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June 5-9 Eid al-Adha holidays for govt staff

On the occasion of Eid al-Adha, the Amiri Diwan announced that the Eid holidays will be as follows: For ministries, other government entities and public institutions: the Eid holidays start on Thursday, Dhul-Hijjah 9, 1446, corresponding to June 5, 2025, and ends on Monday, Dhul-Hijjah 13, 1446, corresponding to June 9, 2025. Employees will resume work on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. HE the Governor of Qatar Central Bank (QCB) will determine the start and end date of the holidays for QCB, banks, and financial institutions working under the supervision of QCB and Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA). - (**QNA**)

Sudan's PM dissolves government: SUNA

Sudan's new Prime Minister Kamil Idris has dissolved the country's caretaker government, state news agency SUNA reported late yesterday. Idris took the oath of office on Saturday as the country's first prime minister since a military-led coup in 2021.

Nonprofit ship sets sail for Gaza



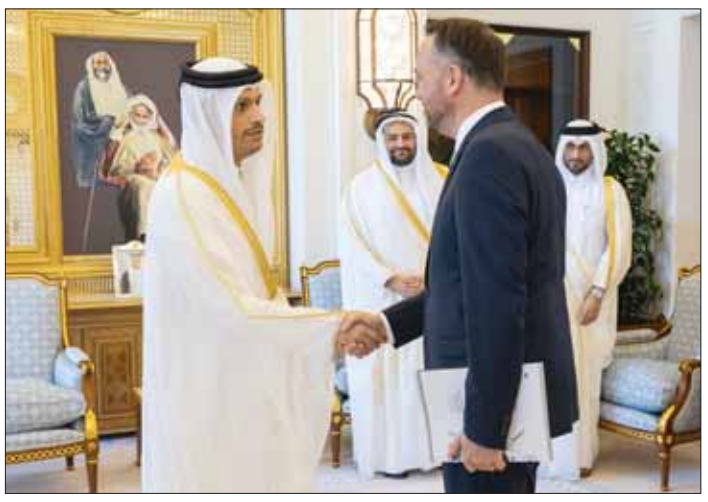
International nonprofit organisation Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) said one of its vessels left the Italian port of Catania on Sunday, heading for Gaza to deliver humanitarian aid, after a previous attempt failed due to a drone attack on a separate ship in the Mediterranean. The crew of volunteers, including climate activist Greta Thunberg and Irish actor Liam Cunningham, set sail on the Madleen, carrying barrels of what the group called "limited amounts, though symbolic", of relief supplies.

France celebrates PSG victory



French President Emmanuel Macron holds a PSG jersey "Champions of Europe 2025" with PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi, while captain Marquinhos carries the cup during a celebration at Elysee Palace in Paris, yesterday. PSG defeated Inter Milan 5-0 in the final of the Champions League on Saturday. Earlier, an estimated 100,000 fans packed the Champs-Elysees to cheer the PSG players and staff as they paraded the Champions League trophy in the French capital. **Sport Page 1**

PM, Belgium deputy PM review ties, Gaza, Syria



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Development Co-operation in the Kingdom of Belgium Maxime Prevot, who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral co-operation relations and ways to support and enhance them. They also discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Syria, in addition to a number of issues of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

Qatar lines up vibrant events to celebrate Eid

Qatar Calendar is presenting a vibrant lineup of events set to entertain and engage residents and visitors of all ages this June, from Eid al-Adha celebrations and cultural exhibitions to musical concerts, theatre performances, and sporting competitions.

In a statement, Qatar Tourism said many exciting activations are planned across Doha to mark Eid al-Adha. City Center Doha transforms into a floral wonderland with the Eid al-Adha Flower Event from June 4–15. Fireworks will light up the night sky above Katara Cultural Village on June 6-8 and Al Wakrah Old Souq on June 6-9.

At Mall of Qatar, the Samba Show brings the energy of Brasilian carnival to Doha with live drums, capoeira performances, and roaming parades. Feel the rhythm of the carnival at the Oasis Stage, with shows daily from June 6–14 at 6pm, 7pm, and 8:30pm.

Eid al-Adha celebrations at Msheireb Downtown Doha will take place during June 6-10, offering a variety of fun-filled activities for families, while the revelries at Tawar Mall offers three-days of various engaging activities. Families seeking a short break can escape to the Eid Getaway at Regency Sealine Camp, running from June 5–13.

Until June 5, shoppers can explore the Tajheezat Eid al-Adha Trade Fair at South Parking, Katara. Throughout June, art and culture remain at the forefront of Qatar's offerings. At Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Wafa al-Hamad: Sites of Imagination continues its run until August 9, offering visitors a glimpse into the artist's imaginative landscapes. **To Page 2**

Qatar, Egypt intensify efforts for Gaza truce

QNA
Doha

Qatar and Egypt announced yesterday that they are continuing their intensive efforts to bridge gaps and overcome points of contention to reach a ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip, based on the proposal presented by the US Special Envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff. The proposal aims to resume indirect negotiations on that basis.

In a joint statement, Qatar and Egypt affirmed their intent — in co-ordination with the US — to intensify efforts to resolve the obstacles facing the negotiation process. Both countries called on all parties to act responsibly and support the mediators' efforts to end the crisis in Gaza Strip and restore stability and calm to the region.

The two nations expressed their hope for a swift agreement on a temporary 60-day truce, paving the way for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Such an agreement would help alleviate the unprecedented humanitarian crisis, facilitate the opening of border crossings, and allow the entry of humanitarian and relief aid to ease the suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza and end the war completely. It would also mark the beginning of post-war reconstruction efforts, in line with the plan endorsed at the Arab Emergency Summit in Cairo on March 4, 2025.

Russia, Ukraine step up the war on eve of peace talks

● Ukraine claims destroying Russian military planes worth $7bn

Reuters
Moscow/Kyiv

On the eve of peace talks, Ukraine and Russia sharply ramped up the war with one of the biggest drone battles of their conflict, a Russian highway bridge blown up over a passenger train and an ambitious attack on nuclear-capable bombers deep in Siberia.

Ukraine said it destroyed Russian bombers worth billions of dollars in a "large-scale" drone assault on enemy soil.

In a spectacular claim, Ukraine said it damaged $7bn worth of Russian aircraft parked at four airbases thousands of kilometres away, with unverified video footage showing aircraft engulfed in flames and black smoke.

A source in the Ukrainian security services said the drones were concealed in the ceilings of shipping containers which were opened up to release them for the assault.



Smoke rises above the area following a drone attack on a military unit in the Irkutsk region, Russia, yesterday.

A total of 41 Russian warplanes were hit, the official said.

President Volodymyr Zelensky praised the "absolutely brilliant" Ukrainian drone attack launched on Russian air bases, saying it inflicted tangible losses on Moscow.

"An absolutely brilliant outcome. And an outcome produced by Ukraine independently," Zelensky wrote on the Telegram messaging app, noting that the operation had taken more than a year and half to prepare. "This is our longest-range operation."

The president noted that 117 drones had been used to attack the Russian bases.

Ukraine did not tell the Trump administration about the attack in advance.

After days of uncertainty over whether or not Ukraine would even attend, Zelensky said Defence Minister Rustem Umerov would sit down with Russian officials at the second round of direct peace talks in Istanbul today.

The first round of the talks more than a week ago yielded the biggest prisoner exchange of the war - but no sense of any consensus on how to halt the fighting.

Amid talk of peace, though, there was much war. **Page 11**

Hamas says ready to start truce talks 'immediately'

31 killed near Gaza aid site

AFP
Doha

The Palestinian resistance group Hamas said yesterday it was ready to "immediately" hold a fresh round of negotiations for a truce in Gaza after recent talks appeared to hit a dead end.

"The movement affirms its readiness to immediately begin a round of indirect negotiations to reach an agreement on the points of contention," Hamas said in a statement after mediators Qatar and Egypt said they would intensify their efforts for a truce in the war-battered Gaza Strip.

According to Gaza's civil defence agency, Israeli gunfire killed at least 31 Palestinians near a US-backed aid distribution site yesterday, with both the group in charge of the site and the military denying any such incident took place.

Israel has faced growing condemnation over the humanitarian crisis in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, where the United Nations has warned the entire population faces the risk of famine after no aid was allowed to enter for more than two months.

Israel recently eased its blockade and introduced a revamped aid mechanism in cooperation with a newly formed US-backed organisation, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), bypassing the longstanding UN-led system.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said that "31 people were killed and more than 176 injured... after Israeli gunfire targeted thousands of civilians near the American aid centre in Rafah", in southern Gaza.

Near another GHF aid centre in central Gaza, images showed rescuers evacuating injured people. Bassal reported one dead and dozens wounded there, again blaming Israeli fire.

A GHF spokesperson denied any deaths or injuries took place.



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators take part in a rally to mark the 15th anniversary of the Mavi Marmara Gaza flotilla incident in Istanbul, yesterday.

QATAR



Minister honours 2nd cohort of Khebrat programme teachers

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed AlKhater, honoured yesterday the second cohort of teachers from the "Khebrat" programme.

HE AlKhater honoured 14 male and female teachers who graduated from the programme after their return from a six-week educational trip to Finland, during which they learned about the details of the educational process, attended numerous classes, and met with numerous education experts.

The honouring ceremony was attended by HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, Finland's ambassador Pekka Voutilainen, along with a number of ministry officials, school principals, and academics.

For his part, HE al-Nuaimi honoured the partners, including CEO of Omnia Murphy Johnson. He also honoured six innovation leaders, members of the first cohort of the programme, who received numerous training courses at the MoEHE's Training and Development Centre. A number of them were qualified to become trainers for innovation projects and project teachers, providing innovative solutions for educational and pedagogical projects and programmes.



The ceremony began with a speech by teacher Salman Yousef, a member of the second cohort of the Khebrat programme, who, on behalf of his colleagues, expressed the depth of the experience and its impact on them as teachers.

A discussion panel was also held with the participation of the CEO of Omnia, the implementing company for the Khebrat programme; teacher Tariq al-Kashadi, technical co-ordinator at Qatar Technical School; Moza al-Mannai, English language guidance expert at the Educational Guidance Department; and teacher Dana al-Bakri from Abu Hanifa Model School for Boys.

HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education also inaugurated the accompanying exhibition, which featured numerous educational programmes aimed at instilling educational concepts and values, simplifying teaching methods for students, and presenting new innovative projects that reflect the benefits of the training programs teachers received during the Khebrat programme.

The projects implemented in schools by teachers and under the supervision of educational supervisors were presented to school principals and academic deputies last Tuesday. The educational supervisors presented their projects to ministry leaders last Thursday, in the presence of HE the Undersecretary of the MoEHE and the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs. They were honoured yesterday.

The expansion of the impact transfer programme is ongoing and will include additional schools through the training of the second cohort of innovation leaders. This program comes within the framework of co-operation between Qatar and Finland. (**QNA**)

PM meets Rwandan FM



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with the visiting Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Olivier Nduhungirehe. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance and support them. They also discussed efforts to resolve the crisis between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, in addition to several topics of mutual interest. (**QNA**)

Al-Muraikhi, QMC chief meet Kuwait ambassador



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met in Doha yesterday with Kuwaiti ambassador Khaled Bader al-Mutairi to bid him farewell on the completion of his tenure in Qatar. HE al-Muraikhi thanked the ambassador for his efforts in reinforcing bilateral relations and wished him success in his future duties. (**QNA**)



HE Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) Chairperson Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani met yesterday with the outgoing Kuwaiti ambassador Khaled Bader al-Mutairi. The QMC chairperson thanked the ambassador for his efforts in supporting and enhancing bilateral relations, particularly in the media field, and wished him success in his future duties. (**QNA**)

National Cyber Security Agency president receives award from AICTO

HE the President of the National Cyber Security Agency (NSCA), Engineer Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki, received an award from the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organisation (AICTO) of the Arab League, for Qatar's classification among leading countries in cybersecurity in the model country category of the International Telecommunication Unions of the GCI. This came during the CAISEC 2025 conference and the award ceremony for countries that excelled in the field of cybersecurity, held in Egypt, in the presence of a number of officials from the Arab League and heads of cybersecurity agencies.

The NCSA participated in the fourth edition of the International Conference on Information Security and Cybersecurity (CAISEC '25), organised by the AICTO in partnership with Mercury Communications.

The conference aimed to enhance Arab co-operation in cybersecurity and technological transformation security.

The CAISEC '25 served as a strategic platform to address the region's most critical cybersecurity challenges and explore the implications of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, on digital security and economic integration. (**QNA**)

Al-Muraikhi meets Turkish envoy



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with Turkish ambassador Dr Mehmet Mustafa Goksu. The meeting discussed bilateral relations. (**QNA**)

Qatar lines up vibrant events to celebrate Eid

From Page 1



Also at Mathaf, 'Daoud Aoulad Syad, Territories of the Instant' is on display until June 20, showcasing three decades of evocative Moroccan photography.

Katara at Gallery 45 and 46 is hosting Refractions: Tasweer Project Awards, highlighting the visual storytelling of Arab photographers until June 20, while Threads of Light: Stories from the Tasweer Single Image Awards is on view at Company House at Msheireb Museums until June 20.

At Fire Station Gallery 3, 'Al-Mihrab' Exhibition by Khalid al-Musallamany, in collaboration with Tasweer Photo Festival, presents a striking photographic exploration of Qatar's mosques, capturing their spiritual depth and architectural beauty in both black and white and colour, until June 20.

Design enthusiasts can visit Ultraleggera: A Design Journey with Marcello Gandini Between Italy and Qatar, open at National Museum of Qatar – Gallery 13, offering a deep dive into the creative mind behind some of the world's most iconic automotive designs running until June 2.

Theatre enthusiasts can catch Al-Bayt Al-Maskoon Theatrical Play at Drama Theatre at Katara from June 6-12; and at U Venue Theatre, Maskon Laila Theatrical Play on June 7-8. Children can enjoy live performances of Sonic the Hedgehog at Palace Vendome Mall from June 5–14 or explore the creative universe of Blippi's Garage at Doha Festival City from June 8 -14; and Lego shows 2025 at the Qatar National Convention Centre from June 7-22.

On June 2, the Fire Station museum is hosting Gond Art: A Folk Art from the Heart of India with Surabhi Gaikwad. Families can also take part in Family Day: Islamic Culinary Traditions. The experience highlights historical influences, the role of trade, and how dining customs helped to shape social and courtly life at Museum of Islamic Art on June 14.

Summer Fun Awaits at Msheireb Downtown Doha, bringing a variety of child-friendly activities, workshops, and games starting from June 16 until August 31, while Scoop by the Sea along the coastlines starting from June 18 until August 13 at West Bay Beach.

For sports enthusiasts, the FIBA 3x3 U23 Youth League - Basketball returns with fast-paced action and elite youth athletes competing at local courts. Taking place from June 12–18 at Qatar Basketball Federation Hall, this championship offers an electrifying atmosphere for fans of all ages.

Women can also enjoy exclusive access to Ladies' Day at Sea Caves Water Park every Wednesday until August 8, with the venue offering a private and family-friendly aquatic experience at Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas.

On June 4, the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Elgar's Enigma Variations at Katara Opera House, presenting an evening of classical music. Candlelight concerts return with a refined twist at the Museum of Islamic Art: Candlelight: Queen Vs ABBA on June 13 and Candlelight: Tribute to Adele will take place at Four Seasons Doha on June 21.

Qatar students win 11 gold medals at ITEX 2025 in Malaysia



Students from Qatar have achieved remarkable success at the 36th International Invention, Innovation, and Technology Exhibition (ITEX 2025), held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, over three days.

These achievements reflect the significant progress in Qatar's education sector and the joint efforts of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and its strategic partner, the Qatar Research, Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council, to raise educational standards and prepare a generation of innovators capable of contributing to a knowledge-based economy.

Gold medals in the schools category were awarded to students from Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys, Qatar Technical Secondary School for Girls, Omar Bin Al Khattab Secondary School for Boys, Ibn Taymiyyah Secondary School for Boys, Al Bayan Preparatory School for Girls, Al Khor Primary School, Al Arqam Academy, Al Khansa Primary School for Girls, and Maymouna Primary School for Girls. Additionally, Al Daayen Primary and Preparatory School for Girls earned a silver medal, while Zaynab Preparatory School for Girls received a bronze medal in the same category.

Qatar was represented by a delegation of 25 students, including five from the university level, 15 from the secondary and preparatory levels, and five from the primary level. The students competed as part of 11 school teams and two university teams. Their participation followed four months of intensive preparation jointly overseen by MoEHE and the QRDI Council, which established a dedicated project selection committee and co-ordinated with exhibition organisers to ensure a strong showing on the international stage.

At the university level, students from the University of Doha for Science and Technology secured gold medals, supported by the QRDI Council through supervision and funding. In the Individual Category, Amna Issa al-Kuwari and Fatima Issa al-Kuwari also achieved first place and were awarded a gold medal for their innovative project.

Several Qatari research projects received special awards in recognition of their creativity and ability to offer practical solutions to real-world challenges. Among them, students Ram Marwan Kalach and Rashid Mubarak Alkhayarin from Omar Bin Al Khattab Secondary School for Boys, along with their supervisor Ahmad Samaan, received the Thailand Award for the Best International Invention & Innovation from the National Research Council of Thailand for their project, "Design of the Wristband Using Dry Laboratory Techniques to Reduce the Risk of High Blood Viscosity".



Students Abdulaziz Ali Rashid al-Muhairi al-Muhannadi and Hamza Musleh Saleem al-Shihab, supervised by Doaa Ibrahim Mohammed al-Ali from Al Khor Model School for Boys, earned third place at the primary school level for their engineering project titled "Design of a Solar Dryer for Wastewater Treatment", which also won the Outstanding Achievement Award from Tuwaiq Academy (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and the Abdulmonem Alrashed Humanitarian Foundation.

In a symbolic gesture of appreciation, Qatar's ambassador to Malaysia, Salah bin Mohammed al-Sorour, presented an honorary shield to the Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School team in celebration of their gold medal success. (**QNA**)

Culture minister honours winners of Doha Theater Festival

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

HE the Minister of Culture, Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, has honoured the winners of the 37th Doha Theater Festival, organised by the Ministry of Culture from May 21-31 at the U View Theater.

The play *The Ninth Hour*, produced by the Qatar Theater Company, won the Best Integrated Theater Award. The play also won several other awards at the Theater Festival.

Artist Faisal Rashid won the Best Director Award for the play *Nakhl*, produced by Fadaiya Art Production Company. Taleb al-Dous and Saud al-Tamimi won the Best Script Award for the play *Al-Bahlol*, produced by Msheireb Art Production Company.

In the acting category, artist Asrar Mohammed won the Best Actress in a Leading Role Award for the play *Nakhl*, while artist Khaled Abdulkarim al-Hammadi won the Best Actor in a Leading Role Award for the play *Al-Bahlol*. Maryam Fahad won the Best Supporting Actress Award for the play *The Ninth Hour* by the Qatar Theatre Company, while Sameh al-Hajri won the Best Supporting Actor Award for the same play.

Actor Mohammed al-Mulla also won the Best Set Design and Best Sound Effects Awards for the play *The Ninth Hour*, while actor Faisal Rashid won the Best Lighting Award for the play *Nakhl*. Haya and Shaima al-Mutawa each won the Best Makeup Award for the play *Nakhl*, while actor Faleh Fayez won the Best Costume Award for the play *Clowns Wanted*, produced by Al-Saeed Art Production Company.

The festival's closing show, titled *Theatre is the Audience*, featured several diverse performances that reflected the history of theatre and its importance in its various elements, including lyrics, directing, acting, and scenography, emphasising the role of the audience as an integral part of the theatrical experience.

The show concluded with the song "Theatre: Art and Feeling", which embodied the voice of the people and expressed the spirit of theatrical art.


HE Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, with actors who received the Award.

QLC signs MoU with Aspen Institute

Qatar Leadership Centre (QLC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Aspen Institute in the US, a statement said.

QLC vice-chairman and managing director HE Sheikh Dr Abdulla bin Ali bin Saud al-Thani, board members, Aspen Institute president and CEO Dr Daniel R Porterfield, and QLC general manager Abdulla Mohammed Khalifa Albinali were present on the occasion.

The MoU aims to foster and strengthen mutual collaboration in the fields of leadership development, knowledge exchange, and design specialised workshops and seminars centred on values-based and innovative leadership.

It also seeks to support joint learning initiatives, share strategic insights, and facilitate the exchange of expertise between professionals from both sides.

QLC general manager said: "The MoU reinforces the centre's ongoing efforts to cultivate leadership capabilities marked by competence and adaptability in addressing future challenges, guided by innovation, driven methodologies and grounded in enduring leadership values."


HE Sheikh Dr Abdulla bin Ali bin Saud al-Thani, Dr Daniel R Porterfield, and Abdulla Mohammed Khalifa Albinali at the MoU signing.

Dr Porterfield said: "My colleagues and I have been extremely impressed by the Qatar Leadership Centre and its work shaping the future of leadership in Qatar and the broader region. The impact of the Centre's work is both profound and far-reaching, and we look forward to building new initiatives together that foster dialogue, activate leaders, and drive change."

This strategic partnership reflects QLC's commitment to expanding its international collaboration network and leveraging global best practices in cultivating and empowering national leadership talent, in alignment with the goals of comprehensive development and Qatar National Vision 2030, the statement added.

400 student masterpieces showcased at '3-2-1 Cultural Olympiad' exhibition

The 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum (QOSM) yesterday inaugurated the '3-2-1 Cultural Olympiad' exhibition, featuring close to 400 original artworks crafted by students from 28 public and private schools nationwide.

The initiative reaffirms the museum's steadfast commitment to education, creative expression, and the deeply rooted values of the Olympic movement.

The event celebrated the synergy between sport and art, as students drew upon the museum's collections to delve into the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, articulating them through incredible and impactful artistic works that embody the true spirit of Olympism.

The exhibition comes as part of the '3-2-1 Cultural Olympiad' programme, which is set to conclude on June 24 with a special award ceremony to pay tribute to exceptional student works, with the participation of school principals, teachers, students, members of the judging panel, as well as representatives from key partner entities such as the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Qatar International Art Festival.

The programme is an innovative initiative inspired by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games. It blends sport and art, highlights the nexus between artistic expression and athletic excellence, and seeks to revive the original Olympic vision.

Director of QOSM Abdulla Yousuf al-Mulla highlighted to Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the exhibition epitomises the QOSM's programme on the culture of Olympiad through employing artworks inspired by students and accordingly expressed their artistic talents before the visiting folks.

The idea of this expo started in January 2025, which received numerous students' artworks and were put under technical evaluation and ultimately shortlisted to 400 works, the best ones, al-Mulla said, noting the students' creative talents that produced these incredible artworks to be showcased at the expo.

The showcased artworks reflected a high artistic standard, created by students from both public and private schools, and portrayed stories from the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, highlighting their engagement with Olympic values and creative skill, al-Mulla highlighted.

He invited folks to visit the exhibition and discover the students' promising works, indicating that the initiative celebrates the nation's growing preeminence on the global sports stage, inspires the next generation to appreciate the cultural and human dimensions of sport, and reaffirms the commitment to reviving Olympic values through art, education, and creative expression.

Speaking to QNA, Qatari artist Yousef Ahmad, recipient of the State Appreciation Award in its sixth cycle for visual arts, touted the QOSM's role in promoting the arts and showcasing student creativity in a way that enriches public artistic sensibility and bridges the gap between its institutional role and society at large.

The expo evidently reinforces Olympic culture among students by nurturing their artistic talents from an early age, aligning with the Qatar National Vision 2030. Raising the current generation on art, refining their talent, and encouraging family support lays the groundwork for a burgeoning artistic generation, Ahmad highlighted. **(QNA)**

عيدكم مبارك

EID MUBARAK

We extend our heartiest greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

And to all the honorable people of Qatar on the occasion of
Eid Al- Adha

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



TotalEnergies

QATAR

QRCS-Qatar Charity initiative helps 100 heart patients in Yemen

QNA
Aden

The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), in partnership with Qatar Charity, has concluded a project providing 100 free therapeutic heart catheterisation procedures for patients in Yemen.

In a statement on Saturday, QRCS said the project included supplying solutions, medications, medical equipment, and consumables at the Cardiology, Vascular, and Kidney Transplant Center in Taiz city. The total cost of the project reached $100,000, funded by charitable donors in Qatar.

Dr Abu Dharr al-Jundi, director of the Cardiology, Vascular and Kidney Transplant Center in Yemen, expressed gratitude to the donors represented by Qatar Charity and QRCS for responding to the patients' urgent needs. He noted that 403 diagnostic catheterisation procedures and 100 therapeutic catheterisations were performed as part of the initiative.

Dr al-Jundi described this support as a continuation of efforts by both organisations to enhance the centre's capabilities and improve its medical efficiency in the catheterisation department.

He explained that since its establishment three years ago, the centre has faced many challenges, including the outdated catheterisation equipment previously available and the complete lack of cardiac catheterisation services in the region it covers — factors that contributed to the deaths of many heart patients.



The director highlighted that the centre now performs both diagnostic and complex therapeutic catheterisations, including emergency and scheduled procedures, which represent the latest advancements in interventional cardiology.

The centre also carries out modern techniques, such as valve implantation via catheterisation, in collaboration with experts from other countries. He stressed the team's ambition to elevate the centre to the level of leading global institutions.

Therapeutic catheterisation and stent placement are among the most common and effective medical procedures for aiding recovery in patients with arterial blockages. They restore smooth blood flow by reopening arteries, help prevent life-threatening complications, and allow patients to return home the same day after a successful procedure.

QNA holds blood donation drive in collaboration with HMC

Qatar News Agency (QNA) organised a blood donation campaign at its main facility in collaboration with the Qatar National Blood Donation Center of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), in observance of World Blood Donor Day, marked annually on June 14.

Held under the theme 'Give blood, give hope: together we save lives', the campaign witnessed a record turnout and strong engagement from QNA functionaries, who expressed their pride in contributing to this humanitarian endeavour.



They underscored the critical importance of blood donation in saving patients' lives, particularly in emergency cases, surgical procedures, accidents, and for individuals with medical conditions that require regular transfusions.

The move is part of QNA's steadfast commitment to societal responsibility. The agency, which celebrated its Golden Jubilee on May 25, 2025, has been regularly organising such campaigns in support of efforts aimed at improving patients' quality of life and bolstering the availability of safe blood supplies.

The campaign highlights the humanitarian and interdependent orientation QNA pursues, in sync with the prevailing societal culture in Qatar and its commitment to contributing to public health and safety, as well as to the national healthcare system, in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Blood donation is regarded as a noble act that directly contributes to saving the lives of individuals suffering from chronic or malignant illnesses, as well as victims of major accidents who sustain severe blood loss, in addition to other urgent and life-threatening cases.

HMC had previously launched the National Interactive Blood Donation Campaign with the aim of encouraging citizens and residents alike to engage in regular blood donation, bolster the national blood bank reserves, and raise public awareness about the vital importance of this humanitarian endeavour. (**QNA**)

NHRC signs MoUs with ILO, Azerbaijan Social Research Center

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) has signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs), on the sidelines of the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, held in Doha.

The MoUs were signed with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Azerbaijan's Social Research Center, by HE Chairperson of NHRC Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the NHRC said the MoUs are part of its ongoing efforts to expand its international co-operation network in the field of promoting and protecting human rights.

HE al-Attiyah emphasised that signing the MoU with the ILO is a pivotal step in consolidating the principles of social justice and enhancing workers' rights, particularly those of vulnerable groups such as migrant workers, women, older persons, and persons with disabilities.



She noted that institutional co-operation with the ILO will support developing tools for raising awareness and training, in addition to activating community engagement channels, and align with both the NHRC's strategic goals and Qatar's national development plans.

She further said the MoU with the Social Research Center in Azerbaijan serves to broaden international academic and research partnerships, offering valuable opportunities to exchange experiences on harmonising national legislation with international treaties, strengthening monitoring and documentation mechanisms, and building national human rights capacities.

She affirmed that this co-operation reflects the NHRC's commitment to collaborative action and complementarity with peer institutions on the international stage.

Signed by the head of the ILO Office in Doha Max Tunon, the MoU signed with the ILO aims to establish a formal framework for cooperation in promoting human rights and labour rights, especially for migrant workers, in keeping with the Qatar national human rights strategy 2024-2030 and the ILO-Ministry of Labour Joint Work Programme (2024-2028).

Co-operation between the two sides will work on developing awareness campaigns and training materials targeting community members and leaders, holding specialised workshops for NHRC staff on human rights and international labour standards, creating guidance tools for the private sector on responsible business conduct, promoting equal opportunities and combating discrimination in the labour market, in addition to encouraging knowledge exchange with human rights institutions in the Global South and launching a joint annual work plan starting this year.

As for the MoU signed with Chairperson of the Social Research Center Zahid Oruj, it aims to facilitate exchange of expertise and information regarding the alignment of national laws with international treaties; collaborate on promoting a culture of human rights through joint training and research programme; strengthen mechanisms for monitoring, documentation, and redress; co-ordinate the protection of citizens' rights when residing in the other country; organise reciprocal visits; exchange publications; and implement joint research projects on contemporary human rights issues.

Through signing this MoU, both parties agreed to refer to international human rights law and the 1993 Paris Principles as the guiding framework for their co-operation; both countries' national legislations are recognised as an integral part of the agreement, as to ensure respect for legal sovereignty while balancing national and international dimensions.

The MoU also sets that each party will appoint co-ordinators responsible for direct communication, co-ordinating co-operation areas, and monitoring activities and periodic reports.

The agreement also allows proposing additional operational arrangements not explicitly mentioned in the MoU, ensuring flexibility in implementation.

Both parties are committed to preparing a detailed annual report for their respective senior authorities, outlining achievements and challenges, a step reflecting a commitment to regular evaluation and sound governance in the partnership. (**QNA**)

Arab Educational Training Center for Gulf States receives EQA accreditation



The Doha-based Arab Educational Training Center for the Gulf States has obtained the European Quality Award (EQA) accreditation from EMCC Global and has officially joined the European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC).

In a statement yesterday, the centre stated it is currently the only training body in Qatar to have obtained this accreditation and the third organisation in the country to officially join the EMCC, which has more than 10,000 accredited members in 26 affiliated countries/regions and 85 countries.

Director of the Arab Educational Training Center for Gulf States Dr Fatima al-Maadheed said that this achievement reflects the centre's commitment to excellence and the application of the highest international quality standards in the field of training.

It will contribute to enhancing the academic and professional value of the certificates the centre awards to trainees, and will support the development of educational competencies in the Gulf countries that are members of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States. (**QNA**)

قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy

The General, Limited Tenders Committees and Supply Chain Department announces the following Tenders:

Important Notice:

Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via Mushtaryat Portal can "Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document" from QatarEnergy website (Mushtaryat Portal).

Effective from 1st July 2023, bids submitted by a Local company (companies incorporated in Qatar) acting as Tenderer in accordance with this Invitation to Tender, will not be accepted by QatarEnergy without any further notification, if such companies are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (https://icv.qa/en-US) by the specified Original Tender Closing Date or Original due date for submission of COMMERCIAL Package in case of two stage Tendering as per ITT. However, any Local company that has been established within last two (2) years is exempt from this mandatory ICV certification requirement.

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period		Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
		Start Date	End Date					
1	GT25105800	02.06.2025	11.06.2025	20.07.2025	300,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender:			TURNAROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR NFIS (NORTH FIELD INJECTION STATION) - 2026					
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :			To be advised if required					
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :			To be advised if required					
2	GT25105400	02.06.2025	08.06.2025	20.07.2025	300,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender:			UPGRADE OF LEVEL SWITCH TO LEVEL TRANSMITTER AND OTHER MOCS AT NGL PLANTS, MESAIEED OPERATIONS					
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :			To be advised if required					
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :			To be advised if required					

- Tender documents can be purchased and downloaded from QatarEnergy Website-> Supply Management -> Tenders page during the Tender Sale Period mentioned above against each Tender. Request for issuance of Tender after the specified Tender Sale Period will not be entertained.
- Always refer to QatarEnergy Website (www.qatarenergy.qa) -> Supply Management -> Tenders page for up to date information on QatarEnergy Tenders. Subscribe to Tender Alert to receive notification in your email on new Tenders
- Changes to Tender Sale Period and Bid Closing Date will be updated in QatarEnergy website/Mushtaryat Portal only.
- Brief Scopes of Work for the above tenders are posted on the QatarEnergy website/Mushtaryat Portal.
- Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy Mushtaryat Portal on urgent basis.
- No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.
- QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.
- Prospective Qatar based Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in future QatarEnergy Tenders shall obtain an ICV score. Relevant information pertaining to ICV, ICV Scorecard, ICV Certification, and ICV Guidelines are available on the ICV Digital Portal - https://icv.qa/en-US

TDMS 'key component of Qatar transportation master plan'

The Transportation Data Management System (TDMS) is to act as the crucial component of the Transportation Master Plan for Qatar-2050 (TMPQ), the Ministry of Transport (MoT) said.

TDMS consists of a geospatial database supported by a web-based platform and a user-friendly interface to facilitate retrieving, visualising, analysing and extracting data from the geospatial databases.

The TDMS, according to MoT website, will be accessible to government entities and consulting firms working in transportation studies.

The Inventories and Surveys Project is a fundamental component of the efforts to update the plan. It contributes to updating the Qatar Strategic Transport Model, determining the standards and developing the parameters needed for transport planning and traffic analysis.

TMPQ works as a roadmap for investing in land transportation infrastructure and identifies the frameworks and future orientations for developing the transportation networks nationwide in a way that ensures their integration with land uses, urban development, population growth and meeting the future demand for transportation.

With the great impact this concept has on economic and environmental development, sustainability is touted to be the cornerstone of the plan. Sustainability will strike a balance between the requirements of economic growth and environmental protection and reduce climate change by putting into effect long-term initiatives that contribute to transitioning to sustainable transportation.

TMPQ also helps achieve financial sustainability of the land transportation sector by covering the largest possible ratio of operating costs through executing transportation demand management policies and public-private partnerships for investing in and contributing to building and operating the country's transportation systems.

The Plan will have significant economic returns due to the increased revenues and the benefits of saving vehicle-operating costs, saving energy and fuel consumption, reducing trip time and lowering carbon emissions and road accidents.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE OF LIQUIDATOR

GALLERIA DIGITAL W.L.L.

UNDER VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
DATED 9 JAN 2025
COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION NO.: 59446

Pursuant to the Shareholders' Resolution Galleria Digital W.L.L. (under liquidation) has resolved to replace the previous liquidator and appoint a new liquidator to complete the ongoing liquidation processes. According to amendment of Commercial Registry dated 27 May 2025.

Newly Appointed Liquidator:
Mr. Sarath Kumara
Email: ceylonkumara@yahoo.com
P.O. Box: 31316, Doha – Qatar



UDST wins Google Cloud Research Excellence Award in Cloud and Infrastructure AI

QNA
Doha

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has won the Google Cloud Research Excellence Award in Cloud and Infrastructure AI during Google Cloud Summit 2025 in Doha.

HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai presented the award to UDST Vice-President for Academic Affairs Dr Rachid Benlamri.

The award was granted in recognition of the university's outstanding research efforts, particularly its G-Lab, which is supported by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. G-Lab is an advanced platform for applied research in areas such as data analytics, bioinformatics, engineering, and high-performance computing.



UDST President Dr Salem bin Nasser Al-Naemi took pride in the global recognition that manifests the institution's commitment to developing an advanced research environment based on the latest AI and cloud computing technologies.

This accomplishment aligns with UDST's vision to make the itself a leading centre for scientific research and innovation in Qatar and the region, and an active contributor to the goals of the Third National Development Strategy, he said.

QNA chief meets Indian envoy



HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met yesterday with Indian ambassador Vipul. The meeting discussed aspects of media co-operation. (**QNA**)

'Innovation in Use of AI in News' Award for QNA

In a new achievement reflecting its leadership in the field of digital media, Qatar News Agency (QNA) has won the ''Innovation in the Use of Artificial Intelligence in News" award on the sidelines of the Google Cloud Summit Doha 2025, which was recently held with the participation of leading figures in technology, media, and regional decision-makers.

This recognition comes in appreciation of QNA's pioneering efforts in integrating AI technologies into its news ecosystem, particularly through the development of a system for analysing audio and video clips and converting them into written text. This innovation has significantly enhanced editorial efficiency, publishing speed, and content accuracy.

On this occasion, HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi expressed his pride in the achievement, noting that the award serves as motivation to continue the path of digital transformation and adopt the latest technologies in support of national media.

This award aligns with QNA's vision of delivering advanced news content that meets the demands of the digital age and strengthens Qatar's position as a regional hub for media and technological innovation.

QF's inclusive education model benefits students



Through carefully designed curricula, specialised programmes, and integrated support from its support services department, The Learning Centre, Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education division aims to empower every student to discover their potential and thrive.

"QF has played a huge role in my growth, both in and out of the classroom," says Amina Yasser Ahmed, a student at QF's Qatar Academy for Science and Technology (QAST), – where she was president of its Model United Nations Club – and a high academic achiever. "Academically, the rigorous curriculum, access to advanced courses, and encouragement to take on challenges helped me push my limits and strive for excellence."

Ahmed, who had the opportunity to experience research at QF's Sidra Medicine and Qatar Biomedical Research Institute explains that her school offered strong support throughout her research journey.

Reem Jamal S al-Kaabi, a public speaker, young entrepreneur, and student at QF's Qatar Academy for Science and Technology (QSAT), said, "As a student leader, I was given opportunities to lead people who shared my passion and ambition to make a difference. The QF environment encourages ambition and gives young people the space to express themselves and take action."

Saifuddin Aftab, a teacher and STEM co-ordinator at QAST, relies on a holistic approach to teaching, which guides his teaching and interactions with students in the classroom. For him, it all begins with building strong relationships, understanding students' needs, and ensuring they feel safe and comfortable.

"I leverage my academic expertise to provide appropriate learning challenges, using individualised strategies that enable each student to understand the content and make progress," he said. "I also ensure that students are assigned according to their needs, allowing them to develop at their own pace."

Modern Home to launch Sony WH-1000XM6 wireless headphones in Qatar

Sony Middle East and Africa, alongside Modern Home, announced the release of the WH-1000XM6 wireless noise cancelling headphones – the latest edition of its award-winning 1000X series that set a new standard for premium audio and personal listening experiences.
Building on the legacy of the 1000X series, this latest model combines premium sound with the best noise cancelling in a seamless design to create an unparalleled audio solution for music lovers, fashionistas, travellers and professionals alike, a statement said.
The new WH-1000XM6 wireless noise cancelling headphones will be available soon at Modern Home in Al Maha Centre on Salwa Road and Fnac stores in Lagoona Mall, Doha Festival City, and Place Vendôme, in addition to other major retailers in town.
Powered by an advanced processor and an adaptive microphone system, noise cancelling is optimised in real-time on the WH-1000XM6. With processor speeds seven times faster than its predecessor, the HD Noise Cancelling Processor QN3 fine-tunes 12 microphones, which is 1.5 times more than its precursor the WH-1000XM5, in real-time, delivering a dramatic leap in noise cancelling and sound quality.
Sony's new Adaptive NC Optimiser delivers unmatched noise cancelling precision – adjusting to any form of external noise and air pressure.
Developed in collaboration with world-renowned mastering engineers at three of the industry's top recording studios, Sterling Sound, Battery Studios and Coast Mastering the WH-1000XM6 refines every note for studio-level accuracy, delivering a superior music experience.
The collaborative team of Grammy-winning and Grammy-nominated engineers includes Randy Merrill (Sterling Sound), who has worked with the likes of Ed Sheeran; Chris Gehringer (Sterling Sound), known for his work with Rihanna and Lady Gaga; Mike Piacentini (Battery Studios), who has mastered tracks for Bob Dylan; and Michael Romanowski (Coast Mastering), whose portfolio includes Alicia Keys and the iconic *Star Wars* soundtracks for Episodes 4,5 and 6.
The familiar iconic design of the WH-1000X series has been taken to the next level with an elegant, soft-fit wider headband infused with vegan leather ensuring a pressure-free fit.
The asymmetrical headband design makes it easy to identify the left and right sides with just a glance. The earpads are designed for all-day wear thanks to stretchable material that provides a secure yet gentle fit to reduce pressure whilst blocking external noise.



HMC expands access to mental health services

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) continues to strengthen its position as the leading provider of specialist mental healthcare services in Qatar and one of the leading providers in the region.

With a recent focus on expanding access and improving quality, HMC delivers a wide range of services across the country, bringing expert mental healthcare closer to communities and making support easier to access for all.

"Our mental health services have expanded significantly in recent years, both in terms of the number of services available and the quality of care delivered," said Dr Majid al-Abdulla, Chair of Mental Health at HMC.

"We are proud to offer evidence-based, patient-centred care, led by expert teams and supported by modern facilities. HMC's Mental Health Service is accredited by the Joint Commission International, reflecting our commitment to the highest standards of care. HMC has become a regional leader in mental healthcare, committed to supporting the needs of our population," he said.

One of the most significant recent developments has been the expansion of HMC's inpatient mental health services at Mesaieed General Hospital. Since late 2023, the majority of adult inpatient mental health services have been delivered from this advanced facility.

The modern environment ensures patients receive care in a safe, therapeutic, and private setting. Additional specialist and long-term inpatient services also operate at Al Wakra Hospital, the Muaither Residential Care Compound (RCC2), and other HMC locations.

"Our mental health services have expanded significantly in recent years, both in terms of the number of services available and the quality of care delivered"

To bring services closer to where people live, HMC has also partnered with Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) to establish integrated mental health clinics in eight primary health centres.

These clinics allow patients to access psychiatry and psychology services in a familiar and non-stigmatising environment, alongside their regular physical healthcare.

The integrated clinics in PHCC cover multiple specialist areas, including adult psychiatry, ADHD, and older adult mental health. These services are delivered in close collaboration between HMC psychiatrists and PHCC teams, ensuring high-quality, co-ordinated care.

HMC also offers outpatient services at multiple locations including Hamad General Hospital, Mesaieed General Hospital, Al Wakra Hospital, Al Khor Hospital, Aisha Bint Hamad Al Attiyah Hospital, Hazm Mebaireek General Hospital, and Muaither Clinic.

In addition to physical outpatient clinics, HMC has expanded its virtual care services. The National Mental Health Helpline (telephone 16000) offers immediate access to trained mental health professionals. Patients can also attend follow-up psychiatric appointments remotely using secure telehealth platforms, making it easier for people to continue their care from home.

Specialist virtual services, such as the Women's Mental Health Service, provide confidential support tailored to the unique needs of different patient groups.

"The key to improving mental health outcomes is early intervention and making access to care easy and stigma-free," said Amal Alobaidli, Acting Executive Director of Nursing at the Mental Health Service. "Our recent strategy has prioritised providing mental health services in the heart of communities across Qatar. The integrated clinics and the National Mental Health Helpline mean anyone in Qatar can reach a mental health professional quickly and conveniently, when they need it most."

With its wide network of services, skilled teams, and dedication to accessible care, HMC is leading the way in delivering high-quality mental health services for the people of Qatar. (**QNA**)

QATAR

QF's Awsaj Academy celebrates graduation of Prime Programme Class of 2025



Awsaj Academy, part of Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Pre-University Education, hosted the 2025 graduation ceremony for its Prime Programme, celebrating the achievements of 316 students from the fifth cohort.

The Prime Programme is a pioneering educational initiative launched by Awsaj Academy to support students who were previously unable to complete their education in government or independent schools.

The programme aims to empower them to achieve academic outcomes that open pathways to employment, higher education, or specialised training programmes, tailored to their learning needs and future aspirations.

Mark Hughes, the executive director of Special Schools and Special Educational Needs Services at Pre-University Education, told the graduates: "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 2025 graduates of the Prime Programme at Awsaj Academy on this remarkable achievement, which reflects years of dedication, hard work, and ambition. We are all immensely proud of you and all that you have accomplished."

He also expressed his appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Prime Programme, highlighting the pivotal role played by the teaching and administrative staff, parents, and the QF's partners on the students' educational journey.

Falah al-Qahtani, one of this year's Prime Programme graduates, said: "Today, with great pride and gratitude, we celebrate our graduation. It is a day we all truly deserve to rejoice in, an achievement that reflects a journey filled with challenges and unwavering determination."

"These moments did not come easily; they are the result of patience, hard work, and perseverance by the graduates of this cohort, who faced a year full of challenges and overcame them with unwavering determination," he added.

Speaking about his personal experience, al-Qahtani said: "The journey was not an easy one. Like many of my peers, I had to balance the responsibilities of both work and study. But through determination, patience, and perseverance, I was able to overcome these obstacles."



Mark Hughes





Snapshots from the event.

Ministry participates in 'Cleaner Beach' initiative



The Ministry of Municipality took part in the "Cleaner Beach" initiative, organised by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Ambassadors, as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting grassroots environmental initiatives and fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental awareness among children.

The event, held at one of the nation's beaches, saw the participation of more than 200 children, with the assistant undersecretary for public services affairs at the Ministry of Municipality, engineer Abdullah Ahmed al-Karani, in attendance.

The official lauded the environmental awareness and sense of responsibility demonstrated by the children during the on-ground activities, which included beach clean-up operations and tree planting.

The event, al-Karani said, epitomised a bright image of an emerging generation that wields the responsibility toward the environment.

He added that the ministry is committed to supporting and hosting beneficial environmental initiatives as an investment in deepening the culture and building a more sustainable future.

The official reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to backing all voluntary and societal efforts that help protect natural resources and enhance the SDGs.

The event featured a broad range of activities, chiefly educational workshops, traditional games, and environmental contests, in addition to an art exhibition focused on recycling and environmental art.

Friends of the Environment Centre chairman Dr Saif Ali al-Hajari and Mohammed Hashem delivered awareness-raising lectures that addressed positive environmental behaviours as part of a programme designed by a group of school students participating within the SDGs Ambassadors.

The event wound up with a beach clean-up campaign and the planting of olive trees, conducted in collaboration with the Public Works Authority (Ashghal).

Participants also created a collective art installation that formed the word "Sustainability" using recycled materials.

The initiative was documented through aerial photography captured by a drone.

SDGs Ambassadors executive director Iman al-Obaidly highlighted that the event was a quintessential model for collective work and societal responsibility.

She indicated that it embodied the Ambassadors' commitment to spreading environmental awareness through leveraging innovative techniques that attract children. – ***QNA***



RACA, Kuwaiti delegation discuss charitable and humanitarian work

The Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA) discussed with the Kuwaiti ministry of social affairs the exchange of expertise and the enhancement of Gulf co-operation in the areas of oversight and regulation related to charitable and humanitarian work.

This came during a meeting between RACA director-general Ibrahim Abdullah al-Dehaimi and the undersecretary of Kuwait's ministry of social affairs, Khaled Amer al-Ajmi, along with his accompanying delegation.

The meeting reviewed Qatar's model for regulating the charitable and humanitarian sector, which is considered a leading experience based on governance, the promotion of transparency, and adherence to the highest regulatory standards.

This is done through a system for licensing fundraising activities, monitoring the transfer of funds, and evaluating the performance of organisations.

Talks during the meeting also highlighted the RACA's advanced digital infrastructure and the efforts made to develop the charitable work environment in co-ordination with national and international entities, as part of Qatar's commitment to building a sustainable and effective charitable sector both locally and globally. – ***QNA***



ANNOUNCEMENT

I, KAREN OTUGAY CARMEN

holder of

Philippines Passport No. P9097287C
QID No. 29660804467

hereby change my name

from

KAREN OTUGAY CARMEN

to

KAREN DORILAG CARMEN

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, FATHIMA SHEROON ZAINVL ABDEEN

holder of

SRILANKA Passport No. N10973515
QID No. 28114408519

hereby change my name

from

FATHIMA SHEROON ZAINVL ABDEEN

to

FATHIMA SHEROON ZAINUL ABDEEN

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

Qatar Charity interventions feed displaced persons in Khartoum

Qatar Charity (QC) in Sudan has implemented new humanitarian interventions to support several communal food distribution centres (tekayas) and needy families in Khartoum State, providing essential food supplies to help provide free meals to needy families affected by the ongoing war.

QC teams were able to deliver food aid to areas in Khartoum that have recently witnessed a large voluntary return of families displaced by the war to areas in East Nile, Burri, and Khartoum.

Khaled Abdel Rahim, the humanitarian aid commissioner in Khartoum State, said that many families affected by the war have benefited from the food aid provided by the QC.

Abu Mohammed, one of the thousands of Sudanese who lost their jobs and savings due to the war, said he now receives his children's food needs from the tekaya in his neighbourhood with generous support from the people of Qatar.

He said the provision of significant quantities of flour, lentils, rice, sugar, and oil by the QC, other humanitarian agencies, and people living abroad has contributed to the tekayas' continued operation amid extremely difficult and complex economic conditions.

United Nations reports indicate that Sudan has the largest number of displaced persons in the world, estimated at 11mn.

A third of the population is at risk of acute hunger.

Amid these complex humanitarian conditions and the loss of approximately 9mn people's homes, jobs, and savings, several community initiatives have emerged to revive the values of solidarity and compassion in society.

This has revived the concept of tekayas, which provide free food to hundreds of thousands of families lacking necessities.

The QC provided support to many popular tekayas in the Karari locality in Khartoum State with baskets containing food supplies and dates.

Manal Hassan Rahma al-Khidr, the supervisor of the Manal Tekaya in Thawra District 19 of Karari locality, said that QC teams distributed a large quantity of dates, meeting the needs of the estimated 1,700 beneficiaries.

The QC's field teams have implemented major interventions in the field of food security in Khartoum State.

The Tekaya Idima (Feeding the Displaced) and the host community had a significant share of this intervention, which last year aimed to distribute 50,000 food baskets to families affected by the war in various states of Sudan.

Smooth process for pilgrims from Qatar arriving in Saudi Arabia

The first batch of pilgrims from Qatar have arrived in Saudi Arabia to perform the Haj pilgrimage, amid intensive efforts to ensure the comfort and safety of Qatar's pilgrims.

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs' Department of Haj and Umrah is co-ordinating closely with all concerned government bodies to facilitate pilgrims' travel and stay procedures.

In collaboration with the Qatari Haj Mission's co-ordination and follow-up unit and airport officials, Qatar Airways is offering luggage check-in and boarding pass printing services 24-hours in advance, enabling pilgrims to proceed directly to their boarding gates at time of travel without hassle.

Several Qatar Airways and Saudia flights have departed from Hamad International Airport since Friday morning, carrying pilgrims registered with 17 accredited Qatari Haj campaigns.

Pilgrims from Qatar will continue to flock to King Abdulaziz International Airport and the Haj Terminal tomorrow, with the majority of the pilgrims expected to arrive by today.

Qatar Airways has designated special counters for pilgrims from Qatar at Hamad International Airport, while the Qatari Haj Mission, in co-operation with Qatar Airways, has deployed support units and joint staff at Saudi airports to facilitate entry procedures through Saudi border points.

With field, service, and administrative teams working around the clock, the Qatari Haj Mission is leveraging all logistical, legal, medical, and guidance resources to ensure pilgrims can perform their rituals in the best health, organisational, and spiritual conditions.

Numerous pilgrims from Qatar expressed their gratitude to the Qatari Haj Mission and its support units for their commendable efforts in facilitating their travel and stay.

They praised the smooth and swift procedures starting from their departure from Hamad International Airport, facilitated by Qatar Airways, all the way to their reception at King Abdulaziz International Airport and the Haj Terminal in Jeddah.

They also highlighted the easy co-ordination of their transfers, luggage delivery, and accommodations in Makkah.

Pilgrims also appreciated Saudi Arabia's relevant authorities' positive co-operation, noting the courteous treatment and swift procedures they have experienced.

These comprehensive efforts reflect Qatar's commitment to providing the highest levels of service and care to its pilgrims, both in travel arrangements and on the ground in Makkah and the holy sites.

The Qatari Haj Mission continues to offer direct and continuous support to Qatar's haj campaigns with ongoing field monitoring to ensure pilgrims' safety, comfort, and peace of mind throughout this journey. – ***QNA***



'Tathkar FM' Radio launched

Tathkar Art Production has launched its new radio station, "Tathkar FM", under the theme of *Hail This Voice*.

The event featured prominent art and media stars from Qatar, the Gulf, and the Arab world, most notably the great Arab artiste Walid Tawfik.

Other guests included artistes Huda al-Atrabi and Tariq al-Nahri, singers Mansour al-Mohannadi, Ayel and Saud Jassim, and a large number of social media celebrities.

During the ceremony, Tathkar Company reviewed the most prominent features of the programming plan of Tathkar FM Radio, which was officially launched with the aim of addressing all segments of society through entertainment, cultural and artistic programmes, in addition to live coverage of the most prominent events in the country, reflecting the cultural and social movement in Qatar.

Tathkar Art Production chairman Sheikh Faleh bin Ghanem al-Thani affirmed that the radio station seeks to contribute to the development of the Arab media scene, create an environment that supports cultural dialogue between generations, and benefit from modern technologies to promote authentic art.

Qatar participates in Arab co-ordination meeting on EU co-operation

Qatar participated yesterday in an Arab co-ordination meeting for permanent delegates to the Arab League, held at the League's General Secretariat headquarters in Cairo.

The meeting focused on preparations for the 10th meeting of permanent delegates to the Arab League and ambassadors of the European Union's Political and Security Committee, as well as meetings of the strategic co-operation working groups, scheduled for June 19 in Brussels.

Qatar's deputy permanent representative to the Arab League, Maryam Ahmed al-Shaibi, headed Qatar's delegation at the meeting.

During the meeting, Arab permanent delegates were briefed on the latest preparations for the upcoming sessions and discussed a joint statement to be adopted.

These meetings aim to deepen relations and enhance co-operation mechanisms between Arab states and European Union countries. – ***QNA***



QF plays 'key role in shaping the learning environment'

The president of Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Pre-University Education (PUE), Abeer al-Khalifa, has affirmed the QF's commitment to providing inclusive, high-quality education that recognises individual differences and fosters both academic and personal growth.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), she emphasised the important role that the QF plays in cultivating a learning environment grounded in diversity, technology, and national identity, highlighting the strength of its partnership with parents.

Speaking on the occasion of a new graduating class, she expressed pride in the tangible impact that the QF's pre-university education system has had in shaping generations capable of driving change and leading the future.


Abeer al-Khalifa

Al-Khalifa said that pre-university education is the cornerstone of building future-ready generations, guided by this vision.

She added that they have developed a holistic educational model that nurtures students' academic, personal, and ethical growth – empowering them to become independent thinkers, socially responsible individuals, and effective decision-makers in a rapidly changing world.

Al-Khalifa noted that the QF is constantly striving to create a stimulating and innovative educational environment that embraces cultural diversity while reinforcing ethical and human values, and enhancing life and leadership skills.

This, she added, is achieved through advanced curricula, enrichment programmes, and both local and international educational partnerships.

The official explained that the QF operates a comprehensive educational network of 13 schools, serving students from early childhood through grade 12, along with a post-secondary foundation programme.

She said that their student community includes more than 8,000 students representing 47 nationalities, with Qatari students forming the majority – more than 7,000 of them.

This cultural diversity, al-Khalifa said, is a defining feature of their educational community and a central component of their learning experience.

Al-Khalifa also highlighted the QF's diverse school ecosystem, which includes leading institutions such as Qatar Academy schools, specialised schools like Awsaj Academy for students with learning needs, Renad Academy for students with autism, Qatar Academy for Science and Technology (focused on engineering and advanced technologies), Qatar Music Academy, and Qatar Leadership Academy.

Additionally, progressive schools like Academyati, which offers student-centred learning, and Tariq Bin Ziad School, known for its deep national heritage and bilingual programmes, form part of this diverse educational landscape.

She also stressed the vital role of parents as core partners in the learning journey, stating that they believe that student success is not confined to the school environment alone-it is built upon a close partnership between school and home, grounded in trust, communication, and mutual respect. – ***QNA***

Workshop held on care for patients with coeliac disease

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), in collaboration with the Qatari Association for Coeliac Awareness, recently organised a workshop on "The Role of Government and Private Institutions in the Care of Patients with Coeliac Disease".

The workshop was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoECC), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Qatar Foundation (QF), Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), Sidra Medicine, as well as a number of owners of food establishments.

The workshop was part of the MoPH's efforts to enhance effective partnerships between concerned authorities and the community to support patients with coeliac disease in Qatar.

Coeliac disease is a chronic digestive disorder where the immune system attacks body tissues when gluten is consumed, damaging the intestines.



The workshop aimed to highlight the daily challenges that coeliac disease patients face and develop sustainable and comprehensive support mechanisms to ensure they have access to safe, gluten-free food in line with public health standards.

It also sought to open avenues for co-operation and practical integration between various sectors to improve the quality of life for coeliac patients in Qatar.

Discussions during the workshop emphasised the importance of empowering institutions to fulfil their role in caring for coeliac patients and providing a supportive environment.

This includes offering suitable food products, improving registration and monitoring mechanisms, and enhancing nutritional education.

The vital role of the Qatari Association for Coeliac Awareness in supporting patients and communicating their needs to relevant authorities was also acknowledged.

Representatives from the MoPH's Food Safety Department presented a session during the workshop on registering and approving gluten-free products in the electronic food safety system "Watheq".

They explained how to read product labels for gluten content, which helps patients and their families select appropriate products.

The workshop also included awareness presentations by the Qatari Association for Coeliac Awareness on the problems and obstacles patients face and the support needed from authorities.

Additionally, representatives from the HMC's Clinical Nutrition Department delivered a presentation on the importance of nutritional interventions and dietary services for patients with gastrointestinal disorders. – ***QNA***

NAQ concludes first phase of 'Ousus' programme

The National Archives of Qatar (NAQ) has wrapped up the first phase of the national programme "Ousus", which aimed to train more than 50 functionaries from ministries and public institutions through a five-day foundational course.

The programme was focused on fostering a unified understanding of national occupational notions and policies pursued by the NAQ, as one of the first executive initiatives under the NAQ's 2025-2030 strategy.

It offered training content that fused theoretical and practical aspects and tackled an array of matters such as the national records management policy, records classification, records retention schedule, secure records disposal, and the legal and regulatory framework.

The training programme was likewise catered to the functionaries of document management units in the public entities as the core pillar of any corporate transformation in this field.

NAQ assistant secretary-general Aisha Khalid al-Saad emphasised that this phase constituted a turning point in building the unified institutional practice.

She indicated that the programme was not merely intended to impart knowledge but also to reshape the relationship between the employer and the document, thereby deepening a new institutional culture that incorporates the document into the decision-making system rather than being a routine administrative procedure.

Furthermore, al-Saad said, the programme constituted a paradigm shift in institutional comprehension of the nexus between day-to-day operational practices and overarching national policies, thereby reinforcing the capacity of public entities to execute harmonised procedures in full alignment with the prevailing legislative and regulatory framework.

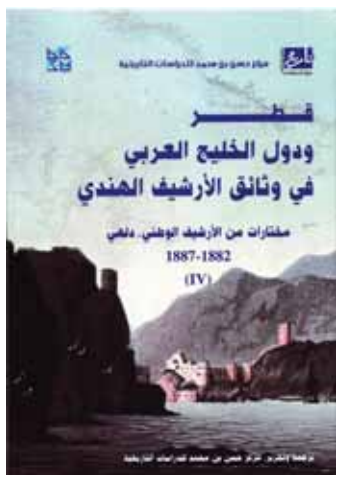
The director of the NAQ's Department of Training and Institutional Guidance, Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed al-Thani, affirmed that the programme came as part of a national strategic orientation aiming to bolster the capabilities of workforce in the area of handling documents and archives.

This, he said, comes through holding integrated occupational training that combines theoretical and practical aspects under the oversight of professional experts in this field.

He noted that the programme was designed based on rigorous academic and occupational criteria, including scientific efficiency and the capability of practically applying the outcomes of this training.

Sheikh Hamad emphasised that the programme is one of the core pillars in the department's strategy, which focuses on human capital development and building an enduring document infrastructure nationally that would contribute to shoring up institutional documentation and document management effectiveness.

In September the NAQ will continue the programme's first phase alongside the beneficiaries from public entities, followed by the next phases that will include professional training tracks, academic scholarships in the relevant fields, as well as societal workshops to purposefully disseminate documentation awareness. – ***QNA***



Fourth volume of *Delhi Archives* published

The Hassan Bin Mohammed Centre for Historical Studies has published the fourth volume in the "Qatar and the Arab Gulf States in Indian Archives" series, in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press.

The volume includes selected documents from the National Archives in Delhi, covering the period (1882-1887).

These documents include correspondence and reports by British agents, political residents, sailors, tribal sheikhs, and rulers of the Gulf sheikhdoms, relating to events that took place in Qatar and its surroundings.


Kummam al-Maadheed.

HBKU Press invites applications for annual Art Omi residency programme

Hamad Bin Khalifa University Press (HBKU Press) has launched its online application portal for this year's annual Art Omi collaboration.

This marks the 5th year of collaboration between both organisations, which sponsors one Arab writer located anywhere in the world to attend the prestigious Art Omi programme in Ghent, New York.

An HBKU Press statement said that applications are being accepted on the HBKU Press website through June 21.

Candidates interested in applying for the programme can find more information about the residency and how to apply on the HBKU Press website.

"Our collaboration with Art Omi is one we look forward to every year," said HBKU Press executive director Bachar Chebaro. "Fostering creative growth and cross-cultural exchange through literature is at the cornerstone of our mission, and we constantly seek to empower Arab authors and support them in sharing their unique ideas, perspectives, and stories with the world."

Qatari award-winning author Kummam al-Maadheed penned the *Calling Magic* series, a young adult fantasy series published by HBKU Press.

After a competitive application cycle, she was selected to attend the residency programme in 2024.

"Attending the Art Omi writing residency provided the space and solitude I needed to dive deeply into my writing, while also allowing me to reflect on my work and the path ahead," al-Maadheed shared.

"Being surrounded by fellow writers was inspiring – we exchanged ideas, shared our struggles, and celebrated each other's successes," she continued. "The support and feedback I received there built my confidence as a writer, helping me to trust my voice and the stories I have to tell. It was a time of growth, both creatively and in my belief in what I could accomplish." – ***QNA***



Diesel price down for June, gasoline 95, 91 unchanged

QatarEnergy has announced the fuel prices for June. The price of diesel prices has fallen while gasoline 95 (Super) and 91 (Premium) prices remained unchanged from last month. Diesel is set at QR1.90 a litre, while gasoline 95 and gasoline 91 remained unchanged at QR1.95 and QR1.90 per litre, respectively. – ***QNA***

‘All I think about is Gaza’: War weighs heavy on Haj pilgrims



Worshippers gather to pray around the Holy Ka’aba at the Grand Mosque complex in Makkah yesterday ahead of the annual Haj pilgrimage. (**AFP**)

AFP
Makkah

Away from home in Gaza, Palestinian pilgrim Mohammed Shehade said the rare chance he was given to perform Haj is overshadowed by fears for his family trapped in the war-battered territory.

The 38-year-old engineer had been granted a permit to leave as he sought life-saving cancer treatment in Egypt, but Israeli authorities barred his family from accompanying him.

He said his departure from the Gaza Strip in February presented him with “the opportunity of a lifetime” to apply for the annual Muslim pilgrimage, which begins on Wednesday.

But even as he visited the holy sites in this Saudi city, his heart was heavy with thoughts of his wife and four children stuck in Gaza under relentless bombardment.

“This is life’s greatest suffering, to be far away from your family,” Shehade told AFP on a roadside leading to Makkah’s Grand Mosque.

He is among hundreds of Gazans set to perform Islam’s holiest rites alongside more than a million worshippers from across the globe. As pilgrims robed in white filed by, Shehade said he had been praying day and night for the Gaza war to end and to be reunited with his family.

“You could be in the best place in the world but if you are away from your family, you will never be happy,” he said.

Israel has relentlessly attacked Gaza since October 7, 2023, stopping the blistering military offensive only during two short-lived truces.

Leaving Gaza has become practically impossible for most inhabitants, but some like Shehade have been evacuated on medical grounds.

“Here I am preparing to perform Haj but there are things I can’t speak about. If I do I will cry,” he said as tears began to form in his eyes.

Shehade left Gaza during a truce, but Israel has since renewed its intense bombing campaign and blocked aid deliveries, with the United Nations warning of widespread famine.

“When I left I was caught between two fires,” Shehade said of the choice to travel for an essential surgery and leave his family behind.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 4,149 people have been killed in the territory since Israel resumed its offensive on March 18, taking the war’s overall deaths toll to 54,418, mostly civilians.

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that a new ceasefire deal was “very close”, but the negotiations have appeared to hit another dead end.

Disillusioned after over a year and a half of failed talks, Shehade said he has “grown scared of being optimistic and becoming disappointed once more”.

About 1,350 Gazans mostly residing in Egypt, in addition to another 500 who have been invited as guests of the Saudi king, are set to perform Haj this year, Palestinian officials said.

One Gazan pilgrim, Rajaee Rajeh al-Kahlout, 48, fled the Palestinian territory for Egypt with his four children and his wife seven months after war erupted.

His home was destroyed and his import-export business shattered.

While Haj is normally a source of joy, Kahlout said it was impossible for him to think of celebrations.

“All my family, my sisters and brothers, are still in Gaza… Every waking moment, we fear for our family,” he told AFP, calling on pilgrims to pray for the war to end and loved ones to be reunited once more.

“I wish I could have come here during better times, without war, death and destruction.”

The Haj, one of the five pillars of Islam, must be completed by all Muslims with the means at least once.

Official permits are allocated to countries through a quota system and distributed to individuals via a lottery.

In the lobby of the Al-Nuzha Plus hotel in Makkah, where Gazan pilgrims are staying, a widow in her 60s told AFP she had not seen her 10 children since she was evacuated for medical reasons last year.

She said she was praying for “the children of Palestine” suffering from starvation and conflict.

“All I think about is Gaza, my whole life is there: my children, my home… I want to return.”

Blocking of West Bank delegation ‘shows Israeli rejection of peace process’



(**L to R**) Egypt’s Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Jordan’s Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Bahrain’s Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid al-Zayani, and Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit at a joint press conference after their meeting in Amman. (**AFP**)

AFP
Amman

Israel’s blocking of a visit by Arab diplomats to the occupied West Bank showed its “rejection of… a diplomatic path to peace”, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said yesterday.

Ministers from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Bahrain, along with the Arab League chief, had planned a trip to the Palestinian territory, but Israel said Friday that it would not co-operate, effectively blocking the trip as it controls the area’s borders and airspace.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Amman with his Jordanian, Egyptian and Bahraini counterparts, Prince Faisal said Israel’s move “illustrates and confirms its extremism and its rejection of any serious attempt to engage in a diplomatic path toward peace… it is clear that they only want violence”. The minister said the Arab states would, however, continue to advocate for a two-state solution.

“If the war in Gaza has shown one thing, it is that military solutions are futile and will not bring security to either side. A political and definitive solution is needed,” he said. The delegation was expected to meet with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, whose Palestinian Authority exercises limited control over parts of the West Bank. Had the visit gone ahead, the delegation’s head, Prince Faisal, would have become the first Saudi foreign minister to visit the West Bank. “In Gaza, it’s a war of extermination. And in the West Bank, successive measures are clearly aimed at weakening the Palestinian Authority and, consequently, compromising the creation of a Palestinian state,” he added.

Saudi Arabia was said to have been close to recognising Israel before the start of the Gaza war, and US President Donald Trump, during a recent visit to Riyadh, called normalisation between the countries “my fervent hope and wish”. But de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has repeatedly said Saudi Arabia will not recognise Israel without an independent Palestinian state.

In June, Saudi Arabia and France are to co-chair an international conference at UN headquarters meant to resurrect the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The diplomatic chief said the ministers spoke to Abbas in a video call and discussed the ongoing efforts “to obtain recognition of the Palestinian state by as many countries as possible and mobilise public opinion and international decision-makers to find a rapid end to the war in Gaza.”

“Once again, I emphasise: those who claim that the two-state solution is the only solution must also adopt positions that support this solution, notably by recognising the State of Palestine,” he added.

Iran warns of retaliation if Europe ‘exploits’ UN nuclear report

AFP
Tehran

Iran yesterday warned it would retaliate if European powers that have threatened to reimpose nuclear sanctions “exploit” a UN report showing Tehran has stepped up production of highly enriched uranium.

The report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Iran had sharply increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to up to 60%, close to the roughly 90% level needed for atomic weapons.

Iran’s total amount of enriched uranium now exceeds 45 times the limit authorised by a landmark 2015 agreement with world powers, and is estimated at 9,247.6kg, according to the confidential IAEA report seen by AFP.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a statement he had told IAEA chief Rafael Grossi in a phone call that “Iran will respond to any inappropriate action by the European parties” to the 2015 agreement, referring to Britain, France and Germany.

The European trio have warned they could reimpose sanctions if they deemed Iran’s nuclear programme a threat to the continent’s security.

Araghchi urged Grossi in their Saturday call to stop “parties from exploiting” the nuclear watchdog report “to advance their political objectives”, according to the statement.

The IAEA Board of Governors is set to review Iran’s nuclear activities in its upcoming quarterly meeting in Vienna starting June 9.

Iran rejected the IAEA report, the latest move in years-long efforts to restrict its nuclear activities over fears that it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

The Islamic republic has denied seeking nuclear arms and says it needs the uranium for civilian power production.

The report was leaked as Iran and the United States have been engaged in negotiations towards a new nuclear deal, after Washington had unilaterally abandoned the agreement between Tehran and world powers in 2018, during President Donald Trump’s first term.

Araghchi said on Saturday that he had received “elements” of a US proposal for a potential nuclear deal following five rounds of talks mediated by Oman.

Iran would respond “in line with the principles, national interests and rights” of its people, Araghchi added in a post on X.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said that the United States “has sent a detailed and acceptable proposal to the Iranian regime, and it’s in their best interest to accept it”, the *New York Times* reported.

Egypt unveils plan for new desert city

AFP
Cairo,

Egypt yesterday unveiled plans for a vast new urban development west of Cairo where a man-made channel of the River Nile will eventually wind through what was once arid desert.

The new city, named Jirian meaning “Flow” in Arabic, is part of Egypt’s Nile Delta scheme, a massive agricultural initiative aiming to reclaim about 2.5mn acres west of the original Nile Delta.

The ambitious agricultural project, which started in 2021, seeks to boost production of strategic crops such as wheat and corn while reducing the North African country’s food import bill. The project is the latest in a string of megaprojects launched by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in recent years, including a new administrative capital east of Cairo. While officials say these projects are key to Egypt’s long-term growth, they have also contributed to the country’s soaring foreign debt, which quadrupled since 2015 to reach $155.2bn by late 2024.

The country has also received billions of dollars from the International Monetary Fund and the European Union to ensure its financial stability, with the EU pledging billions more last month. At a launch event yesterday, Egyptian Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouli called the Jirian project “an urban and development revolution”.

He added that it would create 250,000 jobs and serve as the cornerstone of a wider development zone equivalent in size to four to five governorates.

Emirates airline boss sees positive progress at troubled Boeing

The head of the world’s largest international airline, Dubai’s Emirates, said yesterday there were positive signs of progress at Boeing, having previously voiced frustration over delays in delivery of new jets from the planemaker.

Emirates President Tim Clark said he was seeing a greater degree of determination from Boeing to resolve its many issues under a recently appointed CEO, and management had indicated cautious optimism over its recovery in discussion with Emirates.

Boeing is trying to stabilise and ramp up production after a quality crisis and then labour strike shuttered production of most of its aircraft last year.

Boeing is also awaiting certification from the US Federal Aviation Administration for its 777X wide-body plane, of which Emirates has 205 on order. Deliveries of the 777X are set to start in 2026, six years behind schedule.

Emirates has been told it could receive its first 777X any time between the second half of 2026 and the first quarter of 2027, Clark said, adding that he was sensing a more positive tone from Boeing on the plane’s progress.

Boeing and European planemaker Airbus are months and years behind on new plane deliveries, frustrating airlines that want to upgrade to more fuel-efficient aircraft and launch new services. Speaking at a news briefing on the sidelines of an IATA airline summit, Clark said the industry was still facing chronic aerospace supply problems and challenged planemakers to take responsibility.

“I am pretty tired of seeing the hand-wringing about the supply chain: you (manufacturers) are the supply chain,” Clark said.

Last week, sources told Reuters that Airbus has been warning airlines it faces another three years of delivery delays in working through a backlog of supply-chain problems.

Clark said the pandemic was no longer an acceptable excuse.

“It’s a highly consolidated industry… I don’t think they’ve managed to strip out the inefficiencies of the smaller units they brought together,” he said of the largest aerospace firms.

Emirates has not yet seen a shift in demand patterns as a result of US President Donald Trump’s tariff war, Clark told an annual meeting of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Clark said he expected US manufacturer GE Aerospace , which makes engines for some of Emirates’ planes, to absorb a lot of the impact from tariffs into its own margins.

GE is Emirates’ main engine supplier. It has said that it is passing along tariff costs to customers in the form of a surcharge. Clark has previously expressed frustration with its other engine supplier, Britain’s Rolls-Royce, because some engine models have struggled with maintenance problems when operating in the world’s hottest climates.

Yesterday, Clark said opportunities still exist in the Gulf region for Rolls-Royce if it can deliver the required performance.

He left open whether a potential deal for Rolls-powered Airbus A350-1000 jets, which faltered over the durability of their engines at the Dubai Airshow in 2023, would be ready in time for the next edition in November this year.

“I am not sure about that,” he told reporters. — ***Reuters***

India arrests 81 people for 'sympathising' with Pakistan

Indian police have arrested scores of people for "sympathising" with Pakistan, a month after the worst conflict between the arch-rivals for decades, a top government official said yesterday.
The arrests took place in the northeastern state of Assam, where Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said "81 anti-nationals are now behind bars for sympathising with Pakistan". Sarma, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist ruling party, said in a statement "our systems are constantly tracking anti-national posts on social media and taking actions". One of the persons was arrested after he posted a Pakistani flag on his Instagram, Assam police said. There has been a wider clampdown on social media since an April 22 attack on tourists in Kashmir, the deadliest on civilians in the territory in decades. New Delhi blamed Islamabad for backing the militants it said carried out the attack, charges that Pakistan denied. India and Pakistan then fought a four-day conflict, their worst standoff since 1999, before a ceasefire was agreed on May 10. India's counter-terrorism agency last month arrested a paramilitary police officer for allegedly spying for Pakistan, while authorities have arrested at least 10 other people on espionage charges in May, according to local media.

Aurora Australis lights up the sky



The Aurora Australis, also known as the Southern Lights, glows on the horizon over the waters of Lake Ellesmere on the outskirts of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Air India 'in talks for major new narrow-body aircraft order'

Reuters
New Delhi

Tata Group's Air India is in talks with Airbus and Boeing for a major new aircraft order including some 200 extra single-aisle planes, topping up a mammoth deal in 2023 as the former state carrier pursues a multi-billion-dollar revamp, industry sources said.

The order discussions, which two of the sources said could involve hundreds of airplanes in total spread across various sizes, expand on previously reported discussions for a further batch of large widebody aircraft, they said.

In those talks, Boeing is edging forward as the front-runner to sell more of its 777X jets, two of the sources said.

Air India, Boeing and Airbus all declined to comment.

Word of a potential new blockbuster order from India's flag carrier emerged as global airline bosses gathered in the world's fastest-growing aviation market for a Delhi industry summit to be addressed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi today.

Air India placed a then-record order for 470 planes from both suppliers in 2023 and another 100 Airbus jets last year.

The back-to-back plane orders come at a time when aircraft manufacturers are scrambling with supply chain issues leading to severe delays in aircraft delivery and a looming jet shortage.

Getting new planes is crucial for Air India, which has suffered from years of under-investment under government ownership and is now undertaking an ambitious modernisation plan to recapture market share lost to global rivals.

One of the sources said the potential new narrow-body jet order provisionally involved 200 aircraft, while two others estimated the volume in the hundreds.

The timing of any deal was not immediately clear and one source said pricing could be a stumbling block as Air India seeks to emulate deals by India's largest carrier IndiGo, which announced new partnerships and a top-up Airbus order on Sunday.

Multi-billion-dollar aircraft orders typically take months of closely held talks to negotiate, with any Boeing and Airbus components usually being announced separately.

India's aviation market is expanding at some 7% a year, according to Airbus forecasts. But analysts say its growth remains hampered by weak infrastructure, especially as it looks to connect hinterlands to bigger cities.

On the eve of the airline meeting in the Indian capital, the International Air Transport Association of 300 global carriers said the country's airlines were poised to demonstrate continued rapid growth, clouded by expensive fuel costs and high taxes.

IndiGo orders 30 Airbus A350 widebody planes

Indian airline IndiGo yesterday said it had signed an order for 30 more Airbus A350-900s, bringing its shopping list for the widebody aircraft from the European aircraft manufacturer to 60.
"We are placing a firm order for 30 Airbus A350-900s," said Pieter Elbers, the CEO of IndiGo, which was founded in 2006 and is behind the largest contract by volume in the history of civil aviation – 500 Airbus single-aisle aircraft by 2023. The low-cost carrier, India's biggest by market share, is positioning itself as a significant player in the long-haul market. "This strategic move will enable IndiGo to spread its wings further and expand its long-haul international network," the company said in a statement. "This is yet another step in defining the airline's long-term plans of international expansion."
Benoit de Saint-Exupery, Airbus commercial aircraft vice-president of sales, hailed "IndiGo's incredible rise". "You have democratised flying in India, and now you want to expand internationally," he said.
The A350 planes, with ranges of up to 15,000kms, will allow it to expand its network further.
Overall, IndiGo has placed orders for around 1,000 aircraft from the A320 family, Airbus's most successful model and rival of the Boeing 737 MAX, which has endured multiple setbacks after a series of safety scares.
Willie Walsh, director general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which began its annual industry conference in New Delhi yesterday, said "the development of India's air connectivity in recent years has been nothing short of phenomenal".
Indian domestic air growth is "running at over 10%" per year, Walsh said. The growth of its economy has made India and its 1.4bn people the world's fourth-largest air market – domestic and international – with IATA projecting it will become the third biggest within the decade.
India's domestic air passenger traffic reached a milestone last year by "surpassing 500,000 passengers in a single day", according to India's ministry of civil aviation. The ministry boasts of a sector "experiencing a meteoric rise". Railways remain hugely popular but travelling by trains crisscrossing a country about three-quarters the area of the European Union is often slow and chaotic.

1,100 migrants crossed Channel on Saturday: UK

AFP
London

Some 1,194 migrants arrived in the UK after crossing the Channel in small boats on Saturday, a record for this year according to government data.

It brings the overall number of migrant crossings this year to 14,808, an unprecedented figure despite several measures in place by the French and UK governments to curb the crossings.

French coastal authorities said they also rescued nearly 200 migrants between late Friday and late Saturday. The latest crossings, which UK Defence Secretary John Healey described as "shocking", fall short of the all-time record of 1,300 migrants arriving on small boats in a day in September 2022.

But they will still prove a headache for UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has been at pains to toughen his rhetoric on irregular immigration amid pressure from the far-right to slash migrant numbers.

After a drop in 2023 from record levels in 2022 under a Conservative government, irregular crossings rebounded sharply last year, with 36,800 arrivals.

This year, the number of people making perilous journeys crossed 10,000 in April, the earliest the milestone has been reached since records began in 2018, when the route into the UK first became popular. Starmer unveiled tough new immigration policies this month that include doubling the length of time before migrants can qualify for settlement in the country and new powers to deport foreign criminals.

The raft of measures was widely seen as an attempt to win back support from voters and fend off threats from the increasingly popular hard-right Reform party.

India's monsoon rains kill 30 in northeast

Flash floods and landslides after torrential monsoon rain over the last two days killed at least 30 people in India's northeast, officials said yesterday. State disaster management officials said eight people died in Assam, and nine in Arunachal Pradesh, many of them in landslides as earth loosened by the water slumped into the valley below. Another five people died in a landslide in the neighbouring state of Mizoram, state authorities said. The officials said that six people lost their lives in Meghalaya and at least two others were killed in the states of Nagaland and Tripura. A red alert warning was issued for several districts in the region after the non-stop downpour over the last three days. Rivers swollen by the lashing rain – including the mighty Brahmaputra, which rises in the Himalayas and flows through India's northeast towards its delta in Bangladesh – broke their banks across the region.

March for the Children of Ukraine protest



Children wearing traditional Ukrainian clothing wait ahead of the March for the Children of Ukraine protest, at the Marble Arch, in London, Britain, yesterday.

Bangladesh banknotes replace ousted PM's father portrait

AFP
Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday issued new banknotes to replace designs featuring its founding president, the father of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina who was overthrown last year.

The South Asian nation of some 170mn people has been run by a caretaker government since Hasina fled – whose trial opened yesterday on charges of trying to crush the uprising against her government in August 2024.

Until now, all notes featured the portrait of her father, the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led Bangladesh from independence from Pakistan in 1971 until soldiers assassinated him and most of his family in a 1975 coup.

"Under the new series and design, the notes will not feature any human portraits, but will instead showcase natural landscapes and traditional landmarks," Bangladesh Bank spokesman Arif Hossain Khan said.

Among the designs in the nation are images of Hindu and Buddhist temples, as well as historical palaces. They also include artwork of the late painter Zainul Abedin, depicting the Bengal famine during British colonial rule. Another will depict the national martyrs' memorial for those who died in the independence war against Pakistan.

Yesterday, notes for three of the nine different denominations were released.

"The new notes will be issued from the central bank's headquarters, and later from its other offices across the country," he added.

China accuses US of 'vilifying' remarks at security forum

Reuters
Beijing

China has protested to the US against "vilifying" remarks made by Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, the foreign ministry said yesterday, while accusing it of deliberately ignoring calls for peace from regional nations.

China has objected to Hegseth calling it a threat in the Indo-Pacific, the ministry added, describing his comments at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday as "deplorable".

"Hegseth deliberately ignored the call for peace and development by countries in the region and instead touted the Cold War mentality for bloc confrontation, vilified China with defamatory allegations, and falsely called China a 'threat'," the ministry said on its website.

"The US has deployed offensive weaponry in the South China Sea and kept stoking flames and creating tensions in the Asia-Pacific, which are turning the region into a powder keg," it added in the statement.

China's defence ministry also weighed in, saying the US is "accustomed to using" the forum to "stoke disputes, sow discord and seek selfish interests".

"China's armed forces will work with other countries in the region to oppose hegemonism harming the Asia-Pacific region," ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said in a statement posted on the ministry's WeChat account.

Hegseth had urged allies in the Indo-Pacific region, including key security partner Australia, to spend more on defence after warning of the "real and potentially imminent" threat from China.

Asked about the call to boost defence spending, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his government had pledged an extra A$10bn ($6bn) to defence.

"What we'll do is we'll determine our defence policy," he told reporters yesterday, a transcript of his remarks showed. As part of Washington's longstanding defence ties with the Philippines, the US military this year deployed Typhon launchers that can fire missiles to hit targets in both China and Russia from the island of Luzon.

China and the Philippines contest sovereignty over some islands and atolls in the South China Sea, with growing maritime run-ins between their coast guards as both vie to patrol the waters.

China's delegation at the forum said "external intervention" was the biggest risk for stability in the South China Sea, saying the country had shown "goodwill and restraint" through talks on the issue.

"Some foreign powers have sent warplanes and warships to the South China Sea for so-called 'freedom of navigation,'" the state-backed *Global Times* newspaper cited senior colonel Zhang Chi from the PLA National Defence University as saying.

Such actions infringed China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, he added.

The US, Australia, Japan and the Philippines have conducted joint maritime operations in the busy waterway.

China claims nearly all the South China Sea, including parts of the exclusive economic zones of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

In 2016, an international arbitration tribunal ruled Beijing's expansive claim had no basis in international law, however.

China's foreign ministry also told the US not to "play with fire" on the question of Taiwan.

Any attempt by China to conquer Taiwan "would result in devastating consequences", Hegseth said in his speech to Asia's premier forum for defence leaders, military officials and diplomats.

China has vowed to "reunify" with the separately governed island, by force if necessary. Taiwan's government rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims, saying only the island's people can decide their future.

COMMENT

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GULF TIMES



Crisis deepens as glaciers vanish, droughts intensify

Three news headlines from as many parts of the world last week pointed in the same ominous direction – that the impact of climate change has started wrecking major havoc. The massive glacier collapse last Wednesday in southern Switzerland partially destroyed the small village of Blatten, which had been completely evacuated a week earlier due to the impending danger. Britain said last Thursday that the northwest of England was now officially in drought status after the driest start to spring in decades caused water levels in rivers and reservoirs to decline. Further, a major new study warned last Thursday that more than three-quarters of the world's glaciers are set to vanish if climate change continues unchecked, fuelling sea-level rise and jeopardising water supplies for billions.

The huge collapse on the Birch Glacier in Blatten had been expected for several days. The Alps mountain range in Europe has seen its glaciers retreat in recent years due to warming that most scientists attribute to climate change. Swiss glaciers, severely impacted by climate change, melted as much in 2022 and 2023 as between 1960 and 1990, losing in total about 10% of their volume. The amount of snow covering Switzerland's glaciers at the end of winter this year was 13% below the 2010-2020 average, a group of glacier monitoring experts said earlier in May.

If warming is held to the Paris Agreement's 1.5C target, 54% of glacial mass could be preserved

Britain has basked in its sunniest spring on record, from March to May, according to the Met Office weather forecaster, though the lack of rainfall has raised some concerns about conserving water supply. The Environment Agency said reservoir storage levels in northwest England – home to the picturesque Lake District as well as the cities of Manchester and Liverpool – were lower than during the same time in the 1984, 1995 and 2022 drought years. Scientists say climate change is making droughts and drier summers more frequent.

The study on glaciers, published in the journal Science, provides the clearest picture yet of long-term glacier loss, by revealing that every fraction of a degree in global temperature rise significantly worsens the outlook. Under existing climate policies, global temperatures are projected to reach 2.7 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2100 – a pathway that would ultimately erase 76% of current glacier mass over the coming centuries. But if warming is held to the Paris Agreement's 1.5C target, 54% of glacial mass could be preserved, according to the study, which combined outputs from eight glacier models to simulate ice loss across a range of future climate scenarios.

"What is really special about this study is we can really show how every tenth of a degree of additional warming matters," co-lead author Lilian Schuster of the University of Innsbruck told AFP. The paper's release comes as Swiss authorities monitor flood risks following the collapse of the massive Birch Glacier.

Glaciers are found on every continent except Australia – from Mount Kilimanjaro to the Austrian Alps and the Karakoram range in Pakistan. While most are clustered in the polar regions, their presence in mountain ranges across the world makes them vital to local ecosystems, agriculture and human communities. Vast bodies of snow, ice, rock, and sediment that gain mass in winter and lose it in summer, glaciers formed in the Earth's deep past when conditions were far colder than today. Their meltwater sustains rivers critical for farming, fisheries, and drinking water. Their loss can have profound ripple effects, from disrupting tourism economies to eroding cultural heritage.

Around 25% of current sea-level rise is attributed to glacier melt. Even if all fossil fuel use stopped today, the study finds that 39% of glacier mass loss is already locked in – enough to raise sea levels by at least 113mm. One key finding of the study is that some glaciers are far more vulnerable than others – and the global average obscures drastic regional losses. Glaciers in the European Alps, the Rockies of the US and Canada, and Iceland are expected to lose nearly all their ice at 2C of warming – the fallback goal of the Paris accord.

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How a Gen Z gender divide is reshaping democracy

- **Young men voting right, women leaning left**
- **Political divide runs through Asian, Western democracies**
- **Young men feel left behind, blame diversity: pollsters**
- **Young women feel job competition is more equal now**

By Heejung Jung, Mark Bendeich and **Thomas Escritt**
Seoul/London/Berlin

South Korea's young women are expected to lead a broad political backlash against the main conservative party at presidential elections tomorrow, punishing it for months of chaos.

Multitudes of young men, though, are unlikely to join them.

In democracies worldwide, a political gender divide is intensifying among Gen Z voters, with young men voting for right-wing parties and young women leaning left, a break from pre-pandemic years when both tended to vote for progressives.

Recent elections spanning North America, Europe and Asia show this trend is either consolidating or accelerating, with angry, frustrated men in their 20s breaking to the right.

First-time South Korean voter Lee Jeong-min is one of them.

He says he will vote for the right-wing Reform Party's candidate, Lee Jun-seok, tomorrow. Lee, the candidate, vows to shut down the ministry of gender equality, speaking to an issue that resonates with men like Lee, the voter, who particularly resents that only men have to do military service.

"As a young man, I find this to be one of the most unfair realities of living in Korea. At the prime of their youth — at 21 or 22 years old — young men, unlike their female peers, are unable to fully engage in various activities in society because they have to serve 18 months in the military."

In South Korea, almost 30% of men aged 18-29 plan to back the Reform Party compared with just 3% of young women, according to a Gallup Korea poll this month.

Overall, more than half of the men back right-wing parties while almost half the women want the left-wing Democratic Party candidate to win. The divergence shrinks for older age groups.

Political economist Soohyun Lee, of King's College London, said many young South Korean men felt unable to meet society's expectations: find a good job, get married, buy a home and start a family.

And they blame feminism, many believing that women are preferred for jobs. With negligible immigration in South Korea, Lee said, "women become the convenient scapegoat".

Angry young men

In South Korea and other democracies, Gen Z men are seeing an erosion of their relative advantage, especially since the pandemic — to the point where in a few countries the gender pay gap among 20-somethings favours young women.

EU data shows one of them is France, where men aged 18-34 voted in larger numbers for Marine le Pen's far-right party than women in last year's legislative elections.

In the UK, where more young men than women vote conservative, males aged 16-24 are more likely to be neither employed, nor in education than female counterparts, official data shows.

In the West, young men blame immigration as well as diversity programmes for competition for jobs.

In Germany's general election in February, the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) won a record 20.8% of the vote, tugged along by an undercurrent of support from young men — though the leader of the party is a woman.

Men aged 18-24 voted 27% for the AfD while young women ran to the other end of the political spectrum, voting 35% for the far-left Linke party, according to official voting data.

"A lot of young men are falling for right-wing propaganda because they're upset, they have the feeling they're losing power," said Molly Lynch, 18, a Berliner who voted for Linke, drawn by its stand on climate change and economic inequality.

"But it's actually losing power over women that wasn't actually equal in the first place."

The gender divide is not restricted to Gen Z, voters born since the mid-to-late 1990s. Millennials, aged in their 30s and early 40s, have felt the winds of change for longer.

In Canada last month, men aged 35-54 voted 50% for opposition conservatives in an election turned upside down by US President Donald Trump's tariffs on his northern neighbour. The Liberals, which had been braced for defeat, rode an anti-Trump wave back to power, thanks in large part to female voters.

"It tends to be men who have a bit more life experience and are now in that situation where they're saying, 'This isn't working out for me and I want change'," said Darrell Bricker, global chief executive of public affairs at polling firm Ipsos.

Nik Nanos, founder of Canadian polling outfit Nanos Research, agreed, saying social media was accelerating democracy's "angry young men symptom", especially in areas where blue collar jobs have dried up.

A forever war?

Trump's 2024 presidential campaign, which promised a manufacturing renaissance and attacked diversity programmes, also resonated with young white and Hispanic men, but turned off young women, fuelling the country's big political gender gap.

Roughly half of men aged 18-29 voted for Trump, while 61% of young women went for his opponent, Kamala Harris. Young Black voters of both genders still overwhelmingly backed Harris.

In Australia, which went to the polls this month, the Gen Z war did not play out at the ballot box. There was no clear divergence, with compulsory voting perhaps helping to explain why radicalised gender politics have not taken root.

"It tends to iron out extreme ideas, ideologies," said political scientist Intifar Chowdury of Australian National University.

So how does the Gen Z war end?

Pollsters said it could drag on unless governments addressed core issues such as home affordability and precarious employment. One cited young men's health as another policy challenge, especially high suicide rates.

Lee, of King's College, said the divide could make consensus on over-arching tax and welfare reforms harder to achieve.

"If the future generation is ever so divided along the lines of gender and then refuses to engage with each other to build social consensus, I do not think we can successfully tackle these huge issues," she said. — Reuters



A woman votes at a polling station installed in the departures area of the Incheon International Airport during early voting of the presidential election in Incheon. **(AFP)**

Ukraine 'destroys $7bn worth' grounded Russian bombers in major drone assault

AFP
Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday it destroyed Russian bombers worth billions of dollars in a "large-scale" drone assault on enemy soil as it geared up for talks with Moscow counterparts to explore prospects for a ceasefire.

In a spectacular claim, Ukraine said it damaged $7bn worth of Russian aircraft parked at four airbases thousands of kilometres away, with unverified video footage showing aircraft engulfed in flames and black smoke.

A source in the Ukrainian security services said the drones were concealed in the ceilings of shipping containers which were opened up to release them for the assault.

The long-planned operation came at a delicate moment three years into Russia's invasion.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday that he was sending a delegation to Istanbul led by his Defence Minister Rustem Umerov for talks today with Russian officials.

Turkiye is hosting the meeting, which was spurred by US President Donald Trump's push for a quick deal to end the three-year war.

Zelensky, who previously voiced scepticism about whether Russia was serious in proposing today's meeting, said he had defined the Ukrainian delegation's position going into it.

Priorities included "a complete and unconditional ceasefire" and the return of prisoners and abducted children, he said on social media.

Russia has rejected previous ceasefire demands.

It said it has formulated its own peace terms but refused to divulge them in advance. Russian President Vladimir Putin ruled out a Turkish proposal for the countries' leaders to attend the meeting.

Russian news agencies said the Russian delegation was headed to Istanbul on Sunday for the talks.

A source in Ukraine's SBU security service said the co-ordinated attacks inside Russia were "aimed at destroying enemy bombers far from the front".

Rybar, an account on the Telegram message platform that is close to the Russian military, called it a "very heavy blow" for Moscow and pointed to what it called "serious errors" by Russian intelligence.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (**left**) greeting the head of Ukraine's Security Service Vasyl Malyuk in Kyiv yesterday. (**AFP**)

The SBU source said strikes targeted Russian airbases in the eastern Siberian city of Belaya, in Olenya, in the Arctic near Finland, and in Ivanovo and Dyagilevo, both east of Moscow.

More than 40 aircraft had been hit at the Belaya base and a fire had broken out there, the source said, showing a video in which several aircraft could be seen in flames and black smoke rising.

AFP was not able to independently verify the claims or the video images. The SBU claimed in a social media post to have hit Russian military planes worth a combined $7bn in a "special operation".

Russia's defence ministry confirmed on Telegram that several of its military aircraft "caught fire", adding that there were no casualties and that several "participants" had been arrested.

Igor Kobzev, Governor of Russia's Irkutsk region, which hosts the targeted Belaya airbase, said it was "the first attack of this sort in Siberia". He called on the population not to panic and posted an amateur video apparently showing a drone flying in the sky and a large cloud of grey smoke.

The governor of the Murmansk region where the Olenya base was located, Andrey Chibis, also said "enemy drones" were flying overhead, and anti-aircraft defences were operating.

Russia has been announcing Ukrainian drone attacks on a near-daily basis, usually saying they had all been shot down. But it was rare for such drone strikes to be reported so deep within its territory.

At the same time, Russia has been carrying out constant attacks on Ukraine.

Yesterday, Ukraine's air force said it was hit by 472 Russian drones and seven missiles overnight — a record since the beginning of the invasion.

In a rare admission of its military losses, the Ukraine army said Russia's "missile strike on the location of one of the training units" had killed a dozen soldiers, most of whom had been in shelters during the attack, and wounded more than 60. The attack led Ukrainian ground forces commander Mykhailo Drapaty to announce his resignation, saying he felt "responsibility" for the soldiers' deaths.

Separately yesterday, the Russian army said it had captured another village in Ukraine's northern Sumy region, where Kyiv fears Moscow could mount a fresh ground assault.

Russia claims to have captured several settlements in the region in recent weeks, and has massed more than 50,000 soldiers on the other side of the border, according to Zelensky.

Authorities in the region have evacuated more than 200 villages amid intensified shelling.

In Russia, officials said a blast brought down a road bridge in the Bryansk region bordering Ukraine on Saturday, derailing a passenger train heading to Moscow and killing seven people.

A separate rail bridge in the neighbouring Kursk region was blown up hours later in the early hours of Sunday, derailing a freight train and injuring the driver.

Authorities did not say who was behind the explosions, but investigators said a criminal inquiry was underway.

Mexicans vote to elect judges in a world first



Silvia Rocio Delgado Gara, a candidate for criminal judge for the state of Chihuahua, casts her vote at a polling station yesterday. (**AFP**)

AFP
Mexico City

Mexico held unprecedented elections yesterday allowing voters to choose their judges, in a country where drug cartels and other vested interests regularly seek to alter the course of justice. The government said the reform making Mexico the world's only nation to select all of its judges and magistrates by popular vote was needed to tackle deep-rooted graft and impunity.

"Those who want the regime of corruption and privileges in the judiciary to continue say this election is rigged. Or they also say it's so a political party can take over the Supreme Court," President Claudia Sheinbaum said in a video on the eve of the vote.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," she added.

Arturo Giesemann, a 57-year-old retiree, said his main motivation for voting was "the disgust I have with the current judiciary because of its corruption." Critics and experts are concerned that the justice system will be politicised and that it could become easier for criminals to influence the courts with threats and bribery. While corruption already exists, "there is reason to believe that elections may be more easily infiltrated by organised crime than other methods of judicial selection," Margaret Satterthwaite, the United Nations special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, told AFP.

Hundreds of opponents of the reforms marched through Mexico City waving flags and banners with slogans including: "Hands off our democracy" and "No to electoral fraud." The run-up to the vote was not accompanied by the kind of violence that often targets politicians in Mexico.

But "it is logical that organised criminal groups would have approached judges and candidates who are important to them," said consultant Luis Carlos Ugalde, a former head of Mexico's electoral commission.

Russia accepts Taliban's nominated ambassador

Russia has officially accepted the Taliban's nomination of an ambassador to Moscow, the Afghan foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday, as economic and political ties grow between the two sanctions-hit nations.
Russia in April suspended its ban on the Taliban, which it had designated for more than two decades as a terrorist organisation, in a move that paved the way for Moscow to normalise ties with the leadership of Afghanistan. No country has formally recognised the Taliban's government, which took over the country in 2021 as US-led forces withdrew. "We hope this new phase will allow both countries to expand co-operation in various fields," said Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Taliban's acting foreign minister, in a statement.
China in 2023 became the first country to accept a diplomat at ambassador level from the Taliban and several countries have since followed, including Pakistan which announced it would upgrade the position this week.
Diplomats say formally presenting ambassadorial credentials to a foreign head of state signals a step towards recognition.

Poland's Trzaskowski on course for tight win

Reuters
Warsaw



Jaroslaw Kaczynski gives a speech as he reacts to the exit polls of the second round of the presidential election in Warsaw yesterday. (**Reuters**)

Liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski appeared set for a razor-thin win in Poland's presidential election yesterday, an exit poll showed, in a vote seen as a test of the nation's support for a pro-European course versus Donald Trump-style nationalism.

An exit poll by Ipsos for broadcasters TVN, TVP and Polsat showed Trzaskowski of the ruling centrists Civic Coalition (KO) winning 50.3% of ballots. His rival, a conservative historian and amateur boxer, Karol Nawrocki, backed by nationalists Law and Justice (PiS), was at 49.7%.

Official results were due today, although a late poll that mixes some results with exit surveys was expected to be published overnight. The exit poll carries a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

Trzaskowski, 53, campaigned on a promise to help the government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk complete its democratic reforms, which they both say aim to repair an erosion of checks and balances under the previous nationalist government that lost power in 2023.

"We won," he told jubilant party members after the exit surveys came out. "I will bring people together, I will be constructive, I will be a president for all Poles. I will be your president."

Parliament holds most of the power in Poland, but the president can veto legislation, so the vote is being watched closely in neighbouring Ukraine, as well as in Russia, the US and across the European Union.

Both candidates agreed on the need to spend heavily on defence, as US President Donald Trump is demanding from Europe, and to continue supporting Ukraine in its fight against Russia's three-year-old invasion.

But while Trzaskowski sees Ukraine's future membership of Nato as essential for Poland's security, Nawrocki said recently that if he were president he would not ratify it because of the danger of the alliance being drawn into war with Russia.

Nawrocki, who draws inspiration from Trump and his Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement, said it was too early to call Trzaskowski's victory.

"We will win and we will save Poland," he said. "We will not allow for Donald Tusk's power to be all-encompassing and the monopoly of evil power ... which takes away our great dreams ...to become complete."

Coming around a year and a half since Tusk, a former president of the European Council, took office, the vote provides the toughest test yet of support for his broad coalition government, with Nawrocki presenting the ballot as a referendum on its actions.

The first round of the election on May 18 saw a surge in support for the anti-establishment far-right, suggesting that the KO-PiS duopoly that has dominated Polish politics for a generation may be starting to fracture.

Nevertheless, after a tumultuous campaign in which Nawrocki in particular faced a slew of negative media reports about his alleged past conduct, once again candidates representing the two main parties faced off in the second round.

PiS has traditionally enjoyed high support in small towns and rural areas, especially in the south and east. These areas are typically more socially conservative than larger cities and poorer, creating a sense of exclusion that PiS has tapped into.

Hasina accused of 'systematic' crackdown

AFP
Dhaka

Fugitive former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina orchestrated a "systematic attack" that amounted to crimes against humanity in her attempt to crush the uprising that toppled her government, Bangladeshi prosecutors said at the opening of her trial yesterday.

Up to 1,400 people were killed between July and August 2024 after Hasina's government launched its crackdown, according to the United Nations.

Hasina, 77, fled by helicopter to her old ally India as the student-led uprising ended her 15-year rule and she has defied an extradition order to return to Dhaka.

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) is prosecuting former senior figures connected to Hasina's ousted government and her now-banned party, the Awami League.

"Upon scrutinising the evidence, we reached the conclusion that it was a co-ordinated, widespread and systematic attack," ICT chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam told the court in his opening speech.

"The accused unleashed all law enforcement agencies and her armed party members to crush the uprising."

Islam lodged five charges each against Hasina and two other officials that included "abetment, incitement, complicity, facilitation, conspiracy, and failure to prevent mass murder during the July uprising".

Prosecutors say such acts are tantamount to "crimes against humanity".

Hasina, who remains in self-imposed exile in India, has rejected the charges as politically motivated.

As well as Hasina, the case includes ex-police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun — who is in custody but did not appear in court yesterday — and former interior minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, who is also on the run.

The prosecution of senior figures from Hasina's government is a key demand of several of the political parties now jostling for power. The interim government has vowed to hold elections before June 2026.



Chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal Mohammad Tajul Islam (**centre**) speaks during a press conference in Dhaka yesterday after the start of the trial against fugitive former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed. (**AFP**)

The hearing is being broadcast live on state-owned Bangladesh Television.

Prosecutor Islam vowed that the trial would be impartial.

"This is not an act of vendetta but a commitment to the principle that, in a democratic country, there is no room for crimes against humanity," he said.

Investigators have collected video footage, audio clips, Hasina's phone conversations and records of helicopter and drone movements, as well as statements from victims of the crackdown, as part of their probe.

The prosecution argues that Hasina ordered security forces, through directives from the interior ministry and police, to crush the protesters.

"They systematically committed murder, attempted murder, torture, and other inhuman acts," Islam said.

Prosecutors also allege that security forces opened fire from helicopters after Hasina's directives.

They also accused Hasina of ordering the killing of student protester Abu Sayeed, who was shot dead at close range in the northern city of Rangpur on July 16.

He was the first student demonstrator killed in the police crackdown on protests and footage of his last moments was shown repeatedly on Bangladeshi television after Hasina's downfall.

The ICT court opened its first trial connected to Hasina's government on May 25.

In that case, eight police officials face charges of crimes against humanity over the killing of six protesters on August 5, the day that Hasina fled the country.

Four of the officers are in custody and four are being tried in absentia.

The ICT was set up by Hasina in 2009 to investigate crimes against the Pakistani army during Bangladesh's war for independence in 1971.

It sentenced numerous prominent political opponents to death and became widely seen as a means for Hasina to eliminate rivals.

Separately yesterday, the Supreme Court restored the registration of Bangladesh's largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, allowing it to take part in elections.

Hasina had banned Jamaat-e-Islami and cracked down on its leaders.

Bangladesh's interim government banned the Awami League in May, pending the outcome of her trial, and those of other party leaders.

QATAR

QU honours clinical faculty members





Qatar University (QU) Health Clinical Affairs organised its annual "Clinical Faculty Members Appreciation Day", bringing together more than 400 clinical academic staff and distinguished guests from the country's leading healthcare institutions, including Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Primary Health Care Corp (PHCC), and Sidra Medicine.

The event served as a platform to honour the exceptional contributions of clinical faculty members and their pivotal role in preparing and equipping the next generation of healthcare leaders.

It also highlighted the importance of strategic collaboration between the QU and its healthcare partners to ensure the development of a healthcare workforce capable of meeting future demands.

QU vice-president (Medical and Health Sciences) Prof Asma al-Thani emphasised the essential role of clinical education.

"Clinical education plays a pivotal role in developing the competencies of our future healthcare professionals," she said in a statement. "It provides students with evidence-based practical experiences that enhance their clinical skills and align with global best practices."

"Clinical faculty members are key elements in this system, serving as academic mentors who guide students and integrate them as active practitioners in healthcare environments," Prof Asma added. "This represents one of the core educational objectives we uphold in the health sector at Qatar University."

HMC chief medical officer Dr Khalid Mohammed al-Jalham highlighted the importance of clinical educators in shaping the future of healthcare.

"The future of healthcare lies in the hands of those we educate today," he said. "Our clinical faculty are not just teachers – they are mentors, role models, and the guiding force behind every great healthcare professional."

QU director of clinical affairs Prof Hiba Bawadi emphasised the importance of the event.

"This is a very important day for the health sector, where all clinical staff from the major healthcare institutions in the country are honoured for their efforts in educating and training students from the colleges of medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy, nursing, and health sciences," she said.

The chairman of the HMC's Cardiothoracic Surgery Department, Prof Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi, said: "This recognition by the College of Medicine at the QU, which takes place every year at the end of the academic year, celebrates the efforts made by the clinical staff."

"This initiative is both an encouragement and a tribute to the physicians, and we are always eager to participate in it," he said. "We take pride in our role in teaching medical students who represent the future."

The head of Academic Affairs and Senior Consultant Family Medicine at the PHCC, Maryam al-Rashid, stated: "At the PHCC, we reaffirm our strong commitment to supporting the advancement of health education in Qatar."

"This event embodies the fruitful collaboration between the two institutions in preparing qualified national healthcare professionals capable of meeting the needs of the healthcare system and enhancing its efficiency and sustainability in accordance with global best practices," she said.

The event featured the announcement of the 2025 Clinical Education and Research Awards, the presentation of certificates of appreciation, and opportunities for networking aimed at strengthening partnerships between academia and the healthcare sector.

It also raised awareness of the complementary roles of the various colleges within the health sector and reinforced the collaborative efforts led by Clinical Training Affairs at the university in clinical research and supervision. – ***QNA***

Doha Climate talks spotlight legacy of Paris Agreement

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter





Abdulla al-Naama addressing the 'Doha Climate Talks: Climate Diplomacy in Action' conference yesterday.

Right: Dr Barbara Hendricks with other panellists. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen

More than 100 experts, envoys, and youth leaders gathered yesterday at Msheireb Museums for a climate dialogue with former Germany environment minister Dr Barbara Hendricks, highlighting the Paris Agreement's legacy and the urgency of closing the global ambition gap.

The event, titled "Doha Climate Talks: Climate Diplomacy in Action" and organised in partnership with German embassy in Doha, Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar, and Msheireb Museums, aimed to foster diplomatic co-operation to address pressing climate challenges.

Dr Hendricks, who personally negotiated the Paris Agreement for Germany, lauded it as "a huge success and a big sign of hope".

While acknowledging the necessity for faster action against climate change, she said that "we are on track", expressing optimism for the future and noted the responsibility and strengthening awareness demonstrated by young people in Qatar.

Reflecting on the often-arduous path to global consensus during the deliberations, Dr Hendricks recalled the "bitter failure" of the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit, which underscored the critical need for a well-managed, inclusive process to build trust.

This, she pointed out, led to German Chancellor Angela Merkel's initiation of the Petersburg climate dialogue in 2010.

Dr Hendricks credited Doha with a key role in 2012, explaining how under Qatar's presidency, a plan to reach the 2015 agreement was reached.

She said that a key shift at that time was moving from the "top-down binding" approach of the Kyoto Protocol to a "bottom-up" approach with "intended nationally determined contributions", offering countries greater ownership and flexibility.

Dr Hendricks paid tribute to Laurent Fabius, then French foreign minister and COP21 president, for his "unprecedented unshackling global diplomacy effort".

She cited his relentless personal conciliation throughout 2015, which was instrumental in uniting nearly all 196 parties.

Dr Hendricks also stressed how the passionate pleas of island nations, articulating that the negotiations were about "survival not just economics", resonated globally and led to the crucial inclusion of the 1.5° Celsius global heating limit in the agreement.

While the Paris Agreement has significantly reduced projected warming scenarios from over 4C to an estimated 1.8-3C, Dr Hendricks cautioned that an "ambition gap" remains.

"Even in the most optimistic scenarios on implementing what is on the table, we still face an ambition gap. Every 10th of the degree of climate change avoided counts, that makes this process so valuable," she said, highlighting the challenge of accelerating the ambition cycle to deliver on the 1.5C target.

In his speech, Msheireb Museums general manager Abdulla al-Naama spotlighted the institution's role as a platform for "meaningful conversations that tackle the pressing issues of our times", with climate change being paramount.

He said that Msheireb Downtown Doha is a living testament to sustainable urban development, making it an ideal venue for such discussions.

The discussions also covered climate diplomacy, the pivotal role of women in climate leadership, and youth activism.

Among the attendees were German ambassador Lothar Freischlader, ambassadors from Australia, Turkiye, Austria, and Azerbaijan, and representatives from the embassies of France, the UAE, Tajikistan, and Switzerland.

In a statement, Freischlader underlined the power of diplomacy in translating ambition into collective action.

"Whether it is through global frameworks like the Paris Agreement or regional partnerships, climate diplomacy is not just about negotiations, it's about solidarity, responsibility, optimism and action," he said.

The talks also addressed region-specific challenges, including water security, renewable energy transition, and sustainable urban development, strengthening Qatar's commitment to environmental sustainability aligned with its National Vision 2030.



PHCC honours outstanding staff, departments at Annual Corporate Forum

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) held its Annual Corporate Forum recently in the presence of HE the Minister of Public Health Mansour bin Ebrahim bin Saad al-Mahmoud and PHCC managing director Dr Mariam Ali Abdulmalik.

The event was also attended by members of the executive leadership team, health centre managers, department heads, honoured employees, and several clinical and administrative staff.

Dr Abdulmalik highlighted the PHCC's major achievements in 2024 and early 2025, including success in international accreditations, improvements in service quality, expanded access to care, development of national talent, and enhanced employee satisfaction.

She noted the expansion of services, with more than 1.8mn registered beneficiaries and more than 3mn family medicine visits – a 28% growth.

New specialised services were launched, including urgent care, sepsis detection, cancer survivor care, and expanded ophthalmology services.

Regarding human resources, nationalisation reached 27%, with more than 400 Qatari employees promoted.

The ceremony included the recognition of distinguished "Ataa" employees who have served the PHCC for over 25 years.

Awards were also presented to outstanding directorates and health centres across the northern, central, and western regions, as well as to the winners of the Staff Satisfaction Survey Award, reflecting the PHCC's commitment to improving employee experience and fostering positive competition.

Dr Abdulmalik honoured four entities for winning the Staff Satisfaction Survey Award: Leghwairiya Health Centre, Al Mashaf Health Centre, West Bay Health Centre, and Strategy Planning and Health Intelligence.

Also honoured were the Corporate Project Management Office, the Managing Director's Office, and the departments of Human Resources, HIM Operations, and Clinical Effectiveness.

Dr Abdulmalik also recognised outstanding committees at the PHCC, namely the Corporate Ethics Committee, the Drug Management Committee, and the Code Blue Committee.

Madinat Khalifa Health Centre (Northern Region) represented by Dr Amal Saeed al-Yafei; Al Sadd Health Centre (Central Region), represented by Dr Muna Ahmed al-Hail; and Abu Nakhla Health Centre (Western Region) represented by Dr Fahima Ahmed Nabina were recognised as outstanding health centres.

The event also honoured 40 employees from various departments, as well as 37 employees from the Northern Region, 43 employees from the Central Region, and 43 employees from the Western Region.



QCS launches 'Hope Gathering' initiative to support Qatari women living with cancer

As part of its ongoing efforts to provide psychological and community support for cancer survivors, the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) launched the "Hope Gathering" initiative that brought together Qatari women living with cancer in an atmosphere filled with warmth, compassion, and positivity.

The initiative aimed to provide a safe space for participants to connect, share experiences, and offer one another emotional support.

It served as a human-centred encounter carrying messages of hope and optimism, celebrating inspiring individuals who have overcome the challenges of the disease and become a source of strength and motivation for others.

QCS general manager Mona Ashkanani welcomed the attendees and expressed her joy at organising such an event, describing it as "an important step towards strengthening social cohesion and support for women living with cancer".

She also extended her heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors and partners who contributed to the success of this event, particularly Noir Café, which hosted the evening, and Al Mahmoud Medical Centre.

She emphasised that their ongoing support enables the QCS to continue its humanitarian and purposeful efforts, especially in the areas of awareness, prevention, and psychosocial care.

"Hope gathering" is part of a broader series of community-driven initiatives organised by the QCS to fulfil its vision of a cancer-aware society and to ensure a better quality of life for those affected by the disease.

The participating women expressed deep gratitude for the initiative, which they said brought them feelings of warmth, comfort, and renewed hope.