



Exceptional Growth,  
Endless Possibilities

Net Profit

19% ↑

735 M

615 M

Insurance  
Service Results

77% ↑

514 M

300 M

Written  
Premiums

9.1 B

52% ↑

Regional

# GULF TIMES



0 668039 136499

**WEDNESDAY** Vol. XXXV No. 13284

February 12, 2025  
Sha'ban 13, 1446 AH

[www.gulf-times.com](http://www.gulf-times.com) 2 Riyals

published in  
**QATAR**  
since 1978

## Enjoy GCC Multi-SIM with Unlimited<sup>+</sup> VIP



**vodafone**

T&C apply.

**ROBSON**  
The first Paint product that obtained  
Qatar Quality Mark

**Robshield Topcoat Matt**  
by  
**ROBSON PAINTS**  
Used as Exterior Coat - Matt



www.npfqatar.com Tel: 44601602

**Rawabi Ramadan Kit**  
Order Now



[rawabihypermarket.com](http://rawabihypermarket.com)

**BUSINESS | Page 1**

### Al-Kaabi highlights need for 'inclusive and balanced' global energy mix



**THE FRIED  
CHICKEN  
THAT SETS  
THE BAR**



**BAZOOKA**  
now on  
**talabat**

**selfdrive**  
**NOW**  
**RENT A CAR**

STARTING FROM  
**1199**  
QAR PM



KNOW MORE!

### Jordan king rejects Trump's Gaza plan

Jordan's King Abdullah said yesterday he reiterated his country's stance against displacing Palestinians during a meeting with US President Donald Trump in Washington. "Achieving just peace on the basis of the two-state solution is the way to ensure regional stability. This requires US leadership," the king said. He told Trump that his country would take in some 2,000 sick children from Gaza. **Page 12**

# Sport is key to health: Amir



● **Amir, Father Amir, Sheikha Moza attend National Sport Day activities**

**H**is Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser led Qatar's residents yesterday in marking the Qatar National Sport Day at multiple venues across the country.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani participated in National Sport Day activities yesterday morning at Our Habitas Ras Abrouq Resort.

**To Page 16, Pages 4,6,7,8,9, 10, 11 & 16, Sport Pages 1,2**



**Egyptians furious over Trump's Gaza plan**

Egyptians reacted with fury yesterday to US President Donald Trump's plan to displace Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt and Jordan, while downplaying his threat to cut aid to both countries if they refuse. *Al-Ahram* newspaper ran a front-page headline declaring "Egypt urges the world to end historical injustice against the Palestinian people", while the private daily *Al-Masry Al-Youm* wrote, "Palestinian anger: Gaza is not for sale". On X, the hashtag "on the shoe" – a common Egyptian phrase meaning "we could not care less" – began to trend in response to what many saw as an attempt at intimidation. **Page 12**

**MAGRABI HEALTH**

## Announcing a Special Visit from Spain

### Dr. Jorje Alio

MD PhD Professor  
Cornea, Cataract, Glaucoma,  
and Refractive Surgery

22nd – 24th  
February 2025

Magrabi Health  
Center in Qatar

[magrabihealth.com](http://magrabihealth.com)

Dental Department 33567005	Ophthalmology Department 50727089	Ear, Nose and Throat 55258913	For more information, to schedule an appointment, please call 44238888
----------------------------------	---	----------------------------------	--

**MAGRABI HEALTH**

## Announcing a Special Visit from Spain

### Dr. Constanza Barrancos

Ophthalmologist specializing in oculoplastic  
surgery and facial aesthetic medicine

Blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery)  
Brow lifting, ptosis correction  
Lacrimal surgery  
Botox-Mesotherapy and skin boosters

25th – 27th  
February 2025

Magrabi Health  
Center in Qatar

[magrabihealth.com](http://magrabihealth.com)

Dental Department 33567005	Ophthalmology Department 50727089	Ear, Nose and Throat 55258913	For more information, to schedule an appointment, please call 44238888
----------------------------------	---	----------------------------------	--





# Shura Speaker says Sport Day reflects Qatar’s commitment to healthy lifestyle

● **HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem has said the allocation of an annual sports day reflects the vision of the wise leadership in promoting the concept of sport as a sustainable lifestyle, and emphasised its role in building a healthy society capable of contributing to development, pointing out that the State pays increasing attention to enhancing the quality of life for everyone living on Qatar’s land, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030**

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem confirmed that the National Sport Day reflects Qatar’s commitment to promoting public health and turning sports into a daily practice and a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, which seeks to reach the highest level of quality of life.

In a statement on the sidelines of the Shura Council’s participation in the Sport Day events, His Excellency said that the allocation of an annual sports day reflects the vision of the wise leadership in promoting the concept of sport as a sustainable lifestyle, and emphasised its role in building a healthy society capable of giving and contributing to development, pointing out that the State pays increasing attention to enhancing the quality of life for everyone living on Qatar’s land, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, which focuses on human development and seeks to build a healthy society.

HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti stressed the importance of sports in promoting the health of individuals and communities, noting that the

Sport Day reflects the State’s keenness to encourage various segments of society to practice sports and promote awareness of its importance in improving the quality of life.

Her Excellency explained that sport is not just an entertainment activity, but an essential element in building a strong and healthy society, highlighting that sustainable development can only be achieved through a society with good physical and psychological health, which the State seeks to achieve through its continuous initiatives to support sports.

HE al-Sulaiti praised the efforts of the State in the development of sports infrastructure, the establishment of specialised facilities and centres, in addition to providing sports tracks dedicated to walking and cycling, and the spread of sports equipment in public places to enhance opportunities for physical activity for all. HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud lauded the continued success of the Sport Day events, which reflects the extent of society’s awareness of the importance of physical activity and its posi-

tive impact on public health, underlining that sport is a key pillar in achieving community development, as the General Secretariat of the Shura Council was keen to organise Sport Day events with the participation of members and employees, to promote the culture of physical activity as a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

His Excellency called for making sport an essential part of the daily routine because of its great benefits to the health of individuals and society, underscoring that the State has provided all the possibilities to promote the practice of sports through the allocation of walking, running and cycling paths, the development of parks and gardens to encourage physical activity in addition to the establishment of integrated sports facilities according to the highest international standards.

The participation of the Shura Council in the Sport Day began with the gathering of members and General Secretariat staff in the Aspire Park, where everyone practiced various sports activities, emphasising the importance of sports in improving public health and enhancing community cohesion. (QNA)

## Amir congratulates Iranian 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 congratulations to Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian on his country’s National Day. (QNA)

## PM, Malaysian counterpart discuss ties, Gaza

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Anwar Ibrahim.

During the call, they discussed relations between the two countries and ways to support and enhance them. They also discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, especially the efforts made to maintain the ceasefire agreement in the Strip. In this regard, the Malaysian



prime minister affirmed his country’s full support for all good endeavours aimed at making the agreement a success. They also



exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common interest during the call. (QNA)

## Rwandan president arrives in Doha



Rwandan President Paul Kagame arrived in Doha this evening on a working visit to the country. He and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi, and Rwandan ambassador Igor Marara Kayinamura. (QNA)

## Vice-president of Libyan Presidential Council meets Qatar’s envoy

Vice-President of the Presidential Council of Libya Abdullah al-Lafi met with Qatar’s ambassador in Tripoli Dr Khaled Mohammed bin Zabin al-Dosari. During the meeting, the relations between the two countries were reviewed. (QNA)



## Qatar takes part in ICAO symposium in Abu Dhabi

**QNA**  
Abu Dhabi

Represented by Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA), Qatar is participating in the Global Implementation Support Symposium (GISS 2025), held by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in Abu Dhabi from Feb 10-12. This symposium is a prominent event that brings together aviation leaders, government representatives, and global stakeholders to discuss all the challenges and opportunities

facing the aviation sector. In Charge of Managing QCAA Mohamed Faleh al-Hajri chairs Qatar delegation at the symposium. The symposium focuses on several issues related to pushing the civil aviation sector toward net zero emissions through innovative practices and enhancing co-operation between countries in this field, in addition to exploring ways to integrate artificial intelligence-based solutions to achieve safety, efficiency, and operational excellence in the field of aviation. As part of its participation in the GISS 2025, the QCAA is also

participating in the first edition of the Global Sustainable Aviation Market (GSAM 2025), a global platform that aims to bring together all stakeholders involved in the production, distribution, and financing of sustainable fuels to discuss accelerating the adoption of sustainable aviation solutions and enhancing cooperation between governments in this field. Qatar is always keen to participate effectively in supporting the goals and vision of ICAO and is one of the most prominent countries supporting all the efforts made by the organisation to enhance the growth of the civil aviation sector.

## Qatar News Agency attends World Governments Summit in Dubai

Qatar News Agency (QNA) is participating in the World Governments Summit 2025, which launched in Dubai yesterday and will continue until Feb 13 under the theme, “Shaping Future Governments.”

The summit brings together over 30 heads of state and government, in addition to more than 80 international, regional, and global organisations, and 140 government delegations.


QNA delegation is led by HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency, Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi, who is joining a distin-

guished group of global thought leaders and experts to discuss major future trends through more than 200 interactive sessions, featuring 300 global figures, including heads of state, ministers, experts, thinkers, and decision-makers. The World Governments Summit 2025 focuses on forecasting major global transformations and identifying the key opportunities and challenges emerging from them across various sectors.

The summit also aims to enhance co-operation between governments and to develop joint strategies to improve governmental work.



During its proceedings, the summit will release 30 strategic reports in collaboration with think tanks, academic institutions, and research centres, which will showcase global trends in various sectors and propose actionable government strategies.

The first day of the summit includes a series of sessions on future trends in government work and vital sectors, while the second day will be dedicated to discussing tourism and cultural diplomacy. The third day will feature keynote speeches delivered by several heads of state and government. (QNA)





### OPEN INVITATION FOR ALL INVESTORS

Elevate your Investment with the Finest Properties at Azizi Project



Azizi Dubai project will be launched in Qatar on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM at ABJ Real Estate Group office in Barwa Commercial Avenue.

*“Invest today for secured tomorrow”*



info@abjgroup.qa +974 7788 8732

www.abjgroup.qa +974 4006 8333

Barwa Commercial Avenue, Arkan Building,  
Block 4 – First Floor - P.O. Box 96345, Doha, Qatar

Scan for your attendance & location



# CCQ, Digid hold events for National Sport Day

Under the theme of *Play Sport, Stay Strong*, the Community College of Qatar (CCQ), celebrated Qatar National Sport Day yesterday in collaboration with Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue (Digid).

The activities included a marathon, the "strongest man" competition, volleyball, and football, among other sports and fitness challenges that engaged participants of all ages.

CCQ president Dr Khalid al-Horr underscored the significance

of integrating sports into daily routines.

"At the CCQ, we are committed to making sports an essential part of our students' and employees' lives," he said. "We believe that physical activity contributes to improved academic and professional performance while enhancing overall well-being."

"I am delighted to see our members joining the CCQ community in this national initiative, which promotes fitness while strengthening social bonds and boosts productivity," Digid chairman Dr Ib-

rahim Saleh al-Naimi said. "Sports go beyond physical exercise; they instil teamwork, discipline, and a strong sense of community."

"That is why we actively support sports initiatives and encourage people to embrace an active lifestyle as part of their daily routine."

CCQ public relations and institutional communication manager Safia al-Sheeb highlighted the enthusiastic participation of students and staff, reflecting their growing awareness of the importance of fitness.



## QPNC marks NSD with sports stamp exhibition

On the occasion of the National Sport Day (NSD), the Qatar Philatelic and Numismatic Centre (QPNC) of the Ministry of Culture, opened the Sports Stamps Exhibition on Monday at the centre's premises in Al Sadd. The exhibition will continue through February 28.

The exhibition features 11 glass frames for sports stamps from various countries around

the world, each frame contains 16 stamp panels.

The QPNC is also organising, in co-operation with the Arab Countries Stamp Museum at Katara - the Cultural Village, an exhibition of various sports stamps in addition to some sports memorabilia of the players in Building 22 in Katara. The exhibition will continue until February 20.

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 exhibition

will meanwhile continue at the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum and will run through February 28, showcasing a collection of stamps of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 with some stamps issued in Uruguay in 1930.

The exhibition documents what was accomplished in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 through the stamps that were issued in addition to medals and postal envelopes. - QNA



## General Secretariat of Council of Ministers, Ministry of Justice hold joint events for staff and family

The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Justice celebrated National Sport Day (NSD) yesterday with joint events at the headquarters of the University of Doha for Science and Technology.

The joint event featured 12 sports, including football, basketball and table tennis, and activities for children to instil a culture of sports and interest in them at an early age.

The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Justice stressed the importance of participating in the NSD activities to enhance the development of a healthy society.

This year's activities were diverse and involved different age groups, with a keenness to encourage employees to practice sports as part of a sustainable lifestyle. - QNA

# Darwish & Company strengthens its partnership with RISO France to deliver cutting-edge printing solutions in Qatar



Ahmed Kassim Darwish  
Chairman



Tarek Darwish  
Managing Director



Ahmed Elzaafarani  
General Manager



Darren HORSPOOL  
Middle East Sales & Technical  
Consultant at RISO

Darwish & Company, a leading commercial company in Qatar since 1969, continues to strengthen its position as a key provider of top global brands. Under the leadership of Ahmed Kassim Darwish, Chairman, and Tarek Darwish, Managing Director, the company is expanding its business partnerships.

In this context, Ahmed Elzaafarani, General Manager of Darwish & Company, expressed his satisfaction with the successful partnership with RISO France, a global leader in high-speed printing machines. He confirmed that Darwish

& Company is the exclusive distributor of RISO in Qatar.

He further stated that this partnership aims to meet the printing needs of various Qatari market sectors, including education, printing presses, construction, law firms, accounting firms, stationery companies, and other industries that require high-volume printing solutions.

He emphasized that RISO machines offer reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly printing technology,

reducing electricity consumption by more than 90% compared to traditional copiers, making them an ideal choice for businesses seeking the best quality at the best price.

**RISO: A Global Leader in Printing Technology**

Darren HORSPOOL, Middle East Sales & Technical Consultant at RISO, also expressed his enthusiasm for collaborating with Darwish & Company. He shared his vision for expanding the presence of RISO machines in the Qatari

market and reinforcing their position as a leading provider of smart printing solutions.

"We are excited about this collaboration with Darwish & Company," said HORSPOOL. "With their deep understanding of the local market and commitment to excellence, we believe we can bring RISO's cutting-edge, sustainable printing technology to more organizations across Qatar, helping them improve efficiency while reducing their carbon footprint."

HORSPOOL added that RISO KAGAKU Corporation (Japan), established in 1946, is one of the world's leading companies in ink manufacturing and printing machine development. Over the years, RISO has achieved significant milestones, including the launch of the first "RISO-Graph" duplicator in 1958 and the introduction of the first "Ink Jet" printer in 2003.

Today, RISO operates in 190 countries worldwide, with 25 subsidiaries and production bases in Japan, China, and

Thailand.

**Widespread Adoption of RISO Printing Machines**

According to official data, RISO Ink Jet units have been deployed extensively in both France and the Middle East, with over 6,000 units in France and more than 500 units across the Middle East. RISO's Ink Jet printing solutions are fully coloured, sheet-fed, and operate at speeds of up to 165 pages per minute with zero CO<sub>2</sub> and ozone emissions. Additionally, the company's cold printing

technology significantly reduces electricity consumption by over 90% compared to conventional printers, making it the perfect solution for organizations seeking high-quality and cost-efficient printing.

In conclusion, Elzaafarani reaffirmed that Darwish & Company will continue to introduce state-of-the-art technological solutions to the Qatari market in partnership with RISO, ensuring the availability of high-quality products with exceptional operational efficiency, while maintaining environmental sustainability.





From left: Jack Lang, moderator, Shawqi Abdul Amir.



HE Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, with other dignitaries attending the seminar.

# Minister opens 4th edition of ‘Seminar Season’

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

HE Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, Minister of Culture, has inaugurated the 4th edition of the “Seminar Season”, which is held in partnership with Qatar University and the Arab Center for Studies.

As part of the continuous efforts and the ministry’s firm approach to establishing a prominent platform for serious and in-depth cultural and intellectual dialogue on the most prominent cultural and societal issues. The opening was attended by a number of Sheikhs

and ambassadors accredited to the state, a number of senior officials and an elite of intellectuals.

Jassim Salman, General Supervisor of the seminar season, said in an introductory speech: “The ‘Seminar Season’ has become an annual platform to enhance in-depth cultural and intellectual dialogue on the most prominent contemporary cultural and societal issues.”

The Ministry of Culture aims, through the “Seminar Season”, which continues until Feb 25, to enhance its efforts in building fruitful cultural partnerships with active parties in society.

The event opened with a semi-

nar held at the Sheraton Hotel under the title “Arab Cultural Discourse in the West”, in which Jack Lang, former French minister of culture, President of the Arab World Institute in Paris; and Iraqi writer Shawqi Abdul Amir, Director of the Arab World Institute in Paris; participated.

Lang praised the cultural and creative level in Qatar, and the cultural renaissance it is witnessing at all levels. Especially in terms of infrastructure, as it has many museums, libraries, and cultural institutions that consolidate the Qatari presence in the global cultural scene. In addition to the educational system the country

enjoys, and its expansion in establishing educational schools, including the “Voltaire” School, and its role in spreading the French language.

He spoke about the richness of the Arabic language, noting that it is one of the most spoken languages in the world, and one of the oldest living languages today, and is characterised by an exceptional linguistic wealth.

He stressed that Arabic had the merit of transferring sciences and knowledge, as it was a bridge between the ancient world, such as the Greek world, and the Western world, as a large part of Greek philosophy reached us through it,

as well as mathematics.

One of the features of Lang’s interest in the Arabic language is his authorship of a book five years ago titled “The Arabic Language, the Treasure of France”, attributing his choice of this title to the great influence of the Arabic language in France and its remarkable impact on society. Lang explained that a generation grew up in France that was raised on the Arabic language, as Arabic is the second language in France, after the mother tongue, and that there are millions who speak it in France.

Writer Shawqi Abdul Amir spoke about the challenges facing the Arabic language in the West,

pointing out that there is a gap between the greatness of the Arabic language and our ability as individuals to communicate it to the world in reality.

As there are, from his point of view, three main obstacles, which he called the past, orality, and stereotyping, calling for a discourse that focuses on origins and heritage but does not rely entirely on this legacy without actual renewal.

In addition to interest in documentation and recording, as the West does not easily accept oral discourse, calling for confronting the prevailing stereotype in the West about the Arab world.

# UDC celebrates QNSD at The Pearl and Gewan Islands



The United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl and Gewan Islands, organised a special celebration on Qatar National Sport Day, in collaboration with the General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority, the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau, Ooredoo Group, and Corinthia Group.

The events were held in the Porto Arabia area at The Pearl Island, as well as at the Crystal Walk and the Gewan Island Golf Club, where visitors and residents of all ages participated in a variety of sports and recreational activities, including fitness exercises, challenge games, children’s activities, and other events aimed at promot-



ing a healthy lifestyle and proper sports practices.

Prominent figures attended the event, including Ahmad bin Ali al-Hammadi, chairman of UDC and director-general of the General Retirement Authority; Yasser al-Jaidah, president and CEO, UDC; Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, president of the

Civil Service and Government Development Bureau; Sheikh Ali bin Jabor al-Thani, CEO of Ooredoo Group; Reuben Mifsud, general manager of Corinthia Hotels Doha; as well as administrative officials and senior staff from the participating entities. The event also featured a group walk and a series of sports challenges.

## NCSA marks QNSD at Katara




The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) organised a series of events in celebration of Qatar National Sport Day at its pavilion in Katara – the Cultural Village. The event witnessed the participation of a large number of the agency’s employees, their families, and the general public.

NCSA president engineer Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki said that the importance of the Sport Day is evident in the state’s approach and interest in building a healthy and physically fit society, as sports are one of the vital pillars to achieve the Qatar National Vision 2030 through its impact on communi-

ty health and strengthening the social bonds.

He reaffirmed the Agency’s commitment to promoting a strong sports culture among its employees, fostering a spirit of teamwork, and cultivating an environment of team spirit and mutual support.

At its Katara pavilion, the NCSA organised a diverse range of sports activities, blending technology, digital engagement, and physical games designed for families and children. Additionally, group games were held to instil values of co-operation and encourage active participation across all segments of society.



INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
CO-RFQ-259	Operations and Maintenance Support Contract for Sidra Medicine on Call-off Basis for 5 Years	1000.00	100,000.00	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025 10:00AM

**Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement Directorate** is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

- Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender(s). Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.  
**Tender Fee:** Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferable tender fee online.  
All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.  
**Tender Fee Payment Dates:** Payment of Tender Fee online will be from 12<sup>th</sup> February until 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the “Supplier Portal” work instruction.
  - The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
  - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
  - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
  - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

**Note:** All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link: <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration>

**Qatar strongly condemns bombing in Afghanistan**

Qatar expressed yesterday its strong condemnation of the bombing that took place near a bank in Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan, resulting in deaths and injuries. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar’s firm position on the rejection of violence and terrorism, regardless of the motives and causes. The ministry expressed Qatar’s condolences to the families of the victims, the caretaker government, and the people of Afghanistan, and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. **(QNA)**

## QC supports half a million people in Bangladesh

Qatar Charity (QC), with the support of donors in Qatar, implemented 2,235 projects in Bangladesh in 2024, benefiting 548,167 people in the areas of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), relief, education, health, development, and economic empowerment.

QC implemented 1,930 WASH projects across 14 districts, benefiting 96,500 residents. These projects played a pivotal role in enhancing water access for communities suffering from contaminated water sources.

QC completed 216 mosque construction projects in 40 districts in 2024, benefiting 43,200 people. These mosques provide spaces for prayer and community gatherings, promoting unity and belonging among residents.

QC implemented 33 edu-



cational projects that include the construction of schools and Qur’an memorisation centres in 13 districts, benefiting 5,050 students.

Health projects were another focal area for QC in 2024. These efforts facilitated the treatment of congenital heart disease in 113 children from families financially unable to afford such life-saving treatments.

In the areas of social welfare, QC, through its Rofaqa, continues to sponsor 4,426 orphans in Bangladesh. QC also built five orphan care centres to benefit 1,000 children in various regions of the country.

QC also completed 40 housing projects across 18 districts, benefiting 238 individuals. QC implemented four income-generating

projects in two districts, providing farmland to empower 20 people financially.

QC provided seasonal aid to the most vulnerable during Ramadan, Eid, and winter. Through four projects, Ramadan aid, Zakat Al-Fitr, sacrificial meat, and Eid clothing were delivered to 68,620 people. QC also distributed winter clothing such as blankets, hoodies, and jackets to 11,000 sponsored orphans and their families.

Qatar Charity’s quick response to the devastating floods in the Noakhali district in 2024 delivered relief aid to 318,000 flood-affected individuals. Food packages and clean water were provided to families in their time of need. During 2025, QC is set to implement more than 2,000 projects across Bangladesh.



# Qatar to create a permanent national pavilion in Giardini of La Biennale di Venezia

Qatar Museums (QM) has announced plans to build a permanent national pavilion in the historic Giardini della Biennale, which first opened to the public in 1895.

With this, Qatar will join 30 other nations that have permanent pavilions at the Giardini in Venice, Italy.

According to a QM statement, the announcement follows the signing of a Protocol of Co-operation between Qatar Museums and the Municipality of Venice in June 2024. The agreement aims to strengthen existing relations and enhance cultural, social, and economic collaboration between Qatar, Venice, and the Italian Republic.

HE Chairperson of Qatar Museums (QM) and commissioner of the Qatar Pavilion Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani stated: “La Biennale di Venezia is the worlds foremost gathering for art and architecture, and the Giardini is a historic space where exceptional pavilions serve as ambassadors for their nations. Qatar is proud to take its place in this international forum, reinforcing our leadership in cultural diplomacy and providing a unique platform to showcase the creative talents of our nation and the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia region.”

President of La Biennale di Venezia Pietrangelo Buttafuoco welcomed Qatar’s participation, saying: “Venice is the only European city that has carried an Arabic name, Bunduqiyyah, since the year 1000 CE. This reflects the city’s long-standing diversity of languages and ethnicities. In the spirit of curiosity, exploration, and genuine human exchange that defines both Venice and the Biennale, I welcome Qatar to the Giardini as a global beacon of creativity and cross-cultural understanding.”

The new Qatar Pavilion will be centrally located in the Giardini, adjacent to the renowned Book Pavilion.

Qatar will begin activating its pavilion in May 2025, during the 19th International Architecture Exhibition, with the large-scale installation Community Centre by Pakistani architect Yasmeen Lari. This installation will be part of the exhibition Beyti Beytak (My home is your home), which will be presented at both the Giardini and ACP-Palazzo Franchetti.

In alignment with the theme of Biennale Architettura 2025, Beyti Beytak will explore how hospitality and traditions of welcome are reflected in contemporary architecture and landscapes across the

Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. The exhibition will also pay tribute to pioneering architects and thinkers, featuring works from more than 20 modern and contemporary architects from the region, including several whose work has never been exhibited in Venice before.

Among the prominent modern architects featured are Raj Rewal (India), Nayyar Ali Dada (Pakistan), Abdel Wahed El Wakil (Egypt), and Minnette de Silva (Sri Lanka). Their contributions will be highlighted alongside works by contemporary designers and architects such as Marina Tabassum and Nabil Haque (Bangladesh), Sameep Padora and Vastu Shilpa (India), Daaz Studio (Iran), Abeer Seikaly (Jordan), Sumaya Dabagh (UAE), Liz Diller (USA), New South Studio (France), and Meriem Shabani (Iran).

The exhibition is commissioned by HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and Qatar Museums and is organised by the future Art Mill Museum. It is curated by Aurélien Lemonier, Curator of Architecture at the Art Mill Museum, and Sean Anderson, Associate Professor at Cornell University, in collaboration with Virgile Alexandre. (QNA)

## The World Cup of Dreams and Legacy screened by Al Arabiya TV on QNSD celebration

By Tawfik Lamari

Staff Reporter

Al Arabiya TV Network broadcast on its digital platform Al Arabiya+ and Al Arabiya 2 a documentary entitled *Qatar 2022: The World Cup of Dreams and Legacy*, which tells the story of Qatar hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 for nearly an hour. The documentary traces the stages of achieving the Qatari dream since it was an idea proposed in 2010, through the various stages of planning and hard work over 12 years.

The film reviews the behind-the-scenes efforts for years from within the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, the first Qatari entity responsible for organising the tournament. The documentary screened testimonies of leading Qatari figures including HE Hassan al-Thawadi, Secretary-General of the committee; HE Nasser al-Khater, CEO of the tournament; and Fatima al-Nuaimi, Executive Director of Communications and Media. They addressed the challenges of Qatar organising the global event, and the story of the success of Qatar in confronting malicious campaigns.

The film also reviews the testimony of the famous Qatari engineer Ibrahim al-Jaidah, the designer of the unique Al Thumama Stadium inspired by the Qatari Gahfia as well as the testimony of engineer Mohammed al-Mulla, who played a prominent role in establishing the famous Stadium 974, and engineer Yasser al-Mulla, who was responsible for beautifying and equipping the stadium lawns.

The film also includes interviews with Arab and foreign historians and important Qatari figures, who discuss the role of the championship in introducing Qatari culture to the world. Including HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, in addition to a special appearance by Qatari football star Khalid Salman and influencer Ahmed Batou, who



touched on the inspiring humanitarian moments witnessed by the tournament. For his part, Mohamed Abu al-Ainain, Director of Programs Sector at Al Arabiya TV, confirmed that the production of the film took about a year, with keenness to show the real makers of the tournament, while Dina al-Demerdash, Head of Documentary Management at Al Arabiya TV, confirmed the film’s work team’s keenness to produce an entertaining work that achieves the element of enjoyment for the Arab viewer. In addition to its role in documenting the event, the details of which and the backstage of its organisation have never been told in this way before. The film was shown for the first time yesterday on Qatar National Sport Day (QNSD) at exactly 21:00 AI QUDS Time, corresponding to 10pm Doha time.

## Ras Abrouq a prominent destination on Qatar’s tourism, heritage map

QNA

Doha

Ras Abrouq is a distinctive addition to Qatar’s tourism and heritage map, having recently become a prominent destination that reflects the uniqueness of Qatar’s cultural and tourism heritage.

Ras Abrouq, located on the west coast of Qatar, includes numerous archaeological sites and has become a tourist destination. It blends adventure, relaxation and cultural enrichment, providing visitors from inside and outside Qatar with a unique experience and diverse tourism and entertainment options.

It is an area steeped in historical and ecological significance. A peninsula that has borne witness to prehistoric human occupation, it provides a unique glimpse into Qatar’s ancient past. Archaeological sites abound, with flint tools used for hunting among the most notable discoveries. Ras Abrouq’s pristine environment continues to serve as a vital site for research, offering invaluable insights into Qatar’s archaeological heritage.

Adding to its significance, Ras Abrouq lies adjacent to the Al-Reem Biosphere Reserve, a Unesco-protected site. The reserve is a living tapestry of Middle Eastern desert ecosystems, from limestone mesas to sabkha plains. Its home to traditional Arabian villages, artisanal fishing communities, wildlife centres, and



date palm plantations – a testament to Qatar’s commitment to preserving nature and cultural heritage. The unique landscape of Ras Abrouq further sets it apart. Its striking white cliffs, sculpted by wind and water erosion over millennia, create a dramatic tableau of mushroom-shaped hills and soft limestone formations. These natural features, combined with the peninsulas tranquil environment, make it a place of ecological and cultural wonder.

Ahmed Hussein, a tourism expert, said that Ras Abrouq is a distinctive addition to the tourism sector destinations in Qatar, offering more tourism and entertainment options for visitors, noting the diversification of tourism activities was

designed to meet everyone’s interests and aspirations to attract visitors and tourists, which increased the pace of tourism activity in the region.

Hussein added that Ras Abrouq is an exceptional model that reflects the uniqueness of the cultural heritage and environmental diversity in Qatar as it acquires great archaeological and environmental importance due to its natural treasures, noting that visitors do not only enjoy recreational events and activities, but they also have an exceptional opportunity to learn about the natural and cultural heritage. Qatar.

Ayman al-Qudwa, a tourism expert, said Ras Abrouq represents a qualitative shift in tourism activity in Qatar because it is a

new destination that blends entertainment, tourism and tranquillity, noting in this context the recent attention given by Qatar Tourism to new areas outside Doha to provide additional options for tourists looking for tranquillity and comfort with the availability of all activities that meet their needs. Al-Qudwa added that Ras Abrouq has diverse terrain and offers tourists more than one option, and it also contributes to preserving the environment and biodiversity and enhancing tourism experiences outside the scope of urban concentration.

Ras Abrouq has been chosen as the site of a groundbreaking desert activation by Visit Qatar. This initiative introduces visitors to a first-of-its-kind experience that seamlessly blends adventure, cultural enrichment, and family-friendly relaxation, by hosting unique activities that celebrate Qatar’s culture and traditions.

Using Film City and Ras Abrouq as a stunning backdrop, these activations invite visitors to explore the area in exciting new ways, all the while preserving its natural beauty. Whether for the art, history, or peaceful atmosphere, Ras Abrouq offers something unforgettable for everyone. Ras Abrouq consists of a group of areas that offer families a harmonious blend of adventure and tranquillity, most notably Habitas Ras Abrouq Resort, The Desert Escape, Film City, Wildlife Park, and the Glamping Zone, in addition to hosting and organising cultural events which give families the opportunity to connect with

Qatari heritage and immerse themselves in desert nature experiences.

The Wildlife Park includes safari-like experiences, with camel and horse routes allowing guests to explore the animal zones. The Glamping Zone provides a luxurious yet affordable, family-friendly desert camping experience, featuring private tents, outdoor lounges, and serene settings for relaxation.

The Desert Escape offers a variety of activities, including hot air balloon rides, trampolines, archery, and stargazing. Visitors can also enjoy live performances, such as acrobatic shows and falcon demonstrations. Interactive activations include a roaming parade, kids treasure hunts, and cultural installations. This zone will also include a restaurant and a food lounge, in addition to Habitas Resort which offers a variety of affordable packages. Considering its cultural, historical, and ecological importance, Ras Abrouq has been chosen as the site of a groundbreaking desert activation by Visit Qatar.

This initiative introduces visitors to a first-of-its-kind experience that seamlessly blends adventure, cultural enrichment, and family-friendly relaxation, by hosting unique activities that celebrate Qatar’s culture and traditions. Initially slated to run from December 18-January 18, Visit Qatar extended Ras Abrouq activation until Feb 15 due to an overwhelming response from local and international visitors.

# The Real Estate Regulatory Authority – Aqarat, Hosts The Second Forum for Real Estate Developers

## Real Estate Forum: Enhancing Cooperation with Real Estate Developers to Stimulate and Regulate the Real Estate Sector

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) hosted the second forum for real estate developers yesterday, Monday, February 10, 2025, which aims to enhance cooperation and coordination between the Authority and real estate developers and discuss the status and developments in the real estate sector as well as activate laws and legislation to stimulate and regulate the sector.

This forum comes within the framework of the Authority’s efforts to enhance direct communication with real estate developers, and listen to their opinions and suggestions to develop services, improve performance and advance the real estate system in the country in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

The forum witnessed the participation of His Excellency Eng. Khalid bin Ahmed Al Obaidli, Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority and a large number of real estate developers and executive directors of major real estate development companies in the country in addition to an elite group of experts from inside and outside the State of Qatar.



On this occasion, His Excellency Eng. Khalid bin Ahmed Al Obaidli, Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, expressed his happiness at organizing the second edition of the forum, stressing its pivotal role in consolidating the partnership between the Authority and real estate developers and enhancing the attractive investment environment by organizing the sector and developing its services in addition to activating legislation and laws that contribute to the advancement of the real estate sector.

His Excellency said: “The forum is an exceptional opportunity to enhance cooperation between the public and private sectors to achieve sustainable development in the real



estate sector and meet the needs of the growing market, as well as enhance cooperation and exchange of views and experiences between various parties concerned with the real estate sector.”

For his part, Eng. Mubarak Al Nuaimi, Director of Licensing Affairs at the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, gave a detailed presentation of the most prominent

strategic initiatives adopted by the Authority, reviewing the progress made in the initial registration of real estate developers, which aims to organize and document real estate development work, in addition to establishing the Licensing Committee and activating the guarantee account.

Al-Nuaimi reviewed the most prominent initiatives launched by the Authority such as the real estate

investment map and automation of services. He also reviewed the Authority’s vision regarding organizing the third edition of the Qatar Real Estate Forum 2025, which will bring together a group of experts and decision-makers at the national and international levels.

The presentation also addressed the mechanisms for activating real estate development dispute

resolution committees to ensure the speed and efficiency of resolving disputes in the sector, in addition to reviewing the real estate development journey, starting from obtaining the necessary licenses and classifications to digitizing the investor’s journey, which contributes to enhancing transparency and attracting foreign direct investment.

The challenges and proposals presented by real estate developers during the first forum were addressed and these issues are currently being studied and action plans are being developed to deal with and resolve them in cooperation with the relevant authorities in order to develop the real estate sector. It is worth noting that these initiatives discussed in the forum come within a comprehensive strategy adopted by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority - Aqarat to develop and modernize the legislative and legal framework for the real estate sector which contributes to enhancing its growth and sustainability and achieving the highest standards of efficiency in the real estate market in line with the Third National Development Strategy.





# ‘Sports a priority for interior ministry’

The Ministry of Interior organised a variety of events yesterday in celebration of the National Sport Day, attended by HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohammed al-Thani, along with several directors of the ministry’s departments and personnel.

The events, which took place at Qatar Sports Club as well as in 14 other locations across different departments and public areas, featured a range of sports activities, including football, volleyball, walking, table tennis, padel, basketball, stationary cycling, endurance skills, and various other athletic activities.

HE Sheikh Abdulaziz expressed his pleasure at the widespread participation of Ministry of Interior personnel in the Sport Day activities, emphasising the ministry’s commitment to promoting sports and supporting the

various activities of the Qatar Police Sports Federation (QPSF) throughout the year.

He stressed that sports are a key priority for the Ministry of Interior and its personnel due to the nature of security and police work, which requires maintaining continuous physical fitness, highlighting the importance of sports in daily life and their positive impact on individual health and community well-being.

He underscored that practising sports throughout the year is the fundamental standard to ensure achieving the desired benefits, and that the National Sport Day serves as a reminder of the importance of incorporating sports into daily life, encouraging all members of society to make sports a lifestyle.

For his part, Director of the Human Resources Department at the Ministry of Interior Major General Khalifa Nasr al-Nasr said that participating in the National Sport



Day each year is a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the significance of sports in daily life and public health.

Similarly, Director General of Passports Major General Mohammed Ahmed al-Ateeq noted

that participation in the National Sport Day is not merely a physical activity but an essential part of daily life, positively impacting both physical and mental health. He explained that sports enhance endurance, strengthen relation-



ships among individuals, and contribute to improving performance and concentration, making it an important habit that should be maintained.

Meanwhile, Director General of Civil Defence Major General

Hamad Othman al-Duhaimi emphasised that sports contribute to building endurance, focus, and discipline, qualities essential for civil defence personnel in their daily duties. (QNA)



## Ministry of Defence celebrates Qatar National Sport Day

With the participation of HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, and HE the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces Lt Gen (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai, the Ministry of Defence organised a series of sports and recreational activities in celebration of the National Sport Day at Al Bidda Park.

The activities included recreational competitions and various sports and physical games, such as football, basketball, volleyball, and athletics, along with several competitive events for the children of the affiliates of the ministry and the general public.

These events aim to encourage all age groups and different segments of society to engage in sports and physical activities, raise awareness of the importance of sports in daily life, and promote year-round participation. Additionally, they seek to enhance the values of co-operation and foster a spirit of participation among all members of the society. (QNA)



## MoFA organises sporting event at Diplomatic Club



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) yesterday organised a sports event at the Diplomatic Club on the occasion of the 14th edition of the National Sport Day, with the participation of HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi, HE Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi and a number of diplomats, officials and employees of the ministry and their families.

The programme included football, volleyball, basketball, tennis, shooting, archery, cycling, in addition to a number of traditional games and other activities. The message of this year’s Sport Day, “Never Too Late”, aims to encourage more individuals and community groups to engage in sports, emphasising that there is always time for everyone to participate in sports activities, regardless of work or family commitments. (QNA)



## Qatar embassies, consulates hold sporting events

Qatar’s diplomatic, consular and representative missions abroad organised various sporting events on the occasion of the 14th National Sport Day, under the slogan “Never Too Late”. The programmes featured various sporting activities with participation of diplomats, employees and the public in the countries of representation. The heads of the diplomatic, consular and representative missions of Qatar highlighted in speeches the state’s belief in the importance of sports in building the human being and its role in improving the quality of life and ensuring the health and well-being of society. They pointed out that the National Sport Day, which is held annually on the second Tuesday of February, encourages making sport a way of life. (QNA)

## Amiri Guard holds diverse sport events



The Amiri Guard organised several diverse sport events and activities at Barzan Camp to mark the 14th edition of the National Sport Day. A number of officers, non-commis-

sioned officers, soldiers and civilians from the Amiri Guard participated in the events.

The activities included a range of games and sports such as walking, running, horse riding, padel, futsal and

football on the grass pitch, in addition to a number of other individual and group sports activities.

Through its participation along with various state agencies in organising many sports events, the Amiri Guard

seeks to enhance Qatar’s vision on the importance of increasing awareness of sports and physical activities, spreading the culture of practising sports, and making it a way of life for all segments of society. (QNA)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

I, RUBELYN RAPADA AGDIPA

holder of

Philippines Passport No. P5604068C  
QID No. 27860804763

hereby change my name

from

RUBELYN RAPADA AGDIPA

to

RUBELYN AGDIPA PADAGAS

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

## ‘A pioneering initiative to foster sport-for-all notion’

President of the Qatar Camel Mazayen Club, Hamad Jaber al-Athba, has emphasised that the National Sport Day is a pioneering initiative to foster the sport-for-all notion, which highlights Qatar’s commitment to spreading awareness of the importance of sport in boosting physical health.

He added that the club celebrated this day through holding sporting activities inspired from popular legacy to revive this inveterate heritage and participate in this consequential national occasion.

In his remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Athba said the state is always committed to doing everything that protects health, as long as sport plays a crucial role in the Qatar National Vision 2030 to achieve the sustainable development.

Qatar is among the preeminent nations that gives foremost priority to sports, in recognition of their significance for public health, he highlighted, noting that marking this day is exclusively attached to Qatar among the world nations through which it intends to encour-

age practising sport as a healthy lifestyle.

Al-Athba indicated that the event achieved incredible outcomes, in terms of raising the awareness of sport and its impact on citizens and residents, stressing that the time allows every single person to embark on practising sport without excuses related private commitments or inadequate time to engage in such activities.

The club participated in this day through organising contests and popular games which drew high turnout from students of Al Shahaniya Model

School for Boys, who took part in the running, tug-of-war, and archery competitions held at the Al Basir field, as part of this event, he said.

Al-Athba underlined that fusing sport with heritage manifests the Qatari identity and strengthens the generations’ ties with their inveterate past, emphasising that the club is always committed to realising this through holding diverse events.

He confirmed his belief in sport as a lifestyle that transcends physical activities and boosts the spirit of challenge. (QNA)





## QCB governor joins National Sport Day activities



HE the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) Governor Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saud al-Thani participated in the QCB's activities associated with the National Sport Day yesterday. Executives and employees of Qatar's financial sector took part yesterday in an array of sports activities and events hosted by the QCB.

# State institutions take part in NSD events

Ministries, government agencies, and public institutions participated yesterday in the 14th National Sport Day (NSD) events, in response to the Amiri Decision No. 80 of 2011, which designated the second Tuesday of February each year as the National Sport Day.

Ministries, government bodies, and public institutions organised sporting events with the participation of their employees and their families to promote awareness of the importance of sports and its role in the lives of individuals and communities.

The **Ministry of Sports and Youth** organised sports activities at Aspire Park, attended by HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Sports and Youth engineer Yasser bin Abdullah al-Jamal and Abdulrahman bin Musallam al-Dosari, the adviser to the minister of sports and youth and chairman of the National Sport Day Organising Committee.

The activities included competitions in football, volleyball, badminton, running, chess, tug-of-war, and various recreational games.

Participants took part in a group walk across the green pathways of Aspire Park, with many enjoying an aerial show featuring the Qatari flag soaring in the sky.

Parachutists delivered breath-taking artistic performances.

Al-Dosari praised the large public turnout across all age groups in parks, public spaces, and sports venues, reflecting a growing awareness of the importance of sports.

He highlighted this year's theme of *Never Too Late*, which underscores the need to practice sports at any time, regardless of circumstances or commitments.

The official noted that distributing activities across different areas of the country serves to expand participation opportunities, making it easier for everyone to engage in sports within a family-friendly and motivating atmosphere.

Similarly, the **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)** hosted sports and recreational activities, attended by HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie.

The events included walking and other sports activities at the Old Doha Port.

HE Dr al-Subaie stated that the NSD is an ideal opportunity to raise awareness about the connection between sports and environmental protection.

He emphasised that outdoor sports activities help promote sustainability and encourage individuals to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

The minister added that sports are not just a means to enhance physical and mental health but also an effective tool in supporting environmental efforts, by raising awareness about the importance of preserving green spaces and natural areas, which are integral to Qatar's National Vision 2030.

HE Dr al-Subaie underscored that sports activities held in islands and nature reserves highlight the significance of these locations and the need to protect them.

HE the Undersecretary of the MoECC engineer Abdulaziz bin Ahmad bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud stated that the NSD aligns with the country's vision of promoting public health.

He highlighted the ministry's efforts to integrate environmental values into sports activities by fostering a culture of environmental preservation alongside physical exercise.

The **Public Prosecution** also participated in this year's NSD, fostering an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm, interaction, and team spirit among its members, reflecting the State's commitment to promoting sports and its significance.

Participants from the Public Prosecution emphasised the vital role of sports in improving public health and enhancing physical fitness.

They highlighted that such events help alleviate daily stress, positively impacting work performance and overall job quality.

The activities included fitness exercises such as warm-ups, running competitions, football matches, and other sporting events that brought together employees from different job levels in an energetic and engaging environment.

The **Ministry of Labour** organised a variety of sports activities and competitions at the Old Doha Port Park.

The activities were held in collaboration with the Qatar Police Sports Federation (QPSF) and saw participation from ministry employees, their families, and the public.



employees, their families, and the public.

This year's activities were spread across two designated areas, catering to different age groups and providing an inclusive experience.

The first area featured bowling, cup stacking, Angry Birds, target wall shooting, header challenge, darts, e-sports, a horse riding station, sack races, football competitions, chess, the snake game, and a children's camp.

The second area included children's sports competitions, table tennis, wire hockey, baby-foot, golf, badminton, volleyball, basketball, boxing challenges, weightlifting, and fitness exercises, alongside a healthy food station.

The **Ministry of Social Development and Family** organised activities in collaboration with the Qatar Social Work Foundation (QSWF), with the participation of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi.

HE Sheikh Mohammed participated in activities alongside the elderly and staffers of the Shafallah Centre, Al Noor Centre and Orphans Care Centre (Dreama), as well as other centres operating under the QSWF, at Al Noor Centre for the Blind.

HE al-Nuaimi emphasised that partnership with the QSWF and its social centres is a role model for societal co-operation and comes as part of the ministry's belief in

the significance of sport in building a vibrant and healthy society that bolsters the individuals' capabilities and increases their interaction with their social periphery.

Sport, she said, enables children and persons with disabilities to achieve the principles of social inclusion and strengthening brotherly relationship between individuals.

HE al-Nuaimi affirmed that the ministry highlights the importance of sporting activities and promoting sport culture that shapes a healthy society, thereby reflecting the solid relationship between sport and community, as long as sport plays a fundamental role in achieving the educational objectives and fosters active engagement of individuals.

QSWF chief executive Ahmed bin Muhammad al-Kuwari underscored the foundation's commitment to moving in step with the State's efforts to enhance the well-being of its members and encourage

aging sport as an enduring lifestyle that can never be abandoned.

The **Qatar Career Development Centre (QCDC)**, a member of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), hosted a range of sports and recreational activities at Oxygen Park in Education City.

The event welcomed volunteers from the "Empower Ability" programme, designed for individuals with learning difficulties and special needs, to help develop their personal skills and foster inclusivity.

Acting QCDC executive director Saad Abdullah al-Kharji stated that a healthy and active lifestyle is essential for professional success, as it helps maintain mental and psychological well-being, which is crucial for career excellence.

He added that the QCDC takes great pride in welcoming "Empower Ability" volunteers for the second consecutive year in the NSD activities. - **QNA**

## Activities combining sports, arts and culture at Katara

Katara - the Cultural Village organised a range of activities that combine sports, culture, and arts, held across Katara Corniche and the southern hills.

These activities marking the 14th National Sport Day (NSD) celebration were designed to engage all members of the community.

The events witnessed extensive participation from various entities, including ministries, governmental and private institutions, sports federations, medical centres, and sports clubs.

Katara Public Relations and Communications director Salem Mubkhout al-Marri stated that Katara is continuing its pioneering role in promoting a sports culture by organising an array of diverse activities in celebration of the NSD.

He said that Katara is committed to providing a comprehensive sports experience for all members of the community, offering a variety of activities that cater to different age groups and physical abilities, ranging from team and individual sports to interactive fitness experiences, in collaboration

with various ministries, official bodies, and private entities, as well as sports clubs.

Al-Marri added that Katara launched its sporting activities with a 1,000m walking initiative for employees to promote health and physical activity.

This initiative, he said, was an opportunity for employees to step away from their desks, recharge, and enjoy movement in an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Beyond sports and culture, Katara dedicated special areas for children and families, fostering a spirit of participation and enjoyment for all ages.

Participants engaged in competitions such as tug-of-war, musical chairs, and cycling contests.

There were artistic workshops for children, including painting sessions, as part of Katara's efforts to enhance cultural and artistic awareness while instilling sporting values that contribute to personal development.

The Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) set up a booth offering heart health screenings for both men and women, along

with educational information on diabetes and hands-on training in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) techniques.

Similarly, the Elite Medical Centre provided general health checkups and dental examinations for both children and adults, while Kulud Pharmacy organised various health-related activities and distributed skincare products to attendees.

The assistant director of health promotion and community engagement at the HMC's Hamad International Training Centre, Dr Mahmoud Younis, stated that as with in previous years, the centre is participating in Katara's NSD events by offering a range of activities aimed at promoting health awareness and encouraging a healthy lifestyle among community members, including fitness exercises that integrate physical activity with basic CPR training, as well as "Kulluna" healthy heart campaign, which offers cholesterol, blood pressure, and BMI (body mass index) screenings to help participants monitor their health.

He added that they have also set up a dedicated children's area featuring recreational and educational activities, along with a section for various exercise and fitness equipment.

The director of public relations and communications at the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), Noor Shahdad, stated that through its participation, the NCSA aims to reinforce the concept of sports as a healthy lifestyle, in line with Qatar's vision of building a healthy and active society, with a variety of activities suitable for all age groups, including designated children's events such as ball jumping and billiards, alongside a dedicated space for younger children featuring entertaining activities like drawing and colouring.

The official added that the NCSA also offered exciting sports competitions, including basketball and target shooting, as well as activities such as a cycling contest between two participants, a penalty kick challenge, and a light wall reaction game, providing an engaging and competitive experience.

The sporting events attracted a diverse audience, with participants particularly



enjoying the rowing activity presented by Dragon Boat Qatar.

The Doha Marine Sports Club (DMSC) also played a role, hosting events such as the Modern Sailing Tournament, the Katara Traditional Dhow Festival, and the Al Dasha Marine Sports Festival. - **QNA**





## Ministry of Municipality keen to provide sophisticated sporting facilities

**H**E the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah took part in the Qatar National Sport Day events held at Rawdat Al Hamama Park.

The event was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Agriculture and Food Security Affairs Fahd Mohamed al-Qahtani, Assistant Undersecretary for Urban Planning Affairs Turki Fahd al-Turki, a number of general directors of municipalities and department heads from the ministry.

HE the Minister of Municipality stressed that he National Sport Day reflects the vision of the wise leadership in encouraging sports activities due to its importance and role as a pillar of human capital investment within Qatar National Vision 2030.



"This day contributes to raising awareness about the significance of sports in individuals' and society's lives and encourages everyone to engage in sports activities."

"In line with the Ministry of Municipality's commitment to providing recreational sports spaces for the public, we will be inaugurating three new parks in

the coming period, equipped with the latest sports facilities and modern tracks."

He also reaffirmed the ministry's continuous efforts to ensure



that all parks and public gardens meet the highest international standards for sports fields and facilities.

He further highlighted the diverse range of sports facilities and services provided by the Ministry of Municipality in parks

and public gardens across different municipalities. These include various sports fields, walking, jogging, and cycling tracks, as well as fitness equipment catering to all segments of society, including adults, children, and people with special needs.

## QNB Group organises series of activities



As part of its commitment to social responsibility and wellbeing, QNB Group celebrated Qatar National Sport Day with a series of engaging activities aimed at promoting health, fitness, and teamwork among employees and the wider community, offering them an opportunity to participate in fun and interactive experiences.

As part of its commitment to social responsibility and wellbeing, QNB Group celebrated Qatar National Sport Day with a series of engaging activities aimed at promoting health, fitness, and teamwork among employees and the wider community, offering them an opportunity to participate in fun and interactive experiences. One of the key highlights of this year's celebration was the exclusive activation with Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at Sahat Al Nakheel, Msheireb Downtown Doha.

This unique event featured a 9-hole mini football golf course with creative obstacles, designed to provide an exciting and dynamic sporting experience for participants of all ages. The bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) team also organised a range of other sports and wellness activities to encourage an active lifestyle, foster team spirit, and reinforce the importance of fitness and healthy lifestyle. This was delivered to the students of Al Hidayah School for Special Needs and Qatar Paralympic Committee staff and



concluded the activities with distributing gifts for the students. Commenting on the initiative, Heba al-Tamimi, Senior Executive Vice President, QNB Group Communications said: "We are proud to reinforce our commitment to promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. Through these activities, we aim to engage our employees and the community in fun and beneficial sports experiences that highlight the value of wellbeing and teamwork." QNB remains committed to supporting Qatar's vision of becoming a leading nation in sports and healthy living, continuously engaging in initiatives that contribute to the community's wellbeing.



## Aspire Zone turns into ultimate destination for fitness enthusiasts

**T**he Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) yesterday organised a variety of events to mark Qatar National Sport Day.

Under the theme 'On Time', more than 20 sports activities were offered at Aspire Park with the participation of various segments of society.

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Yasser bin Abdullah al-Jamal, AZF acting CEO and Aspire Logistics general manager Abdullah Nasser al-Nuaimi, Public Works Authority (Ashghal) president engineer Mohammed Abdulaziz al-Meer and Qatar Museums CEO Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi along with several other dignitaries participated in the activities.

Al-Nuaimi, along with AZF's facilities and events executive director Ahmed Mohammed al-Hassan and communications and



Aspire Zone Foundation hosted a variety of activities yesterday in celebration of Qatar National Sport Day.

**PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam

public relations executive director Hamad Youssef al-Obaidli, highlighted the importance of the activities and the role of the foundation in promoting physical activities.

Aspetar played a key role in the event by providing a range of health and medical services for

participants. The event featured a skydiving performance in collaboration with the Qatar Air Sports Committee.

AZF employees took part in the Aspire Walk. The activity featured three training stations along the route, each supervised by expert trainers.



## Large turnout at QU's numerous events



**Q**atar University (QU) organised a range of sporting activities in celebration of Qatar National Sport Day at the Sports and Events Complex, with a large turnout of students, faculty members, and staff,

along with widespread participation from the community.

The activities began with a general warm-up session, including physical exercises, followed by a biometric assessment and health awareness segment,

allowing participants to learn about their health indicators and the importance of maintaining physical fitness.

The programme also featured fitness activities in the senior zone and recreational games

area, where participants engaged in various exercises designed to promote physical activity. Dedicated sports activities for children continued until the end of the event.

The event concluded with an

open sports session, allowing participants to engage in various activities and enjoy the sports facilities in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and positive interaction.

QU president Dr Omar al-Ansari said: "On Qatar's National

Sport Day, we reaffirm our commitment at QU to promoting health and fitness as a way of life. Sports are not just an activity but a culture that unites us, revitalises us, and strengthens our team spirit."





# Grand celebrations at UDST

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) celebrated Qatar National Sport Day 2025, with a lineup of activities and competitions in collaboration with partners such as Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), BeBasketball, and TnT Athletics.

The event saw the participation of HE Dr Ibrahim Saleh al-Naimi, president of QCSF, and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, along with Dr Mohammed Yousef al-Mulla vice-chair of UDST Board of Trustees and Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST, students, staff, their families, and members of the broader community.

The campus was transformed into sports and wellness zones, offering a diverse array of events catering to attendees of all ages and interests. This year's programme emphasised inclusivity and fun, while promoting the values of teamwork, health, and fitness.

Highlights included a family walk/run, which was a group activity to explore the campus and promote family bonding. The PSG kids football tournament, basketball and volleyball challenges, fitness obstacle courses, SpinFit classes, fun zones, kids activities, interactive tennis, padel, cricket, and badminton try-it sessions were part of the itinerary.



Dr Al-Naemi, said: "At UDST, sport and wellness are key to developing well-rounded individuals, prepared to excel both

academically and in life. Qatar National Sport Day goes beyond just physical activity, it nurtures unity and community, bringing people together to enjoy healthy, meaningful experiences. This celebration reflects our shared commitment to health and well-being, which are essential elements of the Qatar National Vision 2030. Through events like these, we aim to inspire a culture of wellness that empowers our community to live healthier, more balanced lives."

Anthony Martin, director of UDST's Sport and Wellness Directorate, added: "Our programme this year was curated with diversity in mind. From team competi-

tions to individual challenges, we ensured there was something for everyone. It's always rewarding to see our community come together to celebrate fitness and companionship."

Beyond QNSD, UDST continues to drive year-round wellness initiatives, leveraging its state-of-the-art facilities, including swimming pools, football fields, tennis and padel courts, cricket grounds, an E-Sport Arena, and a Spin Studio. The university's expanding varsity programme and sports scholarship opportunities also reinforce its dedication to fostering athletic excellence alongside academic success, a statement added.

## Al Meera celebrations see huge participation



Al Meera Consumer Goods Company marked Qatar National Sport Day 2025 in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality. The event at Rawdat Al Hamama Park, drew families, friends, and individuals from across the community to celebrate health, wellness, and togetherness in a joyful atmosphere. The atmosphere was vibrant and family-friendly, with exceptional participation from attendees of all ages and fitness levels. Winners received shopping vouchers in the form of Meera Rewards points, reaching up to QR500, while all attendees were also rewarded with Meera Rewards points.

## QIIB participates in QNSD

QIIB participated in Qatar National Sport Day celebrations by taking part in events organised by the Qatar Central Bank.

This engagement underscores the bank's dedication to contributing to various initiatives that add value to Qatari society.

Sports, in particular, has positioned Qatar as a global hub and one of the leading sports capitals worldwide.

QIIB Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdulbasit Ahmad al-Shaibei and senior executives along with bank employees joined QCB's Sport Day activities and participated in a "Sports march" along Doha Corniche.

Dr al-Shaibei stated: "This day is an opportunity to reaffirm that sports are for everyone and represent a way of life filled with achievement and well-being." He added: "National Sport Day is a moment to renew our collective commitment to serving and building our community in the best possible ways. It is our duty to keep pace with Qatar's remarkable advancement in sports, as the country has truly become a distinguished sports capital. "This is evident not only in the world-class tournaments it hosts but also in the state-of-



QIIB CEO Dr Abdulbasit Ahmad al-Shaibei and senior executives along with employees joined QCB's Sport Day activities and participated in a "Sports march" along Doha Corniche.



the-art facilities and widespread sporting culture across various regions, which has significantly contributed to promoting sports participation on a large scale." The CEO highlighted QIIB's structured and ongoing support for Qatari sports, noting that the

bank has signed a sponsorship agreement with the Qatar Football Association, making it the main sponsor of the Amir Cup and the National Teams for three years starting from February 2024. This sponsorship aligns with

the Third Financial Sector Strategy of the Qatar Central Bank, which emphasises environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles and the bank's role in serving the community in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

## 1,500 Mannai staff take part in events



Mannai Corporation and subsidiaries celebrated the Qatar National Sport Day yesterday, involving over 1,500 staff members. The participants competed in a wide range of team sports, including football, volleyball, team relay races, obstacle courses,

tug-of-war fest, kabaddi tag battle and much more. Executive committee vice-chairman Khalid Mannai and Group CEO Alekh Grewal spoke on the occasion. Prior to the sport day event, a series of internal competitions were held within the Mannai Group of companies.

The event also included a special ceremony honouring long-serving employees who have dedicated 25 years to Mannai. The awards were given away in the presence of Mannai, Grewal, and HR and administration senior general manager Emad Zaid.





## Ashghal activities promote active lifestyle



As part of its commitment to promoting collaboration with Aspire Zone, Ashghal yesterday participated in the Qatar National Sport Day activities at Aspire Park. The event, was attended by HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah and Ashghal president engineer Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Meer, with wide participation from Ashghal employees and their families. The event featured a variety of sports activities aimed at promoting community participation and encouraging different groups to adopt an active lifestyle. Ashghal also honoured the winners of the annual 'Inta Gadhā' competition for its employees.



# Wide participation across Qatar in National Sport Day activities



Activities of the 14th edition of National Sports Day kicked off yesterday morning in various parts of the country, in an annual tradition and an unprecedented pioneering initiative by Qatar, which aims to enhance the importance of sports and its role in the lives of societies, and to make it an essential part of the daily life of the individual.

More than 250 entities, including ministries, government institutions, bodies, and public and private entities, are participating in the activities of National Sport Day in public parks, gardens, stadiums, fields, clubs, and sports facilities spread throughout the country.

With wide participation from members of society, citizens and residents were keen to practice physical activity and participate in the various sporting events held during the annual event due to their belief in the importance of sports and its vital role in sustainable development, leading to the achievement of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Since early morning, the Doha Corniche, Old Doha Port, Al Bidda, Aspire, The Pearl, Qatar Foundation, Lusail, Msheireb, Katara and other areas, cities

and municipalities in Qatar were decorated with many sporting events and activities.

Since its establishment, all ministries, institutions, and governmental and non-governmental bodies have been keen to participate annually on National Sport Day, in which the various regions of the country are transformed into large arenas in which tens of thousands of citizens and residents from all segments of society practice various types of sports.

National Sport Day receives great attention, as all members of society, regardless of their age or group, are keen to spend a day with sports surrounded by a special atmosphere among family and friends, especially since allocating a sports day for the country has contributed to raising awareness of the importance of sports in the lives of individuals and society. Since the launch of the first edition, awareness has increased about the importance of practicing sports for a healthy society, which also contributes to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030, through interest in developing the human element in which Qatar has invested for years.

Qatar is distinguished by an infrastructure that helps in practicing sports activities through the presence of paths for pedestrians and bicycles, and many sports facilities that suit all groups, in addition to the presence of many public parks and gardens distributed throughout the country, which confirms the positive indicators of the growth of sports practice in society.

The importance of organising National Sport Day every year comes from promoting the status of sports, with its many moral and human values and health benefits, and raising awareness among citizens and residents about the importance of sports in daily life, and encouraging them to practice it throughout the year.

Qatar held the first edition of National Sport Day in Feb. 2012, in response to Amiri Resolution No. 80 of 2011 that the second Tuesday in February every year will be National Sport Day. It is considered an official holiday in the country, during which ministries, governmental and non-governmental bodies and institutions organise sports events, in which workers and their families participate to raise awareness of the importance of sports and its role in the lives of individuals and societies. (QNA)

## Media City Qatar's 'Ready, Set, Next' celebrates fitness



Media City Qatar brought the community together for its National Sport Day 2025 activation, 'Ready, Set, Next,' at Msheireb Downtown Doha, Sikkat Wadi.

The event welcomed participants of all ages and fitness levels, celebrating fitness, fun, and community spirit.

"Media City Qatar is redefining how sport, technology, and creativity come together to drive national priorities on National

Sport Day," said Kholoud al-Saai, head of event and conference management at Media City Qatar.

Attendees participated in a series of interactive fitness challenges, scanning QR codes to access guided exercises led by prominent Qatar-based influencer, and renowned sports broadcaster, Mohammed Saadon al-Kuwari, a former professional tennis player who energised the crowd and inspired

active participation. The exercises, ranging from wall push-ups to tricep dips and various sport zone activities, were designed to be easily performed using body weight or everyday structures such as walls, stairs, or benches.

As part of the event, an online raffle was conducted, with one winner, Renalyn Genciana, receiving two VIP tickets to the ONE 171 Championship, scheduled for February 20.

## Qatar Islamic Bank holds series of activities to mark National Sport Day

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) marked Qatar National Sport Day with a series of engaging activities designed to promote health, wellness, and an active lifestyle.

Through interactive competitions, educational workshop, and exciting rewards, QIB reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a culture of well-being among employees and customers. As part of the celebrations, QIB employees participated in an online sports and health-themed competition, where they answered a series of questions for a chance to win exclusive fitness vouchers. Additionally, an interactive awareness workshop was held in collaboration with Lite n' Appetite Diet Center, offering employees valuable insights into the benefits of maintaining a balanced diet while staying active.

The session featured expert-led presentations, free BMI checks, personalised consultations with dietitians, and a curated selection of nutritious food samples. Employees attending the session were also entered into a draw to win exclusive health and fitness prizes.



QIB extended its efforts to encourage customers to prioritise their well-being. Utilising diverse platforms such as social media campaigns and competitions, the bank encouraged customers to engage in interactive activities focused on health and sports. Winners of competitions featuring health and sports-related questions had the chance to win cash prizes worth QR1,000. Furthermore, customers were provided with tips on sustaining a healthy and active lifestyle, serving as a valuable resource for those seeking

positive lifestyle changes. Commenting on the initiatives, Mashaal Abdulaziz al-Derham, assistant general manager and head of Corporate Communications & Quality Assurance at QIB said, "National Sport Day is an opportunity to inspire our employees and customers to prioritise their health. We are pleased to have actively participated in this national initiative by providing engaging activities that encourage a healthier lifestyle.

"At QIB, we remain committed to fostering a culture of well-being, both within our organisation and across the wider community."

## Endowments ministry holds diverse events



The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs organised various events to celebrate the National Sport Day (NSD). The activities, according to an official statement from the ministry, were at its Abu Hamour playgrounds. The events witnessed the presence and participation of HE the Minister of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanem and a number of officials from the departments. They participated in sports activities alongside hundreds of employees in football, padel and table tennis. Also, horse riding and archery were organised in addition to other games.



## National Planning Council holds events on Gewan Island



The National Planning Council participated alongside the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau in the Qatar National Sport Day activities on Gewan Island; with the participation of HE Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, secretary-general of the National Planning Council and president of the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau.

# QARS launches special station to mark occasion

The Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS) launched a main station at its headquarters in celebration of the National Sport Day 2025, under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development and Family.

In a statement issued yesterday, the society announced that the station operated over the course of Feb 9, 10, and 11 to highlight the significance of this event over the airwaves.

The society used its special international call sign for National Sport Day, with operators taking

turns at different time intervals to connect with amateur radio enthusiasts worldwide.

The QARS participated in the National Sport Day activities using the international call sign A71QSD, symbolising Qatar Sport Day. This call sign was assigned by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) and can be used across various communication channels, including the society's transmitter via Qatar's Eshail-Sat-2 satellite or terrestrial communication within the frequency bands designated by the CRA,

which comply with the International Telecommunication Unions radio regulations.

The Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS) is committed to participating annually in national and community events. Qatari radio enthusiasts strive to cover all global frequency bands and establish international radio connections with fellow enthusiasts worldwide, promoting these occasions and showcasing the country's achievements across various fields, particularly in culture and sports. (QNA)



# MoCI holds events at Katara



HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani, joins QNSD celebrations.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry yesterday celebrated Qatar National Sport Day 2025 with a variety of sports activities for employees and their families at Katara Cultural Village; with the participation of HE the Minister Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani.

The celebration reflects the ministry's commitment to rais-

ing awareness of the role of sport in improving physical and mental health, and encouraging employees and their families to make sport part of their daily life. The event featured diverse sports activities, including football, volleyball and basketball, as well as fitness exercises led by professional trainers. Special activities were organised for children, including fenc-

ing, shot put and hurdle jumping. The ministry employees expressed excitement for being part of the activities, highlighting the importance of such gatherings in fostering team spirit and loyalty to the workplace. They also acknowledged the role such events play in enhancing communication and collaboration within the workplace.

# Transport ministry, other entities organise slew of events



The Ministry of Transport (MoT) and entities of the transportation system marked the Qatar National Sport Day with a slew of sporting and recreational events for employees and their family members. The events were organised at the Old Doha Port with the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA), Qatar Aeronautical Academy (QAC), Mwani Qatar, Qatar Navigation (Milaha), QTerminals, Qatar Rail, Mow-

asalat (Karwa), and the Hamad Port Project. HE the Minister of Transport Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul-lah bin Mohammed al-Thani said the day reflects Qatar leadership's vision for the importance of sports for building humans and a healthy, productive society that is capable of effectively contributing to the country's development and progress. Mohamed Faleh al-Hajri, in charge of managing the QCAA,

QAC director general Sheikh Jabor bin Hamad bin Mohammed al-Thani, Mwani Qatar CEO Capt Abdullah Mohamed al-Khanji, Milaha Group CEO Fahad Saad al-Qahtani, Karwa CEO Ahmad Hassan al-Obaidly, Hamad Port Project executive director engineer Nabil Mohammed al-Khalidi, QTerminals Group CEO Neville Bissett, and Qatar Rail's chief of strategy and business development Ajlan Eid al-Enazi lauded the role of QNSD.

# Sport Day reflects Qatar leadership's commitment to human development

HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi stressed that the National Sport Day is a living embodiment of the wise leadership's commitment to human development and firm belief that the human being is the focus of the nation's development and prosperity. He underscored Qatar's uniqueness among the world countries as it allocated a sports day marked each year to enhance awareness about the importance of sports in the development of individuals and society and making sports a way of life, which reflects the State's keenness and commitment to promoting health and physical fitness among all members of society, as sports are one of the most important pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030. In a statement on the occasion of the National Sport Day, he said that Qatar pays great attention to sports to the point that it has become a pioneer in this field. This attention stems from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's recognition of sport's key role in building a healthy individual who participates effectively in the nation's progression towards prosperity, development and sustainable development. Sports are one of the most important



HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi.

pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030; therefore, His Highness issued Amiri Decision No. 80 of 2011, which designated the second Tuesday of February each year as a sports day to encourage all members of society to participate in sports activities and contribute to enhancing the concept of a culture of practicing sports and making it a way of life. His Excellency pointed out that allocating a sports day embodies Qatar's leadership and uniqueness among countries of the world. He added that the National Sport Day, which comes this year under the theme "Never Too Late", is a pioneering initiative aimed to raise awareness about the significance of sports in the development of individuals and society, and focuses on the importance of allocating time to practice sports and making it an integral part of daily life. It also

reflects the State's commitment to promoting health and physical fitness among all members of society, as 250 governmental and non-governmental entities organise several diverse sports events for all segments of Qatari society, including men, women, children and people with special needs; in order to maintain a healthy and practical lifestyle. The State also grants an official holiday on this day to give an opportunity for practicing sports that promote a healthy life among all members of society. He stressed that QNA attaches special importance to the Sport Day, with the provision of comprehensive and distinguished media coverage of events throughout the country and the organisation of diverse sports events for all its employees and their families. HE al-Rumaihi pointed out that Qatar is a passionate sporting nation and has become a destination for world athletes due to its impressive success in all international sports tournaments and events it has organised, especially the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. It is also keen on the well-being of its residents, citizens and residents seen by investments in vital and huge sports facilities and installations built to a unique global standard, and which has won the admiration and praise of all. (QNA)



# MoPH and partners promote health, fitness to mark occasion

The Ministry of Public Health, alongside Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) have organised a series of special events yesterday to mark Qatar National Sport Day at Hamad Bin Khalifa Medical City. In addition to various activities, there was a walkathon to commemorate the occasion, with the participation of HE the Minister of Public Health Mansoor bin Ebrahim al-Mahmoud. Several senior officials and employees from the healthcare sector also took part in the activities. HE al-Mahmoud emphasised the great significance of National Sport Day, which reflects the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, in prioritising the health of Qatari community. Dedicating a day to sport fosters a culture of health and well-being, making physical activity a natural part of everyday life. HE al-Mahmoud also aligns with our national strategies and Qatar National Vision. The National Health Strategy prioritises improving population health and well-being by fostering a shift in behaviours towards greater health awareness. "This directly supports the objectives of Qatar's Third National Development Strategy, particu-

larly the goal of increasing the proportion of adults engaging in at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week to 79% for men and 70% for women. "Achieving these targets contributes to Qatar National Vision 2030, which aspires to enhance the health of the Qatari community and ensure a long, healthy life for both present and future generations." HE the Minister of Public Health further highlighted that regular physical activity, at the recommended levels, enhances quality of life and helps prevent diseases. He urged all members of the community to prioritise sports and make it a way of life for better health for all. Healthcare sector employees and their families participated in a wide range of sporting, recreational, and educational activities, including marathon races, fitness games, children's obstacle courses, mini-golf, archery, basketball, target shooting, tug-of-war, sack races, three-legged races, an escape room challenge, table football, table tennis, and many more. HMC director general Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Suwaidi, said: "National Sport Day represents an opportunity to promote a culture of sport within our society and to support the health of individuals and the community as a whole. "At HMC, we believe in the vital

role of sport in improving quality of life and strengthening the immune system to reduce chronic diseases. We are always committed to supporting the health of all those participating in sports activities. "National Sport Day is also an opportunity to foster collaboration between the healthcare and sports sectors, and we are honoured to be part of this initiative, which reflects Qatar's forward-looking vision of building a healthy society founded on physical activity and overall well-being." Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) managing director Dr Mariam Ali Abdul Malik, stated: "National Sport Day is an opportunity to raise health awareness on the importance of sports and physical activity for all members of the community, in accordance with the recommended levels for each age group. "At the PHCC, we offer a wide range of preventive programmes for the community, including wellness services at our health centres. These initiatives are designed to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and empower them to make informed lifestyle choices. The National Sport Day represents a noble initiative that supports the achievement of our health goals."

# EU delegation holds Ride for Wellness



The European Union delegation to Qatar, in collaboration with Member State embassies, organised the (eunited) Ride for Wellness to mark Qatar National Sport Day. The event saw participants cycling a scenic route along Doha's Corniche, all the way to the Old Port, covering 7-8km. The EU ambassador Dr Cristian Tudor said: "We are proud to join Qatar in this special day that prioritises wellness and brings people together." Participants included staff members and their families from the EU Delegation and Member State embassies.

# Public Prosecution staff take part in activities



The Public Prosecution participated in the Qatar National Sport Day with various activities, matches and games held among its employees, a statement said yesterday.

# Qatar News Agency activities stress key role of sport in society

Qatar News Agency (QNA) participated in the 14th National Sport Day activities, held this year under the theme "Never Too Late." QNA organised various activities at the indoor hall of Al Gharafa Sports Club, including a football match, walking exercises, athletics, and several other sports activities. Participants praised the diversity of this year's events, emphasising that the National Sport Day serves as an important opportunity to raise awareness about the significance of sport and their vital role in society. They also highlighted the strong position of sports within Qatar's National Vision 2030. The 14th National Sport Day is being held under the theme "Never Too Late" to encourage all members of society to engage in sports regularly. The theme reinforces the idea that time is never a barrier to participating in physical activities,



regardless of life's commitments. It also underscores that sports are the ideal choice to address modern-day challenges, prevent health issues related to physical inactivity, and establish an active lifestyle. The National Sport Day is highly valued, with people of all ages and backgrounds keen to spend the day engaging in sports in a vibrant atmosphere with family and friends. The establishment of this dedicated day has significantly

contributed to raising awareness about the importance of sports in individuals and society's daily lives. Since the inaugural edition of the National Sport Day, public awareness of the benefits of regular physical activity has steadily increased, contributing to the realisation of Qatar National Vision 2030 by focusing on human development, an area in which Qatar has continuously invested over the years. (QNA)





# Jordan king rejects Trump’s Gaza takeover plan

AFP  
Washington

Jordan’s King Abdullah II told Donald Trump yesterday that his country would take in some 2,000 sick children from war-torn Gaza but pushed back against the US president’s plan to take over the Palestinian territory and send its population into exile.

“I reiterated Jordan’s steadfast position against the displacement of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. This is the unified Arab position. Rebuilding Gaza without displacing the Palestinians and addressing the dire humanitarian situation should be the priority for all,” Abdullah said on social media after the talks.

However, he told Trump that Egypt was working on a plan for

how countries in the region could “work” with Trump on the proposal.

The Jordanian monarch also appeared to offer a sweetener to Trump, who had just the day before the visit floated the possibility of halting US aid to Jordan if it did not take refugees.

“One of the things that we can do right away is take 2,000 children, cancer children who are in a very ill state. That is possible,” Abdullah said as Trump welcomed him and Crown Prince Hussein in the Oval Office.

Trump replied that it was “really a beautiful gesture” and said he didn’t know about it before the Jordanian monarch’s arrival at the White House.

The US leader stunned the world when he announced a proposal last week for the US to “take



over” Gaza, envisioning rebuilding the devastated territory into the “Riviera of the Middle East” – but only after resettling Palestinians elsewhere, with no plan for them ever to return.

Abdullah urged patience and said that Egypt was coming up

with a response and that Arab nations would then discuss it at talks in Riyadh.

“Let’s wait until the Egyptians can come and present it to the president and not get ahead of ourselves,” Abdullah said.

Trump retreated from his pre-

vious talk of an aid halt to Jordan and Egypt, saying: “I don’t have to threaten that. I do believe we’re above that.”

Trump however kept pushing his plan to “own” Gaza despite the fact that it is home to more than 2mn Palestinians, saying that it would be held under “US authority.” “We don’t have to buy. We’re going to have Gaza,” Trump said.

“We’re going to take it, we’re going to hold it, we’re going to cherish it.” But Trump, who made his fortune as a real estate tycoon did however deny that he would seek to personally develop property in Gaza. “No. I’ve had a great career in real estate,” he said.

The meeting came as the Gaza ceasefire appears increasingly fragile, after Trump warned on Monday that “all hell” would

break out if Hamas fails to release all hostages by Saturday.

The Jordanian king and crown prince earlier met Trump’s national security adviser, Mike Waltz.

King Abdullah is a key US ally but last week rejected “any attempts” to take control of the Palestinian territories and displace its people.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who is expected to visit the White House later this week, urged yesterday the reconstruction of Gaza “without displacing Palestinians.”

Jordan is also keenly aware of the economic pressure Trump could exercise. Every year, Jordan receives around \$750mn in economic assistance from Washington and another \$350mn in military aid.



Palestinians leave their home for safety during a raid by the Israeli army in the Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarem in the occupied West Bank, yesterday.

## Gazans oppose proposal to resettle them elsewhere

Reuters  
Cairo/Ramallah/Gaza

With his Gaza home destroyed in Israel’s military offensive, Shaban Shaqaleh had intended to take his family on a break to Egypt once the Hamas-Israel ceasefire was firmly in place.

He changed his mind after US President Donald Trump announced plans to resettle Gaza’s Palestinian residents and redevelop the enclave, and said they should not have the right to return.

The Tel Al-Hawa neighbourhood in Gaza City, where dozens of multi-storey buildings once stood, is now largely deserted. There is no running water or electricity and, like most buildings there, Shaqaleh’s home is in ruins.

“We are horrified by the destruction, the repeated displacement and the death, and I wanted to leave so I can secure a safe and better future for my children – until Trump said what he said,” Shaqaleh, 47, told Reuters via a chat app.

“After Trump’s remarks I cancelled the idea. I fear leaving and never being able to come back. This is my homeland.” Palestinians fear that Trump’s plan would enforce another Nakba, or Catastrophe, when they experienced mass expulsions in 1948 with the creation of Israel.

Under Trump’s scheme, Gaza’s about 2.2mn Palestinians would be resettled and the United States would take control and ownership of the coastal territory, redeveloping it into the “Riviera of the Middle East”.

“The idea of selling my home or

the piece of land I own to foreign companies to leave the homeland and never come back is completely rejected. I am deeply rooted in the soil of my homeland and will always be,” Shaqaleh said.

Any suggestion that Palestinians leave Gaza – which they want to be part of an independent state also encompassing the West Bank with East Jerusalem as its capital – has been anathema to the Palestinian leadership for generations. Neighbouring Arab states have rejected it since the Gaza war began in 2023.

After Hamas said on Monday it was suspending the release of Israeli hostages set out in the ceasefire deal due to alleged Israeli violations, Trump said the Palestinian Hamas group should release all those it still holds by noon on Saturday or he would propose cancelling the truce and “let hell break out”.

“Hell worse than what we have already? Hell worse than killing?” said Jomaa Abu Kosh, a Palestinian from Rafah in southern Gaza, standing beside devastated homes.

One woman, Samira al-Sabea, accused Israel of blocking aid deliveries, a charge denied by Israel.

“We are humiliated, street dogs are living a better life than us,” she said.

“And Trump wants to make Gaza hell? This will never happen.” Israel began its assault on Gaza after the Hamas fighters stormed Israel in October 2023.

The operation has killed more than 48,000 Palestinians, by Gaza authorities’ counts, and obliterated much of the enclave.

Some Gazans said Palestinian leaders must find a solution to their problems.

“We don’t want to leave our country but also need a solution. Our leaders – Hamas, the PA (Palestinian Authority) and other factions – must find a solution,” said a 40-year-old carpenter who gave his name as Jehad.

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinians were also aghast at Trump’s words.

“Does he own Gaza to ask people to leave it?” said Nader Imam.

“Regarding Trump I only blame the American people. How can a country like this, a superpower, accept a person like Trump? His statements are savage.”

“What will Trump do? There is no fear, we rely on God,” said another West Bank resident, Mohammed Salah Tamimi.

The proposal shattered decades of US peace efforts built around a two-state solution and added pressure on neighbouring Egypt and Jordan to take in resettled Palestinians.

Both countries, who receive billions in aid from the United States, rejected the plan citing concerns for national security and their commitment to the two-state solution.

For Jordan, which borders the West Bank and has absorbed more Palestinians than any other state since Israel’s creation, the plan is a nightmare.

Trump said he might withhold aid to Jordan and Egypt if they refused to co-operate. Jordan’s King Abdullah is meeting Trump in Washington.

“Jordan can never accept resolving this issue at its expense,” said Suleiman Saud, the chairman of the Palestine Committee in Jordan’s House of Representatives.

“Jordan is for Jordanians, and Palestine is for Palestinians.”

### At least \$53bn needed to rebuild Gaza, UN estimates

AFP  
UN

More than \$53bn will be required to rebuild Gaza and end the “humanitarian catastrophe” that has gripped the war-ravaged territory, including \$20bn in the first three years alone, the UN said yesterday.

The global body said in a report that a “political and security framework” must also be put in place so that recovery and rebuilding can begin, and a ground-

work can be laid for a political process to quickly end the Israeli occupation “and establish a viable two-State solution.” Much of Gaza – including schools, hospitals and other civic infrastructure – has been reduced to rubble by a withering Israeli military offensive following an unprecedented Hamas storming of Israel in October 2023.

“The interim assessment offers an early indication of the enormous scale of recovery and reconstruction needs in the Gaza Strip,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the document,

cautioning that it was not a full assessment.

“The report estimates the recovery and reconstruction needs in the short, medium and long term across the Gaza Strip at \$53.142bn. Of these, the near-term needs in the first three years are estimated to be around \$20.568bn,” he added.

In a resolution adopted in December calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, the UN General Assembly had asked Guterres to provide an assessment of the territory’s needs within two months.

## Egyptians furious over Trump’s plan to displace Palestinians

AFP  
Cairo

Egyptians reacted with fury yesterday to US President Donald Trump’s plan to displace Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt and Jordan, while downplaying his threat to cut aid to both countries if they refuse.

The state-owned *Al-Ahram* newspaper ran a front-page headline declaring “Egypt urges the world to end historical injustice against the Palestinian people”, while the private daily *Al-Masry Al-Youm* wrote, “Palestinian anger: Gaza is not for sale”.

On X, the hashtag “on the shoe” – a common Egyptian phrase meaning “we could not care less” – began to trend in response to what many saw as an attempt at intimidation.

On Monday, a strongly worded statement from Egypt’s foreign ministry rejected “any compromise” that could infringe on Palestinians’ rights, including to remain on their land.

The statement followed a meeting in Washington between Egypt’s foreign minister Badr Abdelatty and his US counterpart Marco Rubio.

During a phone call with the

Danish prime minister yesterday, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said that the establishment of a Palestinian state is “the only guarantee for achieving lasting peace” in the region.

The Egyptian leader also called for the reconstruction of Gaza “without displacing” its residents, according to a statement from his office.

Trump, speaking on Monday, said the US could “conceivably” halt assistance to Egypt and Jordan unless they agree to take in Palestinians from Gaza – a proposal Cairo and Amman have repeatedly rejected.

The US provides its regional ally Egypt with around \$1.3bn in military aid annually, making it one of the country’s largest foreign donors.

According to US government data, Egypt received roughly \$1.5bn in both military and economic assistance from the US last year.

Hussein Haridi, a former diplomat and assistant foreign minister, downplayed the significance of US aid, arguing that it would not sway Egypt’s position on Gaza.

“This small amount (about \$200mn) in economic aid will not affect the Egyptian economy,” Haridi told AFP.

“Regardless of its impact, we

will not bow to Trump’s threats,” he said.

Haridi also said that Trump had little understanding of “the true character of Egyptians” and the country’s historical role in defending Arab interests and in particular the Palestinian cause.

“We do not care about Trump’s threats. Egypt is fully prepared to confront them and these threats will backfire on US interests in the region.”

“This is not just Sisi’s stance or the Egyptian government’s stance – it is the stance of the Egyptian people,” he added.

Gamal Bayoumi, a former diplomat and assistant foreign minister, meanwhile, told AFP that Egypt has made its stance clear: any attempt to force Palestinians out of Gaza “will be considered an act of war”.

Bayoumi added that Egypt was well prepared for any measures Washington might take, including a potential halt to financial assistance.

Among ordinary Egyptians, the Trump plan provoked outrage.

Since early in the Gaza war, officials and lawmakers in Egypt have repeatedly warned against any attempts to alter the region’s demographics, seeing it as a national security threat.

## South Sudan’s Kiir replaces two vice-presidents, spy chief

Reuters  
Nairobi

South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir has dismissed his intelligence chief and two of the country’s vice-presidents, replacing one of his closest allies with a senior adviser whom analysts believe Kiir may be readying to succeed him.

South Sudan has been formally at peace since a 2018 deal ended a five-year civil war in which hundreds of thousands of people died.

But the country remains in the grip of a humanitarian crisis because of sporadic violence, food insecurity, poor healthcare and extreme weather.

In several decrees announced by newsmen on Monday, Kiir removed long-serving Vice-President James Wani

Igga and promoted in his place Benjamin Bol Mel, a close adviser seen as having growing influence over decision-making in the government. Bol Mel, a businessman designated on the United States’ sanctions list for his links to construction firms accused of money-laundering, will head the economic portfolio of ministries.

“All indicators around Bol Mel show... that Bol is the only power to reckon with within South Sudan,” Abraham Kuol Nyuon, Professor of Political Science at the University of Juba, told Reuters.

“It seems to me the president might have a plan for him as somebody who (has) had an interest in trying to promote the interest of the president,” he added.

Reuters was not immediately able to seek comment from Bol Mel.

Wani Igga’s deputy press secretary said the outgoing vice-president wished all the best to those taking over and continuing with nation-building.

Kiir, who is 73, also replaced his National Security Service (NSS) chief, Akec Tong Aleu, with Charles Chiek Mayo, who will serve on an acting basis until a permanent replacement is found.

South Sudan has five vice-presidents, with Kiir’s longtime rival and opposition leader Riek Machar serving as first vice-president.

National elections have been delayed twice as disagreements between Kiir and Machar – who led opposing sides in the civil war – have complicated the implementation of the peace process. Abrupt changes to senior posts have been frequent in recent years.

## Cholera outbreak kills more than 100 in Angola: ministry

AFP  
Luanda

A cholera outbreak in Angola has killed at least 108 people since the start of the year, the health ministry said yesterday, with deaths on the rise in the last few days.

The resource-rich African nation has struggled with high poverty rates and poor sanitation despite

its oil wealth. There have been 3,147 confirmed cases of the disease since January 7, the health ministry said, nearly half of them in the capital Luanda.

The age range of those affected is between two and 100, it said.

At least 48 people have died in Luanda and 43 in Bengo, a province neighbouring the capital.

Cholera is an acute intestinal infection that spreads through food and water contaminated with the bacterium *vibrio cholerae*, often from faeces.



# UK’s migrant care workers face widespread exploitation: survey

Reuters  
London

Many foreign workers in Britain’s social care sector have paid thousands of pounds in fraudulent fees to get a job, live in overcrowded housing and earn less than the minimum wage, a survey by trade

union UNISON showed yesterday. The survey of more than 3,000 people who arrived on health and care worker visas showed nearly a quarter had paid money to a care provider or a recruitment agency in return for the promise of a job. Some had paid more than £20,000 (\$24,700) in return for

a job, the survey showed. In one case a single mother sold all her belongings and borrowed from relatives to pay £5,000, only to find no work when she arrived in Britain. Nearly a third of all care workers in England are migrants, many having arrived from countries such as Nigeria, Zimbabwe, India and the Philippines to fill thou-

sands of vacancies after Britain left the European Union and to meet the healthcare demands of an ageing population. Charities and unions say Britain’s post-Brexit system of allowing companies to sponsor workers to receive a visa empowers unscrupulous employers who can use the threat of deportation to abuse workers.

The investigative agency for labour exploitation, the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, has said cases of modern slavery, debt bondage and financial exploitation are on the rise in the care sector. The government in November set out stronger sanctions to tackle the problem. “These shocking findings

highlight widespread exploitation of migrant care workers,” UNISON general secretary Christina McAnea said. Some workers were effectively being employed as indentured labour, and the system must change, she said. “This would help prevent exploitation and drive up standards across the care sector.”

# Dhaka seeks full power supply restoration from Adani plant

Reuters  
New Delhi

Bangladesh has asked Adani Power to fully resume supplies from its 1,600-megawatt plant in India, a Bangladesh official said, after more than three months of reduced sales with supplies halved due to low winter demand and payment disputes. Adani, which signed a 25-year contract under former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in 2017, has been supplying power from its \$2bn plant in India’s Jharkhand state. The plant, with two units each of 800 megawatts capacity, sells exclusively to Bangladesh. The Indian company halved supply to Bangladesh on October 31 due to payment delays as the country battled a foreign exchange shortage. This led to the shutdown of one unit on November 1, resulting in the plant operating at about 42% capacity. Subsequently, Bangladesh told Adani to keep supplying only half the power. The state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) said it had been paying \$85mn a month to Adani to clear outstanding dues and has now told the company to resume supply from the second unit. “As per our requirement today, they have planned to synchronise the second unit, but due to the high

vibration, it didn’t happen,” BPDB chairperson Md. Rezaul Karim told Reuters, referring to some technical problems that stopped the unit from restarting on Monday. “Right now, we are making a payment of \$85mn per month. We are trying to pay more, and our intention is to reduce the overdue. Now there is no big issue with Adani.” BPDB and Adani officials were due to meet virtually yesterday following another meeting recently to work out various issues between them, said a source with direct knowledge of the matter who did not want to be named as he was not authorised to talk to the media. An Adani Power spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In December, an Adani source said BPDB owed the company about \$900mn, while Karim said at the time the amount was only about \$650mn. The pricing dispute revolves around how power tariffs are calculated, with the 2017 agreement pricing off an average of two indexes. Adani’s power costs Bangladesh about 55% more than the average of all Indian power sold to Dhaka, Reuters has reported. A Bangladesh court has ordered an examination of the contract with Adani by a committee of experts, with results expected this month. This could potentially lead to contract renegotiations.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) delivers a speech next to French President Emmanuel Macron during the closing session of the Franco-Indian Economic Forum at the Quai d'Orsay following the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit in Paris, yesterday.

# France in talks to buy India rocket launcher system

Reuters  
Bengaluru

France is in advanced talks with India to buy a multi-barrel rocket launcher system, a top Indian official said, a potential deal that would be the first time India’s second-largest arms supplier buys weapons from New Delhi. India is the world’s biggest arms importer, but has been trying to boost local production to meet its defence requirements and has been steadily

raising its defence exports. The domestically made Pinaka rocket system with a range of up to 90km was demonstrated to a French delegation in India around three months ago and was found to be satisfactory, a second official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. “France is in active talks for Pinaka,” Ummalaneni Raja Babu, the director general of missiles and strategic systems at India’s Defence Research and Development Organisation, said on the sidelines of the Aero India aero-

space exhibition in the southern city of Bengaluru. “A deal has not been reached yet, but the talks are continuing,” said Babu. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a visit to France on Monday to co-chair an artificial intelligence (AI) summit in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron and both leaders held bilateral talks yesterday. It was not immediately clear if the rocket system featured in the talks, and India’s foreign ministry did not immediately respond

to a request for comment. France’s embassy in India did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside of business hours. France was India’s second-largest arms supplier after Russia between 2019 and 2023, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The Pinaka rocket launcher system, used by the Indian army and deployed in the 1999 war between India and Pakistan, is also being enhanced with longer ranges, Babu said.

## Bangladesh govt aims to hold polls by December

Bangladesh is working towards holding general elections by December, the party of former prime minister Khaleda Zia said after some of its officials held a meeting with Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government. The country has been in charge of a caretaker government led by Nobel Peace laureate Yunus since August, when mass protests forced then prime minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee to neighbouring India. Khaleda’s Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and rival Hasina’s Awami League have governed Bangladesh for most of the past three decades. The BNP expects Yunus to soon announce a roadmap for general elections, its secretary general, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, told reporters. “We have once again pressed them on this matter,” he said. “He (Yunus) told us that they are working to hold the election by December.”

## Princess Catherine visits prison



Britain’s Catherine, Princess of Wales, visits a mother and baby unit at HMP Styal, a prison and young offender institution, near Wilmslow, Britain, yesterday.

## Karnataka draws investment proposals worth \$115bn

Reuters  
Bengaluru

India’s southern state of Karnataka has received investment proposals worth nearly Rs10tn (\$115.31bn), a government spokesperson said, as the country tries to bolster its manufacturing sector and generate jobs in a slowing economy. The proposed investments would focus on areas such as renewable energy, steel, semiconductors and automobiles, the spokesperson said at the ‘Invest Karnataka’ event yesterday. To be sure, not all proposals have been confirmed and the government has not provided a timeline for these investments. The state government aims to implement at least 70% of proposals, up from 40% to 50% af-

ter the event’s 2022 edition, the New Indian Express newspaper reported last week, citing a state minister. Companies that have pledged investments included India’s Mahindra and Mahindra and JSW Group, Germany’s Bosch, Japan’s Toyota Motor and Taiwan-based Foxconn. Karnataka, which includes the IT hub of Bengaluru, is among the top contributors to India’s economy and is a major exporter of software, IT services and manufactured goods. The investment commitments also come amid New Delhi’s push to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce imports as it looks to take advantage of Sino-US tensions that have led companies such as Apple to diversify their manufacturing operations away from China.

# New Zealand rethinks opposition to deep-sea mining

AFP  
Sydney

New Zealand is considering withdrawing its support for an international ban on deep-sea mining, the country’s resources minister said yesterday. Resources Minister Shane Jones said opposition to the fledgling industry was rooted in “shrill” environmental alarmism and “luxury beliefs” that ignored the need for economic growth. New Zealand backed a ban on deep-sea mining under former progressive prime minister Jacinda Ardern in 2022, citing the risk of

“irreversible” damage in poorly understood ecosystems. However Jones, a senior minister in the governing centre-right coalition, said officials were rethinking that stance. “We’re talking about this with our foreign affairs minister,” he said. “We can’t deny ourselves the option where critical minerals have an increasingly critical role to play. “We can’t afford these luxury beliefs that have been imposed upon us.” Companies stand to earn billions of dollars by scraping the ocean floor for polymetallic nodules that are loaded with manganese, cobalt,

copper and nickel - metals used to build batteries for electric vehicles. But the industry faces sharp criticism from scientists and environmental advocates, who fear new techniques could wreak havoc in poorly understood ecosystems. “I personally think that seabed mining has become the last green trophy, so people are tossing around the most absurd, untested theories,” Jones said. “And I’m not going to back down from these shrill voices.” Jones was unruffled by suggestions a pro-mining stance could weaken support among New Zealand’s climate-threatened Pacific Island neighbours.

“I understand there’s a lot of theatre and posturing that happens when small island nations go to international fora,” he said. “We’ve imposed upon ourselves an ideological corset, which we can no longer afford to wear.” Deep-sea mining is one of the few issues on which Pacific Island nations are divided. Nauru and Tonga are pushing for deep-sea mining in international waters, while Palau, Samoa and Fiji are staunchly opposed. Canada-based The Metals Company has been working with the Nauru government in the hope of starting mining by 2026.

Harvard-educated Jones recently unveiled a pro-mining agenda differing wildly from the environmentally friendly policies of Ardern’s former government. Under Jones, the isolated island nation will look to dig up everything from critical minerals to coal and iron-rich sands at the bottom of the sea. New Zealand’s desire to scoop up this sand differs from deep-sea mining, which targets polymetallic lumps nestled in much deeper waters. “We think that the seabed is a legitimate part of our broader primary sector economy,” Jones said.

“It would seem odd that we were mining minerals in our own oceanic environment but we are telling others not to do it.” New Zealand has long traded on a “clean green” image that highlights its rolling pastures, untouched rainforests and pristine waterways. Ardern was lauded during her term as a climate hero when she banned offshore gas exploration in 2018. However the current government has already moved to unwind that ban, with Jones occasionally voicing the “drill, baby, drill” mantra favoured by US President Donald Trump.





**CHAIRMAN**

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

**Deputy Managing Editor**

K T Chacko

- 📮 P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar  
✉ editor@gulf-times.com  
☎ 44350478 (News),  
☎ 44466404 (Sport),  
☎ 44466636 (Home delivery)  
📠 44350474  
📘 facebook.com/gulftimes  
✉ twitter.com/gulftimes\_Qatar  
📷 instagram.com/gulftimes  
📺 youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

**GULF TIMES**

# Tariffs, trade wars risk stoking world inflation

A Bank of America survey of global fund managers in January showed the re-emergence of global consumer price growth as a key theme for 2025. The World Bank predicted slowing inflation but still warned that it “could prove to be more persistent than expected.”

US, European and Japanese inflation expectations have jumped significantly since Donald Trump emerged as favourite to win US presidency.

And for the US in particular, analysts are openly starting to reassess inflation prospects. On Feb 4, Morgan Stanley scrapped its forecast for a Federal Reserve interest rate reduction in March, with its Chief US Economist Michael Gapen saying “on-again-off-again tariff uncertainty should raise the hurdle for Fed cuts.”

That followed Chair Jerome Powell’s remarks recently that officials aren’t in a rush to lower borrowing costs as policymakers pause easing to see further progress on inflation.

The potential for increased tariffs complicates that outlook. The more President Trump threatens tariffs on the US’s trading partners, the more the worry of another inflation wave troubles global economists.

Stubborn consumer price growth was bothering much of the world even before he entered the White House. Multiple economies now face latent inflation pressures, either domestic or external.

In the US, a resilient labour market is keeping the Fed on alert as Trump’s policies and threats drive bond yields higher. Elsewhere, dollar strength is haunting emerging markets such as Indonesia.

**The more Trump threatens tariffs on US trading partners, the more the worry of another inflation wave troubles global economists**

are less sanguine than policymakers, raising their 2025 inflation outlook in ECB surveys. And a Bloomberg poll showed a majority of economists is now more concerned about price pressures exceeding 2% in the medium term.

Even in Asia, where prices are largely back within target ranges, issues persist.

South Korea’s consumer inflation accelerated in January on the back of higher energy and food prices.

In Japan — where the return of price increases is welcome after decades battling deflation — nominal wages rose at the fastest pace in nearly three decades in December, supporting the Bank of Japan’s latest rate hike decision and keeping the bank on track for further tightening steps.

Trump substantially raised tariffs on steel and aluminium imports on Monday to a flat 25% “without exceptions or exemptions.” The tariffs will apply to millions of tonnes of steel and aluminium imports from Canada, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and other countries that had been entering the US duty free under the carve-outs.

But US tariffs are an “evolving story” and it is too early to assess their impact on the world economy, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said yesterday. The outlook for inflation was hard to predict, she suggested.

While there’s still a lot of uncertainty around US tariff levels, their timing and potential retaliation, it’s clear that it’ll not only pressure prices but also weaken growth globally.

A few weeks ago, the Bank for International Settlements even warned of stagflation, a relatively rare mix of persistent high inflation, weak labour markets and tepid growth.

US inflation showed scant signs of downward momentum at the start of the year, while healthy job growth undergirded the economy, backing the Fed’s stance to hold the line on interest rates for now. Moreover, proposed policies from the Trump administration risk keeping inflation elevated.

**To Advertise**

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

**Display**

☎ 44466621  
📠 44418811

**Classified**

☎ 44466609 📠 44418811  
✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

**Subscription**

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2025 Gulf Times. All rights reserved

# Technofeudalism is war’s handmaiden

**By Yanis Varoufakis**  
Athens

The West is on a war footing. The German government is working on an app that helps people locate their nearest bunker. A 32-page pamphlet entitled If Crisis or War Comes was published in Sweden, and a similar one was downloaded countless times in Finland. Venerable newspapers publish wargame scenarios where Russia, with China’s backing, invades Norway’s arctic islands.

In the European Union, top officials argue that the key to unlocking Europe’s chronically low level of investment is its arms industry. US President Donald Trump casually talks about taking over Greenland and the Panama Canal. To top it all off, a storm is gathering over Taiwan, the Philippines, and the South China Sea.

Trump and his political opponents disagree on almost everything. But one thing they do agree on is that America is caught in what Harvard University’s Graham Allison calls the Thucydides Trap — the fate of a hegemon confronted by a rising power, China. Meanwhile, the West is running the risk of falling into the Oedipus trap: exacerbating a crisis with actions intended to prevent it — just as Oedipus ended up killing Laius, his father, only because Laius took harsh measures aimed at thwarting the Delphic prophecy that he would be killed by his son. Either of these traps could trigger a catastrophic war.

Meanwhile, we are increasingly dominated by cloud capital — a new form of capital consisting of networked machines running algorithms that we train to know us well enough to alter what we want and then sell it to us outside any actual market. Unlike diesel engines and industrial robots, which are manufactured means of production, cloud capital produces an exorbitant capacity to modify our behaviour, bestowing unprecedented power on its owners — our technofeudal masters. This reinforces the Thucydides and Oedipus traps in four distinct ways.



First, especially when augmented with artificial-intelligence capabilities, cloud capital lowers the threshold for deploying weapons of mass, albeit targeted, destruction. It is far cheaper to send a swarm of micro-drones, equipped with AI facial recognition, into urban areas to take out prespecified targets autonomously than it is to deploy heavy bombers. It is also easier for presidents and prime ministers to muster the moral conviction to give the order. That is why the capitalisation of a cloud capital-intensive company like Palantir has surpassed that of a legacy behemoth like Lockheed Martin.

Second, to deliver maximum revenues, the cloud capital powering our social media is optimised to maximise engagement, a goal most easily achieved by getting us heated, angry, and abusive toward one another. The poisoning of public debates that results from this business model erodes the democratic institutions which hitherto had some capacity to restrain our more bellicose politicians and generals.

Third, cloud capital has weakened Europe to the point where it can no longer play the moderating role that it once played during the Cold War. This is because most cloud capital is concentrated in the US and China. As high concentrations of cloud capital have become a prerequisite for substantial economic and political power, Europe has slid into relative irrelevance.

Fourth, in China, cloud capital has created a real challenger to America’s near-monopoly of the international payments system, which historically has given US governments the leeway to sanction any country or person they choose. This is far more significant than any animosity within the US caused by the emergence of DeepSeek, the Chinese AI firm whose most recent offering led to losses of \$1tn in US stock markets.

China’s chief challenge stems from a deep asymmetry vis-à-vis the US that has nothing to do with technology: Wall Street treats Silicon Valley as a potential usurper of its financial revenues, a tussle in which it can count on the support of the Federal Reserve.

In contrast, China’s financial sector, central bank, and largest tech firms are working in unison, resulting in a seamless, free-to-use, private-public digital payments system that the West cannot match.

Although it currently resembles a pristine multilane freeway that few outside the country use, the Chinese payments system poses a serious long-term threat to the global monopoly of the dollar-denominated payments system and gives the Chinese government and its allies options that alleviate the fear of US sanctions. In a never-ending cycle of negative reinforcement, that newfound confidence fuels America’s eagerness to “get tough” on China.

War is in the air more than peace these days. This reflects not only the salience of well-known strategic traps, but also the rise of technofeudal power, which is driving us into them. — Project Syndicate

• Yanis Varoufakis, a former finance minister of Greece, is leader of the MeRA25 party and Professor of Economics at the University of Athens.

# The burden of knowledge: A double-edged sword

**By Rawda al-Amri**  
Doha

The famous saying by Islamic scholar Ibn Qayyim, “If you do not know, it is a disaster. But if you know and do nothing, the disaster is even greater,” encapsulates a timeless truth about the human condition.

Ignorance can be a formidable challenge, often leading to misjudgments and errors. However, the true catastrophe arises when individuals possess knowledge yet deliberately ignore or misuse it. This principle extends beyond personal ethics, influencing societal norms, leadership, and governance. Knowledge, rather than being a privilege alone, is a responsibility that must be upheld with integrity.

In Hamlet, William Shakespeare wrote, “There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.” This echoes the dilemma of knowledge — what one does with it defines its ultimate impact. Simply knowing the truth is insufficient; wisdom lies in the application of that truth.

Ignorance, in itself, is not a crime. Many people are unaware of laws, ethics, or moral obligations, but they have the opportunity to seek knowledge, ask questions, and educate themselves. As Thomas Gray famously wrote in his poem Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College, “Where ignorance is bliss, ‘tis folly to be wise.” While this phrase is often misinterpreted as an endorsement of ignorance, in reality, it highlights the innocence of unawareness before one encounters life’s harsh realities.

The real issue arises when ignorance is wilful — when individuals choose to turn a blind eye to knowledge out of laziness, fear of responsibility, or self-interest. This transforms



ignorance from a temporary gap in understanding into a conscious rejection of truth. In such cases, ignorance is not merely a lack of awareness but a self-inflicted failure to engage with reality.

If ignorance is a problem, then possessing knowledge without acting upon it is a catastrophe of far greater magnitude. To know what is right and yet ignore it is not just negligence; it is a betrayal of wisdom. This failure can manifest at multiple levels. On a personal level, many individuals recognise their mistakes yet persist in them. Rationalisation, self-deception, or sheer complacency prevent them from making the necessary changes. As T.S. Eliot once wrote, “We do not dare to disturb the universe.” The fear of consequences often stops people from taking corrective action, turning knowledge into

an unbearable burden rather than a tool for growth. On a social level, societies crumble when individuals and institutions knowingly tolerate wrongdoing. Silence in the face of injustice erodes trust, allowing corruption to flourish. Edmund Burke’s famous words, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing,” highlight this exact dilemma. Those who recognise societal problems yet remain passive enable the very injustices they decry.

On a political level, the most dangerous form of neglected knowledge is seen in leadership and governance. Leaders who understand the challenges faced by their people but refuse to act effectively betray their duty. As George Orwell pointed out in 1984, “The further a society drifts

from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.” When truth is inconvenient, it is often ignored or distorted, leading to crises that could have been prevented.

To overcome the “greater disaster” of neglected knowledge, three fundamental steps must be taken. First, accepting responsibility is essential, as knowledge is not merely an asset but an obligation. Those who are aware of the truth must take ownership of their role in shaping a better world, whether at an individual, societal, or governmental level. Second, applying knowledge in practice is crucial, as true wisdom comes from action, not just awareness. As Leonardo da Vinci once said, “Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.” Knowledge must be transformed into meaningful change rather than remaining theoretical.

Third, spreading knowledge is key to diminishing ignorance, as insight should not be confined to elite circles but made accessible to all. As Mark Twain famously quipped, “A person who won’t read has no advantage over one who can’t read.” Knowledge is only powerful when it is utilised, shared, and acted upon.

Ibn Qayyim’s wisdom remains as relevant today as it was centuries ago: ignorance is a problem, but knowing the truth and failing to act is an even greater disaster. It is a call to action — urging individuals to rise above complacency, take responsibility, and ensure that knowledge serves its true purpose.

The challenge is not merely to learn, but to embody that learning in daily life. As Victor Hugo wrote in Les Misérables, “To know is nothing at all; to imagine is everything.” Yet, beyond imagination, what truly matters is courage — the courage to act upon knowledge and use it for the greater good.



# Italy arrests 130 in raid against Sicilian mafia

Reuters/AFP

Rome

Around 130 people were arrested yesterday in a large-scale sting against the Sicilian mafia in Palermo, indicating that it has remained a significant criminal force despite setbacks in recent decades.

“Cosa Nostra” the mafia syndicate based in and around Palermo, terrorised Italy in the 1980s and 1990s, but has since been overtaken as Europe’s most powerful mob by the Calabrian ‘Ndrangheta.

The suspects apprehended yesterday

were charged with various crimes, including drug trafficking, attempted murder, extortion, illegal online gambling and illegal possession of firearms, Carabinieri police said in a statement.

Additional arrest warrants were issued for 33 suspects who were already in prison for other crimes.

Investigations revealed that Palermo’s mafia families co-ordinate their activities across the city and its province, like they used to in the golden days of Cosa Nostra, especially as regards drug trafficking, police said.

They said inner city families had regained authority compared to the years in

which they were dominated by a faction from Corleone – a town outside Palermo that was the birthplace of notorious bosses Toto Riina and Bernardo Provenzano.

Modern-day bosses use modern technology to conduct their business, using encrypted mobile phones that are smuggled into prisons to allow jailed bosses to continue exercising their command, investigators said.

Despite being weakened by law enforcement activities, Cosa Nostra continues to attract young people, the Carabinieri said, noting that they documented one instance of a new recruit given “mafia lessons” by an older associate.

The would-be mentor gave the young man “specific instructions, inviting him to take as an example his conduct towards people to be subjected to extortion, and advising him on how to relate with mafia leaders”, the police statement said.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, writing on X, hailed yesterday’s arrests as inflicting “a very hard blow to Cosa Nostra”, and giving a clear signal that “the fight against the mafia has not stopped and will not stop

Within its territory, the Mafia “exercises constant control”, police said.

As in decades past, they demand “pizzo”, or protection money, from businesses,

and force traders to use their products, often at inflated prices.

In one example, investigators revealed how a clan took control of distributing mussels and other seafood to restaurants in two seaside villages.

While Cosa Nostra bosses these days try to resolve disputes peacefully to avoid attracting attention, weapons were found in yesterday’s blitz, police said, while reporting incidents of brutal beatings.

The investigation also revealed a wide network of informants, with a clerk in the Palermo prosecutors office arrested in November last year, accused of passing on files.

## Ex-Trump aide Bannon pleads guilty in US border wall fraud case

AFP/Reuters

New York

Conservative firebrand Steve Bannon (**pictured**), a former adviser to US President Donald Trump, pleaded guilty yesterday to defrauding donors who gave money to a private scheme to build a wall on the US-Mexico border.

Bannon, 71, entered a guilty plea to New York state charges in a Manhattan court in an agreement with prosecutors that spared him prison time.

Bannon was indicted in 2022 for his role in a project called “We Build the Wall”, which involved private fundraising of more than \$15mn to help build the southern border barrier championed by Trump.

He had been scheduled to go on trial in March, facing five felony counts of money laundering, conspiracy and other charges.

Bannon, one of the masterminds behind Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign, also faced federal charges over the border wall scheme but received a pardon at the end of the Republican’s first term in the White House.

The right-wing ideologue pleaded guilty to a single state charge yesterday of involvement in a “scheme to defraud in the first degree” and was given a three-year conditional discharge, which does not involve jail time or restitution.

As part of his sentence, Bannon is barred from serving on a New York nonprofit for three years and prohibited from using or selling donor data obtained as part of the scheme.

Bannon served nearly four months in federal prison in Connecticut last year after being convicted of contempt of Congress.

He was sent to jail for defying a subpoena to testify before the congressional panel investigating the January 6, 2021 attack on



the US Capitol by Trump supporters.

On the day of the Capitol riot, as thousands of Trump supporters overran the seat of Congress to block certification of Democrat Joe Biden’s election victory, Bannon spoke by telephone with the then-president.

Congressional investigators had wanted to question Bannon but he declined to speak to them. Bannon served in the White House during Trump’s first term as his chief strategist, but he left after seven months, reportedly due to conflicts with other top staffers.

Though he no longer works officially for Trump, he has remained a vocal backer of the Republican president, mainly through his podcast *The War Room*.

Bannon is one of several Trump associates who have received jail time.

Former Trump economic adviser Peter Navarro also served a four-month prison term last year for defying a congressional subpoena to testify about the events of January 6, 2021.

Others include former Trump legal fixer turned whistleblower Michael Cohen and the chief financial officer of the Trump Organisation, Allen Weisselberg.

Trump was convicted in New York in May of last year of falsifying business records to pay hush money to an adult entertainment actor.

Trump was also charged with conspiring to overturn the results of the 2020 election and with mishandling classified documents but the cases were dropped after he won November’s presidential election.

Trump cannot pardon Bannon on state level charges.

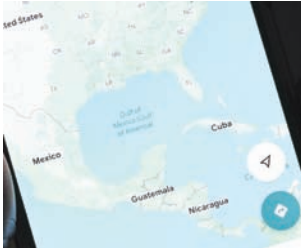
## Google changes name of Gulf of Mexico to ‘Gulf of America’

Google has changed the name of the Gulf of Mexico to “Gulf of America” for those using its Maps platform inside the United States, complying with an executive order by President Donald Trump.

The tech giant wrote in a blog post that users outside the United States will continue to see both the original and new name for the Gulf of Mexico, as is the case for other disputed locations.

“People using Maps in the US will see ‘Gulf of America’, and people in Mexico will see ‘Gulf of Mexico’. Everyone else will see both names,” Google wrote.

Google said that the change aligns with its policy of following official US government geographic designations through the Geographic



This picture (*right*) taken on Sunday shows Trump speaking to reporters after signing a proclamation renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, while flying over the gulf aboard Air Force One en route to New Orleans to attend the Super Bowl. - **Reuters**

Names Information System.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has cheekily suggested calling the United States

“Mexican America”, pointing to a map from before one-third of her country was seized by the United States in 1848. - **AFP**

## Trump blasts judges, fuelling fear of constitutional clash

AFP

Washington

US President Donald Trump slammed “highly political judges” yesterday as his new administration veered closer to a constitutional clash with the courts over his plans to radically overhaul the government and amass power in the White House.

With the Republican Party controlling Congress and completely loyal to Trump, the billionaire president has largely ignored the legislature as he carries out his unprecedented policies.

However, he has faced growing pushback from the courts since taking office three weeks ago, with US media outlets reporting 11 orders issued against the administration – five of them on Monday alone – from dozens of federal lawsuits.

As the courts and Trump appeared increasingly to be on a collision course, he lashed out on Truth Social.

“Billions of Dollars of FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE, has already been found in the investigation of our incompetently run Government. Now certain activists and highly political judges want us to slow down, or stop,” Trump posted. “Losing this momentum will be very detrimental to finding the TRUTH, which is turning out to be a disaster for those involved in running our Government. Much left to find. No Excuses!!!”

Trump first ran up against the judiciary over an attempt to freeze \$3tn in federal grants and loans, a deferred resignation programme



People hold signs yesterday during a ‘Save the Civil Service’ rally hosted by the American Federation of Government Employees outside the US Capitol in Washington, DC. - **AFP**

for government workers, and a plan to transfer transgender inmates to men’s prisons.

He has also clashed with judges over his abolition of birthright citizenship for children born to undocumented immigrants, sending Venezuelan migrants to Guantanamo Bay, funding cuts to the National Institutes of Health, the firing of the government’s ethics watchdog and placing workers from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) on leave.

Injunctions have been placed on each of these actions.

However, concerns are mounting that Trump could ultimately defy the rulings, prompting a full-blown constitutional crisis.

Trump’s harshest critics say that horse has already bolted after a federal judge was forced to up-

braid the White House on Monday for failing to comply with his order to end the federal funding freeze.

Vice-President J D Vance has fuelled speculation over a coming clash, claiming in a social media post on Sunday that judges lack authority to “control the executive’s legitimate power”.

In fact, the US constitution gives federal judges the right to rule on cases involving the president as part of their oversight role of the other branches of government.

Vance’s comments – which came after a judge blocked tech billionaire Elon Musk’s so-called “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE) from accessing Americans’ personal data – earned him a rebuke from legal scholars and political opponents.

“If you believe any of the multiple federal courts that have ruled

against you so far are exceeding their statutory or Constitutional authority, your recourse is to appeal,” Liz Cheney, a former Republican lawmaker and vocal Trump critic, replied. “You don’t get to rage-quit the Republic just because you are losing. That’s tyranny!”

The DOGE injunction also came under attack from Musk, who complained of a “corrupt judge protecting corruption” and proposed that 1% of the federal judiciary be fired every year.

In an X post yesterday, Musk claimed that “democracy in America is being destroyed by judicial coup”.

However, critics characterise the deluge of criticism from the world’s richest man, the US president and the vice-president as a co-ordinated assault on the rule of law.

“This is not just a musing from a dude with some various ideas,” tech commentator and veteran Musk watcher Kara Swisher said of the SpaceX and Tesla chief executive. “The next step is to hollow out the judiciary and also not follow their rulings, which have been against Musk’s efforts. This is a very obvious coup, for those not paying attention.”

The criticism has not halted the frenetic pace of the White House under Trump, who has signed more than 75 executive orders and other edicts, outpacing recent predecessors.

On Monday he boosted tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, announced a crackdown on paper straws and abolished the minting of pennies.

## Hegseth orders US Army to restore name of Fort Bragg

Reuters/AFP

Washington

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has renamed the Army base Fort Liberty back to its original name of Fort Bragg, according to a Department of Defence statement, undoing a 2023 name change driven by racial justice protests.

The base, among the world’s largest military installations, had been renamed Fort Liberty as part of an effort to rechristen bases named for Confederate officers.

The move to shed Confederate names for military bases came in the wake of nationwide protests after the 2020 death of George Floyd, a black man killed by police in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

“That’s right, Bragg is back!” Hegseth posted on social media site X after signing the order. “I direct the army to change the name of Fort Liberty North Carolina to Fort Bragg North Carolina.”

President Donald Trump had said during a campaign stop last year in North Carolina that he wanted to change the base’s name back to Fort Bragg, according to local media reports.

Congress in 2021 passed legislation forbidding the naming of bases after anyone who voluntarily served or held leader-

ship in the Confederate States of America, the breakaway republic of Southern states that fought against the US in the Civil War in the 19th Century.

Established in 1918, the North Carolina base was originally named for General Braxton Bragg, who served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

It houses the Airborne and Special Operations Forces and is home to 57,000 troops, according to its website.

Hegseth sidestepped Congress’s provision banning Confederate names by officially renaming Fort Bragg after Private First Class Roland Bragg, who “served with great distinction during World War II”, according the memo ordering the name change.

The renaming of Fort Bragg honours all US soldiers who have trained to fight and win US wars, Hegseth wrote in his memo, “and is in keeping with the installation’s esteemed and storied history”.

The Trump administration has taken aim at other name changes implemented under Democratic presidents, including reverting the name of Denali, America’s highest peak, to its former moniker Mt McKinley.

In 2015, then-president Barack Obama officially recognised the Alaska mountain as Denali, the name used by Alaskan Natives for centuries.

## Norwegian aid group lays off 1,700 staff over US aid freeze

Norsk Folkehjelp, a major Norwegian aid group that specialises in demining operations, said yesterday that it would let go 1,700 workers in 12 countries following a US decision to freeze foreign aid payments.

It is the second major Norwegian charity in two days to cut operations because of the decision by US President Donald Trump.

The Norwegian Refugee Council said on Monday that it was suspending humanitarian activities in almost 20 countries.

Norsk Folkehjelp said in a statement that

about \$41mn, or 40% of its funding to clear mines and other explosives, had been lost.

The job cuts are in countries including Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq and Cambodia.

“Freezing support for mine and explosive ordnance disposal not only slows down current activities. It will delay and, in the worst case scenario, could reverse the enormous progress that the world, led by the United States, has made to combat these beastly weapons,” Raymond Johansen, Norsk Folkehjelp’s secretary-general, said in the statement.

Trump has unleashed a flurry of executive orders aimed at slashing federal spending, including shutting down the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Trump said on Sunday that there was “hundreds of millions of dollars of money that’s going to places where it shouldn’t be going”.

Norsk Folkehjelp had employed some 3,200 people and operated in 21 countries, but shut down some operations in January when new US Secretary of State Marco Rubio ordered a freeze on all US aid, except to Israel and Egypt. - **AFP**





Her Highness Sheikhha Moza, HE Sheikhha Hind and a dignitary at the QF event yesterday.  
**PICTURE:** Aisha al-Musallam



Left: Her Highness Sheikhha Moza, HE Sheikhha Hind and dignitaries at the QF event yesterday.  
**PICTURES:** A R al-Baker

# Sport is key to health, says Amir

From Page 1

His Highness the Amir played padel with a number of players from the Qatari junior padel team, in addition to a number of students from Dukhan Primary School for Boys, as part of the interest in practising various types of sports and encouraging the community to adopt healthy practices.

He stressed the importance of everyone's contribution in raising awareness of the importance of sports and its health and psychological benefits for society and future generations.

On his official account on the social media platform X, His Highness the Amir wished everyone an enjoyable sport day, practising sports and physical activity of various kinds, and that everyone contributes to raising awareness of the importance of sports and its health and psychological benefits for society and future generations.

His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani meanwhile attended part of the activities of the National Sport Day held at Al Shaqab Stud.

He was accompanied by a number of sheikhs and ministers.

Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), attended National Sport Day activities at Qatar Foundation's Education City, where thousands of community members gathered to celebrate sports and fitness as a way of life.

This year's National Sport Day in Education City featured a series of exciting sports challenges organised by the QF, bringing together participants of all ages to enjoy, connect, and foster a spirit of sportsmanship and community participation.

HE Sheikhha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the QF, awarded the winning teams in the Women's and Girls' Football Initiative, alongside para-athlete Zainab al-Eqabi.

Volkswagen Middle East-sponsored activities in Education City were designed to meet the needs of all members of the community, whatever their age and physical fitness.

Meanwhile, the Education City Stadium was the setting for a range of women-only activities, including the Women's Fitness Challenge, which attracted a large number of participants in an exciting obstacle course.

At Education City's Oxygen Park, families and children participated in creative and innovative sports and recreational activities organised by QF entities and divisions, including the QF's Pre-University Education, which collaborated with local sports federations to offer activities for people with disabilities, creating an inclusive sporting environment.



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed with HE the Minister of Social Development and Family al-Nuaimi.



## Father Amir attends NSD activities



His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani attended some of the activities of the National Sport Day (NSD) that was organised at Al Shaqab Stud. His Highness the Father Amir was accompanied by a number of sheikhs and ministers. - QNA



## PM participates in NSD activities

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani participated in the activities of the 14th National Sport Day (NSD).

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, along with HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, witnessed the activities held at Al Noor Institute for the Blind.

HE Sheikh Mohammed participated in events along with elderly people and members of the Shafallah Centre, Al Noor Institute, Dreama Centre, and other centres under the umbrella of the Qatar Social Work Foundation.

The sports activities featured various participatory games and competitions aimed at involving all family members and integrating all target groups of the centres, in an atmosphere that reflects the importance of sports. - QNA

