560bn litres (147.9bn gallons) in 2023 to about 1.2tn litres (317bn gallons) annually by 2030.

Technology giants including Microsoft, Amazon and Alphabet's Google have reported rising emissions linked in part to data centre expansion, raising questions about their ability to meet their own long-term climate goals.

Amazon told Reuters its artificial-intelligence products were among the most sustainable due to the company's purchases of low-carbon energy and its efforts to use power and water efficiently. Microsoft and Google didn't respond to requests for comment.

BIG ENABLER

Many of the organisations that spoke to Reuters believe AI's benefits currently outweigh its costs because the technology is enabling work that was previously difficult, expensive or impossible. Kenya's Save the Elephants, a partner of the Wildlife Conservation Network, said it is using machine learning to improve population surveys and study elephant communication.

Frank Pope, the group's chief executive, said an aerial survey of Kenya's largest protected area in 2017 generated roughly 200,000 images that took nine people nine months to review manually. AI models trained on Nvidia's GeForce graphics platforms can now complete similar analyses in hours.

"The results have been eye-opening," Pope said. "We found that human surveys were missing about a third of the elephants, roughly half of zebras and giraffes, and three-quarters of oryx populations."

More accurate wildlife data can help secure financing for conservation, he said. "Ultimately, these tools make nature measurable and therefore investable," he said. "That's a critical transformation, if we're going to conserve biodiversity at scale."

At the institute founded by the late conservation icon Jane Goodall, researchers are using AI to digitise decades of field notes about chimpanzee behaviour in Tanzania's Gombe National Park. The project was once expected to take 13-15 years because the records were written by hand using the local Kiha language and scientific shorthand.

Thanks to a tool developed with Amazon Web Services, the notes can now be scanned, translated and structured in minutes, slashing the time needed to about two years, said Lilian Pintea, the Jane Goodall Institute's vice president of conservation science.

During her lifetime, Pintea said, Goodall supported the use of AI to advance conservation science, provided people remained firmly in control of how it was used. "AI technology should be seen as tools which are human-centred," Pintea said.

LIMITING IMPACT

Some organisations are experimenting with ways to limit the environmental impact of their AI use. The World Resources Institute (WRI), a research group that uses AI to accelerate its climate and environmental analyses, said it limits resource-intensive applications such as generating videos and images, while caching AI query results so identical searches don't need to be reprocessed.

The US-based Nature Conservancy has adopted a similar approach. It uses AI to analyse video captured on commercial fishing vessels for information on how many fish of different species they catch. But instead of uploading huge numbers of videos to centralised data centres, it has installed AI-powered digital cameras to process information aboard the vessels, reducing energy use and data-transfer requirements, said Vienna Saccomanno, a senior scientist at the organisation.

"It takes a lot of engineering to make computation on the edge possible," she said. "This was worth it to reduce both our carbon footprint and deliver these sustainability insights."

Greenpeace International said it, too, uses some AI tools, mainly because software platforms it relies upon include AI features.

It's imposing internal guidelines emphasising transparency, human oversight and "intentional" AI use, the group said. But it would prefer to sidestep the technology due to its environmental impacts and is pushing back hard on the data centre buildout.

"While other organisations are asking how to use AI responsibly, Greenpeace is asking whether it's necessary to build all these massive data centres in the first place," said Katrin Xueying Wu, a climate and energy campaigner with the organisation.

Other groups now see AI as vital to effective environmental activism. "It's our job to save the planet. If we can do that more effectively and efficiently with the limited resources we've got by using AI, then we have to seriously engage in that possibility," said Stuart Butchart, chief scientist at UK-based BirdLife International. "If we don't do it, then we're sort of being derelict in our duty."

— Reuters



Chillers that cool water are connected to a data centre building during a tour of the OpenAI data centre in Abilene, Texas, US. (**Reuters/File photo**)

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US calls for new Europe security at UAE talks

AFP
Abu Dhabi



Members of the Russian delegation (L) hold talks with the Ukrainian delegation mediated by US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff (R) and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner (3rdR) in Abu Dhabi. (**AFP**)

A first day of US-led talks between Ukraine and Russia in Abu Dhabi ended yesterday, with Washington calling for a "new" security framework, as Europe fears US President Donald Trump plans a deal with Moscow on the continent's future.

Trump's envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff brought together the warring sides for several hours of negotiations — the first since February — that are set to continue today.

Kushner told delegates the US had "narrowed the gaps" between the sides — without providing details — and hoped to move towards a "solution" to Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

In Paris, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio hailed the talks as "very productive" and called for Europeans to be eventually included at the negotiating table "because they are part of solving this problem".

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky later said the talks were "constructive and quite substantive", saying his team reported to him that humanitarian issues and security guarantees were among what was discussed.

Speaking in Copenhagen, the Ukrainian president also said it was "time" for Europe to choose a representative for the talks.

Europe has been rattled as Trump has floated a deal with Russia on rewriting Europe's post-war security, also worrying that Washington will force Kyiv to accept a de facto defeat.

At the Abu Dhabi talks, Trump's son-in-law Kushner said the US hoped to "create a new framework" of security between Ukraine, Russia and Europe that will secure "decades, if not centuries, of peace".

Moscow, which several weeks before invading Ukraine issued an ultimatum to Western countries to roll back troops from eastern Europe, had also said this was a priority. Ukraine has warned against a "Yalta 2.0", referring to Western leaders dividing Europe with the Soviet Union after World War II, and the EU has said security arrangements can only be discussed after a ceasefire.

"Putin wants the USSR back," Zelensky told Danish media.

Russia, which occupies swathes of its smaller neighbour, pummelled Ukraine with more attacks overnight, cutting power to thousands as temperatures plummet.

Putin has repeatedly turned down broader ceasefire offers and vowed his troops will press on in Ukraine.

In a sign it is serious about reviving its demand to review Europe's decades-old security arrangement, Russia included a diplomat — Sergei Ryabkov — who logged Moscow's pre-invasion demand for Nato to pull back from eastern Europe.

A Russian delegation source had said that settling the war was "merely one item on the agenda" and that Moscow's main objective was reviewing security "for the entire continent".

Kyiv's chief negotiator Rustem Umerov met the US envoys and European, EU and Nato officials before the negotiations.

Nato's general in Europe, Alexus Grynkewich, is also taking part.

In a joint statement, the Europeans, Ukraine, US and Nato reaffirmed their "shared commitment to a strong post-war European security architecture".

Umerov said Kyiv's priorities remained securing a ceasefire and security guarantees. "Our people are waiting to end this war," he said.

As talks continued, Ukrainian and French foreign ministers in Paris commended US efforts to push for "partial truces", which could serve as a "first step towards a complete and unconditional ceasefire".

Last month, a local truce in Ukraine's Kherson region brokered by US First Lady Melania Trump became the longest pause in fighting during the war.

Kyiv is also pushing post-war support for its army.

A senior Ukrainian source told AFP Ukraine wanted at least 10 years of financial support to sustain an 800,000-strong army able to defend any future Russian attack. There is huge distrust in Ukraine towards Trump's aims.

The US leader hinted before the talks that Kyiv might have to give up land, saying: "They're going to end up with a little bit different shape."

Russia's troops have ground westwards but have not been able to seize the whole of the coveted Donetsk region, and Moscow demands Kyiv surrender the parts of the embattled area it controls.

"Allowing Russia to decide the borders of Europe will be a huge mistake," Denmark's Mette Frederiksen said, as she hosted Zelensky yesterday.

The Ukrainian leader is due to meet other Nordic leaders in Denmark and earlier spoke to Finland's Alexander Stubb, telling him Kyiv's negotiators are doing their "best" to ensure talks "deliver results".

Stubb is rumoured to be one of the contenders who could represent Europe at negotiations to end the war.

The Finnish leader and Norway's Jonas Gahr Store held a rare phone call with Putin last month, which they called "frank and substantive".

EU budget: Merz says all EU states must back Ukraine

Reuters
Berlin

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said yesterday that all European Union member states must back Ukraine and that support for Kyiv cannot be weakened, the latest salvo in a clash over the EU's long-term financing.

Merz wants the new EU budget that starts from 2028 to focus on boosting defence spending and competitiveness but also ensure all of the EU contributes to supporting Kyiv, after several states opted not to back a new loan for Ukraine last year.

The budget is another test of collective Western resolve over Ukraine after four years of Russian assault, with Germany the EU's largest contributor and Ukraine's biggest backer. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico had earlier yesterday accused Merz of "blackmail" for linking Ukraine to the EU budget talks.

"We are facing difficult budget negotiations within the European Union," Merz told reporters alongside Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar in Berlin.

"We must fully incorporate our policy on Ukraine into the European budget. I am aware that there are differing views on this; at least four member states see things differently."



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. (**AFP**)

In a letter to European Council President Antonio Costa seen by Reuters, Merz said all of the EU must contribute to funding Ukraine to help fill a projected €70bn funding gap for 2027 — with an expected EU contribution of €45bn.

Fico has criticised EU policy on Ukraine, opposing military aid. Last December, the EU agreed a €90-billion loan for Ukraine. Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary opted out and have signalled they will not take part in any new loan.

Magyar said he did "not necessarily consider it a good direction" if the EU budget was linked to another matter. "I do not perceive this as blackmail, so I do not use such words at all, as everything is connected to everything else in today's world, but I think that this does not necessarily send a good message to the outside world," he said.

Denmark to donate $720mn in military support to Ukraine: FM Rasmussen

Denmark's foreign minister said yesterday that the country would donate 4.8bn kroner ($720mn) in military support to Ukraine, as Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky was due to meet Nordic leaders in Copenhagen.

Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen made the announcement to reporters after a meeting with the Danish parliament's committee on foreign policy, adding that Denmark would also donate 150mn kroner to Ukraine's energy sector. (**AFP**)

Russia pounds Ukraine's power grid ahead of talks

Reuters
Moscow

Russian forces struck 10 Ukrainian regions overnight in air attacks that targeted five major electrical substations, sparked widespread power outages and killed two people, officials said yesterday.

Moscow's latest strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure — part of a renewed air campaign as winter approaches — came as Russian, Ukrainian and US negotiators began two days of talks in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Sergiy Koretskyi said on Telegram that Russia had hit substations in the Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Vinnytsia and Kirovohrad regions. The two fatalities occurred in the Vinnytsia region. Earlier, state grid operator Ukrenergo said Russia had struck energy infrastructure in eight regions overnight and into the morning, leaving homes without power in six, including Kyiv, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk.

Ukraine has struggled to intercept Russia's mounting attacks amid a shortage of weapons to down fast-moving ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones.

Civilian infrastructure in the Kirovohrad region, including a major home improvement store, also came under attack, regional governor Andriy Raikovych said.

Moscow has expanded its attacks in recent months to strike Ukrainian businesses, consumer logistics and other economic-related targets in a bid to weaken Kyiv's war effort. In the southeastern Dnipropetrovsk region, Russia attacked four districts with drones more than 20 times overnight.

The talks in Abu Dhabi represent first three-way meeting since February, and US envoy Jared Kushner said recent contacts with both sides had "narrowed the gaps".

Separately, however, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia would not agree to an immediate ceasefire without knowing what would happen next.

Risk of Iran-US escalation 'not ruled out': Barrot

AFP
Paris

The risk of a new escalation between the US and Iran "has not been completely ruled out", French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said yesterday, after Washington suggested there was currently no need for major combat operations.

"The risk of a resumption of strikes and an escalation has not been completely ruled out — otherwise, we would not have devoted so much time and energy over the past two days to addressing these issues with our American counterpart (Marco Rubio)," Barrot said after chairing a meeting of G7 foreign ministers in Paris.

EU's von der Leyen pledges €50mn to speed up security hub in the Black Sea

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pledged €50mn ($56mn) yesterday to help Bulgaria and Romania expedite the launch of a Black Sea maritime security hub following a string of deadly drone attacks on cargo ships.

At least nine cargo ships were hit by naval drones near Nato members Romania and Bulgaria last month, killing several seafarers and leaving others missing, raising concerns over how the escalating maritime war between Russia and Ukraine is expanding into a major challenge for Nato in the Black Sea.

The US-led military alliance said it would deploy maritime patrol aircraft, radars and drones to bolster its eastern flank in the Black Sea.

Bulgaria and Romania also plan to jointly set up an EU-mandated maritime security hub in the Black Sea to improve sharing of awareness and information and bolster security of a waterway which is key to trade, energy and food supplies from Ukraine to millions of people.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. (**Reuters**)

Speaking from the Bulgarian port of Varna, von der Leyen said all sides have agreed to speed up the hub to restore freedom of navigation in the Black Sea.

"It is important to have it now up and running and therefore we want to have clear timelines for its completion and we want to offer a dedicated funding of €50mn to this Black Sea maritime security hub," von der Leyen said at a press conference alongside Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev.

Bucharest has accused Russia of "systematic" strikes on civilian ships but stopped short of attributing individual attacks, citing the need for forensic evidence.

Sofia has not blamed Russia, but said some of the attacks seem to benefit it.

Moscow has denied involvement in the attacks. (**Reuters**)

Families in agony after deadly Turkiye steel blast kills at least 17 people

AFP
Aliaga, Turkiye

Grieving relatives faced an agonising wait for the identification of their dead yesterday after a huge blast at a Turkish steel plant killed 17 people, as labour groups called a string of protests over safety issues.

Onlookers said Monday's massive explosion felt like "an earthquake" when it ripped through the HABAS steel factory in Aliaga, a district known for shipbreaking and heavy industry about 35 km from the western port city of Izmir.

The deadly blast at one of Turkiye 's top steel producers also left another dozen people injured, one of whom was in a critical condition.

Speaking to reporters at the plant, deputy Justice Minister Can Tuncay said forensic investigators had determined the victims had died from "burns so severe they caused carbonisation".

Prosecutors had issued another 11 arrest warrants, including one for HABAS' chairman and other senior plant officials, he said.

An initial six people were detained on Monday.

Outside the forensic institute in Aliaga, bereaved family members said they had waited all night for confirmation that their loved ones had been identified so they could be laid to rest.

"We have been here since yesterday," said Turgut Dilek, whose nephew Ozcan Efe was killed.

"Since the bodies are in a condition that makes visual identification impossible, the identification process is carried out through DNA analysis."

Sevval Ozcelik, whose 25-year-old brother Kaan Ozcelik had worked at HABAS as a mechanical engineer for just three months, vowed she would not rest until those responsible were found.

"They took my brother's life. I will not let this go ... They will answer for this, one by one," she told journalists at Aliaga hospital.



Relatives of victims wait outside a forensic medicine building. (**AFP**)

As anger grew over the deadly blast, labour rights groups called three protests yesterday evening, one in Aliaga, and two others in Istanbul and Ankara.

Also fighting for his life was a HABAS truck driver who escaped the blast but went inside to find his colleagues and was so traumatised that he set himself alight outside the factory later that evening, said an AFP photographer who witnessed the incident.

He was being treated at Izmir City hospital, with a provincial health directorate spokeswoman identifying him as Turan Ilbay.

"His condition is serious; he is being monitored in intensive care," she told AFP.

Ilbay, 40, had earlier spoken to Anadolu news agency outside the plant where he had worked as a truck driver for 23 years.

"There was a huge sound, like a bomb, it shook the truck," he told Anadolu.

"When I went inside the factory, I was faced with the worst scene I've seen in my life."

Hours later, in a horrifying act of protest during the evening, he set himself alight outside the main gates, AFP photographer Berkcan Zengin, who was at the scene, said.

"He went to the area where cameras were recording, he poured petrol over his head, then splashed it all over himself as he walked. Then he suddenly set himself on fire," he said.

"He fell to the ground and struggled. The gendarmes intervened with fire extinguishers and he was taken to hospital by ambulance," he said, his images showing the man wearing the same red polo neck jumper he was seen in during his earlier interview with Anadolu.

There has been growing anger over what some workers' groups say is a chequered safety record at HABAS, with the left-wing *Evrensel* newspaper saying at least 11 workers had died there over the past decade.

Contacted by AFP, HABAS declined to respond.

Visiting the site, the co-chair of DEM, Turkiye's third party, said it was a case of "workplace murder", demanding the resignation of the labour minister, the industry minister and top safety officials.

"This massacre at HABAS's iron and steel factory is not an accident but a workplace murder," Tulay Hatimogullari told reporters.

The main opposition Yeni Parti has demanded a full parliamentary inquiry into the explosion and possible workplace safety failures, ANKA news agency reported.

QATAR

Qatar blends heritage, creativity to strengthen presence on global stage

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

QC+ CEO says the country's artists, creatives continued to reimagine culture while staying rooted in their history and identity

Qatar drew on its traditional craftsmanship to strengthen its contemporary creative identity on the international stage, with Al Khous palm-frond weaving taking centre stage in the design of its lounge at the recently concluded Art Basel Paris, QC+ CEO Kirstin Mearns said.

She told *Gulf Times* that the incorporation of Al Khous into the lounge's architecture at the Grand Palais highlighted Qatar's approach to preserving its cultural heritage while reinterpreting traditional practices through contemporary design,

"The starting point was a desire to root the lounge's architecture in authentic Qatari heritage," Mearns said, describing Al Khous as a traditional craft that continued to have relevance beyond its historical significance.

Al Khous, which involves weaving palm fronds into functional and decorative objects, draws on sustainable natural materials and geometric patterns that have found renewed appeal in contemporary design.

"It demonstrates the continued resonance of traditional heritage as a living foundation for modern innovation," Mearns said.

She said the Qatar Lounge was conceived as an inviting, sophisticated space that showcased the country's creative energy, international outlook, and distinct cultural identity.

"The lounge reflects a multidimensional creative scene in Qatar where design, culinary excellence, fashion, art, and sports



Qatar Lounge at the recently held Art Basel Paris 2026.



naturally intersect," she said.

Mearns noted that the country's artists and creative practitioners continually reinvent and reimagine culture while staying connected to history and identity.

Qatari and international creative talents were central to the lounge's programme, with Doha-based fashion designer Yasmin Mansour creating a bespoke sustainable collection of accessories and uniforms for the space.

Renowned chef Noof al-Marri, meanwhile, developed an exclusive culinary concept that reimagined traditional Qatari regag flatbread, drawing inspiration from Art Basel's five host cities.

Mearns said their contributions, alongside those of French artist Nadjib Ben Ali, underline QC+'s commitment to showcasing creative professionals on an international platform.

"Creative professionals are at the very centre of our work," she said, highlighting the importance of giving local talent opportunities to participate in major international cultural events.

Mearns described platforms such as Art Basel as essential to developing Qatar's creative economy, giving local and regional practitioners opportunities to connect with international artists, institutions and audiences.

She stressed that the partnership behind Art Basel Qatar aims to stimulate conversations among creatives, expand the art market and encourage greater dialogue across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia.

Mearns said the international platform could help strengthen connections between emerging and established creative communities while supporting the development of a more connected regional art market.

The Qatar Lounge in Paris also formed part of a broader strategy to bring together cultural and commercial partners and demonstrate how different creative sectors could complement one another on the international stage.

"The Paris programme represents an integrated vision," Mearns said.

By bringing together Qatar Sports Investments, QC+, Qatar Airways and Art Basel, the programme demonstrated how commerce and culture could bridge sports, lifestyle, design and fine art, she added. "This approach reinforces Qatar's standing as a major centre for and investor in culture."

Mearns said QC+ was preparing for the second edition of Art Basel Qatar, scheduled for January 2027, though further details would be announced later.



Qatar to host 5 endurance sports events from November to March

Qatar will host five major endurance sports events between November 2026 and March 2027, covering running, swimming, cycling and multisport competitions. The events will take place at locations including Doha Corniche, Lusail City, Dukhan Beach, Sealine, Khor Al Adaid and Old Doha Port, attracting professional and amateur athletes.

The calendar begins on November 27 with the ninth edition of the Qatar East to West Ultramarathon, a 90km race from Doha Corniche, near the Sheraton Hotel, to Dukhan Beach on the west coast. Organised by the Qatar Sports for All Federation (QSFA) in collaboration with the Qatar Runners Team, the race is divided into six stages, with water and medical support stations along the route.

The 2026 edition introduces 12 categories for individual and team competitions for men and women. Organisers expect between 2,000 and 2,500 participants, following last year's race, which attracted runners from 86 nationalities. Registration is available through the QSFA app.

Lusail City will host the Qatar T100 Triathlon World Championship Final from December 10 to 12 for the second consecutive year, marking the conclusion of the Professional Triathletes Organisation (PTO) T100 Triathlon World Tour season.

Professional athletes will compete over a 2km swim, an 80km cycling course and an 18km run. The women's race is scheduled for December 11, followed by the men's competition on December 12.

The programme will also include amateur events, starting with 5km and 1km runs, followed by a Sprint Triathlon comprising a 750m swim, 20km cycle and 5km run. Saturday's schedule includes a 100km Open Triathlon and the T100 Age-Group World Championship for qualified amateur athletes.

The Doha Marathon by Ooredoo returns for its 15th edition on January 15, 2027, with organisers expecting 25,000 runners. Starting and finishing at Hotel Park on Doha Corniche, the redesigned 42km route will pass landmarks including Souq Waqif and Doha Port.

Other categories include the half marathon, 10km, 5km and a family run of approximately 1km. The 2027 edition will introduce a 42km relay for teams of four and the Yellow Race for people with visual impairments. The marathon will retain its World Athletics Gold Label status for the third consecutive year.

On January 23, the Samla International Race will return for its second international edition, with competitors required to complete a 100km course between Sealine and Khor Al Adaid within 12 hours.

Open to men and women from around the world, the race combines a 3km swim, 21km run, 22km off-road cycling stage, 4km kayak section, another 22km cycling stage and a final 28km run. The competition has a total prize pool of $600,000, with $100,000 awarded to each category winner.

The calendar concludes with the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Doha, scheduled for March 18 to 20 at Old Doha Port. It will be the first Ironman-branded event held in Qatar. The main race on March 20 comprises a 1.9km open-water swim, a 90km cycling course and a 21.1km run, covering a total distance of 113km. An Ironkids race is scheduled for March 19.

The competition will offer qualifying slots for the Ironman 70.3 World Championship. Registration for the main race is sold out, while registration for Ironkids will open soon.

The five events form part of Qatar's sporting calendar for the 2026-27 season, with competitions ranging from road running and triathlon to long-distance multisport races.

DFF 2026 turns Doha into a citywide adventure with the launch of Side Quest

Bringing the magic of cinema beyond the big screen, Doha Film Festival (DFF) 2026 invites residents and visitors to embark on an exciting citywide adventure with the launch of DFF Side Quest, an interactive mobile game that transforms Doha into a giant game board from November 9 to 19.

Designed to bring audiences closer to cinema in a fun, immersive and unexpected way, DFF Side Quest challenges participants to track down missing digital posters from this year's Festival programme by exploring 10 participating venues and community spaces across Doha. Along the way, players will find film-inspired clues, puzzles and challenges, earn points, unlock rewards and discover the stories and filmmakers featured in DFF 2026.

Abdulla al-Mosallam, deputy CEO of Doha Film Institute and deputy director of DFF, said: "With DFF Side Quest, we are taking that spirit beyond the cinema and into the heart of our city, inviting the community to become active participants in the festival experience. By turning discovery into adventure, we hope to inspire people to discover new stories, engage with different perspectives and experience the creative energy of Doha in a new way."

Running from November 9 to 19, DFF Side Quest is an invitation to discover cinema in unexpected places across the city and in a pre-festival experience that brings together curiosity, creativity and community.

Participating partner locations across Doha neighbourhoods include: The Terminal at Old Doha Port, Fire Station, M7, Ministry of Coffee in Lusail, Halo at Villaggio Mall, Two to Six at Aspire Park, Blackout Coffee at West Walk, La Petite Comiion at Centro, Zawya at The Pearl and Store 974 at Place Vendôme.

Players can begin their adventure by downloading the DFF Side Quest app on the App store or Play store, selecting a starting point and visiting participating locations. At each venue, they will check-in by scanning a QR code to unlock a film-inspired challenge. Clues will lead them to a hidden digital poster from the festival programme, which they can collect to complete the associated challenge.

Each completed quest earns points, revealing the next destination and bringing players closer to completing their collection. There are also additional opportunities to earn points at select locations.

Each challenge is a playful introduction to a film's environment, themes and characters, giving participants a sample of the diverse cinematic voices and creative perspectives shaping this year's Festival.

Collecting all 10 main posters will unlock the final destination: the DFF Box Office at Katara. From November 14 to 18, participants who successfully complete the quest can redeem one complimentary ticket to a DFF 2026 film, subject to seat availability and the approved film list.

The adventure also comes with



exciting prizes. An iPhone and special fitness classes are among the prizes provided by the initiative's partners, which will be awarded to the highest-scoring eligible player or players who complete the quest. The winner will be announced on 20 November on DFF's social media channels.

QSW organises over 950 activities across the country

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW) 2026, which concluded recently, featured more than 950 events and activities from October 31 to November 7.

Qatar Sustainability Week, the largest national sustainability campaign by Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future, a member of Qatar Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, aims to engage the community in a wide range of sustainability-oriented activities, raising awareness and showcasing the progress Qatar has made in the areas of sustainability. The week also serves as a unique platform to promote the nation's sustainability vision and community engagement to achieve its sustainable development goals.

The 11th edition of Qatar Sustainability Week saw these activities take place across the country and included initiatives highlighting efforts to create a cleaner, more sustainable environment.

Speaking to *Gulf Times*, Shireen Obeidat, head of Partnerships and Outreach at Earthna, said that it was a highly successful edition of the programme this year. "This year we had more than 950 programmes during the week that took place across the country. This is the 11th edition of the event and over its first ten years, the week has held around 3,400 events and welcomed more than a million participants," noted Obeidat.

"This was made possible thanks to our partners and the many organisations across Qatar that host their own activities. This year's programme offered something for every age and interest, from workshops for children and Youth Fest for teens to exhibitions, film, sport and visits to nature," she continued.

The official underlined that engagement from every sector was very encouraging and supportive of the activities. "Government, business, education, civil society and the media not only took part in the activities of the week but hosted their own activities by bringing their own ideas to the week. Many partners and contributors also lit their buildings in green, making the week visible across Doha's skyline," she explained.

Obeidat said Earthna also hosted the first screening of a documentary highlighting key elements of the environment. She described: "We hosted the first screening in the Middle East of the *Nature Positive* documentary, bringing the global conversation about protecting and restoring nature to a regional audience. In addition, the Enbat Centre for







Sustainable Food Systems opened its booth at Green Island in Education City. It combines education, science, art and community participation to show how the food we choose affects our health and the environment through workshops and visual storytelling. It offers the public a lasting way to take part beyond the week itself."

According to Obeidat, these initiatives and the event together have contributed significantly to sustainability efforts in the country and beyond.

She said: "They turn awareness into action. Participants learn practical ways to conserve resources, reduce waste, adopt healthier lifestyles, and protect nature, and they carry those habits into their homes and workplaces. This supports Qatar National Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"By bringing together government, business, education and communities, the week builds the cooperation that long-term change depends on," added Obeidat.

The event aims to inspire behavioural change, raise awareness, and drive measurable sustainability actions across Qatar. The campaign's core aim is to raise awareness of sustainability and climate issues while turning that awareness into concrete action. It provides a unifying umbrella for hundreds of independently organised activities that support Qatar National Vision 2030, especially its environmental development pillar. It emphasises both national-level impact through policies, business practices and infrastructure and everyday lifestyle choices such as energy use, waste reduction, and sustainable mobility.