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SPORT | Page 1

Al-Khelaifi hails PSG's new era after Champions League win

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Kharaitiyat, Izghawa works complete

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) announced the completion of works of the third package of the Roads and Infrastructure Development Project in Al Kharaitiyat and Izghawa. Head of North Areas Section of the Roads Projects Department at Ashghal Abdulla al-Naemi said that the third package of the project aims to achieve extensive improvements which, upon completion, will serve about 1,383 plots in the area through the development of internal streets and construction of shared pedestrian and cycling paths, in addition to developing infrastructure facilities. **Page 12**

Qatar attends Tashkent Forum

Qatar participated in the fourth edition of the Tashkent International Investment Forum, held in the Uzbek capital from June 10 to 12, in the presence of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, along with a number of senior officials, investors, and representatives of economic bodies from various countries around the world. The Qatari delegation to the forum was headed by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Trade at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dr Ahmad bin Mohammed al-Sayed. **Business Page 1**

Lebanese ex-minister arrested over graft

Lebanon arrested former economy minister Amin Salam yesterday as part of an investigation into corruption linked to contracts deemed suspicious, a judicial source said. Salam, who served in the cabinet of former prime minister Najib Mikati from 2021 to 2025, is the first ex-minister to be arrested since the start of Lebanon's economic crisis in 2019. The source said he was arrested on the orders of prosecutor general Jamal al-Hajjar, after three hours of questioning in connection with alleged "falsification, embezzlement and suspicious contracts".

Musk regrets some of Trump criticism

Elon Musk, the world's richest person and Donald Trump's former adviser, said yesterday he regretted some of his recent criticisms of the US president, after the pair's public falling-out last week. "I regret some of my posts about President @realDonaldTrump last week. They went too far," Musk wrote on his social media platform X, in a message that was received favourably by the White House. Their blistering break-up was ignited by Musk's harsh criticism of Trump's so-called "big, beautiful" spending bill, which is currently before Congress. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that Trump was "appreciative," adding that "no efforts" had been made on a threat to end some of Musk's government contracts. **Page 11**

Protests spread across US

Protests against Donald Trump's harsh immigration policies spread yesterday across the United States despite a military-backed crackdown in Los Angeles and a threat by the Republican president to use "heavy force." In Los Angeles, heavily armed officers patrolled near government buildings, and storekeepers boarded up windows to protect against vandalism. **Page 11**

‘Qatar-US trade volume to hit \$1.2tn over the next decade’



US ambassador Timmy Davis speaks to journalists yesterday. **PICTURE:** Joey Aguilar

Qatar urged to win regional battle for tech workers

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The Qatar-US economic partnership is poised for explosive growth, with a potential trade volume of \$1.2tn over the next decade, outgoing US ambassador Timmy Davis said in his final press conference in Doha yesterday.

The envoy described the recent visit of US President Donald Trump to Qatar as a success – not just for the \$243bn in deals and Memorandums of Understanding signed, but for the broader vision it represented.

Speaking to reporters in Doha, he argued that to seize this opportunity, Qatar must strategically position itself to win an escalating regional "battle" for high-tech talent in fields like artificial intelligence (AI) and software development.

"I think it will be important to identify sectors that are going to grow, that aren't headline sectors at this point,"

Davis said, pointing to frameworks like Qatar Vision 2030 and the National Digital Strategy. He stressed that a fierce regional competition is underway for a new kind of labour force.

"One of the things that is going to be in short supply around the region is labour, and I don't mean manual labour, I mean coders, people who understand AI, entrepreneurs," he said. "There is a battle for these workers around the region." Davis underlined the critical role of the press in helping Qatar get a head start by identifying "the ember of the flame that will grow into the sector in the region." By highlighting emerging opportunities in technology, data centres, and ICT, he said the media can inspire local entrepreneurs and, crucially, retain the nation's top graduates.

The envoy lauded Qatar's world-class higher education ecosystem, not only the six US university campuses in Education City, but also Qatar University, and Hamad Bin Khalifa University, which he said are "putting out some of the brightest minds in the world." The challenge, he noted, is ensuring those minds build their careers in Doha.

"We want those minds to work here in Qatar, we don't want them to think they have to go to Europe to find a job of their dreams. If the press can demonstrate to them that they can follow their dreams here... that they can be a part of that is bigger than themselves, it will make a massive difference," he pointed out.

The envoy said the media can act as a catalyst for economic diversification: by helping to spotlight promising industries, journalists can empower startups, attract foreign investment, and give aspiring Qataris a roadmap to success. This, he suggested, would allow innovators to "hitch their wagon to that star" and ensure that when the race to lead the region in a new technology begins, Qatar is already out in front. **Page 7**

US preparing to partially evacuate Iraq embassy

Reuters
Baghdad/Washington

The United States is preparing a partial evacuation of its Iraqi embassy and will allow military dependents to leave locations around the Middle East due to heightened security risks in the region, US and Iraqi sources said yesterday.

The four US and two Iraqi sources did not specify which security risks had prompted the decision and reports of the potential evacuation pushed up oil prices by more than 4%.

"The State Department regularly reviews American personnel abroad and this decision was made as a result of a recent review," White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly told Reuters when asked about reports of the partial evacuations, without giving further details.



A view of the Green Zone, where western embassies are located, in Baghdad. (File Photo)

A White House official said US President Donald Trump was aware of the move.

The partial evacuations come at a moment of heightened tensions in a region already aflame after 18 months of war in Gaza that has raised fears of a wider conflagration pitting the US and Israel against Iran and its allies.

Iranian Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh also said yesterday that Iran would retaliate against

US bases in the region if the nuclear talks failed and it was subjected to strikes.

The United States has a military presence in Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Another US official said that there was no change in operations at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest US military base in the Middle East and that no evacuation order had been issued for employees or families linked to the US embassy in Qatar, which was operating as usual.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has authorised the voluntary departure of military dependents from locations across the Middle East, a US official said. Another US official said that was mostly relevant to family members located in Bahrain – where the bulk of them are based.

Gaza solidarity march reaches Libya



Activists, heading towards Gaza by land are greeted by Libyans in Tripoli's Martyrs Square yesterday, one day after crossing into Libya from Tunisia. **Page 9**

Israel massacres 60 in Gaza; 25 of them killed near aid site

Genocide toll 55,104

Reuters
Cairo

Israeli gunfire and air strikes killed at least 60 Palestinians in Gaza yesterday, most of them near an aid site operated by the US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation in the centre of the enclave, local health officials said.

Medical officials at Shifa and Al-Quds hospitals said at least 25 people were killed and dozens wounded as they approached a food distribution centre near the former Jewish settlement of Netzarim before dawn.

Later yesterday, health officials at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip said at least 14 people had been killed by Israeli gunfire as they approached another GHF site in Rafah.

The death toll from the ongoing Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip since Oct 7, 2023, has risen to 55,104 martyrs, QNA reported.

The foundation said it was unaware of such incidents but added that it was working closely with Israeli authorities to ensure safe passage routes are maintained, and that it was essential for Palestinians to closely follow instructions.

In a statement, GHF said it distributed 2.5mn meals yesterday, the largest single-day delivery since it began operations, bringing to more than 16mn the number of meals provided since its operations started in late May.

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry says that since then, 163 Palestinians had been killed and



Palestinian children wait for food at a distribution point in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

over 1,000 wounded trying to obtain the food boxes.

The United Nations has condemned the killings and has refused to supply aid via the foundation, which uses private contractors with Israeli military backup in what they say is a breach of humanitarian standards.

Elsewhere in Gaza, its health ministry said at least 11 other people were killed by separate Israeli gunfire and strikes across the coastal enclave.

Israel's military campaign has since killed nearly 55,000 Palestinians, most of them civilians, according to health authorities in Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday there had been "significant progress" in efforts to secure the release of the remaining hostages in Gaza, but that it was "too soon" to raise hopes that a deal would be reached.

Two Hamas sources told Reuters they did not know about any breakthrough in negotiations.

HMC successful in transfusion using frozen red blood cells

The Transfusion Medicine Division of Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology (DLMP), has successfully performed its first-ever transfusion using Frozen Packed Red Blood Cells (PRBCs) for a patient with complex transfusion needs.

The patient, diagnosed with Thalassemia Major and multiple immunohematological challenges, responded exceptionally well to the transfusion. There were no adverse reactions, and the patient showed marked clinical improvement, including stabilised haemoglobin levels, enhanced organ function, and overall well-being.

This achievement was made possible through the use of cryopreserved blood from HMC's newly established frozen PRBC inventory. Cryopreserved red blood cells are specially processed and stored at ultra-low temperatures, enabling long-term preservation – up to 30 years – of rare and hard-to-match blood types.

Before transfusion, these units are carefully thawed and washed to remove the cryoprotective agent, allowing for a safer and more



Dr Einas al-Kuwari, Chair of Clinical Services DLMP at HMC

precise match for patients with rare blood groups or antibodies.

Dr Einas al-Kuwari, Chair of Clinical Services DLMP at HMC said this was a significant step forward in providing cutting edge treatments for patients. "This milestone reflects our commitment to delivering cutting-edge medical services," Dr al-Kuwari said.

"The ability to provide frozen PRBCs addresses long-standing challenges in transfusion medicine, particularly for patients with rare or complex immunohematological profiles. It ensures that life-saving blood support is available precisely when needed, with maximum safety".

Lulu

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ق.ر 20

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Class Chocolate 1ltr X 1pc



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ق.ر 10

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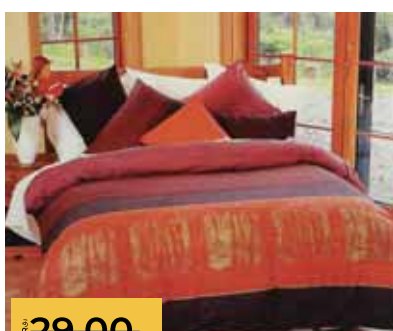
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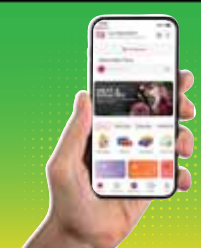
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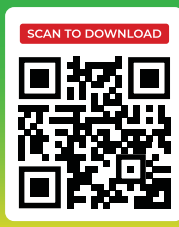


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Finnish Speaker meets Qatar’s ambassador

Speaker of the Parliament of Finland Jussi Kristian Halla-aho met with ambassador of Qatar to Finland Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Jaber. The meeting dealt with discussing bilateral co-operation between the two countries and the means to enhance it. **(QNA)**



Cabinet clears draft law for volunteering work in Gulf region

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani chaired the Cabinet’s regular meeting held yesterday at the Amiri Diwan. Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi stated the following:
The Cabinet reviewed the topics on its agenda. It approved - in principle - a draft law issuing a unified system (law) for volunteering work in the Gulf Co-operation Council countries, and a draft of its executive regulations.
The two drafts’ preparation comes within the framework of the Ministry of Social Development and Family’s strategy, which aims to enhance social responsibility, spread the culture of volunteering in society, organise volunteering work, ensure its practice with freedom and choice, preserve the rights of volunteers and volunteering organisations, and define the duties of each of them.

The Cabinet also approved the draft Cabinet Decision to add a member to the Steering Committee of the Qatar Internet Exchange Point project, established by Decision No 24 of 2018.
Prepared by the Communications Regulatory Authority, this draft aims to connect financial institutions subject to the supervision of the Qatar Central Bank to the Internet Exchange Point, in a way that ensures business continuity in the financial sector and supports its vital requirements.
The Cabinet approved a draft agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) regarding the establishment and financing of a regional office for UNITAR in the State of Qatar; a draft core contribution agreement between the Qatar Fund for Development of the State of Qatar and the United Nations World Food Program for multilateral funding for the years 2025-2026;

a draft letter of intent between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation in the field of mediation and facilitation; a draft memorandum of understanding in the field of Islamic jurisprudence and Islamic affairs between the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs of the State of Qatar and the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation; and a draft air services agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of Nauru.
The Cabinet concluded the weekly meeting by reviewing a report on the outcomes of the participation of Qatar’s delegation, headed by HE the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, in the 16th International Economic Forum “Russia-Islamic World: Kazan Forum” (Republic of Tatarstan - May 2025), regarding which it took the appropriate decision. **(QNA)**

Official

Amir condolences with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the death of Prince Faisal bin Turki bin Saud al-Kabeer al-Saud. **(QNA)**



Qatar attends annual Oslo Forum for Peace

QNA
Oslo
HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi participated as a speaker in the Oslo Forum’s first high-level session held under the title ‘A different future for the Middle East’; as part of this year’s edition of the annual peace forum that takes place in the Norwegian capital, Oslo.
In his remarks at the session, HE Dr al-Khulaifi said that the Middle East is undergoing rapid changes


that require regional actors not only to manage crises but also to play an active role in shaping the future of collective security. HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that the retreat of certain global power centres and the erosion of some multilateral frameworks compel countries in the region to take the initiative and work together to safeguard regional security and achieve lasting stability.
He described the situation in Gaza as a humanitarian catastrophe, noting that the deliberate targeting of infrastructure and the widespread suffering of civilians violate international law and ne-

cessitate serious international action that goes beyond statements to concrete practical steps.
HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted Qatar’s role in supporting political and humanitarian efforts in Gaza and several other countries in the Middle East, stressing that dialogue and the peaceful resolution of disputes remain the most effective path to achieving just and lasting peace. He affirmed that shifting from crisis management to solution-building requires activating joint regional action and developing new mechanisms that reflect the region’s realities.

Minister meets officials on sidelines of Oslo Forum



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi held separate meetings yesterday with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway Espen Barth Eide, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic Asaad al-Shibani, Minister of International Development of the Kingdom of Norway Asmund Aukrust, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway Andreas Kravik, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye Burhanettin Duran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Majid Takht-Ravanchi, and Commissioner for Human Rights in the Ukrainian Parliament Dmytro Lubnits. The meetings took place on the sidelines of the annual Oslo Forum for Peace held in the Norwegian capital, Oslo. During the meetings, the parties reviewed bilateral co-operation and ways to support and enhance it, in addition to discussing a number of regional and international issues. **(QNA)**



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QAPCO invites qualified suppliers / service providers to participate in the following tender:

Sl No.	Tender Reference and Description	(i) Deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding	(ii) Tender Fee & Latest Payment Date	(iii) Tender Publication on ARIBA	(iv) Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	<p>Tender No. P06-01-230</p> <p>10 Years Contract for Logistics and Supply Chain Services</p> <p>Contractor shall provide complete operation, maintenance & safety of all of the following facilities of QAPCO Logistic Terminal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Operation & maintenance of Product silos, Bagging lines, Product Inventory Warehouses & Containers Yards for QAPCO LDPE 1, LDPE2, LDPE3, LLDPE and PVC plants including provision, operation and maintenance of rolling equipment (Forklifts, Reach Stackers, Empty Container Handlers, Terminal Trucks, etc).2. Operation & maintenance of QAPCO Berths 17 & 18 for container loading/offloading on/from vessels including provision, operation & maintenance of cranes (2 mobile shore cranes & 4 straddle carriers).3. Operation & maintenance of QAPCO Berth 19 for loading & offloading of drybulk (Salt & Sulphur) and Liquid Products (Ethylene, Caustic Soda, VCM & EDC).4. Operation & maintenance of QAPCO Materials Inventory Warehouse for storage of stock & non-stock items for QAPCO plants including chemicals storage & handling, and provision of handling equipment (Forklifts, Trucks and Cranes).	17 th June 2025	QAR. 1,000.00 22 nd June 2025	25 th June 2025	QAR. 500,000	25 th August 2025, 12:00 Noon

Note: Only qualified bidders with proven experience in similar scope of work in Oil and Gas Sector in Qatar or Overseas can be accepted.

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official E-mail, etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above.

ii. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.

iii. Non-refundable tender fee as indicated above is payable to QAPCO through **QNB account # 0013-001688-060** only at any QNB branch latest by 22nd June 2025.

iv. Tender link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders. Tender Document will be accessible only after attaching the evidence of the tender fee payment in ARIBA by the bidder followed by Qapco approval.

v. QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.

vi. **Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):** Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to the following address latest by the Bid closing date & time:

Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) Q.P.J.S.C.
P. O. BOX 756, QAPCO Doha Office, The Gate Mall, Bay Tower 2, 11th Floor
Tel.: +974 4033 8109 / 102
Attention: Procurement Group Manager

Bidder to attach copy of tender bond to the offer in ARIBA. **Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.**


Clarifications: Please send your queries with tender reference and description to email procurement@qapco.com.qa.

Note: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the supplier registration process during the tendering period (Detailed steps about ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website www.qapco.com)

For more information about QAPCO please visit our website: www.qapco.com

QNL launches Arabic Calligraphy Contest to celebrate heritage and creativity

Qatar National Library (QNL) is celebrating the timeless beauty of Arabic calligraphy with the launch of its Arabic Calligraphy Contest, inviting community members to share artworks inspired by its heritage collection.
Drawing inspiration from the calligraphic panels and manuscripts preserved in QNL's Heritage Library, this contest offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage with Arab and Islamic heritage through the art of calligraphy.
Themed around Arabic verses and texts, the contest encourages creativity rooted in tradition. Participants are required to incorporate one of five texts into their artwork, using a traditional Arabic calligraphic script such as Naskh, Thuluth or Diwani, among others. Entries may be submitted as either digital artworks or hand-drawn pieces (scanned in high resolution) in A4 or A3 format. AI-generated artworks will not be accepted.
The contest is open to all nationals and residents aged 16 and above with a valid Qatar National Library membership. Submissions must be uploaded via the official submission form no later than 20 July 2025.
Public voting will take place on Qatar National Library's Instagram Stories from 27 July to 7 August 2025, with the final winner announced on 13 August 2025, in celebration of World Calligraphy Day. **(QNA)**



المستشفى الأهلي
AL-AHLI HOSPITAL
A Division of
MediCare Group P.J.S.C.

ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE OF THE FOLLOWING TENDER:

Tender No.	Subject	Tender Bond (Q.R.S.)	Closing Date
AAH/TC/ 10/2025	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Anesthesia Machine	Qar. 30,000/-	3rd July 2025

- The full documents for the above mentioned tender can be obtained from the PURCHASING DEPARTMENT of Al-Ahli Hospital from Sunday to Thursday, between 9:00AM to 1:00PM upon payment of non-refundable fee of QAR 4,000.00 to Accounts Receivables, Finance department Al-Ahli Hospital.
- The tender should be accompanied by a Tender Bond issued by a Qatar Accredited Bank and acceptable to Al-Ahli Hospital. The bond should be valid for 120 days from the submission date of the tender.
- The successful tenderer should submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the contract value, which should be valid for 180 days beyond the warranty period.
- The tenders should submit in three (3) sealed envelopes: one (1) envelope for Technical Offer, one (1) envelope for Commercial Offer, and one (1) envelope for Tender Bond.
- Tenders must be addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Committee, clearly indicating the Tender Number and Subject.
- The Last date to purchase the tender documents will be on 22nd June 2025.
- The closing time for the submission of bid Tenders should be no later than 2:00PM of the Closing Date.

For further information please contact: **Purchasing Department**
Phone: **+974 4489 8663** – Fax: **+974 4489 8768**
Email : mohiddens@ahlihospital.com

PM sends written message to Swedish foreign minister



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a written message to Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden Maria Malmer Stenergard, pertaining to bilateral relations and ways to support and develop them. The message was handed over by ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Kingdom of Sweden Nadya bint Ahmad al-Sheebi during her meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden Dag Hartelius. (QNA)

Qatar Charity inaugurates health centre in Somalia

QNA
Doha

Qatar Charity has inaugurated a new health centre in northern Somalia. The facility aims to deliver essential medical services to a region suffering from a severe shortage of healthcare infrastructure.

The new centre houses several departments, including maternal and child health, emergency services, and internal medicine. It is equipped with modern medical devices and equipment to ensure the delivery of effective and quality healthcare services.

The centre is designed to provide comprehensive medical care, especially for women and children groups most affected by the



lack of healthcare services in the region. Director of Qatar Charity's Somalia office Abdul Fat-tah Adam Maalim stated that the centre is part of a wider portfolio of health projects implemented by Qatar Charity, praising the inauguration of the centre which supports the healthcare sector in Somalia and enhance the quality

of life for its people. Over the past two decades, more than 16mn people in Somalia have benefited from Qatar Charity's healthcare initiatives.

Among them are 58,000 orphans who continue to receive regular medical and social care through the charity's programmes across the country.

WORLD'S LARGEST 3D PRINTED CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COMMENCES IN QATAR.

UCC Holding and Ashghal Launch the 3D-Printed Schools Project



In a global first for large-scale digital construction, UCC Holding, in partnership with the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), has officially commenced the printing phase of the 3D Printed Schools Project—marking the launch of the world's largest construction development using 3D printing technology.

The project involves the construction of 14 public schools, including two built using 3D printing technology, each with a built-up area of 20,000 square meters — totaling 40,000 square meters. This is 40 times larger than the largest 3D-printed building constructed anywhere in the world to date.

The two schools are designed as two-storey buildings on plots measuring 100 by 100 meters each, making this project an unprecedented model for future-ready educational infrastructure in Qatar and across the region.

To realize this unprecedented scale, UCC Holding commissioned COBOD, the world leader in 3D construction printing based in Denmark, to supply two customized BODXL printers, each measuring 50 meters long, 30 meters wide, and 15 meters high—roughly the size of a Boeing 737 hangar—making them the largest construction printers in the world.

Following extensive prepara-

tion—including site development, equipment assembly, and operational simulations—printing operations have officially begun. UCC Holding has assembled a dedicated 3D construction team consisting of architects, civil engineers, material scientists, and printer technicians. Over the past eight months, this team conducted over 100 full-scale test prints using a BOD2 printer at a dedicated trial site in Doha, developing concrete mix designs, validating performance under local climate conditions, and engineering a custom print nozzle to ensure precision and smooth extrusion.

In May 2025, the team completed intensive training alongside COBOD engineers, covering printer operation, print sequencing, structural layering strategies, and live quality control. This milestone marks a major leap in Qatar's local capacity for advanced construction technology, solidifying its role as a regional hub for innovation and engineering.

Compared to conventional construction methods, 3D printing offers multiple environmental, social, and economic advantages. It significantly reduces raw material waste and minimizes concrete usage, cutting carbon emissions. On-site printing also reduces transport needs, mitigates supply chain risks, and accelerates project delivery. With operations scheduled at night to avoid high temperatures, the process also ensures better concrete performance while reducing dust and noise.

Architecturally, the schools are inspired by the natural desert formations of Qatar, with curved, flowing walls resembling sand dunes. This design is only made possible by the geometric freedom that 3D printing offers—enabling organic, parametric forms that would be difficult or cost-prohibitive using traditional construction methods.

The schools are expected to be completed by the end of 2025, reinforcing Qatar's global leadership in sustainable development, innovation, and next-generation public infrastructure.

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800 1800



ال عبد الغني موتورز
Al Abdulghani
Motors



AlKhater spotlights Qatar’s expanding cultural diplomacy through YoC initiative

As the Years of Culture (YoC) initiative celebrates its 15th edition in 2025, Qatar marks a new chapter in cultural diplomacy with its most ambitious programme yet – simultaneous partnerships with two countries in a single year. This bold evolution is the focus of a newly published opinion piece by HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, in *Arab News*, titled ‘Qatar’s Cultural Diplomacy as a Global Platform’.

First launched in 2012 as a bilateral cultural exchange programme, the YoC was originally designed to raise global awareness of Qatar

ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 – the first to be held in the Arab world. Over the past decade, the initiative has grown into a cornerstone of Qatar’s international outreach, building long-term, cross-sector collaboration through cultural and creative engagement.

“In an increasingly interconnected world, culture has become a critical language of diplomacy,” writes HE AlKhater. “What began as a platform to welcome the world to Qatar has transformed into a mechanism for long-term, reciprocal collaboration across sectors and borders.”

Through a diverse array of pro-

gramming, ranging from street art installations and collaborative museum exhibitions to culinary exchanges, archaeological fieldwork, and trade fairs, Years of Culture exemplifies a decentralised and inclusive model of diplomacy. It invites participation not only from diplomats and policymakers, but also from chefs, students, economists, volunteers, and artists.

Legacy is a recurring theme in the op-ed. Examples include the “On the Move” exhibition, which debuted as part of Qatar-MENASA 2022 and later toured in China, and the multi-year collaboration with Moroccan artist Sara Ouhammadou,

which spans exhibitions, capacity-building, and the revival of traditional glassmaking techniques in Morocco.

A recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Qatar and France in 2024 further underscores the programme’s long-term policy impact, building on the foundations laid during the Qatar-France 2020 Year of Culture.

The article also reflects on how Qatar is redefining cultural exchange, not as a unilateral export or import of identity, but as a co-created, evolving dialogue. This is evident in the growing presence of contemporary Qatari art in former

partner nations such as Germany, Russia, and China, where young Qatari and Qatar-based artists gain global visibility and form lasting international networks.

Looking ahead, the Years of Culture is poised to expand beyond the model of annual bilateral partnerships into a continuous, multidimensional platform for global engagement.

“Born in Doha, but resonating far beyond,” writes HE AlKhater, the programme is now seen as a cultural and intellectual hub, encouraging dialogue, creativity, and mutual respect in an era of shifting global narratives.



HE Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater



Burgenstock Resort Lake Lucerne launches ‘The 007 Experience’

One of Switzerland’s most prestigious resorts, Burgenstock Resort Lake Lucerne, owned by Qatar’s Katara Hospitality, has announced the launch of its exclusive ‘The 007 Experience’ package.

This newly designed package invites guests from the GCC countries to immerse themselves in a world of sophisticated luxury and excitement, stepping into the cinematic allure of James Bond in Switzerland, set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Swiss Alps.

Managing director Chris K Franzen described the Burgenstock Resort as a destination for world travellers seeking elevated, personalised journeys. “The ‘007 Experience’ combines the natural scenery of Switzerland with an exciting experience, all delivered with the discretion, privacy, and personalised service that our GCC

guests appreciate and expect from our resort.”

The adventure begins with a luxury lakeview stay, where guests will enjoy an overnight retreat in a Contemporary Lake View Bay Suite at the Burgenstock Hotel & Alpine Spa. These suites offer panoramic views of Lake Lucerne and the surrounding Alps. The experience includes a private flight in a Pilatus PC12 aircraft, operated by Aviathor, from Buochs Airport, around the Matterhorn, over the Alps en route to Locarno – a special aerial view.

Guests can experience the famous opening scene from the James Bond film *GoldenEye*. This involves a 220m jump from the historic Verzasca Dam, the same location where the famous stunt, originally performed by Pierce Brosnan, was filmed.

After a day of adventure, guests can relax with a tasting experience

at the resort’s Lakeview Bar & Cigar Lounge, featuring a selection of cigars, drinks, and Swiss chocolates for a refined experience. Ensuring a comfortable journey from start to finish, the package includes private car transfers between Buochs Airport and Burgenstock Resort, as well as between Locarno and the Verzasca Dam for the bungee jump experience.

Set 500m above Lake Lucerne and surrounded by panoramic views of the Swiss Alps, Burgenstock Resort is part of the Burgenstock Collection, owned by Katara Hospitality of Qatar.

The resort has become a preferred destination for discerning travellers from the GCC, known for its blend of Swiss precision, warm service, world-class wellness, and discreet luxury. Early reservations are highly recommended due to limited availability, a statement added.



New GM for Longevity Hub

Milan Banic has been appointed as the general manager of the Longevity Hub by Clinique La Prairie, located within the St Regis Marsa Arabia Island in Doha, a statement said. “Our Hub is part of a brand that has been shaping the future of health and wellness for over 90 years,” Banic said. Longevity Hub by Clinique La Prairie is renowned worldwide for its science-backed solutions, pioneering approach to integrated well-being, and unwavering commitment to hyper-personalisation. Their philosophy, ‘At the heart of the secret of life,’ underscores their mission to empower individuals to live longer, healthier, and better lives through a comprehensive and scientific approach to longevity.

“This is my second role with Clinique La Prairie, and it’s a privilege to contribute further to a vision and standard of excellence that deeply aligns with my own,” Banic explained. “At the Longevity Hub by Clinique La Prairie, we will continue to combine cutting-edge diagnostics and medical expertise with pioneering aesthetics and advanced wellness solutions. But beyond that, we aim to create a sense of connection and trust.”

Rosewood Doha opens reservations

Set along the Lusail Marina promenade, Rosewood Doha has opened reservations for stays beginning July 15, a statement said. Positioned at the leading edge of Lusail, Rosewood Doha introduces a bold architectural presence inspired by the coral formations of the Arabian Gulf – a vertical expression of land and sea.

Sculpted facades and asymmetric mashrabiya patterns reinterpret regional design through a modern lens, while interiors draw from the curves of dhow boats and seashells. A sensory narrative unfolds through organic textures, nuanced materials, and the warm aroma of Arabic coffee, dates, and bakhoor.

Rosewood Doha offers guests a refined connection to the country’s evolving cultural canvas, where past and future, ritual and innovation, are thoughtfully interwoven.

Design takes centre stage at Rosewood Doha, a striking architectural statement that houses 155 refined rooms and suites, 162 fully serviced apartments, and 276 Rosewood Residences – a refined collection of one-, two-, and three-bedroom homes.

Designed by acclaimed architect Ibrahim Jaidah and styled by Lilian Wu, the property draws inspiration from Qatar’s marine heritage – translating the coral reefs and pearl diving traditions of the Arabian Gulf into a modern expression of place.

Art is woven throughout the property, curated by Visto to reflect the nation’s landscapes and stories. Suites and residences feature works by Yasser al-Mulla, while engineer Azzam al-Mannai’s evocative photography enhances the public spaces. In the signature suites, a bespoke chinaware collection by Ghada



al-Khater adds a personal cultural touch – elevating everyday rituals with meaning. Culinary experiences at Rosewood Doha begin with a commitment to provenance and place.

At the heart of this philosophy is Rosewood’s Partners in Provenance programme, brought to life through a collaboration with Qatari farmer Jassim al-Kuwari, who runs Blessed Land Farm – a family-owned farm passed down

through generations. Dedicated to cultivating organic, sustainable produce, the farm supplies ingredients directly to the hotel’s kitchens.

There are eight distinct dining concepts, including a 24-hour Levantine brasserie. At Asaya, Rosewood Doha’s members-only Social Wellness Club, well-being is approached as a personal journey – blending ancient traditions with modern innovation.



Endless Summer Escape at Sheraton Grand Doha

Sheraton Grand Doha has announced Endless Summer Escape, a limited-time offer designed for those seeking longer getaways, relaxed mornings, and memorable moments by the sea.

“Whether you’re planning a weekend retreat or an extended staycation, this exclusive package offers the perfect blend of comfort, luxury, and thoughtful benefits to make every stay unforgettable,” a statement said.

Guests booking this package will enjoy: Daily breakfast for two adults and two children under 12, complimentary one-hour unmotorised water sports activity (10% savings on all motorised water sports activities), complimentary access to the kids’ activities,



including a schedule of daily activities, 25% savings at signature dining destinations – Michelin-starred Jamavar Doha, Al Hubara, Irish Harp, Pool Cafe and Atrium Lounge, early check-in and late

check-out, and a complimentary signature Umm Ali at Atrium Lounge.

The offer is valid for stays through September 30, the statement added.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, MAHALAKSHMI PLAVALAPPIL BAIJU

holder of

Indian Passport No. Y9173954
QID No. 30935606417

hereby change my name

from

MAHALAKSHMI PLAVALAPPIL BAIJU

to

DOXA MAHIMA BAIJU

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, CELINE STELLA FIGARO EPOUSE DREVET

holder of

FRANCE Passport No. 19DK51265
QID No. 2669000001

hereby change my name

from

CELINE STELLA FIGARO EPOUSE DREVET

to

CELLINE STELLA FIGARO

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

Al Rawabi Group celebrates staff legacy at 2nd Annual Town Hall



The Al Rawabi Group of Companies has successfully conducted its second annual town hall meeting as part of its continued commitment to employee engagement, recognition, and empowerment, a statement said.

The event was inaugurated by managing director Mohammed Abdullah, in the presence of chairman M P Abdulla Haji, Five Group Trading managing director K K Usman, Al Rawabi Group directors Muhammed Sadik, Harris

Thayyil and general manager Kannu Baker.

The meeting honoured employees who completed 25 and 15 years of service, as well as outstanding performers from each division, recognised as the Best Staff of the Year.

Naushad K T K, assistant general manager, Wholesale Division, and Ismail V P, purchase manager, were celebrated for their 25 years of dedicated service.

In a gesture of appreciation, the chairman and board of directors

presented both leaders with the keys of a Thar Roxx SUV each, reflecting Al Rawabi's gratitude for their loyalty and commitment. Their heartfelt words - narrating their humble beginnings and journey to leadership - served as an inspiration to all staff members.

In addition, 25 employees from various divisions who completed 15 years of service were also honoured, each sharing personal reflections of growth, support, and the deep bond they share with the organisation.

In his keynote address, managing director Mohammed Abdullah, said: "Al Rawabi's greatest strength is our people. This Town Hall is a reflection of our legacy - a culture built on trust, dedication, and empowerment. We are proud to celebrate those who have walked with us for 15 and 25 years, and the Best Staff from each division who continue to raise the bar.

"Our staff are the pillars of our progress, and as part of our commitment to their future, I am pleased to announce a scholarship

programme for the children of our employees, supporting their dreams and education. Al Rawabi's journey is incomplete without its people - and together, we will continue to grow."

Adding depth to the session, renowned financial educator K V Shamsudheen was invited to deliver a special address on Personal Financial Discipline, guiding employees on building long-term savings and financial stability.

The event also featured personal

stories from the directors of Al Rawabi Group, who shared their entrepreneurial journey, the values that shaped the company, and their vision for the future.

The meeting concluded on a high note with a collective message from the leadership team: "We are not just a company, we are a family. Each employee's contribution is a chapter in the Al Rawabi story. Let us continue to build a future where success is shared, values are upheld, and our legacy continues."

'Human impact defines deepening Qatar-US partnership'

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

An emotional embrace on an airport tarmac, not statistics on trade or energy, highlights the deep human impact of a US-Qatar partnership that has matured into one of the world's most significant diplomatic alliances, outgoing US ambassador Timmy Davis said.

Speaking to journalists in Doha yesterday, the envoy recounted standing on the tarmac as American citizens freed from detention in Iran arrived in Doha, their freedom secured through Qatar's intensive mediation.

Davis said he was prepared for a formal handshake, but the first detainee to approach him said, "You're the US ambassador?" "I said 'yes,' and he said: 'Can I give you a hug?'" Davis recalled.

"In that moment, I realised that our relationship with Qatar is more than economics, it is more than education, it is more than energy. In fact, it is built around the idea that we can change people's lives," he said.

That single hug, a picture of which the ambassador keeps, embodied what he described as "the true power of Qatar's efforts at doing good in the world." He said it's a power he has witnessed repeatedly during a three-year tenure that spanned the success of the 2022 FIFA World Cup to the ongoing and challenging efforts to broker a ceasefire in Gaza.

"I have said over and over again how fortunate I am to be the US ambassador in Doha, I am



US ambassador Timmy Davis interacting with the media yesterday in Doha. **PICTURE:** Joey Aguilar

the luckiest ambassador in the world," Davis said, crediting the trusted partnership with enabling him to advance US priorities while essentially changing lives.

Beyond reacting to crises, Davis argued that the relationship between the two countries is now mature enough to shift from a reactive to a proactive posture. He called for a new chapter where the two nations work together to prevent humanitarian disasters before they unfold.

"A lot of our success at mediating conflicts, at providing community assistance, has been somewhat ad hoc," he observed. "I think there's an opportunity for the US and Qatar to take a breath and think about how they want to work together not just to respond to suffering... but how

they want to help forestall, prevent."

Davis said he envisions a future where the two "good friends," harnessing their shared expertise and resources through bodies such as the Qatar Fund for Development can identify and solve problems before they escalate into global emergencies.

According to the envoy, while the exact number of lives saved or disasters averted through preventative action cannot be known, the positive outcomes - like the advancement of humanity and a reduction in suffering - are undeniable.

"And if we can work together to stop some of these things before they get started and so I think that's where we should be going and thinking about how we make the world better in the coming years," he said.

Steps to repatriate bodies of Qatar residents killed in Kenya crash

Steps are being taken to repatriate the bodies of the five Qatar-based Indian nationals who died in a road accident in Kenya on Monday.

In a post on X, the Indian embassy in Qatar said the post-mortem of the victims were completed on Tuesday night. Further formalities for the transportation of the mortal remains are being co-ordinated by the high commission of India in Nairobi.

"All other 23 Indians (in the group) have been shifted to Nairobi and are receiving necessary medical attention. Our high commission is constantly monitoring and providing help," the post said.

"One of the accident victims is in a critical condition. The injured are getting necessary medical attention," an Indian embassy official in Qatar told Gulf Times.

The Indian high commission in Nairobi, in a post on X, said a consular team is on the ground and in close contact with the local authorities to extend all necessary support. The team can be reached at +254 734916532.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic road accident on Ol Jororok-Nakuru Road in Nyandarua County, in which five Indian nationals have lost their lives. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved fami-

lies. We pray for the swift recovery of the injured," the X post said.

"The mission is providing assistance to the affected," a consular official in Nairobi told Gulf Times. The tragic incident in central Kenya on Monday evening happened as the bus, in which the victims were travelling in overturned during a holiday trip.

The deceased have been identified as Geetha Shoji Is-sac (58), Riya Ann (41) and her daughter Tyra Rodrigues (8), Jasna Kuttikkattuchail (30) and Roohie Mehri (18 months old) - all Qatar residents and natives of various places in Kerala.

Qatar Airways, Art Basel partnership to enrich global cultural engagement

Qatar Airways has announced a new global partnership with Art Basel, the world's leading contemporary art fair.

This long-term alliance reinforces Qatar Airways' role as a global connector of people, places, and culture.

As Art Basel's Premium Partner, Qatar Airways will support all of the fair's prestigious annual exhibitions - in Basel, Paris, Hong Kong, Miami, and its newly launched edition in Qatar.

This partnership goes beyond sponsorship and aims to deepen the airline's connection with a culture- and art-forward global demographic through the one of the world's most respected names in the art world.



The collaboration also marks the exciting introduction of Art Basel into the Middle East, with a new edition launching February 2026 in Doha.

This will be the fair's first presence in the region and highlights Qatar's growing stature as a regional arts and cultural hub as the nation continues to evolve as a destination that inspires and connects the world through its National Vision 2030 roadmap.

Qatar Airways Group CEO Badr Mohammed al-Meer said: "Our long-term collaboration with Art Basel goes beyond being just a partnership - it is a strategic alignment between two globally respected brands and statement on Qatar's contributions to cultural development and exchange around the globe.

"Art Basel represents the highest calibre of international artistry and sophistication, and its audience of artists, collectors, and cultural influencers reflects the premium customer base that we serve every day.

"We are proud to support a platform that shares our values and aspirations on a global scale and in

connecting the region with art and ideas from all over the world."

Art Basel Chief Executive Officer, Dr Noah Horowitz said: "We are honoured to partner with Qatar Airways, a premium brand synonymous for world-class hospitality experiences and luxury travel, and truly excited to bring the partnership to life across our global platform, starting in Basel this June.

"Having just launched our fifth fair in Qatar, we are delighted to join forces with one of the leading Qatari brands to create new experiences and journeys to inspire art lovers and travellers around the world."

Through this partnership, Qatar Airways continues to demonstrate its broader brand ambition to be more than just a carrier, but a catalyst for discovery, inspiration and cultural dialogue.

Art Basel Qatar will be held in collaboration with Qatar Creates and Qatar Sports Investments, reflecting the country's broader cultural vision and its ambition to host a thriving creative ecosystem.

The inaugural edition of Art Basel Qatar will be held in M7 creative hub and the Doha Design District in downtown Msheireb.

Al-Hosh Gallery to launch art exhibition

Al-Hosh Gallery is gearing up to launch its "Sensory Summer" exhibition, a unique summer art event that celebrates the human senses and the holistic artistic experience.

The exhibition will be launched next Sunday (June 15) at the gallery's headquarters in Porto Arabia 1, The Pearl, featuring more than 120 artists from Qatar and around the world.

The exhibition presents a multi-media art event that celebrates cultural and creative diversity. It offers visitors a rare opportunity to interact with artworks through audio-visual, and tactile sensory experiences.



making it a unique experience that goes beyond viewing to fully immerse and participate in the world of art.

"Sensory Summer" is a lively space for dialogue, experimentation, and emotion, aiming to engage all senses to redefine the relationship between art and audiences, creating a new way of communication that transcends the traditional and the expected.

The exhibition includes a diverse collection of artworks that comprise drawing, photography, sculpture, art installations, and video art, along with interactive art experiences and spaces dedicated to children and families, making it an inspiring cultural destination for all age groups during the summer season.

Qatar Airways launches 'One Year to Go' campaign, ahead of FIFA World Cup 2026

Qatar Airways, the 'Official Airline of the FIFA World Cup 2026' is celebrating 'one year to go' in a special video campaign that takes fans on a journey as the FIFA World Cup Winner's Trophy is flown from Lusail, Qatar to New York featuring football icons Roberto Baggio and Romario.

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 concluded in legendary fashion, when Argentina triumphed over France at the Lusail Stadium on December 18 - Qatar's National Day.

In the campaign trailer, the FIFA World Cup Winner's Trophy, and the legacy it represents, is handed over to Canada, Mexico and the US - host nations of the FIFA World Cup 2026. The tournament will culminate at the New York New Jersey Stadium for the final.

The campaign features Qatar Airways cabin crew on a mission to transport the Winner's Trophy to the US and hand-deliver football's most elite prize to Baggio and Romario, who famously contest-

ed the final in FIFA World Cup USA 1994.

The campaign aims to capture the excitement and heritage of what's considered to be one of the greatest tournaments in World Cup history.

Qatar Airways Group CEO Badr Mohammed al-Meer said: "Four years ago in Qatar, we embarked on a journey to unite the world through the power of football. Today we embark on the same journey, but with our sights now set on Canada, Mexico and the US, in what promises to be a

spectacular FIFA World Cup 2026.

"From delivering all-inclusive travel packages, to curated fan experiences, we are on a mission to make dreams come true - utilising our global network to fly fans, officials and teams to this historical event."

Qatar Airways Holidays is set to launch travel packages for the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Canada, Mexico and the US.

The tournament will have 48 teams competing during the biggest World Cup in history

with more than 104 planned matches across all three countries and 16 host cities.

Three hidden World Cup messages are placed throughout the video - pinned on the airline's Instagram platform for fans to find and comment. Those who follow the '@qatarairways' account and identify them correctly, will be entered in a raffle to win a free Qatar Airways Holidays FIFA World Cup 2026 travel package, and experience the thrill of "The World's Greatest Show," in person.





Follow safety instructions in metro, MoI tells passengers



The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has asked passengers to follow safety guidelines inside the metro and stations. "Following safety guidelines inside metro stations ensures a safe and comfortable journey for you and others," MoI said in an advisory on X. "Keep your personal belongings safe. In emergencies, seek assistance immediately. Keep a safe distance from doors while opening and closing. Follow the instructions and signs inside the stations. Don't smoke inside the stations. Take care of children while stepping on escalators to avoid falls or injuries," the advisory added.

Iran warns will target US bases if conflict breaks out

Iran and the US have recently been locked in a diplomatic standoff over Iran's uranium enrichment, with Tehran defending it as a "non-negotiable"

AFP
Tehran

Iran warned yesterday it will target US military bases in the region if conflict breaks out, while President Donald Trump said he was "less confident" about reaching a nuclear deal.

Tehran and Washington have held five rounds of talks since April to thrash out a new nuclear deal to replace the 2015 accord that Trump abandoned during his first term in 2018.

Since returning to office in January, Trump has revived his "maximum pressure" campaign on Tehran, backing nuclear diplomacy but warning of military action if it fails.

"All its bases are within our reach, we have access to them, and without hesitation we will target all of them," Iran's De-

fence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh said in response to US threats of military action if the talks fail.

"God willing, things won't reach that point, and the talks will succeed," the minister said, adding that the US side "will suffer more losses" if it came to conflict.

Iran and the US have recently been locked in a diplomatic standoff over Iran's uranium enrichment, with Tehran defending it as a "non-negotiable" right and Washington calling it as a "red line".

Trump had previously expressed optimism about the talks, saying during a Gulf tour last month Washington was "getting close" to securing a deal.

But in an interview published yesterday, Trump said he was "less confident" the US and Iran could reach a deal, in response to a question on whether he believed he could stop Tehran from enriching uranium.

Iran currently enriches uranium to 60%, far above the 3.67% limit set in the 2015 deal and close though still short of the 90% needed for a nuclear warhead.

Western countries, including the US and its ally Israel, claim Iran is seeking to acquire atomic weapons, while Tehran insists its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

Last week, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said enrichment is "key" to Iran's nuclear programme and that Washington "cannot have a say" on the issue.

During the interview with the *New York Post's* podcast "Pod Force One", which was recorded on Monday, Trump said he was losing hope a deal could be reached.

"I don't know. I did think so, and I'm getting more and more - less confident about it. They seem to be delaying and I think that's a shame. I am less confident now than I would have been a couple of months ago," he said.

"Something happened to them but I am much less confident of a deal being made... May be they don't wanna make a deal, what can I say? And may be they do. There is nothing final."

Trump maintained that Washington would not allow Te-

hran to obtain nuclear weapons, saying "it would be nicer to do it without warfare, without people dying".

On May 31, after the fifth round of talks, Iran said it had received "elements" of a US proposal for a nuclear deal, with Araghchi later saying the text contained "ambiguities".

Iran has said it will present a counter-proposal to the latest draft from Washington, which it had criticised for failing to offer relief from sanctions - a key demand for Tehran.

On Monday, the United Nations nuclear watchdog began a board of governors meeting in Vienna that will last until Friday to discuss Iran's atomic activities and other issues.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting followed a report issued by it criticising "less than satisfactory" co-operation from Tehran, particularly in explaining past cases of nuclear material found at undeclared sites.

Iran has criticised the IAEA report as unbalanced, saying it relied on "forged documents" provided by its arch-foe Israel.

'No one can stop' Sara Duterte impeachment trial: prosecutors

AFP
Manila

House of Representatives prosecutors yesterday said Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial could not be stopped despite the senate sending the case back to them hours after convening as a court.

Prosecutors told an afternoon press briefing their case had complied strictly with the constitution, adding they would seek clarification over what they called "confusing" senate orders.

Duterte was impeached in early February on charges of graft, corruption and an alleged assassination plot against former ally and running mate President Ferdinand Marcos.

A guilty verdict would see her removed from office and permanently barred from politics.

"No one can stop this anymore, because jurisdiction has been acquired already by the impeachment court," said Congresswoman Gerville Luistro, pointing to the senate's issuing of a summons for Duterte late yesterday.

"There will be no... withdrawal (of the impeachment case) by the House. That is not allowed by the constitution."

Tuesday night's 18-5 senate



People stand outside the gate of the Senate of the Philippines during a protest calling for the impeachment of Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte, in Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines, yesterday.

vote ordered the House to certify it had not violated the constitution by hearing three impeachment complaints before the one that ultimately went to a vote.

The constitution bars subjecting anyone to multiple impeachment proceedings within the same year.

House member Ysabel Maria Zamora said the final impeachment complaint had "consolidated all the articles" into one.

Yesterday night, the House passed a resolution certifying that the impeachment proceedings against Duterte fully com-

plied with the constitution, including the filings of the first three complaints.

A second order to guarantee the case would move forward after new House members take their seats on June 30 was "impossible" to fulfil as they could not speak for a future Congress, prosecutors said.

Outside the senate, several hundred protesters gathered yesterday, shouting slogans and pounding on the gates as they called for the body to follow through with the impeachment trial.

The senate's vote to remand was as much a matter of "political survival" as anything, lawyer and former senator Leila de Lima said yesterday.

De Lima, who warned more than a week ago the senate could move to kill the impeachment, said the spectre of a still-powerful Duterte was likely on lawmakers' minds.

"Loyalty, friendship, political survival. Maybe they are thinking the Dutertes are very much around even if the patriarch (ex-president Rodrigo Duterte) is in The Hague," she said.

The elder Duterte has been imprisoned since March when he was arrested and transferred to the International Criminal Court to face charges tied to his deadly drug war.

His daughter has been widely mooted as a presidential candidate in 2028 should she survive the impeachment process.

Senators "were trying to protect their political ambitions", agreed Congresswoman France Castro, who endorsed an early impeachment complaint against the vice-president.

Asked at yesterday's press briefing if he believed the senate was deliberately delaying the trial, Congressman Keith Flores said the answer was clear. "I cannot speak for everyone but for me, yes."

Bangladesh's Yunus says will step down after polls

AFP
London

Bangladesh interim leader Muhammad Yunus yesterday said there was "no way" he wanted to continue in power after elections he has announced for April, the first since a mass uprising overthrew the government.

The country of around 170mn people has been in political turmoil since a student-led revolt ousted then prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024, ending her 15-year rule.

Speaking in London, Yunus, asked if he himself was seeking any political post, the 84-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner said there was "no way", waving his hands in the air for emphasis.

"I think none of our Cabinet members would like to do that, not only me," he said.

Yunus was answering questions after speaking at London's foreign policy think tank Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

He also said he wanted to unveil a "big package" of proposals next month that he dubbed

a "July Charter" - one year on since the students launched the demonstrations that toppled Hasina.

The aim of the package, he added, was to overhaul democratic institutions after Hasina's tenure.

"We want to say goodbye to the old Bangladesh and create a new Bangladesh", Yunus said.

The charter is being drafted by a government "consensus commission", talking to political parties to "find that which are the recommendations they will accept", he added.

Monsoon-loving Indian expats chase rain in UAE desert

AFP
Sharjah, UAE

After Muhammed Sajjad moved from India to the UAE a decade ago, he missed his native Kerala's monsoon season, so he embarked on an unlikely quest: finding rain in the desert.

Using satellite imagery, weather data and other high-tech tools, the amateur meteorologist tracks potential rainfall spots across the desert country and, along with other Indians nostalgic for the monsoon season, chases the

clouds in search of rain.

"When I came to UAE in 2015, in August, it... was peak monsoon time" in Kerala, the 35-year-old estate agent said, adding that he had struggled to adjust to the change of climate.

"So I started to search about the rainy condition in UAE and I came to know that there is rain happening in UAE during peak summer," he said, adding: "I started to explore the possibility to chase the rain, enjoy the rain."

Each week, he forecasts when and where rain might fall and posts a suggested rendezvous for the 130,000 followers of his "UAE

Weatherman" page on Instagram.

He regularly posts footage of his rain expeditions out into the desert, hoping to bring together "all rain lovers who miss rain".

Last weekend, he headed out into the desert from Sharjah at the head of a convoy of about 100 vehicles.

But nothing is certain. The rain "may happen, it may not happen," Sajjad said. But when it does, "it is an amazing moment".

After driving in the desert for hours, the group arrived at the designated spot just as a downpour started.

The rain lovers leapt out of their

vehicles, their faces beaming as the rain droplets streamed down their cheeks in a rare reminder of home.

"They feel nostalgic," Sajjad said proudly.

Most UAE residents are foreigners, among them some 3.5mn Indians who make up the Gulf country's largest expatriate community.

Despite the use of advanced cloud-seeding technology, the UAE has an average yearly rainfall of just 50 to 100 millilitres.

Most of it falls during short but intense winter storms.

"While long-term averages re-

main low, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events has been increasing and is due to global warming," said Diana Francis, a climate scientist who teaches at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi.

In the summer, the country often gets less than five millilitres of rain, she said, usually falling away from the coastal areas where most of the population lives.

So rain-seekers must drive deep into the desert interior to have a chance of success.

An Indian expatriate, who gave her name only as Anagha and was on her first expedition into the desert last weekend, said she was

"excited to see the rain".

The UAE endured its hottest April on record this year.

By contrast, April last year saw the UAE's heaviest rains in 75 years, which saw 259.5mm of rainfall in a single day.

Four people died and the commercial hub of Dubai was paralysed for several days. Scientists of the World Weather Attribution network said the intense rains were "most likely" exacerbated by global warming.

"We couldn't enjoy it because it was flooded all over UAE," Anagha said. "This time we are going to see... rain coming to us in the desert."

Closure at Al Thumama Stadium Interchange



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a temporary closure of Exit No. 32 at Al Thumama Stadium Interchange for vehicles coming from Mesaieed Road towards Al Wakra on June 13 from 2-10am. The closure in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic is to carry out essential maintenance works. During the closure, road users coming from Mesaieed Road towards Al Wakra are advised to continue straight and use the alternative routes shown on the map. Ashghal will install road signs advising motorists of the temporary closure and has requested all to follow and abide by the speed limit to ensure safety.

Dozens arrested over love scam ring

AFP
Denpasar, Indonesia

Indonesian police have arrested dozens on the popular resort island of Bali for allegedly running a love scam syndicate targeting American men, they said yesterday.

Police made the arrests after being tipped off about suspicious activity at a rented home in Denpasar, the island's capital.

A total of 38 suspects, seven of them women, were arrested.

"The suspects arrested worked as operators whose job is to find the love scam victims, they targeted Americans who have a Telegram account," Bali police chief Daniel Adityajaya told a press conference.

"They pretended to be women by using women's pictures and fake identity to ensnare their victims."

The suspects confessed they were working for someone who controlled the business from Cambodia to lure American men to hand over sensitive information, Daniel said.

They chatted up their victims through the Telegram messenger app and sent them fake links.

The suspects were paid \$200 each per month to steal the victims' data and information, Daniel said.

Police initially detained nine suspects together, leading to the arrest of the others accused of a role in the syndicate.

The suspects, all Indonesians, face up to 12 years in prison if found guilty of violating the country's electronic transaction law.

Police had previously said many scammers had moved to Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries after China cracked down on domestic networks.

Ganges river boat rides



Visitors gather for boat rides along the banks of river Ganges in Varanasi, India, yesterday.

India attempts to tow burning ship ‘to prevent ecological disaster’

Reuters
New Delhi

The Indian Coast Guard yesterday was attempting to tow a cargo ship that caught fire off the coast of the southern state of Kerala containing hazardous cargo to prevent a potential ecological disaster, India's defence ministry said in a statement.

The Singaporean-container vessel MV Wan Hai 503 is carrying 120,000 metric tonnes of fuel and hundreds of containers, including hazardous

cargo, the ministry said.

The vessel, which was bound for India's financial capital Mumbai, met with an accident about 144km off the coast of the southern Indian state of Kerala on Monday, leading to multiple explosions and fires erupting on the ship and causing 40 containers to fall into the Arabian Sea.

Firefighting efforts have significantly reduced visible flames, but the fire remains active in the inner decks and near fuel tanks, the defence ministry said. “With the fire yet to be fully extinguished, efforts

to establish a towline and pull the vessel away from the coast are underway to prevent a potential ecological disaster,” the Ministry of Defence said in the statement.

Last month, a container vessel sank in another accident off the Kerala coast, releasing 100 cargo containers into the Arabian Sea, and leaving authorities in the state scrambling to contain an oil spill. That vessel, owned by Cyprus-based MSC Ship management, was carrying 640 containers, including 13 with “hazardous cargo” and 12 with calcium carbide.

Sudan paramilitaries overrun key zone bordering Egypt, Libya

AFP
Khartoum

Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces said yesterday its fighters seized a strategic zone on the border with Egypt and Libya, as the regular army announced its withdrawal from the region.

The announcements came a day after the army accused forces loyal to eastern Libyan commander Khalifa Haftar of launching a cross-border attack alongside the RSF, the first allegation of direct Libyan involvement in the Sudanese war.

“As part of its defensive arrangements to repel aggression, our forces today evacuated the triangle area overlooking the borders between Sudan, Egypt and Libya,” army spokesman Nabil Abdallah said in a statement.

Since April 2023, the war in Sudan has pitted army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan against his erstwhile ally Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who leads the RSF. The RSF said in a statement its fighters “liberated the strategic triangle area”, adding that army forces had retreated southward “after suffering heavy losses”. It also said the operation would have broad implications “across several combat fronts, especially in the northern desert”.

A military source said on condition of anonymity that clashes in the border triangle “started three days ago” when the RSF and Libyan forces loyal to Haftar attacked the army-aligned joint Forces.

The triangle area, a mountain range spanning about 1,500 square kilometres, has long been known for mining activity and cross-border trade.

A former army officer told AFP on condition of anonymity that RSF control of the area gives it “leverage over supply routes” running across the Libyan-Sudanese border. He added that the nearest military presence of the Sudanese army to the northeast lies about 400 kilometres from the triangle.

“This distance could pose a threat to areas in northern Sudan,” he added.

In its statement, the RSF called the area “a central hub for trade and transport between northern and eastern Africa”, claiming that it “contains rich natural resources, including oil, gas and minerals”.

The area is also situated north of El-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, where fighting between the army and the RSF has escalated in recent weeks.

El-Fasher, the only state capital in the western Darfur region still under army control, and its nearby displacement camps have been heavily attacked since the army took control of Khartoum in March.

Since the fall of Khartoum, the RSF has adopted a twin strategy of long-range drone strikes on army-held cities plus counter-attacks to recapture territory in the south. The army on Tuesday called the RSF's co-ordinated attack with Haftar's troops on its border positions “a blatant aggression against Sudan” and part of a broader foreign-backed “conspiracy”.

Gaza-bound activist convoy reaches Libyan capital

AFP
Tripoli

Hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists in a Gaza-bound convoy reached the Libyan capital of Tripoli yesterday as they drive eastward in a bid to break Israel's blockade of the Palestinian territory.

The Soumoud convoy – meaning steadfastness in Arabic – set off from Tunis in buses and cars on Monday, hoping to pass through divided Libya and Egypt, which organisers say has yet to provide passage permits, to reach Gaza.

It was launched the day Israel intercepted an aid ship also attempting to breach its blockade on Gaza, which was carrying 12 people, including campaigner Greta Thunberg and European parliament member Franco-Palestinian Rima Hassan.

The land convoy was welcomed by hundreds in Tripoli and escorted through the capital by police patrols.

Libya's Tripoli-based Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah hailed the convoy as a “fraternal humanitarian initiative” that Libyans “embraced in warmth and solidarity”.

“This is another example of Libya's commitment and generosity in support of the people of Gaza under siege and attack,” the premier said in a statement.

After 20 months of war, Israel is facing mounting international pressure to allow more aid into Gaza to alleviate widespread



Activists, heading towards Gaza by land with the aim of breaking the siege on the Palestinian territory, are greeted by Libyans in Tripoli's Martyrs Square, yesterday, one day after crossing into Libya from Tunisia.

shortages of food and basic supplies.

The United Nations has said the Palestinian territory was “the hungriest place on Earth”.

“This visit brings us joy,” said 45-year-old architect Alaa Abdel Razzaq among the crowd in downtown Tripoli welcoming the convoy. Souhour al-Qatif said the gathering in the capital showed that “the tears of the Libyan people are united with the convoy”.

“It's a great feeling,” she added.

“I feel like I'm not in Libya, but in Gaza, united with my Palestinian brothers.” Organisers have said a dozen buses and around 100 other vehicles were part of the convoy, adding that they expected the

number of participants to grow along the way.

Algerian, Mauritanian, Moroccan and Libyan activists were also among the Soumoud group, which is now set to cross eastern Libya, a region controlled by a different administration than Tripoli.

This has cast doubt on whether the activists would reach the border crossing with Egypt, which has yet to grant clearance for the activists to cross.

Convoy spokesman Ghassen Henchiri told Tunisian media yesterday discussions were ongoing with Egyptian authorities regarding a permit to cross, “but as of now, we haven't received an official response.”

Attacks in central Nigeria kill at least 20

AFP
Jos, Nigeria

Attacks in north-central Nigeria's Plateau state have killed at least 20 people this week, local government and humanitarian sources said yesterday, in the region's latest flare-up of violence.

The three separate assaults across the Mangu local government area followed a series of attacks and reprisals that appear to have started while people were mining in the tin-rich region, local government council chairman Emmanuel Bala said.

Fulani nomadic herders have long clashed with settled farmers in Plateau, over access to land and resources.

Attacks in the region often fall across ethnic and religious lines, leading to indiscriminate sectarian reprisals.

“Sometime ago the natives were mining, they were attacked” with machetes, though no one died, Bala said.

Following a series of retaliations and counter-retaliations, three attacks took place Monday and Tuesday, leaving at least 20 dead, Bala said.

Eight people were killed Tuesday night in the village of Chinchin by suspected Fulani assailants, Bala said.

That attack followed an assault Monday evening outside Langai town, in the village of Gyenbwas, home to a large number of Fulani and other ethnic groups.

Five people were killed and 96 houses burned down, a traditional ruler said, blaming assailants from the Berom ethnic group, who are mostly farmers. “They also looted goods worth millions of naira,” said Alhaji Yakubu Umar.

Also on Monday, unknown attackers killed seven in Bwe district.

Fulanis in the area have also been harassed and attacked in recent days following deadly assaults blamed on people from their ethnic group, Bala said.

Israeli strike kills one in Lebanon's south

AFP
Beirut

One person was killed yesterday in an Israeli strike on a village in southern Lebanon, the health ministry reported, the latest deadly attack despite a November ceasefire.

“The raid carried out by an enemy Israeli drone on the town of Beit Lif, in the Bint Jbeil district, resulted in one martyr and three people injured,” read a statement from the ministry. The official National News Agency said the strike targeted a house's courtyard in the town, adding that a missile hit the homeowner's car.

Israel has regularly bombed its northern neighbour since the November ceasefire that sought to end more than a year of hostilities with the Hezbollah group including two months of full-blown war.

The agreement required Hezbollah fighters to withdraw north of the Litani river, about 30 kilometres from the Israeli border.

Torrential rain, flooding claim 49 lives in South Africa

AFP
Johannesburg

Torrential rains unleashed flooding and landslides that claimed at least 49 lives in South Africa's Eastern Cape province, including four children on a school minibus that was swept away, provincial authorities said yesterday.

The death toll after the severe winter storm struck on Monday was likely to rise and it was not even clear how many people were missing in the largely rural and underdeveloped province, they said. “As of now, the stats have escalated to 49” deaths, Eastern Cape premier Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane told reporters.

They included four children on a school minibus carrying 13 people that was swept away by a flood near the city of Mthatha, Mabuyane said.

“Sadly, four of those learners have been confirmed to be de-



Cars are surrounded by snow during a severe cold front in Barkly East, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa, yesterday.

ceased, together with the driver and the conductor of the minibus taxi,” he said.

“Four learners are still missing and are still being looked for.”

Three others had been found alive, he said.

Much of South Africa has been struck by heavy rainfall and bitterly cold conditions in the past days, with snowfalls in several areas and

strong winds causing damage.

The Eastern Cape, which stretches from the Indian Ocean into high inland mountains, has been particularly hard hit.

“We have never seen this kind of combination of snow and torrential rains in winter simultaneously,” Mabuyane said.

Authorities did not give details of the other victims of the disaster

and said the situation was evolving. “Now we are busy with the rescue operation. So we are trying to get figures, our people out of that situation, dead or alive,” the premier said.

“What we would not know, besides the four kids, is to how many people are we looking for,” provincial transport minister Xolile Nqatha told the same press conference, confirming the death toll of 49 was likely to increase.

Images from the remote area have shown informal settlements under water. On Tuesday, three children were rescued after spending hours in trees to escape rising waters, authorities said.

Hundreds of families were sheltering in community centres in the bitter cold. There had also been significant damage to infrastructure, including power and water supply, provincial officials said.

Mabuyane told public broadcaster SABC News earlier that only one helicopter was available in the province.

Strike by nurses in Ghana disrupts medical services

AFP
Accra

Negotiations aimed at ending a strike by nurses in Ghana that has disrupted medical services collapsed yesterday, prompting the union to press on with the stoppage.

Around 85% of all nurses and midwives across Ghana are taking part in the strike, called by the Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association (GRNMA) on June 2.

Despite government overtures, talks hit a fresh impasse yesterday when a scheduled truce meeting collapsed.

The nurses are demanding the full implementation of an agreement reached with the government in May last year.

It included an annual bonus equivalent to a month's salary, fuel and medical allowances, rural posting incentives and sup-

port for licence renewal terms.

But the demands have not been included in the 2025 budget, officials said. Hospitals around the country are already reeling from the impact of the strike.

Local media quoted mortuary workers at the 1,600-bed Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in the capital Accra as saying there had been an increase in the rates of preventable deaths, with up to 25 daily fatalities. Accra resident Agayakor Kesse told AFP that his 18-year-old son died on Tuesday after hospitals declined to attend to him due to the strike.

“I took my son to Kpone government hospital first. When we got to the hospital, we were told the nurses were on strike. We were helpless,” Kesse said.

GRNMA general secretary David Tenkorang-Twum defended the strike action. “Our demands are not above the roof... Our key demands... can be met without delay,” he said.

CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar

editor@gulf-times.com

44350478 (News),

44466404 (Sport),

44466636 (Home delivery)

44350474

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TIMES

Redesigning carbon borders: A new look at the EU’s CBAM

As the climate crisis escalates, the European Union and the United Kingdom are moving forward with their Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, promoting it as a landmark tool linking trade and climate policy. But the CBAM’s ambitious aims are now meeting a growing backlash.

The CBAM puts a price on the carbon content of emissions-intensive imports like steel, aluminium, and cement. The goal is to reinforce the EU’s Emissions Trading System (ETS) and create a level playing field between domestic and foreign producers, thereby incentivising greener production practices worldwide.

Despite the European Parliament’s support for recent proposals to simplify the CBAM, its current design and pace of implementation risk undermining its legitimacy. Rather than advancing a fair and equitable energy transition, it could stoke trade tensions and fuel economic fragmentation, exacerbate inequality, and deliver only limited climate benefits.

The transition phase, which began in October 2023, requires importers to report carbon dioxide emissions associated with their goods, but does not require them to pay. That will change in January 2027, when the CBAM’s levies on carbon-intensive imports take effect.

Most countries in the Global South – particularly major exporters to the EU – are unprepared for this shift, because they lack the technical capacity to track and report embedded CO2 emissions, the institutional infrastructure to verify them, and the fiscal space to absorb the costs of compliance. These are some of the symptoms of a deeply unequal global system in which the burdens of climate action have not been fairly distributed.

The CBAM risks deepening global inequality unless reformed to support developing countries and promote inclusive climate action

However commendable the CBAM’s stated goals may be, its inherent asymmetries must not be overlooked. Applying a uniform carbon-pricing regime to countries with vastly different capacities undermines the principle of a just energy transition and erodes the legitimacy of global climate action by placing a disproportionate burden on those least responsible for the crisis. Many developing economies are still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and struggling with rising public debt, in addition to being acutely vulnerable to climate shocks. Now, they are expected to comply with EU and UK standards despite lacking access to robust emissions data systems, clean technologies, regulatory infrastructure, and adequate climate finance.

Compounding the problem, revenues generated through the CBAM will be directed to the budgets of the EU and the UK rather than to international climate finance or support for affected countries. This design flaw reinforces the perception that the CBAM is not a genuine effort to advance global climate goals but an instrument of trade protectionism. Many countries, particularly outside Europe, have voiced such concerns, viewing the mechanism as a unilateral trade measure cloaked in green rhetoric.

The geopolitical consequences could be dire. The CBAM has emerged at a time of fraying multilateralism and escalating trade tensions. Without broader participation and tangible support for affected exporters, it risks fuelling economic fragmentation and undermining global trust – just when international climate cooperation is most critical and official development assistance is being slashed. But the CBAM is not beyond repair. With thoughtful reforms, it can evolve from a rigid policy tool into a catalyst for an equitable climate transition. To achieve this, the EU and the UK should consider postponing the start of financial enforcement until at least 2028, thereby giving developing countries time to prepare and adapt.

This pause must be anchored in a strategic partnership framework that directs resources toward establishing emission-tracking systems, strengthening regulatory capacity, developing carbon-credit markets, and accelerating green industrial investment in climate-vulnerable economies.

Moreover, a portion of CBAM revenues should be allocated to international climate partnerships. This would make the mechanism more equitable, build trust with developing countries, and ensure that carbon pricing serves as an incentive rather than a penalty. Most importantly, the CBAM must not be framed as a final destination, but as a step toward a more coordinated and inclusive carbon-pricing framework. Mutual recognition of national systems, policy flexibility, and transitional thresholds could help prevent fragmentation and promote international alignment.

While the EU and the UK have both the capacity and the influence to help shape global standards, climate leadership demands more than bold policy ambitions; it requires solidarity, partnership, and the recognition of shared but differentiated responsibilities. Rather than simply decarbonising imports through a transactional approach, policymakers must focus on facilitating low-carbon development.

That goal cannot be achieved through border measures alone. If rushed, the CBAM could become just another divisive international levy.

The fight against climate change will not be won through exclusion. A sustainable future depends on building systems that bring others along. A well-designed CBAM could play a vital role in that effort. — Project Syndicate



Right name for Gulf of Mexico

By Anne-Marie Slaughter
Washington, DC

US President Donald Trump’s executive order renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America is an act of geographical chest-thumping. But imagine if he added a key word and called it the Gulf of North America. That simple tweak would trigger a meaningful shift in perspective.

The gulf’s current name dates to the mid-sixteenth century, coined by Spanish cartographers mapping the waters of New Spain, then a colony that encompassed much of present-day Mexico and parts of the southern United States. It is, in other words, a legacy of European imperialism. True to his worldview, Trump envisions a new American imperialism, extending from Panama to Greenland.

Geographically, the claim is a draw: depending on how you measure it, the US and Mexico have roughly the same amount of coastline along the gulf. What is clear is that the body of water is essentially enclosed by North America – an integral part of the Western hemisphere. Renaming it the Gulf of North America would serve as a reminder of that. It would also be a historic way for Trump to mark the first FIFA World Cup hosted by the three North American countries – Mexico, the US, and Canada – in 2026.

To understand the Americas’ strategic importance in the twenty-first century, we must begin with their people. By mid-century, nearly one in three US residents will trace their heritage to Latin America, just as many once traced theirs to Europe. Economically, culturally, and politically, Americans of Hispanic origin will be more oriented toward Latin America, rather than toward Europe or Asia.

Nearly 60% of Latinos in the US are of Mexican descent, laying a foundation for greater cross-border integration. While Trump has issued an executive order designating English as the official language of the US, Spanish is certainly not going away. Hundreds of millions of people in countries with close ties to the US speak it – Miami, for example, is often described as Latin America’s economic capital. In states like Texas, California, and Florida, Spanish-English bilingualism is often a

practical necessity for business, education, and governance.

Ironically, Trump has helped advance North American economic integration by accelerating the turn toward industrial policy that began with President Barack Obama’s auto-industry bailout and \$90bn investment in clean energy. To be sure, Trump’s version relied on a different strategy: tariffs, tax cuts, and deregulation. His successor, Joe Biden, combined these approaches – retaining Trump’s tariffs while rebuilding infrastructure and subsidising green and high-tech industries. Both Trump and Biden encouraged nearshoring in response to geopolitical rivalry with China and post-pandemic supply-chain shocks. Now, Trump is doubling down on his first-term trade and economic policies.

Mexico has been a major beneficiary of this shift. In 2023, it overtook China to become the largest US trade partner, with their total goods trade reaching nearly \$800bn. In 2024, Mexico received more than \$35bn in foreign direct investment, part of a larger nearshoring trend in Latin America. US firms are increasingly investing in Mexico, as well as countries in Central and South America, because of their proximity, but also because they are young, digitally connected, and economically ambitious. Even with rising US protectionism, the region’s geographic and cultural alignment make it a better bet than Europe or Asia for companies producing goods and services for the US market.

Politically, however, Trump often paints the region as a cesspool of criminality, focusing on gangs and drug trafficking. He is pressuring Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum to stop the flow of drugs and people over the border, using his 25% tariff on Mexican auto, steel, and aluminium exports as a powerful bargaining chip.

Moreover, Trump frames problems in a way that allows him to step in with “solutions” that suit his interests and, crucially, can be easily spun into political wins. For example, by emphasising the China-Mexico fentanyl pipeline – where China supplies precursor chemicals that Mexican cartels use to manufacture the drug – Trump justifies his trade war on both countries.

Likewise, Trump has focused his ire on the relatively small number of illegal immigrants in the US who have committed

crimes – a problem that he can “address” with dramatic mass deportations of alleged Latin American gang members. Once this performative phase ends, Trump will almost certainly revive and take credit for the package of immigration reforms contained in last year’s bipartisan border-security bill, which the Republicans killed at Trump’s behest, so that he could continue campaigning on illegal immigration.

These reforms could lay the groundwork for a US-Mexico migration agreement that would create a more fluid visa system for provisional workers. But decreasing immigration in the long term requires strengthening the Mexican economy and improving the government’s ability to fight corruption and protect its citizens.

Meanwhile, demographic forces will continue to do their work. American Latinos will build businesses that connect communities across the Western hemisphere. Cultural and educational exchanges will grow organically. Even as many governments implement stricter visa rules, US citizens can still travel, study, and retire in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

When Chicago-born Cardinal Robert Prevost became Pope Leo XIV, US newspapers trumpeted the first American pope. But the Vatican News heralded the arrival of the “second Roman Pontiff – after Pope Francis – from the Americas”. The point was not that Prevost had spent decades in Peru and had become a naturalised Peruvian citizen. It was that Pope Francis was from South America, and Pope Leo “is from the northern part of the continent”. Viewing the Americas as one continent is a useful way to see the world – an outlook that will probably gain ground this century.

Trump is unlikely to accept my suggestion about the Gulf of North America. But his successor might. Regardless of the name, it is the geographic and economic reality. — Project Syndicate

● Anne-Marie Slaughter, a former director of policy planning in the US State Department, is CEO of the think-tank New America, Professor Emerita of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University, and the author of *Renewal: From Crisis to Transformation in Our Lives, Work, and Politics*.



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum shows a 1661 world map of the Americas and the Gulf of Mexico in Mexico City last January. (Reuters)

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circulation@gulf-times.com

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Musk regrets some of his Trump criticisms, says they ‘went too far’

AFP
Washington

Elon Musk, the world’s richest person and Donald Trump’s former advisor, said yesterday he regretted some of his recent criticisms of the US president, after the pair’s public falling-out last week.

“I regret some of my posts about President @realDonaldTrump last week. They went too far,” Musk wrote on his social media platform X, in a message that was received favorably by the White House.

Musk’s expression of regret came just days after Trump threatened the tech bil-

lionaire with “serious consequences” if he sought to punish Republicans who vote for a controversial spending bill.

Their blistering break-up -- largely carried out on social media before a riveted public since Thursday last week -- was ignited by Musk’s harsh criticism of Trump’s so-called “big, beautiful” spending bill, which is currently before Congress. Some lawmakers who were against the bill had called on Musk -- one of the Republican Party’s biggest financial backers in last year’s presidential election -- to fund primary challenges against Republicans who voted for the legislation.

“He’ll have to pay very serious consequences if he does that,” Trump, who also

branded Musk “disrespectful,” told NBC News on Saturday, without specifying what those consequences would be.

Trump also said he had “no” desire to repair his relationship with the South African-born Tesla and SpaceX chief, and that he has “no intention of speaking to him.” But after Musk’s expression of regret, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that Trump was “appreciative,” adding that “no efforts” had been made on a threat by Trump to end some of Musk’s government contracts.

“The president acknowledged the statement that Elon put out this morning, and he is appreciative of it,” Leavitt said.

According to the *New York Times*, Musk’s message followed a phone call to Trump late on Monday night.

Vice President JD Vance and Chief of Staff Susan Wiles had also been working with Musk on how to broker a truce with Trump, the report said. In his post yesterday, Musk did not specify which of his criticisms of Trump had gone “too far.”

The former allies had seemed to have cut ties amicably about two weeks ago, with Trump giving Musk a glowing send-off as he left his cost-cutting role at the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). But their relationship cracked within days, with Musk describing the spending bill as an “abomination”

that, if passed by Congress, could define Trump’s second term in office. Trump hit back at Musk’s comments in an Oval Office diatribe and from there the row detonated, leaving Washington stunned.

Trump later said on his Truth Social platform that cutting billions of dollars in subsidies and contracts to Musk’s companies would be the “easiest way” to save the US government money. US media have put the value of the contracts at \$18bn.

With real political and economic risks to their falling out, both already appeared to inch back from the brink on Friday, with Trump telling reporters “I just wish him well,” and Musk responding on X: “Likewise.”



Pakistan’s Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, along with Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Rashid Mahmood Langrial and Secretary of Finance Imdad Ullah Bosal, addresses a post-budget press briefing in Islamabad, yesterday.

Pakistan’s plan to sharply increase growth faces headwinds: analysts

Reuters
Islamabad

Pakistan is aiming to sharply increase economic growth under its annual federal budget unveiled on Tuesday, but analysts are sceptical about the country’s ability to meet its ambitious goals.

The budget targets higher revenues and a steep fiscal deficit cut under International Monetary Fund (IMF) backed reforms. Yet, defence spending was hiked 20%, excluding military pensions, after last month’s conflict with India.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said in a post-budget press conference yesterday that customs duties have been cut or removed on thousands of raw materials and intermediate goods.

“Industry here has to be competitive, competitive enough to export,” he said.

But growth drivers remain unclear. The government is targeting 4.2% GDP growth in fiscal 2026, up from 2.7% this year, which was revised down from an

initial 3.6% as agriculture and large-scale manufacturing underperformed.

“Pakistan’s GDP growth projection of 4.2% appears ambitious given recent performance, and overly optimistic assumptions may place tax targets out of reach,” said Callee Davis, senior economist at Oxford Economics.

Pakistan’s past growth spurts were consumption-led, triggering balance-of-payments crises and IMF bailouts.

The government says it now wants higher-quality, investment-driven growth.

Aurangzeb said structural reforms are underway, pointing to East Asia-style pro-market transitions. “This is an East Asia moment for Pakistan,” he said.

The 17.57tn rupee (\$62.24bn) budget comes as Pakistan remains under a \$7bn IMF programme. Revenues are projected to rise over 14%, driven by new taxes and broadening the tax base. The fiscal deficit is targeted at 3.9% of GDP, down from this year’s 5.9%.

Key reforms include taxing

agriculture, real estate, and retail, and reviving stalled privatisations. But revenue shortfalls this year have raised doubts, with both agriculture income tax and retail collections missing targets. Only 1.3% of the population paid income tax in 2024, government data shows.

“Pakistan’s budget keeps the IMF and investors happy, even if it comes at a near-term cost to growth,” said Hasnain Malik, head of equity strategy at Teller. “The political setup, with the military firmly in charge, also lowers the risk of protests.”

While overall spending will fall 7%, defence will rise after the worst fighting between the nuclear-armed neighbours in decades. Including pensions, defence spending will total \$12 billion, 19% of the federal budget or 2.5% of GDP, matching India’s share, per World Bank data.

The hike was enabled by a sharp drop in interest payments, as the central bank cut policy rates from 22% to 11% over the past year, easing domestic debt servicing costs. Aurangzeb said cuts in subsidies also helped create fiscal space.

Argentina’s convicted ex-leader Kirchner seeks house arrest

AFP
Buenos Aires

Argentina’s ex-president Cristina Kirchner has asked to serve her six-year prison sentence for corruption under house arrest, her lawyer said yesterday, a day after the Supreme Court upheld her conviction and ban on holding public office.

The ruling by the top court brought the curtain down on the career of a giant of the Argentine left and a leading critic of libertarian President Javier Milei. Given her age -- 72 -- Kirchner has the right to request that she serve her sentence at her home in Buenos Aires. “We are requesting the house arrest granted to people over 70,” her lawyer Carlos Beraldi told reporters.

Kirchner, who served two terms as president between 2007 and 2015, heads the leftist Peronist

movement founded by post-war president Juan Peron and his wife Eva.

She claims the case is part of a right-wing political plot to scupper her career.

Another of her lawyers, Gregorio Dalbon, travelled to the Dutch city of The Hague to file a complaint at the International Criminal Court.

Writing on X, Dalbon said Kirchner was the victim of “lawfare,” which aimed “to disqualify the woman who has won most often at the polls since the return to democracy” after a 1976-1983 dictatorship.

He said he would also appeal the verdict to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

She has called the three Supreme Court judges who rejected her leave to appeal her 2022 conviction to the top court “puppets acting on orders from above.” The downfall of a woman who inspires reverence on the left and revulsion on the right has divided Argentines.

Protests spread across US despite threats from Trump

AFP
Los Angeles

Protests against Donald Trump’s harsh immigration policies spread yesterday across the United States despite a military-backed crackdown in Los Angeles and a threat by the Republican president to use “heavy force.”

In Los Angeles, where the unrest began last Friday, an overnight curfew in the downtown area saw police make 25 arrests by morning.

Heavily armed officers patrolled near government buildings, and storekeepers boarded up windows to protect against vandalism.

US Marines -- ordered by Trump to deploy in addition to more than 4,000 National Guard soldiers -- were expected to make their first appearance on the streets yesterday.

The mostly peaceful protests ignited over a sudden escalation in efforts to apprehend migrants who were in the country illegally.

Pockets of violence -- including the burning of self-driving taxis and hurling stones at police -- triggered a massive response from authorities using tear gas and other crowd-control weapons.

Trump won the election last year partly on promises to combat what he claims is an “invasion” by undocumented migrants.

He is now seizing the opportunity to make political capital, ordering the California National Guard to deploy despite Governor Gavin Newsom’s objections, the first time a US president has taken such action in decades.

Trump then tested the constitutional limits of his power even further by ordering about 700 Marines -- a force designed primarily for combat in foreign wars -- to the scene.

“If our troops didn’t go into Los Angeles, it would be burning to the ground right now,” Trump insisted on social media Wednesday, without evidence.

The White House later doubled



National Guard members patrol in front of the FBI Los Angeles Field Office Federal Building, while protests against federal immigration sweeps continue in Los Angeles, yesterday.

down on that rhetoric.

“President Trump will never allow mob rule to prevail in America,” White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told a briefing.

“The most basic duty of government is to preserve law and order, and this administration embraces that sacred responsibility.”

Governor Newsom, a Democrat, has charged that Trump is seeking to escalate the confrontation for political gain.

“Democracy is under assault right before our eyes,” he said in a televised address late Tuesday. “California may be first, but it clearly won’t end here.”

Trump has expressed support for a call by one of his top officials to arrest Newsom, who is seen as a potential Democratic presidential candidate in 2028, when Trump will be required by the constitution to step down.

Despite Trump’s threats to deploy the National Guard to other Democratic-run states over the objections of governors, protesters appear undeterred.

Thousands marched in New York and Chicago late Tuesday.

Republican Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced he was deploying the state’s National Guard to counter a protest announced for San Antonio yesterday.

Demonstrations were also planned yesterday in New York, Seattle and Las Vegas ahead of what organisers say will be a nationwide “No Kings” movement on Saturday, when Trump will attend a highly unusual military parade in the US capital.

In a speech at an Army base on Tuesday, Trump warned that any protests during the Washington parade would face “very heavy force.”

The parade, featuring warplanes and tanks, has been organised to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the US Army but also happens to be the day of Trump’s 79th birthday.

The last large parade in Washington was in 1991 after the first Gulf War. The Trump administration is painting the protests as a violent threat to the nation, requiring military force to support regular immigration agents and police.

Trump on Tuesday cited a “full-blown assault on peace, on public order and national sovereignty” from a “foreign enemy.”

Protesters and the beleaguered Democratic opposition party say Trump is manufacturing a crisis that has little to do with expelling criminals in the US illegally.

UK’s Reeves sets out over £2tn of spending to revive government

Reuters
London

British finance minister Rachel Reeves prioritised spending on health, defence and infrastructure projects to drive economic growth in a bid yesterday to reboot the Labour government’s offer of a brighter future to increasingly disillusioned voters.

Setting out day-to-day budgets for government departments from 2026 to 2029 and investment plans out to 2030, Reeves said the priorities of her spend-

ing review were those of the “working people” whose interests Labour has said it will focus on.

Keen to promote capital spending on housing, transport and cleaner energy projects, Reeves wanted to show the Labour government was delivering on its plan for change. But with more money going to health and defence, day-to-day spending in other areas of government will be squeezed. “The priorities of this spending review are the priorities of working people -- to invest in Britain’s security, in Britain’s health and to grow Britain’s economy so that working people are better off,” she told a noisy session of parliament.

N Ireland politicians urge end to racially motivated riots

AFP
Ballymena

Politicians from across divided Northern Ireland joined forces yesterday to call for calm after two nights of riots targeting foreigners, as UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer denounced the “mindless” violence.

The unrest that injured 15 police officers on Monday and 17 on Tuesday has included rioters

throwing petrol bombs, fireworks and bricks at homes and businesses.

It was triggered by the arrest of two teenagers accused of attempting to rape a young girl. The pair appeared in court on Monday where they asked for a Romanian interpreter.

“We strongly condemn the racially motivated violence witnessed in recent days and make an urgent appeal for calm across society,” ministers from every party

in the province’s power-sharing executive said in a joint statement.

Residents had been “terrorised” and police injured, they added, urging people to reject the “divisive agenda being pushed by a “destructive” minority.

“There can never be any justification for the violence that has taken place in recent days,” said the leaders.

Traditional foes such as the republican Sinn Fein and pro-UK Democratic Unionist Party joined

in the statement. Northern Ireland’s First Minister Michelle O’Neill, the Sinn Fein vice-president, called the riots “abhorrent,” while Starmer condemned them as “mindless attacks.”

Six people were arrested during the second night of riots in Ballymena, around 48 kilometres northwest of Belfast, and other places.

Police will not confirm the ethnicity of the two teenagers who remain in custody.



A pedestrian walks past a burnt car and a damaged house after a second night of an anti-immigration demonstration in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, yesterday.

Ashghal completes roads, infrastructure project in Al Kharaitiyat and Izghawa

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) announced the completion of works of the third package of the Roads and Infrastructure Development Project in Al Kharaitiyat and Izghawa, which the Ashghal is implementing within four development packages with the aim of enhancing road network and infrastructure services to serve citizens' lands in the area.

Head of North Areas Section of the Roads Projects Department at Ashghal engineer Abdulla al-Naemi said that the third package of the project aims to achieve extensive improvements which, upon completion, will serve about 1,383 plots in the area through the development of internal streets and construction of shared pedestrian and cycling paths, in addition to developing infrastructure facilities such as rainwater and groundwater drainage networks and other networks to provide integrated infrastructure services and improve the quality of life of the area residents.

For his part, Project Engineer Jassim Kano explained that this package of the Al Kharaitiyat and Izghawa project provides about 42km of roads, with the installation of 1,783 street lighting poles and traffic safety elements, and the provision of 7,300



parking spaces designated for cars.

Within the scope of the project, infrastructure networks were also developed, which include a surface and groundwater drainage network with a total length of 33km, a treated water network with a length of 13km, in addition to a wastewater drain-



age network with a length of 32km, in addition to 6.5km of power line works and 19km of telecommunications lines, he added.

The project's planting works cover an area of 9,250sq m, and the shared pedestrian and cycling paths will extend over 84km. Local materials and manufacturers were



relied upon in most of the project work, with the local component reaching 70% of the total materials used, as local Qatari sources were relied upon, which include, for example, lighting poles, drainage pipes, precast manholes, electrical cables, directional signs, and interlocking.

To minimise inconveniences that may result from development works to residents to the greatest extent possible, the geographical scope of the project was divided into four areas to be worked on in successive phases when commencing the project works. (QNA)



WEEKEND DEALS

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Watermelon Oman 1kg



9.50 QR

لونجان تايلاند (حوالي ٥٠٠ جم) ١ عبوة
Longan Thailand (Approx 500 gm) 1 pkt



3.75 QR

برتقال فالنسيا مصري ١ كجم
Orange Valencia Egypt 1 kg



8.00 QR

برقوق احمر سوريا حوالي ٥٠٠ جم ١ عبوة
Plums Red Syria (Approx 500 gm) 1 pkt



14.00 QR

جبنة رومي ٥٠٠ جم
Roumy Cheese 500 gm



12.75 QR

امريكانا ناجتس دجاج ٤٠٠ جم + ٢٠٠ جم
Americana Chicken Nuggets 400 gm + 200 gm



13.00 QR

كوهينور نواب ارز برياني ٤ كجم
Kohinoor Nawab Biryani Rice 4 kg



9.75 QR

بيزي زيت دوار الشمس ١.٥ لتر ١ حبة
Bizce Sunflower Oil 1.5 Ltr x 1 pc



10.00 QR

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