



Get home contents insurance
Visit us at Build Your House exhibition



GULF



TIMES


0 668039 136499

MONDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13366
May 5, 2025
Dhul-Qi'dah 7, 1446 AH
www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

published in QATAR since 1978

Introducing our new loyalty program, iPoints!
Join and earn points with every spend

 **vodafone**

 **iPoints**

**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

30 + Varieties

**Go mango**

Starting from 8th May onwards

BUSINESS | Page 1

Almana Motors Company wins 4 awards at Ford ME Distributor Conference

**SUMMER DEALS**
PROMOTION PERIOD: 23/04/2025 - 24/05/2025
550+ Products On Offer

**Spend 100+ QAR at Al Meera and join the Land Cruiser raffle**

Discussions dealt with enhancing co-operation: Amir

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani stressed that he discussed with President of the sisterly United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan the great opportunities and prospects for developing bilateral co-operation in various fields, to the benefit of the two brotherly peoples and the strong fraternal relations between them.

In a post on his official X account, His Highness the Amir said that he had a constructive meeting with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, where they discussed the great opportunities and prospects for developing bilateral co-operation in various fields, which will benefit the two brotherly peoples and the close fraternal relations between them.

His Highness the Amir added that they also discussed developments in the region, other regional and international issues, and the joint efforts the two countries are making to advance the security and stability of the region and the prosperity of its peoples.

Houthi missile lands near Tel Aviv airport

A missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels towards Israel yesterday landed near the country's main international airport, causing panic among passengers and drawing threats of retaliation against the group and Iran. The missile struck near Ben Gurion Airport. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to retaliate. Yesterday's missile was the only one of a series launched since March that was not intercepted. The Israeli ambulance service said eight people were taken to hospital for mild to moderate injuries.

RSF drones attack Port Sudan

Sudanese paramilitaries yesterday struck Port Sudan, the army said, in the first attack on the seat of the army-aligned government in the country's two-year war. The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have increasingly used drones since losing territory including much of Khartoum in March. **Page 7**

Amir, UAE president review ties, regional developments



QNA
Abu Dhabi

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the sisterly United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan discussed several regional and global issues of common concern, particularly the latest developments in the region.

The meeting held at Al Shati Palace in Abu Dhabi yesterday deliberated on the long-standing

fraternal relations and ways to strengthen them in multiple fields for the good and interest of the two countries and their peoples.

The meeting was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Le-khwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Mubarak al-Khulaifi and a number of members of

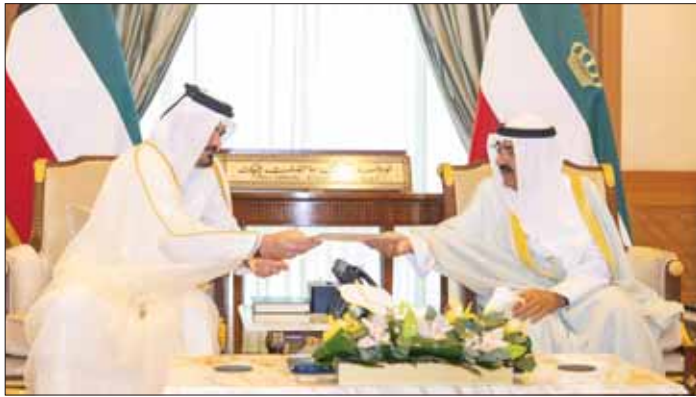
the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir.

Attending from the UAE side were Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi and National Security Adviser Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Lt Gen Sheikh Saif bin Zayed al-Nahyan, alongside a lineup of Their Excellencies and high-ranking officials. **To Page 5**



Amir sends written message to Kuwait Amir

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday a written message to Amir of the sisterly State of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, pertaining to the two countries' close fraternal relations and ways to further support and develop them. HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of Qatar Olympic Committee, delivered the message during a meeting with the Amir of Kuwait yesterday. At the outset of the meeting, HE Sheikh Joaan conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir to the Kuwaiti Amir and His Highness' wishes to the people of Kuwait for further progress and prosperity.



In turn, the Amir of Kuwait entrusted HE Sheikh Joaan to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him

good health and happiness and the Qatari people continued development and prosperity. **(QNA)**

NPC launches National Data and Statistics Strategy

The National Data and Statistics Strategy was officially launched yesterday, under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, also the president of National Planning Council (NPC). HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani, who is also the NPC vice-president, launched the strategy in the presence of several ministers and senior government officials. The National Data and Statistics

Strategy provides a strategic framework to enhance data governance, improve accessibility, and meet the demands of a rapidly evolving digital landscape. Built on three core pillars, the strategy aims to ensure the highest standards of data and statistical reliability through the National Statistics Centre, build an integrated and interconnected national data ecosystem, and leverage big data, advanced data technologies, and artificial intelligence across operations – ultimately positioning the National Statistics Centre among the top statistical institutions globally. **Page 5**

‘Health situation in Gaza catastrophic’

QNA
Geneva

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned of a serious deterioration in health conditions in the Gaza Strip, in light of the stifling blockade imposed on the Strip for nearly two months, and the denial of humanitarian and medical aid access.

WHO spokesperson Margaret Harris said in a statement yesterday that the health situation in Gaza is catastrophic, and very close to the abyss. She noted that the health risks facing the population are worsening by the day due to the shortage of basic supplies.

Harris emphasised that Palestinians in Gaza are deprived of the necessities of life, including food, clean water, and shelter, in addition to the inability to access healthcare.

She noted that doctors and nurses are suffering from a lack of



Palestinian children head to a water distribution point to fill their containers in Gaza City yesterday.

all the necessary supplies to help the wounded.

The WHO spokesperson said that there are currently 21 hospitals and four field hospitals in Gaza, but none of them has enough beds to meet the needs.

Harris continued, “This means health workers are deprived of everything. We are very close to the abyss, and that's why there is great danger.”

Gaza's civil defence agency yesterday said Israeli strikes on the Palestinian territory killed 16 people, including at least three children.

Six people were killed in overnight air strikes in Khan Younis governorate, in the south of the Gaza Strip, civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said. They included two boys aged five and two, in an apartment in Al-Mawasi.

Qatar rejects incendiary remarks by Israeli PMO

Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari, Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced Qatar's firm rejection of the inflammatory remarks issued by the Israeli prime minister's office (PMO), describing them as lacking the most basic standards of political and moral responsibility.

He stated that portraying the continued aggression on Gaza as a defence of “civilisation” echoes the rhetoric of regimes throughout history that have used false narratives to justify crimes against innocent civilians.

In a statement, Dr al-Ansari explained that since the outbreak of the war on the Gaza Strip, Qatar has worked in close co-ordination with its partners to support mediation efforts aimed at ending the



Dr Majed al-Ansari

fighting, protecting civilians, and securing the release of hostages and detainees. He added, “A legitimate question must be raised: were no fewer than 138 hostages released through so-called ‘just’ military operations, or through the very mediation that is now being unjustly criticised and undermined?”

He further noted, “Mean-

while, the Palestinian people in Gaza are enduring one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes of modern times-marked by a suffocating blockade, systematic starvation, denial of medicine and shelter, and the use of humanitarian aid as a tool of political coercion. Is this truly the model of ‘civilisation’ being promoted?”

Dr al-Ansari emphasised that Qatar's foreign policy – rooted in principle – is not at odds with its role as a credible and impartial mediator. He affirmed that campaigns of distortion and political pressure will not deter Qatar from standing up for the rights of peoples and protecting civilians regardless of their background, just as it upholds international law without fragmentation or selectivity. **To Page 5**

CONGRATULATIONS, AGGIE ENGINEERS!

MASTER OF ENGINEERING IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING ماجستير الهندسة في الكيمائية	
Fatima Jamal A I Al-Khalaf	فاطمة جمال علي ابراهيم الخلف
Masha'el Mohammed M F Almaas	مشاعل محمد موسى فرج الماس
Beena Rani Debnath	بيننا راني دبناث
Vishmi Mandira Singhapura	فشمي منديرا سينغابوره

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING ماجستير العلوم في الهندسة الكيميائية	
Ahmed Ashour Ahmed Abdallah	احمد عاشور احمد عبد الله
Yasmin Hassan Youssef Youssef Abdelkarim	ياسمين حسن يوسف يوسف عبد الكريم
Noora Ali A S Al-Subaiei	نوره علي عبدالله سعيد السبيعي
Mohamad AlMoussaoui	محمد الموسوي
Jaafar Ballout	جعفر بلوط
Abdul Karim Azizurrehman Challiwala	عبدول كريم عزيزرحمان شليوالا
Maria Ismail Haki	ماريا اسماعيل حقي
Nadeen Thaer Samir Issa	نادين ثائر سمير عيسى
Fathima Aysha Jiffry	فاطمة عائشة جيفري
Md Shajid Khan	محمد شاجيد خان
Nada Moustafa Ahmed Ali Mahmoud	ندى مصطفى احمد علي محمود
Suhde Makki	سهدي مكى
Aysha Naser K A Melhim	عائشه ناصر خليفة علي ملحم
Rana Ahmed Nagib Mohsen	رنا احمد نجيب محسن
Soha Shokry Ahmed Ali Mousa	سها شكرى احمد علي موسى
Abdulla Zaza	عبدالله ظاظا

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING بكالوريوس العلوم في الهندسة الكيميائية	
Ali Ahmed A A Abdulkareem	علي احمد علي عبدالله عبدالكريم
Hiam Al Mallah	هيام الملاح
Daniah Ali A A Al-Abdulghani	دانيه علي عبدالله عبدالغني ال عبدالغني
Abdulla Mohd A M Al-Abdulla	عبدالله محمد احمد محمد العبدالله
Aldana Hesham M Ah Al-Ali	الدانه هشام محمد احمد العلي
Moza Fahad A A Al-Kaabi	موزه فهد علي الفارس الكعبي
Ali Jamal A I AL-Khalaf	علي جمال علي ابراهيم الخلف
Mohammed Khalid M Kh Al-Khulaifi	محمد خالد محمد خليفه الخليفي
Ali Adel H S Al-Mhssin	علي عادل حسين شكرى المحسن
Mohammed Talal S S Al-Mohammadi	محمد طلال سلطان صالح المحمدي
Hussain Ahmed H A Al-Mutawa	حسين احمد حسين عبدالرحمن المطوع
Fajer Hamad H A Al-Sulaiti	فجر حمد حسن الحسن السليطي
Mohammmed Ali S A Almarri	محمد علي سالم العذبه المري
Fatima Abdulla A A Alnajjar	فاطمه عبدالله احمد عبدالرحمن النجار
Maha Khalid A S Alyafei	مها خالد عبدالله شايف اليافعي
Abdulla Rashad Mahyeldin Babikr	عبدالله رشاد محي الدين بابكر
Amanda Lorraine Conde Cruz	اماندا لورين كوند كروز
Ali El Amine	علي الامين
Odai Adel Omar ElFeghih	عدي عادل عمر
Mohammad Fouad Farooq	محمد فؤاد فاروق
Kushal Guptha Guruvasudevan	كوشال غيطا غوروفاسديفان
Meera Ali Ahmad Jarrar	ميلا علي احمد جرار
Fatima Mahmoud M M Kahoura	فاطمه محمود محمد محمود كاهورا
Shahd Khalil	شهد خليل
Alanoud Yar M H Maskin	الغنود يار محمد هاجن مسكين
Racha Qaddura	رشا قدورة
Sara Fawzi Siam	ساره فوزي صيام
Nahla Mohammed K K Zaghmout	نهله محمد كامل خليل زغموت

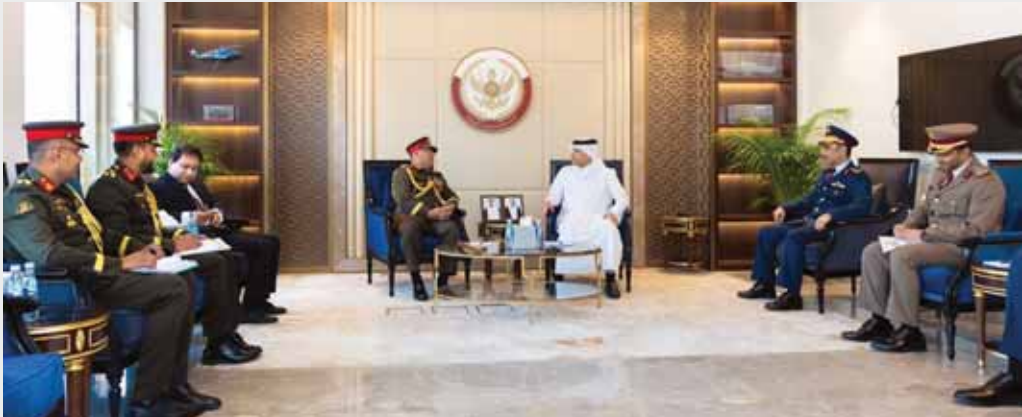
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING بكالوريوس العلوم في الهندسة الكهربائية	
Fadwa Ibrahim Ahmed Abbas	فدوى ابراهيم احمد عباس
Iman Abbas	إيمان عباس
Ali Hafiz A A Abdulla	علي حافظ علي علي عبدالله
Salman Mahdi J F Abdulla	سلمان مهدي جاسم فرج عبدالله
Fatima Ahmad M E Abuhaliqa	فاطمه احمد موسى عيسى ابوحليقه
Syed Umer Ahmad	سيد عمر احمد
Noor Khalid M Q Al-Bukhari	نور خالد محمد قربان البخاري
Maha Fahad M N Al-Dehemi	مها فهد محمد ناصر الدهيمي
Abdulrahman Abdulla M R Al-Emadi	عبدالرحمن عبدالله محمد رفيع العمادي
Abdulaziz Ibrahim Y A Al-Fakroo	عبدالعزيز ابراهيم يوسف الحسن الفخرو
Jassim Jamal J M Al-Haddad	جاسم جمال جاسم محسن الحداد
Ahmad Mohammed A M Al-Ibrahim	احمد محمد احمد محمد الابراهيم
Maryam Walid S R Al-Jundi	مريم وليد سميح رجب الجندي
Lolwa Fahad A A Al-Kaabi	لولوه فهد علي الفارس الكعبي
Roudha Saif M A Al-Khalidi	روضه سيف منصور ال مذكور الخالدي
Noora Khalifa S M Al-Khalifa	نوره خليفه سالم محمد ال خليفه
Alyaa Jassim H M Al-Khayat	علياء جاسم حسين محمد الخياط
Ghada Hamad H B Al-Khuzae	غاده حمد حسين بن عباس الخزاعي
Hilal Essa H A Al-Kuwari	هلال عيسى هلال علي الكواري
Ali Abduljalil M A Al-Majid	علي عبدالجليل محمد عبدالعزيز الماجد
Jassim Ali M A Al-Malki	جاسم علي محمد احمد المالكي
Nayef Abdulrahman A A Al-Meer	نايف عبدالرحمن عبدالكريم عبدالله المير
Noof Abdulqader A Al-Meghessib	نوف عبدالقادر عبدالرحمن عبدالقادر المغيصيب
Alanoud Mohammed A A Al-Mesalam	الغنود محمد عبدالعزيز عبدالله المسلم
Fatma Ahmed I H Al-Mohannadi	فاطمه احمد ابراهيم الحسن المهندي
Reem Ibrahim A I Al-Muftah	ريم ابراهيم عبدالرحمن ابراهيم المفتاح
Noora Saleh A A Al-Muhannadi	نوره صالح احمد المحرس المهندي

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING بكالوريوس العلوم في الهندسة الكهربائية	
Shouq Ismail A A Al-Musleh	شوق اسماعيل ابوبكر عبدالفتاح المصلح
Mohammed Abdulaziz M N Al-Naimi	محمد عبدالعزيز محمد ناصر النعيمي
Ibrahim Ahmad I A Al-Naimi	ابراهيم احمد ابراهيم احمد النعيمي
Maram Saad S. A. Al-Qahtani	مرام بنت سعد سعيد ال مسعود القحطاني
Asmaa Saleh M A AL-Raeissi	اسماء صالح محمد عبدالله الرئيسي
Mohammed Ezzat M R Al-Rasheed	محمد عزت محمد رشيد الرشيد
Haya Mohammed D A Al-Rewaily	هيا محمد ضامي الفريجي الرويلي
Khalid Abdulla K A Al-Rwaili	خالد عبدالله خضر الفريجي الرويلي
Maryam Safran A S Al-Safran	مريم سفران عبدالله سفران السفران
Salem Ghassan H M Al-Salem	سالم غسان حسن محمد السالم
Aisha Ali F A AL-Shahwani	عائشه علي فهد الشويل الشهواني
Mohammed Abdulla S A Al-Sulaiti	محمد عبدالله سالم البوخميس السليطي
Aisha Jassim Y A Al-Suwaidi	عائشه جاسم يوسف ال يوسف السويدي
Nour Basil Rasheed Alabudi	نور باسل رشيد العابودي
Saoud Abdulla S Y Almusallam	سعود عبدالله سعود ياسر المسلم
Mohammed Jassim I M Fakhroo	محمد جاسم ابراهيم محمد فخر
Bashar Farooq	بشار فاروق
Zainab Abdulla A A Haji	زينب عبدالله احمد علي حاجي
Omair Moumen O O Hasnah	عمير مؤمن عمر عبيد حسنه
Rehaan Hussain	رحان حسين
Abdellatif Adel Abdellatif Hussine	عبد اللطيف عادل عبد اللطيف حسين
Sandra Sameh Gorgy Saleh Mansour	ساندرا سامح جورجى صالح منصور
Fatima Mubarak A J Mohammed	فاطمه مبارك عبدالله جاسم محمد
Hisham Muazzam	هشام معزم
Ali Walid Elsayed Elsherbiny Ahmed Salem	علي وليد السيد الشربيني احمد سالم
Malak Walid Mohamed Galal Mohamed Soliman	ملك وليد محمد جلال محمد سليمان
Abdullah Junaid Tahir	عبدالله جنيد طاهر
Iqra Mohammed Yakub	عقره محمد يعقوب

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING بكالوريوس العلوم في الهندسة الميكانيكية	
Abdulla Mohammed A I Al-Emadi	عبدالله محمد عبدالله ابراهيم العمادي
Mohammed Ali M H Al-Emadi	محمد علي محمد حسن العمادي
Khalid Hamad A A Al-Hamadi	خالد حمد عبدالواحد علي الحمادي
Yousef Mohammed Y S Al-Harami	يوسف محمد يوسف سلطان الحرمي
Hetmi Essa H A Al-Hetmi	هتمي عيسى هتمي احمد الهتمي
Hussain Hassan A M Al-Jawad	حسين حسن علي محمد جواد الجواد
Khalifa Ali M M Al-Jehani	خليفه علي محمد المالكي الجهني
Ghada A.Rahman H Al-Jufairi	غاده عبدالرحمن حسن الملا الجفيري
Noora Mohammed H B Al-Khuzaei	نوره محمد حسين بن عباس الخزاعي
Saleh Ebrahim S B Al-Mohannadi	صالح ابراهيم صالح بومطر المهندي
Abdulla Ahmed K. Th. Al-Thani	الشيخ عبدالله بن احمد خالد ثاني ال ثاني
Abdulla Tawfik Alazab	عبدالله توفيق العزب
Rashid Abdulla J Allebdah	راشد عبدالله جابر اللبده
Hala Samir A A Almughanni	حلا سمير احمد البراوى الموغني
Ammar Mohammedmajed A M AlQarahdaghi	عمار محمدماجد علي الدين القره داغي
Abdelrahman Kamal Abdelrahman Geddawy	عبد الرحمن كمال عبد الرحمن جدلوي
Arindha Joshua Silva Gunananda Muni	أرينده جشوا سيلفا غوناننده موني
Muhammad Farchan Hanif	محمد فرشان حنيف
Ahmed Mohamed Abuzeid Ali Hussain	احمد محمد ابوزيد علي حسين
Abdullah Ibrahim	عبدالله ابراهيم
Judy Saleem Ata Jarrar	جودي سليم عطا جرار
Mohamad Mahmoud	محمد محمود
Youssef Mahmoud	يوسف محمود
Punit Pande	بونيت باندي
Imran Parvez	عمران بارفيز
Huzaif Inayat Sange	حزيف عنايات سنج
Abdulrahman Mahmoud M A Sharif	عبدالرحمن محمود محمد احمد شريف
Antonios Sichanis	انطونيوس سيثانيس

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PETROLEUM ENGINEERING بكالوريوس العلوم في هندسة البترول	
Ayah Mohammed I M Abdulla	ايه محمد ابراهيم محمد عبدالله
Tasnim Ahsan	تسنيم أحسن
Saeed Mohamed H A Al-Dosari	سعيد محمد حمود الدحيم الدوسري
Wadha Saad F A Al-Dosari	وضحى سعد فلاح عبدالله الدوسري
Bashayer Nasser A K Al-Emadi	بشائر ناصر عبدالرحمن كمال العمادي
Maha Ibrahim A A Al-Emadi	مها ابراهيم عبدالله علي العمادي
Roudha Khalid A Mandani Al-Emadi	روضه خالد علي مندني العمادي
Mohammed Jassim M Y Al-Hadad	محمد جاسم محمد يوسف الحداد
Ali Ibrahim H.Y. Al-Haddad	علي بن ابراهيم هلال يوسف الحداد
Omar Belal Ibraheem Al-Khateeb	عمر بلال ابراهيم الخطيب
Nasser Jassim M A Al-Shibani	ناصر جاسم مرتضى علي الشيباني
Hanaa Khalid M M Al-Subaey	هناة خالد محسن مسفر السبيعي
Ahmed Alareeki	احمد العريكي
Fatima Abdulmohsin A A Alkharraz	فاطمه عبدالمحسن عبدالرضا اصغر الخراز
Bilal Ra'ed Jamal Alnobani	بلال رائد جمال النوباني
Tammam Alsabagh	تمام الصباغ
Khaled Ahmad Hasan Alsharayri	خالد احمد حسن الشرايري
Liyan Khaled Ahmad Darwish	ليان خالد احمد درويش
Ahmed Samy Abdelsalam Fattouh	احمد سامي عبد السلام فتوح
Ahmad Abdulhamid A M Janahi	احمد عبدالحميد احمد محمد جناحي
Lana Lakmoush	لانا لقموش
Ibrahim Sarmad Qureshi	ابراهيم صرمد كوريشي

Deputy PM meets Bangladesh army chief



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani, met yesterday with the visiting Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh Army, General Waker-Uz-Zaman, and his accompanying delegation. Discussion during the meeting revolved around topics of common interest and ways to enhance and develop bilateral ties. The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces, Lt Gen (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai, and senior officials and officers from both sides. (QNA)

Qatar Cancer Society wins Qatar CSR Award

Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) has been awarded the Qatar CSR Award 2025 in recognition of its pioneering humanitarian initiative, 'Weyyakom Platform', which aims to support cancer patients and help cover the costs of their treatment.

The judging panel praised the initiative for its significant humanitarian and social impact, serving as an effective model for supporting vulnerable groups, a statement said.

The award was presented during the closing ceremony of the third edition of the Qatar CSR summit 2025, held under the theme 'Sustainability in the Digital Age'. QCS's public relations officer Ammar al-Mashhadani received the award.

As a bronze sponsor of the conference, the QCS set up an awareness booth, where it presented a comprehensive overview of its activities and services, particularly those directed at supporting cancer patients, survivors, and their families and caregivers.

The QCS also delivered an introductory presentation highlighting its awareness and prevention efforts, in line with its mission to promote public health awareness and encourage early detection and healthy lifestyles.

QCS general manager Mona Ashkanani noted that the award represents recognition of the Society's ongoing journey in serving the community. She emphasised this honour is a strong motivation to continue expanding the Society's initiatives, in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030,

which places human development at its core.

The official also extended her gratitude to all the Society's partners, supporters, and honorary ambassadors who contributed to its success.

She praised the spirit of collaboration among various institutions in supporting charitable and healthcare initiatives, especially in the fight against cancer, one of the most pressing health and humanitarian challenges.

QCS's public relations officer Ammar al-Mashhadani received the award.

The award was presented during the closing ceremony of the third edition of the Qatar CSR summit 2025, held under the theme 'Sustainability in the Digital Age'.

QCS's public relations officer Ammar al-Mashhadani received the award.

The award was presented during the closing ceremony of the third edition of the Qatar CSR summit 2025, held under the theme 'Sustainability in the Digital Age'.

QCS's public relations officer Ammar al-Mashhadani received the award.

The award was presented during the closing ceremony of the third edition of the Qatar CSR summit 2025, held under the theme 'Sustainability in the Digital Age'.

QCS's public relations officer Ammar al-Mashhadani received the award.

The award was presented during the closing ceremony of the third edition of the Qatar CSR summit 2025, held under the theme 'Sustainability in the Digital Age'.

QCS's public relations officer Ammar al-Mashhadani received the award.

The award was presented during the closing ceremony of the third edition of the Qatar CSR summit 2025, held under the theme 'Sustainability in the Digital Age'.

TITLE SPONSOR

LIBANO-SUISSE
Insurance Company

In Loving Memory

BK MOHAMMED KUNHI

mes
alumni

LIBANO-SUISSE
BK MOHAMMED KUNHI
ELOCUTION COMPETITION 2025
THE VOICES OF TOMORROW
WINNERS

INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH SENIOR CATEGORY	INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH JUNIOR CATEGORY	IMPROMPTU SPEECH SENIOR CATEGORY	IMPROMPTU SPEECH JUNIOR CATEGORY
1st SHEZA KABEER DPS MODERN INDIAN SCHOOL	1st ISHEL MOHAMED DOHA ENGLISH SPEAKING SCHOOL	1st HARSH THOBANI DPS MODERN INDIAN SCHOOL	1st CHRISTA ROSE ANISH OLIVE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
2nd MOHAMMAD AIMAN JAMIL MES INDIAN SCHOOL	2nd AMAYA SHIBU NOBLE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL	2nd NANDINI DEVANG PATHAK DPS MODERN INDIAN SCHOOL	2nd AFRAH FATHIMA MIJAS MES INDIAN SCHOOL
3rd AAESHA FATHIMA BASHEER MES INDIAN SCHOOL	3rd GUNIKA KOUL DOHA MODERN INDIAN SCHOOL	3rd SHEZA KABEER DPS MODERN INDIAN SCHOOL	3rd SWARA THAKARE DPS MODERN INDIAN SCHOOL

PLATINUM SPONSORS

LuLu **Action COACH**

POWERED BY **SPIRIT EVENTS**

DESIGN PARTNER **panache**

OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER **olive** **sunshine**

MEDIA PARTNER **GULF TIMES**

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PRIVILEGE CLUB

Enjoy up to 60,000 bonus Avios

Transfer your salary to QIB and get a new QIB Qatar Airways Visa Signature or Platinum Card to enjoy the bonus*

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

QIB المصرف

Offer Valid from 1 May until 30 June 2025
For details: www.qib.com.qa/en-SalaryTransfer

Shop with Confidence 16001

QATAR AIRWAYS
PR



Deputy Amir receives credentials of six new ambassadors

His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani received, in his office at the Amiri Diwan yesterday, the credentials of six ambassadors to Qatar: Nouhoum Youssoufou Abdouramani (Benin), Cheikh Tidiane Sall (Senegal), Dana Goldfinca (Latvia), Gravius Momo (Seychelles), Siddiq Faizal Riyad Koya (Fiji) and Honourable Akula (Tonga). The Deputy Amir welcomed the ambassadors and wished them success in their missions and for the bilateral relations between Qatar and their countries further development and growth. The envoys conveyed to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Deputy Amir the greetings of their countries' leaders and their wishes to the people of Qatar for enduring progress and prosperity. The ambassadors were accorded official reception ceremonies upon their arrival at the Amiri Diwan. - **QNA**





AL-AHLI HOSPITAL
A Division of
MediCare Group a.s.c.

ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE
OF THE FOLLOWING TENDER:

Tender No.	Subject	Tender Bond (QRS.)	Closing Date
AAH/TC/ 08/2025	Supply, Installation, Configuration, and Maintenance of Firewall solutions for both perimeter and data center environments with Three (3) years support.	Qar. 20,000/-	22 nd May 2025

- The full documents for the above mentioned tender can be obtained from the PURCHASING DEPARTMENT of Al-Ahli Hospital from Sunday to Thursday, between 9:00AM to 4:00PM upon payment of non-refundable fee of QAR 2,000.00 to Accounts Receivables, Finance department Al-Ahli Hospital.
- The tender should be accompanied by a Tender Bond issued by a Qatar Accredited Bank and acceptable to Al-Ahli Hospital. The bond should be valid for 120 days from the submission date of the tender.
- The successful tenderer should submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the contract value, which should be valid for 90 days beyond the warranty period.
- The tenders should submit in three (3) sealed envelopes: one (1) envelope for Technical Offer, one (1) envelope for Commercial Offer, and one (1) envelope for Tender Bond.
- Tenders must be addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Committee, clearly indicating the Tender Number and Subject.
- The Last date to purchase the tender documents will be on 12th May 2025.
- The closing time for the submission of bid Tenders should be no later than 2:00PM of the Closing Date.

For further information please contact: **Purchasing Department**
Phone: **+974 4489 8766** – Fax: **+974 4489 8768**
Email : **henryr@ahlihospital.com**

PM congratulates new Yemeni premier

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Salem Saleh Salem bin Breik on his appointment as Yemen's prime minister, wishing him success and further development and growth in the relations between the two brotherly countries. - **QNA**

2nd edition of the book Corporate Environmental Sustainability launched

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), in collaboration with Hawkama Centre, has launched the second edition of the book *Corporate Environmental Sustainability: Reports and Achievements*. This is part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to promote the principles of environmental sustainability and support environmental disclosure practices in Qatar, and aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030. In his address at the launch ceremony, engineer Abdulaziz bin Ahmed al-Mahmoud, the MoECC undersecretary, said that the book is a milestone in documenting the progress made in incorporating environmental sustainability into the operational practices of the private sector.

He said that the book highlights the achievements of companies in Qatar in reducing carbon emissions, improving resource efficiency, and transitioning towards renewable energy. He noted that the MoECC has been keen to provide guidance materials and the necessary support to encourage organisations to disclose their environmental practices in accordance with internationally recognised standards. The official further stated that environmental sustainability is a central pillar of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, which includes targets such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% compared to current levels by the year 2030, protecting and restoring 30% of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, rehabilitating an equivalent percentage of environmentally impacted natural habitats, and reducing per capita water consumption to 310 litres per day. Additionally, he said, the strategy aims to boost the share of renewable energy sources to 4GW by 2030. Accordingly, al-Mahmoud expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by the private sector, asserting that collective action and constructive collaboration across sectors contribute to achieving a more sustainable environment and ensuring a prosperous future for coming generations. In a recorded message, Qatar Chamber first vice-chairperson Mohamed bin Tuwar al-Kuwari affirmed that companies play a crucial role in efforts to achieve environmen-



Officials at the launch yesterday.

tal sustainability and reduce carbon emissions. He stressed the importance of corporate transparency in this area, allowing regulators and the wider community to assess and recognise these efforts and accomplishments. Juan Leon, the chief executive of strategic partner Estithmar Holding, announced that the group will publish its first report this year on Environmental, Social, and

Governance sustainability, affirming the group's commitment to embedding sustainability standards across its diverse activities, particularly in the fields of health-care and real estate development. Abdulaziz Ibrahim al-Tamimi, the chief executive of Qatar Primary Materials Company (the strategic sponsor), stated that the company has implemented numerous envi-

ronmental initiatives aimed at reducing environmental impact and enhancing sustainability. Key initiatives include recycling construction and demolition waste, cutting carbon emissions, and conserving natural resources. Charles Meaby, acting chief executive of silver sponsor QTerminals Group, highlighted that QTerminals – established in 2016 – is a global leader in port and terminal operations and management. He said that in recent years, the group has developed a comprehensive strategy to improve operational efficiency while minimising environmental impact, with a strong emphasis on innovation and the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies and equipment.



QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED
QAFAC

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following
Tender in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fees Qrs.	Tender Bond Qrs.	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/038/25	Replacement of roof sheets in Warehouse # 1 and canteen & Construction of additional electronic card transmitters room, Mesaieed	300/-	63,000/-	08 th June 2025

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender documents as follows:

- Collection Date** : From **Monday, 05th May 2025** (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time** : 08:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Location** : The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Tender Fees** : As shown above, **(non-refundable)** can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- Validity** : Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond** : Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 Days from closing date.
- Authorization** : Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 - 1.Official authorization on Company Letter Head
 - 2.Proper Identification
 - 3.Copy of Company's Commercial Registration
 - 4.Valid In Country Value (ICV) Mandatory.



QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED
QAFAC

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following
Tender in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fees Qrs.	Tender Bond Qrs.	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/040/25	Consultancy Services for Crisis Management	300/-	20,000/-	25 th May 2025

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender documents as follows:

- Collection Date** : From **Monday, 05th May 2025** (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time** : 09:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Location** : The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Tender Fees** : As shown above, **(non-refundable)** can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- Validity** : Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond** : Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 Days from closing date.
- Authorization** : Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 - 1.Official authorization on Company Letter Head
 - 2.Proper Identification
 - 3.Copy of Company's Commercial Registration
 - 4.Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)

National Data and Statistics Strategy unveiled

The National Data and Statistics Strategy was officially launched yesterday, under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, also the president of National Planning Council (NPC).

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani, who is also the NPC vice-president, launched the strategy in the presence of several ministers and senior government officials.

The National Data and Statistics Strategy provides a strategic framework to enhance data governance, improve accessibility, and meet the demands of a rapidly evolving digital landscape. Built on three core pillars, the strategy aims to ensure the highest standards of data and statistical reliability through the National Statistics Centre, build an integrated and interconnected national data ecosystem, and leverage big data, advanced data technologies, and artificial intelligence across operations – ultimately positioning the National Statistics Centre among the top statistical institutions globally.

The launch also marks one year since the establishment of the NPC by Amiri Decree No 13 of 2024. The council was created to drive Qatar's development agenda and foster strategic partnerships with government entities, ministries, the private sector, and experts, enabling data-driven planning that delivers sustainable and tangible impact both in the short and long term.

In his keynote speech, the NPC secretary-general HE Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa stressed that Qatar's readiness for the future is at the heart of the Third National Development Strategy. He highlighted the importance of anticipating global trends, embracing change, and adopting cutting-edge, data-driven technologies like artificial intelligence. He noted that the National Data and Statistics Strategy is a proactive step that strengthens Qatar's leadership and future preparedness.

Dr al-Khalifa also expressed



The NPC secretary-general HE Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa delivering the keynote address at the launch event.

pride in the council's first-year achievements, including the development of systems, partnerships, and capabilities required to begin the implementation phase of the Third National Development Strategy, ensuring that its impact will be meaningful, comprehensive, and enduring as Qatar progresses towards 2030 and beyond.

Over the past year, the NPC has become a cornerstone of Qatar's national development architecture, pursuing a clear vision to advance the strategic planning agenda and realise the Qatar National Vision 2030. As the lead entity overseeing the implementation of the Third National Development Strategy – the final phase of Qatar's long-term vision – the NPC has worked to ensure that all initiatives reflect the nation's aspirations, identity, and values.

Transitioning from planning to implementation has been a significant milestone in this journey. Qatar's strong economic performance in 2024 underscores the strategy's effective implementation, with real GDP growing by 2.4%, primarily driven by a 3.4% growth in non-hydrocarbon activities. Notably, commercial registration costs were reduced by 90%, contributing to a 156% increase in the number of registered companies compared to the previous year. These reforms have generated new opportunities and strengthened the private sector's role in economic growth.

To further support national development, the NPC hosted the inaugural National Development Forum, which brought together more than 450 national and in-



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani, who is also the NPC vice-president, launching the National Data and Statistics Strategy yesterday as other dignitaries look on. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam



Dignitaries at the official launch of the National Data and Statistics Strategy.

ternational private entities. Focused on the economic development agenda, the forum served as a platform to enhance the private sector's contribution to the Third National Development Strategy's successful rollout.

Guided by the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, regarding the critical importance of data in strategic planning and implementation, the NPC launched several initiatives in January aimed at building a robust national data infrastructure. These initiatives include the launch of the National Data Program to create a central

data repository, the issuance of data regulations such as the National Data Policy, National Data Standards, and a data governance guide, the introduction of the Qatar Data Trust Index to measure data trustworthiness and compliance, and the development of the QInsights platform, which features 119 indicators from the Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment.

These initiatives have solidified the NPC's role as the official source of reliable, actionable, and transparent data in Qatar – data that is essential for informed national decision-making. As such,

work has begun on constructing an integrated central database that addresses national needs with high efficiency and reliability.

Reliable statistical data is a crucial tool for determining the country's current and future real needs. Looking ahead, the NPC remains committed to enhancing integration across government entities, embedding data into every layer of planning, and increasing institutional agility.

As it enters its second year, the NPC will continue to serve as Qatar's strategic engine, driving national progress through insight, foresight, and consistent action.

Amir, UAE president review ties

From Page 1

In addition, His Highness the Amir attended a luncheon banquet hosted by the UAE president in his honour and his accompanying delegation.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani left Abu Dhabi, following a fraternal visit to the sisterly United Arab Emirates.

His Highness the Amir and the accompanying delegation were seen off upon departure by President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

Also present were Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Lt Gen Sheikh Saif bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Qatar's ambassador to the UAE Dr Sultan Salmeen Saeed al-Mansouri, and UAE ambassador to Qatar Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa bin Sultan bin Shakhboub al-Nahyan.

His Highness the Amir was accompanied by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, along with an official delegation.

Earlier upon arrival in Abu Dhabi on a fraternal visit, His Highness the Amir was welcomed by

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan. Also present were Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Lt Gen Sheikh Saif bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Qatar's ambassador to the UAE and UAE's ambassador to Qatar.

Qatar rejects incendiary remarks by Israeli PMO

From Page 1

He added that Qatar continues its close co-operation with both the Arab Republic of Egypt and the USA to secure an immediate ceasefire, ensure the uninterrupted flow of humanitarian aid, and advance a just and lasting peace – one grounded in justice and humanity, not in violence and double standards. Dr al-Ansari reaffirmed Qatar's unwavering belief that genuine peace cannot be achieved without a comprehensive and just settlement based on international legitimacy – one that ends the occupation and guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among them the establishment of an independent state along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

MCIT's NEXTGEN programme aims to boost digital skills of nationals

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) launched the "NEXTGEN" Professional Development Programme. The programme aims to qualify national cadres and enhance their capabilities through a specialised training experience to hone digital skills, leverage the latest technologies and innovations, and prepare and qualify future technology leaders. It also aims to enhance readiness for the requirements of the future labour market, gain advanced expertise in technology fields, and develop leadership skills and specialised technical competencies. The ministry explained in several posts on its official account on the "X" platform that the programme focuses on practical experience in major technology companies and offers specialised training programmes in the fields of digitisation and

technology. In addition, it focuses on educational activities and practical applications led by experts and specialists. The programme targets citizens among the ministry's employees with no more than three years of experience, recent graduates with university degrees, and job seekers in the field of communications and information technology. As for the benefits, the ministry explained that they include joining leading global technology companies, theoretical training, and practical projects under the supervision of specialised experts. In addition there are innovative experiences aligned with labour market requirements, the awarding of accredited professional certificates, the building of an international professional network, and the transfer of acquired knowledge to colleagues in the workplace.

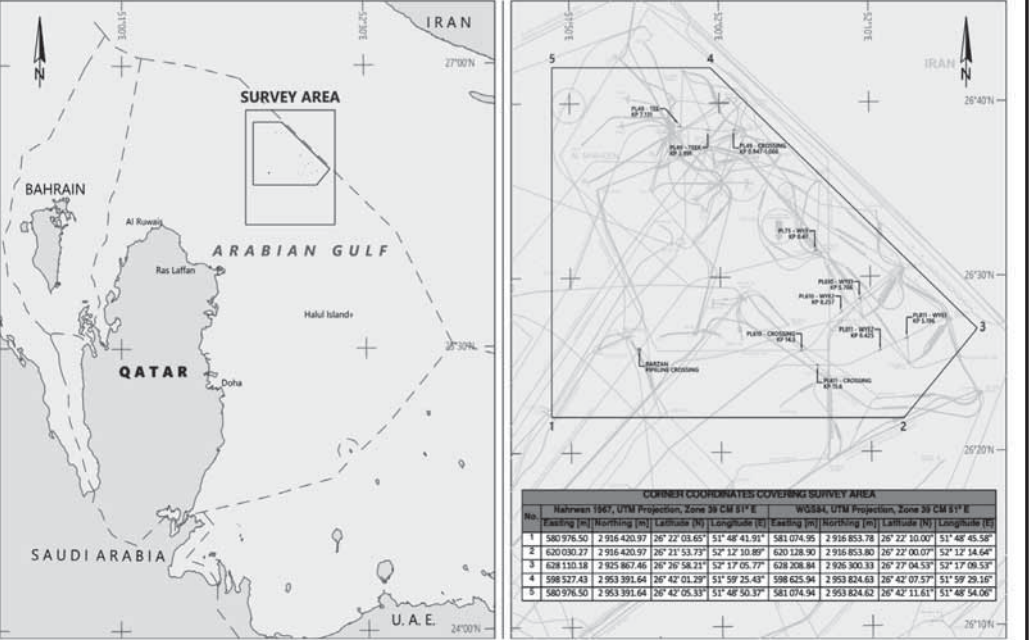


Public Announcement

To all Ships, Fisherman and Mariners
Subsea Survey Works Offshore in North Field, Qatar
By the Vessels "EDT Kennedy" & "Pacific Grouse"

Subsea Survey Works Offshore Qatar
from 05/05/2025 to 15/07/2025

In pursuant and under directives from the Seafarers Affairs and Registration Department, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners and Fisherman that QatarEnergy LNG intends to undertake subsea survey works by the vessels "EDT Kennedy" & "Pacific Grouse" in North Field, Qatar, bound by the coordinates and location map shown below.



All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the survey locations during the operations. QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibilities for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operations following publication of this notice.

For more details contact 7048 9890



GULF HELICOPTERS COMPANY (GHC) Q.P.S.C.

Invites prospective landlords/service providers to participate in the following tender

Tender Reference and Description	Submission of information & willingness for bidding	Tender fee (non-refundable)	Tender publication	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
Tender No. RFQ-GHC/SCO/008/2025 Provision of Accommodation Service for GHC Employees for 5 Years	Until 7 May 2025	QAR 1000/- Until 11 May 2025 10:00 am	12 May 2025	QAR 250,000. 00	10 th June 2025, 12:00 PM

Brief Scope: GHC is seeking to lease a minimum of 146 rooms in fully furnished and maintained one, two- or three-bedrooms apartments or in three (3) star/four (4) star certified hotels for its employees, along with other detailed services to be provided by the Service Provider.

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and send contact details to GHC email (tenders@gulfhelicopters.com) indicating company name, address, telephone, official email, authorized company representative, etc. latest by 7 May 2025.

GHC tender reference numbers and description must be mentioned in the email.

ii. Non-refundable tender fee of QAR 1000/- is payable to GHC, only through QNB account # 0013-036531-001 at any QNB branch. Interested bidders shall attach the evidence of the tender fee payment and send to GHC email: tenders@gulfhelicopters.com, latest by 11 May 2025, 10:00 am for GHC approval.

iii. Tender package will be sent via email to the confirmed participants by 12 May 2025. GHC shall provide the necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.

iv. Original of the Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee) must be submitted by hand to the following address:

Gulf Helicopters Company,
P O Box: 811, Al Areesh Street,
Ras Abu Abboud, Doha, Qatar
Tel: +974 44 333 888
Attention: Supply Chain Manager

Attach a copy of tender bond to the technical offer. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

V. For any clarifications on the above, please send your queries with tender reference and description addressed to Supply Chain Mail to email tenders@gulfhelicopters.com.

Note: Bidders who are not registered in GHC will be requested to complete the supplier registration process during the tendering period.



Minister of State for Interior Affairs meets Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh



HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohammed al-Thani met yesterday with the Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh, General Waker-Uz-Zaman. The meeting discussed several topics of mutual interest, in addition to ways to enhance co-operation in the security field. **(QNA)**

Qatar, Italy discuss Gaza, Syria



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, met yesterday with the visiting Secretary-General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Riccardo Guariglia. The meeting discussed aspects of co-operation between the countries and ways to enhance and strengthen them. The two sides also addressed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip, Syria, and the Mediterranean region. **(QNA)**

Al-Hammadi meets Italian counterpart



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met with the visiting Secretary-General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Riccardo Guariglia. The meeting reviewed co-operation between the countries and ways to support and enhance them, besides topics of common interest. **(QNA)**

Qatar condemns targeting of facilities in Sudan

Qatar condemned the targeting of vital facilities and infrastructure in Kassala and Port Sudan, considering it a violation of international laws and norms and a serious threat to regional security. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed Qatar's categorical rejection of the targeting of civilian and vital facilities, calling for concerted regional and international efforts to end the war through peaceful means. The ministry reiterated Qatar's full support for the unity, sovereignty, and stability of Sudan, and its support for the brotherly Sudanese people to realise their aspirations for development and prosperity. **(QNA)**

Qatar's envoy attends Sudan event to praise Qatar's continued support



Qatar's ambassador to Sudan Mohamed bin Ibrahim al-Sada attended a popular initiative organised in Port Sudan by the Peoples' Union Organisation. The event aimed to express grati-

tude for Qatar's continued support to the Sudanese people across various sectors. The event was attended by a wide audience representing diverse segments of Sudanese society, including civil and commu-

nity leaders. Participants expressed their appreciation for Qatar's humanitarian initiatives and its official positions in support of Sudan across regional and international forums. **(QNA)**

AIPU hails Qatar's efforts in support of Palestine cause

QNA
Algiers

The final communique of the 38th Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) conference has commended Qatar's key efforts backing the Palestinian cause, primarily its endeavours for a sustained relief aid entry into the Gaza Strip.

The two-day event in Algiers brought together speakers of Arab legislatures to address the AIPU's role amid the current regional and global transformations.

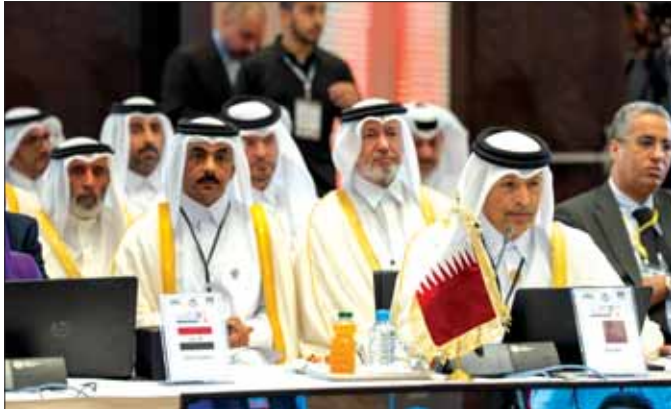
HE the Shura Council Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem chaired the Qatari delegation to the conference.

The communique hailed Qatar's initiatives, in co-ordination with international and regional organisations, streamlining the provision of essential food, medical, and relief supplies to alleviate the suffering of civilians amid the ongoing catastrophic conditions in the enclave.

The conferees also praised the ongoing efforts of Qatar and Egypt to de-escalate the situation in Gaza, reach a permanent ceasefire agreement, ensure the entry of humanitarian aid, re-deploy Israeli forces, exchange prisoners, return displaced persons, and facilitate the treatment of those wounded.

Furthermore, the statement appreciated Qatar's written memorandum to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on the Israeli occupation's obligations regarding the presence and activities of the UN, other international organisations, and third states. It stressed the importance of this memorandum in supporting relief and humanitarian organisations and ensuring a decent living for the Palestinian people.

The conferees emphasised the centrality of the Palestinian cause and the importance of unifying Arab efforts to confront regional and international chal-



lenges. Meanwhile, the event hailed the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye's initiative to establish a Parliamentary Group in Solidarity with Palestine in a bid to unify international parliamentary efforts to defend the Palestinian cause and support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including ending the occupation, rejecting settler expansion, preserving the religious character of Jerusalem and maintaining the Palestinian cause on the agenda of international parliamentary forums.

Affirming the centrality of the Palestine question for the Arab nation, the conference called on the AIPU members, who are also members of other international parliaments, to join this group to strengthen a unified global parliamentary front.

It reiterated AIPU's categorical rejection of all Israeli schemes to displace Palestinians and alter the demographic character of the occupied territories, especially Jerusalem, emphasising the rejection of imposing a fait accompli or any form of forced displacement as a crime against humanity. The conference called for continued political support to mobilise international support for the Palestinian people and the preservation of their rights, stressing that a just and comprehensive peace can only be achieved through the withdrawal of the occupation from

all occupied Arab territories to the borders of June 4, 1967, and through the empowerment of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The statement condemned the occupation's policies, including the establishment of a government agency overseeing the voluntary departure of Palestinians, settler expansion, and racist suggestions to destroy Al-Aqsa Mosque. It warned of the danger of the Israeli entity's provocations that target the legal and historical status of Jerusalem, and called for urgent international action to protect the holy sites.

The statement emphasised that the AIPU will remain the voice of the Arab nation, defending Arab rights and protecting national sovereignty. It emphasised the need to strengthen its role in addressing regional and international changes, developing parliamentary legislation, and promoting joint Arab action.

The 38th AIPU Conference discussed several topics, primarily enhancing Arab parliamentary co-operation to address current challenges, examining mechanisms that contribute to supporting joint parliamentary action, and consolidating the AIPU's role in serving Arab issues both regionally and globally.



HMC successfully completes IAEA Quality Audit for Clinical Imaging Services

Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Clinical Imaging Department has achieved a significant milestone by officially passing the audit requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Quality Assurance Audit for Diagnostic Radiology Improvement and Learning (QUAADRIL) programme.

The achievement followed a rigorous and comprehensive international audit conducted by the IAEA.

This accomplishment underscores HMC's unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of healthcare services and

maintaining the highest standards of radiation safety, which contributes to the improvement of clinical performance and the delivery of the best possible patient care.

Chairperson of Clinical Imaging Services at HMC, Dr Amal al-Obaidly said that this success reflects the organisation's strategic vision to strengthen its regional and international position as a leading provider of high-quality healthcare in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

"The preparatory phase for the audit involved an intensive series of activities, including comprehensive self-assessments,

detailed policy and procedure reviews, training for medical, technical staff and strengthening occupational health and safety standards in line with international best practices," said Dr al-Obaidly.

The Clinical Imaging Department developed an integrated plan aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, improving services, promoting innovation and continuous improvement and integrating improvement initiatives into the department's leadership and management systems to foster a supportive and high-performing work environment. **(QNA)**

'Build Your House,' 'Inspire' expos conclude with QR800mn deals

The 6th "Build Your House" exhibition and the 1st "Inspire" exhibition concluded, with initial estimates indicating that the total value of deals concluded as having reached around QR800mn.

A statement by Nextfairs, the organiser of the two exhibitions, said that 250 exhibitors and participants presented a diverse range of products and services related to home construction and interior design solutions during the two events, which received a total of 16,309 visits over the four days, reflecting repeat visits from some attendees.

The statement indicated that the two exhibitions offered visi-



tors a unique opportunity to learn about the latest developments and trends in the sector, as well as to benefit from the rich knowledge content presented by a group

of experts during more than 40 sessions, which addressed topics such as smart and sustainable homes and future trends in home construction in Qatar.



The event was supported by five government ministries and agencies, 31 sponsors and partners, and 26 media outlets, reflecting its importance and standing in the

sector. The two events provided an ideal platform for homeowners, consultants, suppliers, and industry professionals, helping to promote trade and business and

build strong, influential relationships within the industry. The "Build Your House" exhibition showcased the latest innovations in home construction and renovation, while the "Inspire" exhibition presented a diverse range of luxury home decor, furniture, and lifestyle products. The Mostashari Programme also continued to provide one-on-one consultations with a select group of experts, supporting homeowners and assisting them throughout the various stages of the construction process.

Nextfairs is an event management company that has been providing its services for over 17 years. **(QNA)**

QM taking part in ICAHM Conference in Chile



Qatar Museums (QM) has announced its participation in the 2025 Annual Meeting of the International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM), slated for May 8-16 in Santiago and San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.

The event aims to promote cross-cultural exchange.

The QM's participation in the conference as a key partner comes within the framework of the Qatar-Argentina-Chile 2025 Year of Culture, which represents a vital platform for strengthening relations between Qatar, Chile, and other international partners, such

as the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

The QM delegation's visit to Chile will begin with participation in the Santiago conference sessions on May 8-9.

It will then conduct field visits and technical meetings on May 10-11, before joining the main conference in San Pedro de Atacama from May 12-16.

During this period, the delegation will engage with heritage leaders, archaeologists, and creatives to explore new avenues for collaboration and cultural exchange.

QM director of cultural heritage protection Abdullahatif al-Jasmi said that the dele-

gation from Qatar will brief the participating parties on Qatar's commitment to heritage protection through its international partnerships and comprehensive cultural exchange programmes.

He expressed anticipation of launching long-term collaborative projects with Chilean institutions and communities, with the hope that these projects will extend beyond the conclusion of the cultural year.

Al-Jasmi noted that Qatar Museums' participation in the conference falls within the context of the Years of Culture initiative and its support for the capacity-building workshop, demonstrating a shared commitment

to preserving world heritage and achieving comprehensive cultural development centred on society.

In a related context, the QM plans to participate, later this year, in a five-day capacity-building workshop at a World Heritage site in Chile.

The workshop aims to empower Chilean heritage workers and enhance their management capacities, as well as explore innovative, community-centred approaches to managing cultural and natural heritage, considering future development requirements, climate change, and emergency response. - QNA

'New Landscape' exhibition at M7 redefines nature through technology

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

A one-of-its-kind exhibition, "Nuovo Paesaggio (New Landscape)" by internationally acclaimed Italian artist Quayola, was unveiled at a VIP preview yesterday at M7, offering a fresh exploration of natural landscapes through the lens of advanced technology and computational artistry.

The event was attended by Italian ministry of foreign affairs (MFA) secretary-general Riccardo Guariglia, Italian ambassador to Qatar Paolo Toschi, the MFA's deputy director for political affairs Maurizio Greganti, National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) director Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Hamad al-Thani, and Qatar Museums chief executive Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi, among other guests.

Speaking to *Gulf Times*, curator Claudio Composti explained how Quayola bridges the gap between classical and contemporary art.

"Quayola's work is very perfectly matched between classical and very contemporary," he said.

Composti said that Quayola's artistic approach involves directly engaging with tradition and then subverting it through

the application of advanced technologies.

"New Landscape", promoted by the Italian embassy in Doha in collaboration with Fondazione AGO - Modena Fabbriche Culturali and with the support of the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian ministry of culture, will be on view at M7 (first floor) until July 19.

The exhibition presents a unique blend of photographic techniques, emerging technologies, and computational strategies, challenging traditional representations of the natural world.

It unfolds as an investigation into nature, observed and reinterpreted by machines, fostering a continuous dialogue between visual tradition and technological innovation.

Reflecting on the tension between man-made algorithms and natural forms, Quayola cited the relationship between his work and nature.

"Everything we do is still connected to nature, it is in fact an inspiration that comes from nature," he said. "Even this ephemeral digital process is algorithmic techniques."

The artist utilises ultra-high-resolution cameras, 3D scanners, and laser sensors - such as Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging, or Lidar - to meticulously



Paolo Toschi (left), Maurizio Greganti, Quayola (centre), Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi, and Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Hamad al-Thani (right) at the VIP preview of 'New Landscape' exhibition yesterday. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen

Right: Claudio Composti at the VIP preview.

observe landscapes and natural phenomena, transforming them into complex digital renderings.

In this process, organisers noted that the algorithmic gaze of the machine becomes a co-author, generating visions that reveal elements often invisible to the human eye, effectively introducing a new visual language.

"New Landscape" features two series: "Storms" and "Remains: Vallée de Joux".

"Storms" focuses on the coasts of Cornwall, capturing the chaotic behaviour of waves during storms and transforming atmospheric phenomena into visual matter.

"Remains", on the other hand, explores



the Swiss forests of the Vallée de Joux, offering an immersive journey where vegetation is scanned, interpreted, and rendered as an archetypal and dreamlike landscape.

In a press statement, Toschi said: "This exhibition gives a new perspective to the dialogue between tradition and innova-



tion on landscape, an artistic subject that both in Italy and in Qatar is at the centre of artistic and cultural experience."

M7 resumes specialised course series in fashion, design, and technology

M7 has announced the return of its Masterclass series in collaboration with The Design Studio by Azza Fahmy (DSAF).

This year's focus is on a session titled "Advanced Jewellery Design Masterclass: Repetition and Rhythm", from May 12-15.

Over the course of four days, participants will work closely with experts from the Studio to refine their skills and artistic vision, exploring the role of repetition and rhythm in both traditional and contemporary jewellery-making, while gaining hands-on experience with iconic pieces by the brand Azza Fahmy.

This collaboration supports M7's mission to advance Qatar's creative community by offering exceptional learning opportunities.

"We are proud to bring back the Masterclass series,

reaffirming M7's commitment to nurturing Qatar's creative talent," said M7 director Maha Ghanem al-Sulaiti.

"This masterclass offers emerging designers a unique opportunity to deepen their craft, connect with regional design heritage, and gain insight from industry leaders," she said. "Through initiatives like this, we aim to inspire and empower the next generation of designers, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and perspective needed to thrive in an ever-evolving global industry."

This masterclass targets designers with initial experience in jewellery design, manufacturing, or marketing, and offers an ideal environment for those eager to refine their craft and expand their knowledge in this field. - QNA



Qatar Charity inaugurates mosque in Ghana

With the support of the people of Qatar, Qatar Charity (QC) has inaugurated Al Mustafa Mosque near Military Hospital No. 37 in Accra, Ghana.

The mosque, equipped with modern facilities, is also home to a Qur'an Memorisation and Studies Centre.

Guests at the opening ceremony included Chief of Naval Staff Vice-Admiral Issa Adam Yakubu, who served as the honorary guest, alongside Commander of Military Hospital No. 37 Colonel Prosper Aibor, director of religious affairs Brigadier-General Kumi Wood, and Tariq Marabi, representative of the One Ummah Organisation in Ghana.

Brigadier-General Wood underlined the mosque's importance for both military personnel and civilians.

Colonel Aibor, on behalf of the senior military leadership, thanked the QC and the donors from Qatar for their support.

Vice-Admiral Yakubu described the mosque as a modern beacon of faith, symbolising the diversity and unity within their community.

Marabi acknowledged the QC's credibility and stellar reputation in Ghana, which motivated the donors to support such a meaningful initiative.

Engineer Hassan Oda, director of the QC's office in Ghana and Ivory Coast, noted that the mosque has now become a hub for worship, learning, and spiritual growth, benefiting both the military community and the wider public.



Mohammed Saeed Ibrahim

Al Jasra Cultural and Social Club launches programme

Al Jasra Cultural and Social Club, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, has launched a programme titled "Arab Cultures in Schools in the State of Qatar".

The programme aims to highlight the heritage, culture, and traditions of Arab countries through diverse cultural, artistic, and heritage activities, to consolidate a sense of belonging to Arab heritage, strengthen identity, disseminate the popular heritage of the participating countries, and introduce them to Qatari society.

The club will begin its programme by hosting the Tunisian School in Doha to highlight its heritage and traditions with activities that vary from traditional fashion shows to folk performances.

Mohammed Saeed Ibrahim, the club's treasurer and supervisor of the event, said that the programme will be held on Fridays for three weeks.

Apparel Group Qatar Wins 'Most Comprehensive CSR Initiative' Award at CSR Summit 2025



Apparel Group, a leading fashion and lifestyle retail conglomerate in the region, proudly sponsored the CSR Summit 2025, held from April 28 to 30 at Qatar University. During the event, Apparel Group Qatar was also honoured with the 'Most Comprehensive CSR Initiative' award, recognizing its outstanding contributions to community-driven, impactful programs across the country.

The summit, a premier platform for dialogue on sustainable development and responsible business, brings together influential voices from government, the private sector, and civil society to explore innovative approaches to today's social and environmental challenges.

The summit, themed "Sustainability in the Digital Age," brought together business leaders, academics, and CSR professionals from Qatar and around the world to discuss innovative approaches to sustainable development and responsible business practices.

The event was officially inaugurated by Her Excellency Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater, Minister of Education and Higher Education, in the presence of Dr. Omar Al-Ansari, President of Qatar University. The opening ceremony also honoured H.E. Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed Al Thani, Governor of the Qatar Central Bank.

The CSR Summit 2025 brings together thought leaders, policy-makers, and industry pioneers from across the region to explore the evolving role of business

in advancing environmental and social progress. Apparel Group's sponsorship reflects its belief that meaningful change requires active engagement, strategic partnerships, and cross-sector collaboration.

Apparel Group, with over 2,400 stores and 85+ global brands, continues to grow while championing purpose-led leadership. Operating across the GCC, India, South Africa, Southeast Asia, and newly in Hungary and the Philippines, the Group is powered by 27,000+ employees. Its sustainability strategy focuses on five key areas: education, healthcare, women's empowerment, awareness building, and humanitarian aid.

Sunil Thakkar, Vice President & Country Head of Apparel Group Qatar, stated:

"Our sponsorship of the CSR Summit reflects more than a commitment - it's a clear demonstration of our belief that business growth and social responsibility must go hand in hand. At Apparel Group, CSR is not a program - it's at the heart of who we are and how we lead. This summit enables us to contribute to vital conversations, forge meaningful partnerships, and lead by example in shaping a future where business is a force for positive change."

In 2024, Apparel Group launched impactful initiatives including beach cleanups, Earth Hour participation, and support for social causes. As a strategic partner of the UN Global Compact, the Group remains firmly committed to ethical, community-focused, and sustainable business practices.



Dr Georgios Dimitropoulos

HBKU granted WTO Chair

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) has been granted a World Trade Organisation (WTO) Chair, with the College of Law's Dr Georgios Dimitropoulos, professor of law and associate dean for research, named as chairholder.

Established to enhance knowledge and understanding of the international trading system through research, policy outreach, and teaching, the WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) supports academic institutions working to build expertise in trade-related areas.

The WTO's selection of Dr Dimitropoulos is a major achievement for Qatar and the HBKU,

marking a milestone in the region's contribution to global trade discussions, a statement said.

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through its Geneva office, was instrumental in supporting the initiative.

As WTO Chair, Dr Dimitropoulos will lead programmes and activities that bridge academic research and policymaking.

The Chair will focus on issues that pertain to trade and investment in the digital economy with an emphasis on emerging economies and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Dr Ala al-Fuqaha, acting HBKU provost and associate provost for teaching and learning, said: "Fo-

cusing on issues that pertain to the digital economy, the WTO Chair examines the evolving role of industrial and digital policies in achieving sustainable development, with a focus on bridging digital divides in the Global South, particularly in the Western Asia and Mena (Middle East and North Africa) regions."

"Dr Dimitropoulos' research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the interplay between global trade frameworks and digital development while fostering collaboration between emerging economies and LDCs," he added.

"Qatar is one of the world's leading trading hubs, linking Asia and Africa with Europe and be-

yond," said College of Law dean Susan L. Karamanian. "Thus, it is fitting that one of the prestigious WTO Chairs be housed at a university in Qatar."

"The selection of our proposal under the WTO Chairs Programme underscores Qatar's forward-looking vision in addressing critical challenges such as digital transformation, sustainability, and national security," said the director of Qatar to the WTO, Ahmed al-Sulaiti.

Dr Dimitropoulos expressed his gratitude to the WTO and HBKU leadership, as well as to HE Dr Hend al-Muftah, Qatar's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva, and al-Sulaiti.

Qatari Authors Forum marks World Press Freedom Day

The Qatari Authors Forum organised a seminar on freedom of writing between creativity and media responsibility.

The function was attended by a group of media professionals and intellectuals, marking World Press Freedom Day, which falls on May 3 of each year.

Participating in the seminar were Qatar Press Centre (QPC) vice-chairperson journalist Abdullah bin Hayi al-Sulaiti, journalist Babiker Issa and writer Fawzia Ahmed.

The seminar was moderated by author and media professional Mohamed Shabrawi.

At the beginning of the session, al-Sulaiti reviewed the history and development of journalism in Qatar, highlighting the qualitative shift the country has witnessed in various fields, including the press sector.

He emphasised that freedom is inseparable from responsibility, "and the field cannot be left open for anyone to write without clear controls or foundations".

Veteran journalist Issa spoke about his journalistic experience in Sudan and Qatar, noting the positive impact his legal studies had on his career.

He stated that "the law seeks justice, and journalism pursues the truth".

Issa noted that he has been a witness on the development of journalism in Qatar from the 1980s to the present day.

Ahmed emphasised that Qatar has provided women with broad opportunities in various fields, noting that her writings stem from reality and are keen to present an authentic approach that reflects the identity of Qatari society and its Islamic culture.

"In the midst of celebrating press freedom, we must reflect on the relationship between the pen and freedom, not as a privilege, but as a responsibility," said Qatari Authors Forum director-general Dr Aisha Jassim al-Kuwari.

She emphasised that the true freedom sought by a writer or journalist is not an escape from restrictions, but rather a deep commitment to truth, humanity, and the values of justice.

Al-Kuwari pointed out that literary creativity, while enjoying a broader scope of expression, remains responsible, because words leave an indelible mark.

Meanwhile, journalists bear a greater responsibility, "as they write at the moment of the event, address a broad audience, and deal with reality, not fiction".

The seminar also featured a speech by QPC chairman Saad bin Mohammed al-Rumaihi, who emphasised that the noticeable decline in media freedom worldwide is a result of political unrest and international tensions.

He believed that this reality places a double responsibility on journalists, requiring high professional integrity to preserve societal peace and national unity.

He also spoke about his long journalistic experience, highlighting that his connection to the profession has always been tinged with passion and love, and that excellence can only be achieved through true passion.

"As long as a person loves what they do, they will give their best," he added. - QNA

Nado's launches 'Lotus' Collection at Alfardan Jewellery, Place Vendome

Continuing its journey in the world of fine jewellery, Nado's unveiled its new "Lotus" Collection from its boutique at Alfardan Jewellery, Place Vendome, in Doha.

The event was attended by acclaimed Qatari composer Dana Alfardan, along with Nado co-founder and chief executive



Youssef Shorafy, among other guests.

The collection features exclusive designs crafted from 21-karat gold, adorned with the finest diamonds and gemstones.

It embodies the spirit of femininity and renewal, drawing inspiration from the lo-



The event was attended by Qatari composer Dana Alfardan (second left), along with Nado's co-founder and chief executive Youssef Shorafy (right). PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



Nado's unveiled its new 'Lotus' Collection at its boutique at Alfardan Jewellery, Place Vendôme, yesterday.

tus flower - a symbol of serene beauty and inner strength.

Since its inception as a family-rooted brand steeped in heritage, Nado's has demonstrated a unique ability to blend high craftsmanship with contemporary artistry, offering pieces that reflect refined Arab taste and appeal to women seeking individuality in every detail.

On this occasion, Nado's management stated: "We are proud to present the 'Lotus' Collection in Doha, a city that embraces beauty and culture.

"We believe that every piece from Nado's is an extension of its wearer's identity, and we are committed to offering jewellery that elevates the experience of adornment to both an artistic and personal level."



Qatar Foundation's Class of 2025: Looking back on life, learning

In the year that marks Qatar Foundation (QF)'s 30th anniversary, graduating students from its Class of 2025 are reflecting on their journeys - through stories that go beyond academic achievements, ahead of the annual Convocation ceremony that celebrates graduates of its universities.

Among them is **Mohamed Mourchid**, whose journey at the QF is testament to how diverse experiences can shape and elevate a student's educational path.

Before becoming a QF student, he held a senior position at the French embassy and played a key role in driving business development across the Middle East.

After earning a Master's in Economic Intelligence with honours, complemented by advanced studies in political science, he pursued his Executive MBA at QF partner university HEC Paris, Doha - which he describes as a turning point for him.

"Belonging to QF wasn't just an academic privilege; it was being surrounded by people who believed in their role in making a global impact," he said.

During this time, Mourchid's mother, his greatest supporter, passed away.

"She was the quiet force that shaped me, believing in the light within me," he said, reflecting on her influence: "Although she isn't here to witness my graduation, I feel her presence in every step I take."

At the QF, Mourchid discovered a diverse community that deepened his sense of responsibility toward others.

"QF taught me that education isn't just a privilege - it's a responsibility," he explains. "A responsibility to lead with integrity, and to give back."

For **Almaha Jassim Hamad al-Thani**, graduating from Northwestern University in Qatar, a QF partner university, was more than an achievement - it was the realisation of a childhood dream.

"I was determined to study at QF, even if it meant starting with a foundation year," she said. "I didn't apply anywhere else, and graduating now means everything to me."

Almaha al-Thani's studies at the QF began at the height of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, meaning she had to juggle online and in-person studies while enduring numerous health challenges.

"I underwent three major spi-

nal surgeries during my studies, lost someone very close to me, struggled with self-confidence, and there were times when graduating seemed almost impossible," she said.

"But through it all, I didn't give up - my family's unwavering support and the encouragement I found within the QF community kept me going," Almaha al-Thani said.

She also joined the research team for Qatar TV's *Etqan* in its first season, participated in numerous creative workshops, and represented Qatar as a professional fencer on the national team.

Zahra Saboorzadeh, a Class of 2025 graduate from Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), transferred to the QF partner university from Qatar University's College of Pharmacy.

"At QF, I found my true calling," she said. "I discovered the power of economics as a tool for justice, the intersection of politics and human rights, and the need to amplify the voices of those who are often overlooked."

Saboorzadeh has held prominent leadership roles, from serving on the Honour Council to participating in the QF's Doha Debates.



Almaha Jassim Hamad al-Thani



Zahra Saboorzadeh

She has led research with Georgetown and Yale Universities and presented her work at international conferences.

Looking ahead, Saboorzadeh hopes to use her voice to advocate for policies that promote equality and sustainability.

Graduate **Najwa Doha** began her academic career with degrees in nursing, molecular biology, and genetics, which ultimately led her to the QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), where she was awarded a scholarship.

"HBKU not only provided me



Mohamed Mourchid



Najwa Doha

with academic knowledge, but also gave me the space to think critically, research boldly, and engage with global perspectives," she said.

Doha holds a Master's in Biological and Biomedical Sciences from the HBKU and specialises in cancer and neurological disorders research.

With experience in intensive care and pathology laboratories, she has published studies on the mental health of refugee women and multi-method research for her nursing capstone project.

GU-Q graduates lead with culture, voice, and vision

As Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) celebrates the Class of 2025, four local graduates - Waad al-Maadeed, Ghanim al-Kubaisi, Jood Ikram Sheikh and John Carlos Burog - stand out for their exceptional leadership, cultural advocacy, and dedication to community-building.

As a Qatari, **Waad al-Maadeed** was shaped by a society that "values hospitality, tradition, and community while also embracing innovation and global engagement".

She credits this dynamic environment for inspiring her academic and leadership journey, which included serving as president of both the Al Liwan Qatari Club at the GU-Q and the Qatari Association of Qatar Foundation (QF), where she organised major events, built local partnerships, and expanded student engagement across Education City.

Graduating with honours in International Politics with a minor in Arabic, al-Maadeed chose the GU-Q because she wanted to immerse herself in different cultures and ideas while staying connected to home.

Hands-on internships with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Nations Doha Hub, and Qatar Investment Authority, among others, furthered her understanding of how to advance her nation.

A sports enthusiast, al-Maadeed's honours thesis explored Qatar-Saudi bilateral relations around the Qatar FIFA



Waad al-Maadeed (left), Ghanim al-Kubaisi, Jood Ikram Sheikh and John Carlos Burog.

World Cup 2022, and she founded the GU-Q's first fencing club which grew to 83 members.

"I introduced Qatar's first and only women-only fencing training sessions offering a comfortable environment for women to participate," she shared.

Al-Maadeed represented Qatar at the Innoclimat Conference in Switzerland, presenting on national sustainability innovations as part of an official delegation.

For Georgetown's Model United Nations, she served as chair for both the English and Arabic iterations, co-ordinating the committees and welcoming more than 1,000 participants.

She also led her peers on a "Women as Changemakers" trip to Washington, DC, connecting with influential female policymakers.

With a major in International Politics, a minor in History, and a Certificate in Media and Politics, **Ghanim al-Kubaisi** has

used storytelling as a powerful vehicle for impact.

His certificate research project explored Saudi Arabia's media makeover under Vision 2030.

On campus, al-Kubaisi led the Georgetown Leadership Ambassador society, enhancing outreach strategies and student engagement through hosting VIP guests on campus, including Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, and organising a community festival about the Su-hail season.

He moderated panel discussions featuring diplomats, scholars, and thought leaders at GU-Q and QF events.

With plans to continue in global communications and public diplomacy, he is committed to using media as a tool for connection and social good.

International Economics major **Jood Ikram Sheikh** graduated from Qatar Academy.

At the GU-Q she served as a senior class representative, and on the Academic Council, and Student Liaison Committee, where she advocated for evaluation improvements and senior resources.

Sheikh welcomed new students through the Admissions Ambassador programme, "Hoya Welcome Week", and the First Year Experience programme, and mentored high school students through Model United Nations events and the Georgetown Pre-College Summer Programme.

She also served as a peer tutor and teaching assistant in economics and math.

Drawing from her experience of leadership on campus, and academic focus on the region - for her Certificate in Media and Politics, she drew on her local knowledge to study cyberfeminism and digital activism in the Gulf - she is preparing for a life of service.

For Culture and Politics major **John Carlos Burog**, education at the GU-Q was a journey of self-definition and cultural affirmation.

Born in the Philippines and raised in Qatar, he co-founded Katipunan, the Society of Filipino Students.

"There are approximately 270,000 Filipinos in Qatar, and I feel it is my responsibility to raise awareness of their importance to the region," he said.

Graduating magna cum laude, Burog also received a minor in French and a Certificate in American Studies.

A semester abroad in Washington, DC inspired him to study the Filipino diaspora more broadly: his certificate portfolio compares experiences of Filipinos/x in America to his own experience "growing up Filipino in a foreign country", while his honours thesis explored digital activism among the diaspora.

He plans to pursue these topics further through a graduate degree in American Studies, with the goal of becoming a professor.

From representing the university during new student Welcome Week, and as a GU-Q choir member, to winning awards for his participation on the debate team, and hosting the Model United Nations, Burog wove his academic work and co-curricular life into a larger narrative of inclusivity and agency - ensuring that his community's stories are not only told, but understood.

Doha Metro’s B14 receives GSAS Platinum Certificate

Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) has announced that the Doha Metro’s Administration and ICC Building (B14) at Al Wakra has achieved a Platinum rating for GSAS Operations, Premium Scheme, adding to its list of awards and recognitions in the field of environmental excellence.

This recognition from the Gulf Organisation for Research & Development (Gord), the developer of the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS), follows a thorough evaluation and audit of the project, reflecting its outstanding performance in terms of sustainability and operational efficiency.

The award ceremony, held at B14, saw Dr Yousef al-Horr, founding chairman of Gord, present the plaque and certificate to engineer Abdulla Saif al-Sulaiti, chief of Service Delivery at Qatar Rail. The Administration and ICC



Gord’s Dr Yousef al-Horr presents the plaque and certificate to Qatar Rail’s engineer Abdulla Saif al-Sulaiti.

Building serves as the operational hub of the depot and houses the Integrated Control Centre (ICC), responsible for ensuring the seamless operation of Doha Metro services.

Al-Sulaiti said: “Commitment to sustainability is at the core of our mission to provide integrated railway services that are sustainable, reliable, attractive,

and safe. By incorporating the rigorous standards of GSAS, we are ensuring that our infrastructure not only meets the highest levels of efficiency and sustainability but also contributes to a greener, more resilient future.”

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, al-Horr said: “By achieving GSAS green building

certification not only for its state-of-the-art metro stations but also for critical support facilities like the Administration & ICC Building, Qatar Rail has set a remarkable precedent for environmentally conscious infrastructure development.

This proactive approach showcases a long-term vision that promotes a sustainable

urban future in line with Qatar’s national sustainability goals.”

The B14 has been able to achieve the highest GSAS Operations rating because of several key green features. The building is optimised for energy efficiency, with a central chilled water plant used to supply cooling throughout the structure. Energy-saving equipment and

lighting fixtures reduce overall energy consumption. The water management strategy includes the recycling of wastewater for irrigation purposes and helps conserve potable water resources.

Waste management at the site also adheres to high environmental standards, with the majority of the waste recycled, reducing the environmental impact of the operation. The project has incorporated a solar hot water system too.

The latest GSAS Operations certification of the Administration and ICC Building complements the building’s existing green building credentials, having previously earned a 4-star rating under the GSAS Design and Build Scheme as part of the overall Doha Metro Depot in Al Wakra, and class A* under the GSAS Construction Management Scheme.

QIC launches ‘Coins’ loyalty programme

Qatar Insurance Company (QIC) has launched its ‘Coins’ loyalty programme, that allows QIC App and qic.online users to seamlessly accumulate rewards through various interactions. This includes welcome Coins for downloading the QIC App and creating a personal profile, earning rewards when purchasing their first insurance policy via the app or portal, and receiving Coins for renewing expired insurance policies digitally.

QIC App and qic.online users can also earn Coins by completing customer satisfaction surveys, in addition to getting extra Coins when utilising a range of non-insurance services powered by Anoud Technologies, such as requesting home car wash, car detailing services, and other services via QIC App.

“Users can exchange their accumulated Coins for in-kind gifts, and lifestyle goodies,” a QIC statement said. Ahmed al-Jarboey, QIC chief operating officer, Qatar Operations, said: “QIC’s web and mobile platforms have become the preferred platforms for both insurance and non-insurance services in Qatar, and we are confident that the new scheme will help us cement this position, deepening our relationship with our valued customers.”



Ahmed al-Jarboey



Qatar–France relations ‘have touched new heights’

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Qatar and France have forged a deeply-rooted strategic partnership in the past four years with increased co-operation across diplomatic, defence, economic, and cultural sectors, in addition to high-level visits, the outgoing French ambassador Jean-Baptiste Faivre said.

“I think the best reflection of the renewed strength of the strategic partnership between France and Qatar was His Highness’ State visit to France in February 2024. It was the first State visit in 15 years. It showed how much France and Qatar have built strong co-operation in every field,” he told reporters at a press briefing yesterday at his residence in Doha.

Faivre is set to leave Doha today, marking the end of a four-year tenure that witnessed a significant deepening of the strategic partnership between the two countries. He said he is expected to continue his diplomatic career with a posting within the region.

On the diplomatic front, the envoy underlined the high level of confidence that has been built, enabling constant co-ordination on pressing global issues. “Our co-ordination has been constant, at many levels, on many issues, on particular Gaza and Lebanon,” he said, noting the seven visits from French foreign ministers and the three strategic dialogues, including one scheduled later this month in Paris.

The envoy pointed out that these dialogues involve key figures like HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and his French counterpart, fostering critical discussions and collaborative problem-solving.

The establishment of the strategic dialogue mechanism was a key accomplishment of Faivre’s tenure, representing the pinnacle of the mutual trust that has positioned Qatar and France as steadfast partners.

“It is the pinnacle as well as the illustration of the highest level of confidence our countries have reached, which make them all-time and all-weather partners now,” he said.

Faivre noted that the robust diplomatic ties were further demonstrated by numerous



Outgoing French ambassador Jean-Baptiste Faivre speaks to the media at his residence yesterday.

high-level visits. President Macron visited Doha four times during the envoy’s term, accompanied by frequent visits from the French ministers of foreign affairs and defence, enabling consistent consultation on critical geopolitical issues such as Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Afghanistan.

“I am very glad that we’ve created long-term partnerships in humanitarian action and development aid. Many thanks to our partners in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Qatar Fund for Development, and all other agencies,” he said.

In the area of defence, Faivre stressed that co-operation has reached an unprecedented level with the implementation of operational partnership and training activities. This, he said, was highlighted by the bilateral joint exercise “Al Koot” in Qatar in 2024, involving 450 French soldiers.

Reciprocal training activities, such as the pilot training programme at the Qatar Air Academy for four French pilot officers, showed the strong ties between the armed forces, the envoy said. He noted that Qatar’s confidence in French defence industries, as demonstrated by ongoing acquisition projects, promises to shape defence relations for years to come.

Faivre said security co-operation between France and Qatar, a longstanding tradition, was underscored by the joint efforts for the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022 and the Ol-

ympics in Paris in 2024.

He lauded Qatar’s emergence as a prominent sports nation, recalling the numerous sporting events he attended in Doha. He also expressed personal support for the Duhail football team.

Faivre highlighted the enhanced ambition in the economic and finance sectors, building upon already strong ties in areas such as energy, artificial intelligence, and digital technology.

He noted the significant progress in cultural relations, citing the recent visit of French Minister of Culture Rachida Dati and the signing of six framework agreements between leading cultural institutions.

In the field of higher education, Faivre said: “Many efforts have been made to enhance academic co-operation. This has led to numerous agreements signed between French and Qatari institutions. We have successful partnerships between University Paris 1-Pantheon Sorbonne and Lusail University as well as between Sciences Po and Doha Institute.

“Overall, I leave Qatar with a deep feeling of gratitude and also confidence when I look at what’s next for Qatar and France. Long live our friendship. I want to extend my special and deep thanks to the Qatari authorities – and in particular His Highness the Amir and HE the Prime Minister – for their trust and support of my mission,” Faivre added.

Dreama children attend PSG match

A number of children from the Dreama Orphanage visited the French capital, Paris, to attend a Paris Saint-Germain match in the French League at the Parc des Princes stadium, a statement said.

The trip was part of a sports, cultural, and educational programme aimed at strengthening social bonds between the children, enabling them to learn about different cultures, and enjoy a unique experience.

In a statement, Sheikhha Najla al-Thani, executive director of Dreama Centre, expressed her pride in organising the trip, praising the children’s discipline and positive interaction. “We are overjoyed to see the joy in our children’s eyes. These experiences remain etched in their memories and contribute to building their personalities and enhancing their self-confidence.”

Sheikha Najla al-Thani thanked Aspetar Hospital for its generous support and sponsorship of this initiative, which reflects Aspetar’s commitment to social responsibility and its active role in caring for young people and developing their capabilities.

Aspetar’s acting director Khalid Ali al-Mawlawi, said: “At Aspetar, we believe that healthcare is not limited to physical treatment, but extends to psychological and social health, especially for orphans who deserve our full attention and support. We are delighted to be part of this initiative, which provided Dreama’s children with an unforgettable experience, and we look forward to more similar initiatives in the future.”

The trip also included sight-seeing tours of Paris landmarks, giving it a comprehensive cultural and educational aspect.



Jumbo launches Imago AV solutions, smart tech products



Jumbo Electronics, one of the leading distributors of consumer electronics and technology solutions in the region, has announced a strategic partnership with Imago, a premier brand specialising in innovative audiovisual and smart technology products.

Through this partnership, Jumbo Electronics will serve as

the official sole distributor for Imago in Qatar, bringing Imago’s high-quality range of AV solutions, smart display systems, and interactive technologies to a broader customer base, including corporate clients, educational institutions, and government sectors, a statement said.

“We are excited to partner



with Imago, a brand known for its forward-thinking technology and design,” said C V Rappai, director & CEO – Jumbo Electronics. “This collaboration is aligned with our mission to offer cutting-edge solutions and strengthen our portfolio with brands that deliver value, innovation, and performance.”

The partnership comes at a time of rising demand for integrated tech solutions in Qatar’s rapidly developing commercial and educational sectors. Imago’s expertise in smart communication and presentation tools complements Jumbo’s robust distribution network and local market insights, the statement added.

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

Plastic chemicals linked to heart disease deaths

It is alarming that a new analysis of population surveys shows daily exposure to certain chemicals used to make plastic household items could be linked to the more than 356,000 global deaths from heart disease that occurred in 2018 alone. Led by researchers at NYU Langone Health, the current study focused on a kind of phthalate called di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), which is used to make food containers, medical equipment, and other plastic items softer and more flexible. A report on the findings was published online April 29 in the journal *Lancet eBioMedicine*.

Although phthalates, are in widespread use globally, the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific bore a much larger share of the death toll than others — about three-fourths of the total. For decades, experts have connected health problems to exposure to certain phthalates found in cosmetics, detergents, solvents, plastic pipes, bug repellants, and other products. These chemicals break down into microscopic particles and are ingested, and studies have linked such exposure to an increased risk of conditions ranging from obesity and diabetes to fertility issues and cancer.

Exposure has been shown in other studies to prompt an overactive immune response (inflammation) in the heart's arteries, which over time is associated with increased risk of heart attack or stroke. In their new analysis, the authors estimated that DEHP exposure contributed to 356,238 deaths, or more than 13% of all global mortality from heart disease in 2018 among men and women ages 55 through 64. "By highlighting the connection between phthalates and a leading cause of death across the world, our findings add to the vast body of evidence that these chemicals present a tremendous danger to human health," said study lead author Sara Hyman, BS, an

associate research scientist at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

Phthalate exposure from plastics may have caused over 356,000 heart disease deaths worldwide in 2018, with Asia and the Middle East hardest hit

across 200 countries and territories. The information included urine samples containing chemical breakdown products left by the plastic additive. Mortality data was obtained from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, a research group in the US that collects medical information worldwide to identify trends in public health.

Among the key findings, the study showed that losses in the combined region of East Asia and the Middle East and the combined region of East Asia and the Pacific accounted, respectively, for about 42% and 32% of the mortality from heart disease linked to DEHP. Specifically, India had the highest death count, at 103,587 deaths, followed by China and Indonesia. The larger heart death risks in these populations held true even after the researchers adjusted their statistical analysis to take into account population size within the studied age group. A possible explanation, the authors say, is that these countries face higher rates of exposure to the chemicals, possibly because they are undergoing a boom in plastic production but with fewer manufacturing restrictions than other regions.

"There is a clear disparity in which parts of the world bear the brunt of heightened heart risks from phthalates," said study senior author Leonardo Trasande, MD, MPP. "Our results underscore the urgent need for global regulations to reduce exposure to these toxins, especially in areas most affected by rapid industrialisation and plastic consumption," added Dr Trasande, the Jim G Hendrick, MD, Professor of Paediatrics at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

The researchers next plan to track how reductions in phthalate exposure may, over time, affect global mortality rates, as well as to expand the study to other health concerns produced by the chemicals, such as preterm birth.



Pakistan's solar drive widens energy divide

By Ariba Shahid, Sudarshan Varadhan and Charlotte Greenfield
Karachi

Amid the forty-degree heat that paralysed the coastal city of Karachi in April, Saad Saleem blasted his air-conditioning with near-abandon.

Electricity tariffs have surged, but the affluent entrepreneur has been unbothered since he spent \$7,500 installing solar panels on his bungalow's roof as part of a solar boom in Pakistan.

Saleem bought his modules two years ago, as the International Monetary Fund and economically beleaguered Pakistan were hammering out a preliminary bailout programme. Under the deal, Pakistan sharply raised power and gas tariffs to support struggling suppliers in the heavily-indebted sector.

Pakistanis now pay more than a quarter more on average for electricity, setting off a scramble to install solar modules.

Solar made up over 14% of Pakistan's power supply last year, up from 4% in 2021 and displacing coal as the third-largest energy source, according to UK energy think-tank Ember. That is nearly double the share in China, the world's top supplier of solar panels and a global leader in green technologies, and one of the highest rates in Asia, according to Reuters' analysis of Ember data.

But the explosion in solar uptake has left out many in Pakistan's struggling urban middle class, who have been forced to cut back on electricity in face of soaring bills, according to interviews with more than two dozen people, including energy officials, consumers and power-sector analysts. Most of the nation's solar panels aren't connected to sell excess capacity to the grid, so the benefits of cheap and reliable power aren't widely shared.

The flight of affluent Pakistanis with solar access from the

national grid has dealt a further blow to those relying on pricey conventional sources of power. Electricity companies that lost their most lucrative clients have been forced to additionally hike prices on their shrinking pool of customers to cover operating costs, according to Arzachel, a Karachi-based energy consultancy. Some observers also blame financial stress in the energy sector on deals Pakistan made with China for Beijing to finance billions of dollars worth of power-generation contracts, many of which involve coal-fired plants. Pakistan is behind on many of the payments and has been in talks with China about extending the time it has to repay the debt. Countries like South Africa also face widening energy gaps after affluent residents adopted solar power. But analysts are watching Pakistan particularly closely due to the pace at which the nation of 250mm has taken to sun-based energy.

"This could serve as a cautionary tale as to how regulation and policy needs to keep up with technological change and rapidly evolving economics," said Haneesa Isaad, an Islamabad-based energy finance specialist at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

In an interview with Reuters, Pakistan power minister Awais Leghari acknowledged the energy gap but noted that tariffs have come down significantly since June 2024, when the IMF approved reductions.

He also pointed to heavy uptake of solar by rural Pakistanis, many of whom previously had limited access to the grid. Many non-urban Pakistanis have installed small solar setups to meet their power needs, which are typically far lower than those of their city-dwelling counterparts.

"Pakistan has actually gone through a solar revolution," he said. "The grid is going to get cleaner by the day, and this is something that we've achieved as a nation that we are proud of."

The IMF did not return requests for comment.

Just a few miles away from Saleem's upscale neighbourhood, Nadia Khan has restructured her life to cut electricity costs.

The air-conditioning in the home maker's apartment is rarely used and she's stopped ironing most of the clothes worn by her family of five, citing the price of power.

Khan's family is not alone in cutting back: Only 1% of paying consumers used over 400 units of power in 2024, per Karachi-based consultancy Renewables First, down from 10% before the pandemic.

Like others among Pakistan's masses of apartment dwellers without space to install solar modules, Khan has been shut out of the revolution.

The roofs of many apartment buildings are designated for water storage and other sanitation purposes, while owners of rental buildings have little incentive to invest in solar connections for their tenants.

"We get some sunlight indoors but I can't seem to think of a way to go solar," she said. "Why must people living in apartments suffer?"

Meanwhile, land-owning Pakistanis have benefited from the glut of Chinese-made low-cost solar modules shut out of the West by high tariffs.

China exported 16.6 gigawatts of solar capacity to Pakistan last year, according to Ember, about five times as much as in 2022. The average cost per watt of solar-module capacity exported also fell 54% in the same period.

However, most solar setups aren't configured to send spare power back to the grid, limiting their benefit to the wider public. Renewables expert Syed Faizan Ali Shah, who advises the government on solar adoption, has said that less than 10% of solar consumers sell excess power to the grid.

Experts and government officials blame high costs and sanctioning delays. Connecting a solar module to the grid usually takes between three and nine months, said Renewables First energy expert Ahtasam Ahmad,

prompting many to not bother. Converting power generated from a solar panel for transmission to the grid also requires equipment like inverters, which typically cost between \$1,400 and \$1,800, or roughly half the median household income in Pakistan.

Pakistan conglomerate Interloop has installed hundreds of solar modules next to its cowsheds in Punjab province that help provide the electricity keeping its 9,300 livestock cool and their milk chilled.

The investment in solar has been a lucrative one for Interloop, which typically breaks even on solar installation costs after three to four years. Basic operating costs are about three quarters less than payments to the grid, said Interloop energy manager Faizan Ul Haq.

The money Interloop saves also reflects a gaping hole in the accounts of Pakistan's power companies.

Even though industrial groups and wealthier Pakistanis now consume less grid power, suppliers' costs haven't changed proportionately. Fixed expenses like fuel contracts and upgrades to transmission architecture accounted for about 70% of supplier expenditure in the year to June 2024, according to an Arzachel estimate.

To cover costs, suppliers have raised prices on their remaining customers, who have already faced repeated increases as a result of the IMF deal.

Fixed costs of 200 billion rupees were shifted to non-solar consumers in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, meaning they paid 6.3% more per kilowatt-hour than they otherwise would have, according to Arzachel data.

Solar panel imports have increased since, meaning grid demand is likely to continue dropping, forcing remaining customers to pay more.

"Pakistan's experience demonstrates a crucial lesson: when governments fail to adapt quickly enough, people take charge," said Ahmad of Renewables First. — Reuters



Technicians walk between solar panels at the Interloop industrial park in Faisalabad last month. (Reuters)

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

Trump: ‘Don’t know if I must uphold Constitution’

■ President says ‘the good parts are Trump economy and the bad parts Biden economy’

AFP
Washington

US President Donald Trump said in remarks airing yesterday that he does not know whether he must uphold the US Constitution, the nation’s founding legal document.

In a wide-ranging NBC News interview, the 78-year-old Republican also said he was not seriously considering running for a constitutionally-barred third White House term, and blamed his presidential predecessor Joe Biden for the “bad parts” of the current economy.

Trump has drawn widespread criticism for repeatedly brushing up against constitutional guardrails since returning to the White House in January, notably over his policy of mass deportations of undocumented migrants, some without the benefit of a court hearing.

He insists such rapid expulsions are necessary in the face of what he has declared to be a “national emergency,” and that giving every migrant a court trial would take “300 years.”

When NBC’s *Meet the Press* moderator Kristen Welker asked if people in the

United States — citizens and non-citizens alike — deserve the due process of law, as the US Constitution states, Trump said: “I’m not a lawyer. I don’t know.”

Pressed more generally on whether he believes he needs to uphold the supreme law of the land, Trump repeated: “I don’t know.”

The remarks in the interview — recorded Friday and broadcast yesterday — quickly made waves in Washington, including among some Republicans.

“We’re either a free society governed by the Constitution or we’re not,” Republican Senator Rand Paul, a self-described constitutional conservative, posted on X without additional comment.

Trump’s suggestion of possibly seeking a third term has been sharply questioned by legal and constitutional scholars.

The 22nd Amendment states that “no person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice.”

But Trump said in March he was “not joking” about seeking a third term, adding there are “methods” that would allow it to happen.

Changing the Constitution to allow a third term would be difficult, requiring a two-thirds majority in both houses of



US President Donald Trump walks after disembarking from Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport, West Palm Beach, Florida, on Thursday. (Reuters)

Congress and ratification by at least 38 of the 50 states.

But “this is not something I’m looking to do,” Trump told NBC — even while acknowledging that the Trump Organisation’s official store is selling red “Trump 2028” hats.

“I’m looking to have four great years

and turn it over to somebody, ideally a great Republican, a great Republican to carry it forward.”

Asked who that might be, he mentioned Vice-President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, adding: “We have a lot of good people in this party.”

But Trump appeared to bristle when asked for his reaction to critics who warn he is leading the country toward authoritarianism.

“Why don’t you ask it a different way? Many people want to come into our country. Many people love Trump,” he said. “I won the election.”

Trump’s first 100 days in office were marked by economic turmoil, primarily over his plans to impose sweeping tariffs on most countries.

But despite the world’s largest economy shrinking in the first quarter of 2025, he struck an optimistic if defiant tone in the interview, insisting US economics were sound and that “tariffs are going to make us rich.”

“I think the good parts are the Trump economy and the bad parts are the Biden economy,” said Trump.

The president also exaggerated some of the success he has had in bringing down

prices, claiming gas has dropped to \$1.98 per gallon in some states.

According to the American Automobile Association, the lowest US price per gallon this week was \$2.65, with the average at \$3.16.

With two days before Canada’s new Prime Minister Mark Carney visits the White House, Trump was asked whether he planned to reiterate his call for Canadians to give up their sovereignty and become the 51st US state.

“I’ll always talk about that,” Trump said, as he griped about how “we subsidise Canada” through a massive trade deficit.

Trump, when pressed, said it was “highly unlikely” that he would use military force against Canada.

“I think we’re not going to ever get to that point,” he said.

But he did speak glowingly about US power, ruminating on an upcoming military parade in Washington to coincide with his 79th birthday, on June 14.

“We’re going to have a big, beautiful parade,” he said, dismissing concern about the event’s high cost as his administration lays off thousands of government workers.

“We have the greatest weapons in the world, and we’re going to celebrate it.”



Australia’s re-elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese receives his coffee alongside his partner Jodie Haydon (second left) at a cafe in Sydney yesterday following his party’s decisive victory in the federal election. (AFP)

Albanese vows ‘orderly’ govt

AFP
Sydney

Australia’s left-leaning Prime Minister Anthony Albanese basked yesterday in his landslide election win, promising a “disciplined, orderly” government to confront cost-of-living pain and tariff turmoil.

Residents clapped as the 62-year-old and his fiancée Jodie Haydon visited his old inner Sydney haunt, Cafe Italia, surrounded by a crowd of jostling photographers and TV journalists.

Albanese’s Labor Party is on course to win at least 83 seats in the 150-member parliament, partial results showed.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton’s conservative Liberal-National coalition had just 38 seats, and other parties 12. Another 17 seats were still in doubt.

“We will be a disciplined, orderly government in our second term,” Albanese said, after scooping ice cream for journalists in a cafe he used to visit with his late mother.

“We’ll work hard each and every day,” he promised, but took a quick break first for a Sunday afternoon visit to a craft brewery, Willie the Boatman, that serves “Albo Pale Ale”.

Dutton, a hard-nosed former policeman — who critics tagged “Trump-lite” for policies that included slashing the civil service — endured the rare humiliation of losing his own seat.

US President Donald Trump’s trade tariffs, and the chaos they unleashed, may not have been the biggest factor in the Labor Party victory — but analysts said they helped.

“If we want to understand why a good chunk of the electorate has changed across the election campaign over the last couple of months, I think that’s the biggest thing,” said Henry Maher, a politics lecturer at the University of Sydney.

“In times of instability, we expect people to go back to a kind of steady incumbent.”

The scale of Albanese’s win took his own party by surprise.

“It’s still sinking in,” Treasurer Jim Chalmers said.

“This was beyond even our most optimistic expectations. It was a history-making night. It was one for the ages,” Chalmers told national broadcaster ABC.

But the win came with “healthy helpings of humility,” he said, because under-pressure Australians want “stability in uncertain times.” Albanese has promised to embrace renewable energy, cut

taxes, tackle a worsening housing crisis, and pour money into a creaking healthcare system.

Dutton wanted to slash immigration, crack down on crime and ditch a longstanding ban on nuclear power. Before the first vote was even counted, speculation was mounting over whether the 54-year-old opposition leader could survive an election loss.

“We didn’t do well enough during this campaign. That much is obvious tonight and I accept full responsibility,” Dutton told supporters in a concession speech.

Economic concerns have dominated the contest for the many Australian households struggling to pay inflated prices for milk, bread, power and petrol.

“The cost of living — it’s extremely high at the moment... Petrol prices, all the basic stuff,” human resources manager Robyn Knox told AFP in Brisbane.

The 36-day campaign was a largely staid affair but there were moments of unscripted levity.

Albanese tumbled backwards off the stage at a heaving campaign rally, while Dutton drew blood when he hit an unsuspecting cameraman in the head with a stray football.

Leaders around the world congratulated Albanese on his triumph.

Romanian nationalist on course for victory

■ First round of election re-run held after annulment of Nov 2024 vote over alleged Russian meddling

Reuters
Bucharest

Eurosceptic George Simion appeared on course for victory in the first round of Romania’s presidential election re-run yesterday, exit polls showed, after a ballot seen as a test of the rise of Donald Trump-style nationalism in the European Union.

The polls showed former senator Crin Antonescu, 65, and Bucharest Mayor Nicusor Dan, 55, roughly tied in second place at about 21-23%, behind Simion’s 30-33%.

Exit poll data does not include the sizeable vote of Romanians abroad, where Simion and Dan are popular.

Simion, 38, opposes military aid to neighbouring Ukraine, is critical of the EU leadership and says he is aligned with the US president’s Make America Great Again movement.

“This is not just an electoral victory, it is a victory of Romanian dignity. It is the victory of those who have not lost hope, of those who still believe in Romania, a free, respected, sovereign country,” Simion said after the exit polls were published.

His victory, in a runoff due on May 18, could isolate the country, erode private investment and destabilise Nato’s eastern flank, where Ukraine is fighting a three-year-old Russian invasion, political observers say.

“Let’s be cautious about the exit poll results ... because they are without the diaspora’s (votes). So, let’s wait for the exact vote count that will come later tonight,” Dan told supporters.

Sunday’s vote came five months after a first attempt to hold the election was cancelled because of alleged Russian interference in favour of far-right frontrunner Calin Georgescu, since banned



Romanian presidential candidate Nicusor Dan reacts after exit poll results were announced in Bucharest yesterday. (AFP)

from standing again.

Simion voted alongside Georgescu, who called the election a “fraud” and urged people to take their country back. As dozens of people thronged outside the voting station chanting “Calin for president”, Simion said his vote was “to restore democracy”.

“It’s possible the diaspora vote will be enough to push Dan into the run-off,” said Sergiu Miscoiu, a political science professor at Babes-Bolyai University. “But Dan may have a harder time against Simion.”

Simion is not the only MAGA-style politician seeking election in central Europe. Karol Nawrocki, the presidential candidate backed by Poland’s main nationalist opposition party in a presidential election on May 18, met Trump this week.

If elected, they would expand a cohort of eurosceptic leaders that already includes the Hungarian and Slovak prime ministers.

“Romania and Poland are two important countries for the United States,” Simion told Reuters on Friday.

“We represent partners and we represent allies, both military and politically, to the current (US) administration. This is why it is important for MAGA presidents to be in charge in Bucharest and Warsaw.”

Romania’s president has a semi-executive role that includes commanding the armed forces and chairing the security council that decides on military aid.

To date, Romania has donated a Patriot air defence battery to Kyiv, is training Ukrainian fighter pilots and has enabled the export of 30mm metric tonnes of Ukrainian grain through its Black Sea port of Constanta since Russia’s invasion.

The country’s president can also veto important EU votes and appoints the prime minister, chief judges, prosecutors and secret service heads.

The Trump administration has accused Romania of suppressing political opposition and lacking democratic values after November’s election was cancelled on what Vice-President JD Vance called “flimsy evidence”.

UK counter-terrorism police arrests 8

British counter-terrorism police have arrested eight men including seven Iranians in two separate operations, officers said, in what the interior minister called some of the biggest investigations of their kind in recent years.

Five men, four of them Iranian nationals, were arrested on Saturday over a suspected plot to target specific premises, London’s Metropolitan Police said yesterday without naming the site. The men, aged between 29 and 40, were arrested in West London and the English towns and cities of Swindon, Stockport, Rochdale and Manchester, police said. There was no information on the nationality of the fifth man.

“We are exploring various lines of enquiry to ... identify whether there may be any further risk to the public linked to this matter,” Commander Dominic Murphy, who heads London police’s Counter Terrorism Command, said.

Iran’s embassy in London did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Three Iranian nationals aged between 39 and 55 were also arrested in London on Saturday in a second operation that was not related to the first, the Metropolitan Police said.

They were detained for suspected involvement in foreign power threat activity under the National Security Act — legislation which came into force in 2023 to counter hostile states’ actions in the UK, the force added.

Searches were ongoing at their addresses, the police statement read. “These were two major operations that reflect some of the biggest counter state threat and counter terrorism operations that we have seen in recent years,” interior minister Yvette Cooper told reporters.

Musk dream for Starbase city turns into reality

Tech billionaire Elon Musk’s dream of gaining city status for his SpaceX spaceport in the southern US state of Texas became a reality when voters overwhelmingly backed turning his Starbase into a new municipality. The ballot, which also named a senior SpaceX representative as its mayor with 100% of the early vote, was never really in doubt. Most of the 283 eligible voters were SpaceX employees at the site on Boca Chica Bay bordering Mexico, or had connections to the company, whose billionaire chief has long eyed a human mission to Mars. “Starbase, Texas,” Musk wrote on his social media platform X, “is now a real city!” His post came after polls closed and unofficial results published by Cameron County showed an unambiguous 97.7% backing the project.



The SpaceX facilities in Brownsville, Texas. (AFP)

Musk himself is registered to vote, Cameron County Election Co-ordinator Remi Garza told AFP, but the South African-born embattled 53-year-old had yet to cast his ballot when the early voting period closed on April 29. Official documents show that

nearly 500 people live around the base in Cameron County, on land mostly owned by SpaceX or its employees. The change allows Starbase to control building and permitting and avoid other regulatory hurdles, while collecting taxes and writing

local law. The vote came at a difficult time for Musk, who is expected to reduce his role as the unofficial head of US President Donald Trump’s cost-cutting “Department of Government Efficiency” to instead focus more on his troubled car company, Tesla. The early voting also confirmed as mayor Bobby Peden, who is vice-president of testing and launches at SpaceX, according to LinkedIn. He was the only name on the ballot. The Texas base launched in 2019 and is a key testing site for the company’s rocket launches. Not everyone had been upbeat about the prospect of a SpaceX town. Bekah Hinojosa, co-founder of the South Texas Environmental Justice Network, earlier voiced concern over the environmental impact, warning of more “destruction.”

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2025

مبروك دفعة ٢٠٢٥

