

Insure and win with QIC!

Jetour T2

iPhone 16 Pro

AirPods 4

QIC

\*Competition ends on August 18. Draw is on August 19. \*\*T&Cs apply. Regulated by CCB.

GULF

TIMES

0 668039 136499

SUNDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13407

June 15, 2025

Dhul-Hijjah 19, 1446 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

published in QATAR since 1978

Get 6GB roaming data and more with the Weekly Passport Pack!

ROAMING DATA

ROBSON

The First Paint product that obtained Qatar Quality Mark

Robshield Topcoat Matt by ROBSON PAINTS

Used as Exterior Coat - Matt

www.npfqatar.com Tel: 44601602

سوق واريج بونانزا

SHOP & WIN BONANZA

SPEND QAR 300 (ON OWN BRANDS) & WIN A TRIP TO AZERBAIJAN AND GOLD COINS

1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE 10 WINNERS AZERBAIJAN TOUR PACKAGES

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE 25 WINNERS 4 GRAM GOLD

3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE 75 WINNERS 2 GRAM GOLD

MEGA DRAW ON 01.10.2025

BUSINESS | Page 1

Philippines-Qatar economic ties poised for growth, says envoy

Family فاميل

عرض خاص FATHER'S DAY WITH FAMILY

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR OFFERS

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

# No N-talks if Israeli attacks continue: Iran

## Iran, Israel continue to trade strikes

AFP/Reuters  
Tehran, Tel Aviv

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said yesterday that Tehran would not attend nuclear talks with the US so long as Israel kept up its attacks on the Islamic republic.

In a call with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, Pezeshkian said Iran favoured diplomacy, but will not “accept irrational demands under pressure or... sit at the negotiating table while the Zionist regime continues its attacks”, according to a readout shared by the Iranian presidency.

Macron said in a statement of his own that he had asked Pezeshkian to “return swiftly to the negotiating table”.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran’s Nuclear Regulatory Authority had informed it there was no change in off-site radiation levels in Isfahan, site of one of the nuclear targets struck on Friday by Israeli forces.

Earlier, the IAEA said four critical buildings at the Isfahan nuclear site had been damaged, including a uranium conversion facility and a fuel plate fabrication plant.

“As in Natanz, no increase in off-site radiation expected,” the agency said in a post on X. Iran’s state TV said yesterday that “heavy and destructive” attacks by Iran against Israel were expected within the coming hours, as the Israeli military continues to strike several targets across Iran.

People carry their belongings at an impact site following missile attack from Iran on Israel, in Rishon LeZion, Israel, yesterday.

Israel pounded Iran for a second day yesterday and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said its campaign would intensify, while Tehran called off nuclear talks that Washington had held out as the only way to halt the bombing. A day after Israel wiped out the top echelon of Iran’s military command with a surprise attack on its old foe, it appeared to have hit Iran’s oil and gas industry for the first time, with Iranian state media reporting a blaze at a gas field.

Netanyahu said Israel’s strikes had set back Iran’s nuclear programme possibly by years and rejected international calls for restraint.

In Tehran, Iranian authorities said around 60 people, including 29 children, were killed in an attack on a housing complex, with more strikes reported across the

country. Israel said it had attacked more than 150 targets.

Iran had launched its own retaliatory missile volley on Friday night, killing at least three people in Israel. Air raid sirens sent Israelis into shelters as waves of missiles streaked across the sky and interceptors rose to meet them.

US President Donald Trump said it was not too late to halt the Israeli campaign, but only if Tehran quickly accepted a sharp downgrading of its nuclear programme at talks with Washington which had been scheduled for Sunday.

Host Oman confirmed yesterday that the next round of talks had been scrapped. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said holding talks was unjustifiable while Israel’s “barbarous” attacks were ongoing.

## Amir reiterates Qatar’s condemnation of Israeli attack on Iran, calls for de-escalation of tension

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Masoud Pezeshkian discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance and develop them, along with regional and international developments. This came during His Highness the Amir’s phone call with the Iranian president yesterday.

In this context, His Highness the Amir reiterated Qatar’s strong condemnation and deep denunciation of the Israeli attack that targeted the territory of the sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran, considering it a blatant violation of Iran’s sovereignty and security, and a clear breach of the rules and principles of international law.

His Highness the Amir stressed the need to de-escalate all forms of tension and to reach diplomatic solutions that would achieve lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. (QNA)

## PM meets German FM; slams Israeli attack, stresses for talks to solve disputes

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany Johann Wadepuhl, who is visiting the country.

During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them, in addition to discussing the latest developments in the region, particularly the Israeli attack on the territory of the sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this context, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar’s strong condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli attack on Iranian territory, considering it a flagrant violation of Iran’s sovereignty and security, and a clear breach of the rules and

principles of international law. He also stressed the need for concerted regional and international efforts to de-escalate tensions and resolve disputes through diplomatic means, affirming that Qatar is making

strenuous efforts, along with its partners, for all parties to return to the path of dialogue to address outstanding issues and consolidate security and peace in the region and the world. (QNA)

## Doha Metro project wins global award

Reinforcing its global leadership in sustainable innovation, Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) won the prestigious CIHT Decarbonisation Award 2025, presented by the UK-based Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT), for its pioneering project “Regenerative Propulsion in the Doha Metro: Kinetic Energy to Electrical Energy”. This achievement further cemented Qatar Rail’s position as a leader in environmental innovation and sustainability within the public transportation sector. **Page 12**

## Egypt again delays opening of museum

Egyptian authorities announced yesterday that the long-awaited inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), which was scheduled for July 3, would once again be delayed as a result of escalating regional tensions. The opening of the massive, ultra-modern museum situated near the Giza Pyramids has been repeatedly delayed.

## Thousands attend US ‘No Kings’ protest

Tens of thousands of Americans attended rallies yesterday to protest President Donald Trump’s aggressive approach in major cities from New York to Atlanta to Los Angeles. The protests marked the largest outpouring of opposition to Trump’s presidency since he returned to power in January. Saturday is also Trump’s 79th birthday. Many are taking place under the theme “No Kings,” asserting that no individual is above the law. **Page 6**

## Israeli firing kills 45 in Gaza, many at aid site

Israeli firing and air strikes killed at least 45 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip, many of them near an aid distribution site operated by the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation yesterday, local health authorities said.

Medics at Al-Awda and Al-Aqsa Hospitals in central Gaza areas, where most of the casualties were moved to, said at least 15 people were killed as they tried to approach the GHF aid distribution site near the Netzarim corridor.

The GHF began distributing food packages in Gaza at the end of May after Israel partially lifted a near three-month total blockade. Scores of Palestinians have been killed in near daily mass shootings trying to reach the food.

The UN rejects the Israeli-backed new distribution system as inadequate, dangerous and a violation of humanitarian impartiality principles.

The Gaza health ministry said in

a statement yesterday that at least 274 people have so far been killed, and more than 2,000 wounded, near aid distribution sites since the GHF began operations in Gaza.

Hamas, the Palestinian resistance group, which denies Israeli charges that it steals aid, accused Israel of “employing hunger as a weapon of war and turning aid distribution sites into traps of mass deaths of innocent civilians.” Health officials at Shifa Hospital in Gaza said Israeli fire killed at least 12 Palestinians, who gathered to wait for aid trucks along the coastal road north of the strip.

The Israeli military ordered residents of Khan Younis and the nearby towns of Abassan and Bani Suhaila in the southern Gaza Strip to leave their homes and head west towards a so-called humanitarian zone, saying it would forcefully work against “terror organisations” in the area. (Reuters)

A demonstration for Gaza organised by the Palestinian Working Group in Sweden goes through Stockholm, yesterday.

## Barzan signs deals to supply arms to Indonesian military

QNA  
Doha

Barzan Holdings, the investment arm of Qatar’s Ministry of Defence, is expanding its strategic partnerships in Indonesia with the signing of three major agreements to supply the Indonesian army.

The deals, which were signed on the sidelines of Indo Defence Expo and Forum, represent a significant milestone in advancing bilateral defence co-operation between Qatar and Indonesia.

During the exhibition, Barzan Holdings signed an agreement with the Indonesian Ministry of Defence to supply rifles and ammunition to the Indonesian army. The agreement was signed by Mohamed bin Badr al-Sadah, Group CEO of Barzan Holdings, and General Yusuf Johari from the Indonesian Ministry of Defence.

Barzan Holdings also signed two agreements with REPUBLIKORP to collaborate on the development of a local ammunition factory in Indonesia through a joint venture.

The signing ceremonies were led by Barzan Holdings Group CEO, who represented the company throughout Indo Defence Expo and Forum, underscoring the group’s commitment to expanding its presence in the Southeast Asian market.

A central focus of Barzan Holdings’ engagement at the

Qatari and Indonesian officials signing the deal.

exhibition was its strategic partnership with Indonesia Defence Systems Technologies (IDST), the national defence group and primary gateway to the Indonesian market. IDST co-exhibited with Barzan Holdings, showcasing jointly developed defence solutions that highlight the strength and innovation of their collaboration.

Barzan Holdings’ participation in Indo Defence Expo and Forum and the successful signing of these agreements reflect the group’s commitment to fostering long-term strategic relationships with Indonesia, as part

of its global strategy to engage in impactful partnerships worldwide.

During the exhibition, Barzan Holdings showcased its extensive capabilities, including innovations in modular weapons systems, command and control technologies, counter-UAS solutions, and unmanned surface vehicles among other AI-enabled pioneering systems.

The latest MoUs lay the foundation for deeper co-operation in defence technology development and represent a significant step forward in Qatari-Indonesian relations.



# HMC hosts patient event to support head and neck cancer survivors

**H**amad Medical Corporation (HMC) hosted its inaugural Patient Awareness Programme, “Enhancing the Quality of Life of Patients with Head and Neck Cancer – A Patient Engagement Event.”

The event took place at Bayt Al Dhiyafah, bringing together medical professionals, cancer survivors, and caregivers for an in-depth exploration of survivorship, functional recovery, and psychosocial support.

Led by Dr Hanadi al-Hamad, deputy chief, Rehabilitation, Geriatrics, and Long-term Care Services at HMC, and Mohamed Shafi, Head of the Oncology and Lymphedema Physiotherapy Department at the Qatar Rehabilitation Institute (QRI), the event represented a pioneering step in patient engagement and multidisciplinary collaboration. The programme featured a series of presentations by clinical experts alongside powerful testimonials from patients who shared their personal experiences with recovery and resilience.

The event featured the participation of three leaders who delivered remarks that underscored the significance of integrated cancer care. Dr Mohamed Ussama al-



Homsy, senior consultant and deputy medical director of Education, Clinical Research, and Quality at the National Centre for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR), emphasised the crucial role of education and research in advancing rehabilitation practices and enhancing patient outcomes.

Noora Rashid Essa al-Mudahka, assistant executive director, Clinical Services and Physiotherapy at HMC, highlighted the initiative as a reflection of forward-thinking rehabilitation practices that support a more compassionate, patient-centred model of care. Dr Hussain Ali al-Enazi, senior consultant in ENT and Head and Neck Surgery, emphasised that healing extends beyond surgery and that collaboration with physiotherapists, speech and dietetics specialists, and mental health professionals is crucial in restoring a patient's

quality of life. Throughout the meeting, a diverse team of professionals from various specialties, ranging from ENT surgery, cranio-maxillofacial surgery, radiation oncology, clinical dietetics, and physiotherapy to speech therapy, psychotherapy, and oncology nursing offered insights into best practices in holistic cancer care. Their contributions underscored the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitation and the collective responsibility to empower patients throughout their treatment journey.

This inaugural gathering marks a transformative step in HMC's broader mission to enhance cancer survivorship outcomes by expanding access to evidence-based rehabilitation services and fostering a culture of holistic healing rooted in empathy, innovation, and teamwork.

## Dukhan Bank and Visa launch CEMEA's first-of-its-kind cash bonus programme

Dukhan Bank has partnered with Visa to introduce an “innovative personalised card cash bonus offers” programme, marking a pioneering initiative in the Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa (CEMEA) region. Leveraging advanced analytics of consumer spending data collected throughout the year, the programme provides Dukhan Bank Visa cardholders with personalised offers matching individual preferences, available at a wide network of local and international merchants. Cardholders can also seamlessly explore exclusive offers across key lifestyle categories, including sports, dining, luxury, and more, directly through Dukhan Mobile. The process for benefiting from the programme is straightforward: participants simply need to view the available offers, use their eligible Visa card at the selected merchants, and then receive a cash bonus automatically. Talal Ahmed al-Khaja, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Dukhan Bank, commented: “As part of our commitment to digital innovation and customer-centric banking,



the programme offers a range of hyper-personalised card offerings in partnership with Visa based on an advanced analysis of their spending habits. This initiative reflects our dedication to leveraging technology and data-driven insights to provide our customers with meaningful rewards, making everyday transactions more valuable.” Shashank Singh, Visa's VP and General Manager for Qatar and Kuwait, commented: “We are delighted to partner with Dukhan Bank to introduce the

first personalised card-linked offers programme to Qatar – a first in the CEMEA region. At Visa, we are committed to enhancing the payment experience and delivering greater value to the bank's Visa cardholders. This programme is a testament to how technology and partnerships can elevate the way consumers engage with their banks and retailers, ensuring they get the most out of every transaction.” In line with its broader strategy of delivering innovative, Shariah-compliant financial solutions, by launching this programme Dukhan Bank continues to enhance its rewards ecosystem and add a powerful new dimension to the existing ‘Instant Discount Offering’, which provides immediate savings at select partner merchants, and the DAwards Rewards Programme, which allows customers to earn and redeem points for exclusive benefits. Offers are accessible exclusively via Dukhan Mobile, enabling customers to enjoy a seamless, personalised experience wherever they are. Customers are encouraged to visit the app for more details, Dukhan Bank said.

## Ehsan launches awareness campaign to promote the rights of senior persons

**T**he Center for Empowerment and Elderly Care “Ehsan,” in co-operation with the National Human Rights Committee and Dolphin Energy, has announced the launch of a comprehensive awareness campaign under the slogan “They are highly esteemed.”

The campaign, which was launched on the occasion of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, observed annually on June 15, includes a caricature art exhibition to be held on June 19, 2025, for three days, featuring a selection of prominent local artists.

This exhibition is one of the main events reflecting this year's campaign theme. Besides, a digital campaign will be launched on the social media platforms in collaboration with Khalid Jassim, a presenter on Al Kass TV, consisting of awareness posts and a series of videos depicting everyday moments between family members and senior individuals, stressing how small, unintentional negative actions can deeply affect their lives.

This day is a global occasion recognised by the United Nations General Assembly to affirm the importance of protecting the

senior individuals from all forms of abuse, whether psychological, verbal, physical, or through neglect, and to foster an environment that respects their dignity and encourages their participation in public life.

This year's slogan aims to raise community awareness about how to treat the seniors with kindness, promote a culture of respect, appreciation, and inclusion, and empower society to engage with them positively. It also seeks to highlight daily practices that may seem minor but could have a lasting negative impact.

Dr Mohamed bin Saif al-Kuwari, Vice-Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee, pointed out that: “On June 15 of every year, the world observes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, during which the world expresses solidarity with the seniors, who are our fathers and grandfathers and are worthy of our full respect and appreciation. The National Human Rights Committee is keen to monitor the challenges faced by the seniors, document them in its annual reports, and accompany them with recommendations and insights. The committee also calls for the enactment of a specific law

to protect the rights of the elderly in Qatar. For this reason, the committee co-operates with Ehsan Center to organise conferences, seminars, and workshops aimed at raising awareness about not mistreating the elderly and treating them kindly in all fields and aspects of life.”

Meanwhile, Manal Ahmed al-Mannai, Executive Director of Ehsan Center, said: “Qatar has placed great importance on the elderly and honoured them with the title ‘Kibar Al-Qadr’ (People of Great Value), in recognition of their high status and their role in building society. Under the slogan “They are highly esteemed”, we at Ehsan Center renew our firm commitment to protecting the rights of the seniors and enabling them to live in a safe environment. Protecting the seniors is a shared human and societal responsibility. We deeply appreciate the role of our partners in supporting this cause, especially the National Human Rights Committee, which stands as one of the key supporters of our efforts to promote their rights and confront all forms of abuse. Awareness of this issue should not be limited to a single annual event, as it is an ongoing commitment. “

## Qatar Charity launches Eid project in Sudan and Chad

**W**ith the generous support of donors in Qatar, Qatar Charity launched its annual Eid al-Adha initiative in Sudan and Chad, aiming to reach the most vulnerable communities through the distribution of Udh-yah.

The campaign is part of Qatar Charity's broader seasonal efforts for 2025 to bring hope and joy to those most in need around the world.

In Sudan, the initiative focuses on regions affected by conflict and displacement. Working hand in hand with local authorities and humanitarian partners, Qatar Charity is distributing meat to more than 1,600 beneficiar-

ies primarily internally displaced persons, refugees, and impoverished families.

Field teams from Qatar Charity visited distribution points, taking part in the process and witnessing firsthand the impact of the campaign. Local officials praised the charity's transparent and organised approach, which ensures that help reaches those who need it most.

Meanwhile in Chad, Qatar Charity is implementing the project across several regions including the capital, N'Djamena. The campaign will benefit over 17,640 individuals through the distribution of 105,840 kilograms of meat, sourced from 1,776 Udh-

yah. Local partners and officials in Chad commended the initiative, noting its deep impact on underserved communities and its role in bringing a sense of dignity and joy during Eid.

For many of the beneficiaries, especially those in refugee camps or impoverished neighbourhoods, this year's Eid was unlike any other.

The gift of meat, which many families had not tasted for months, turned their Eid into a moment of celebration.

Local leaders described the campaign as a powerful message of solidarity from Qatar, reflecting the values of compassion, generosity, and shared humanity.



**SPEND LESS. SAVE MORE!**

**MIGHTY EX8**  
Extra Long  
Wheel Base



5800 / 6100 mm

**valueplus**  
UNBEATABLE PRICES  
Manufacturer Warranty  
4 Years/150,000kms (whichever comes first)  
Flexible Service Packages  
In-house Finance - Flexible Terms  
(Subject to credit approval)



Hyundai Truck & Bus Showroom  
**NOW OPEN @**  
No. 37, Safwa Building  
Barwa Commercial Complex

- 4-Cylinder Inline **Euro 5** Diesel Engine
- 4-Stroke, Turbocharger Intercooler
- Power: 160 PS @2500 rpm
- Torque: 60 kg. m (588 Nm) @1400 rpm
- 5.8m/6.1m Closed/Open Cargo Truck/ Dry Box/Freezer/Chiller or other applications
- Payload up to 7.0 Tons
- **Euro I engine** option available on request

**EURO 5**  
NOW AVAILABLE  
**EURO 5 ENGINE**  
MODEL YEAR 2025



Mighty EX8 | Refrigerated Truck



Mighty EX8 Cargo with Crane

66987331



شركة السيارات الوطنية  
National Car Company

T: 44315951  
E: hcv@ncc-qatar.com  
www.trucknbushyundai-qatar.com



**HYUNDAI**  
TRUCK & BUS

## Palestinian solidarity gatherings in France, Spain



People attend a demonstration organised by several French labour unions and French left-wing political parties in support of Palestinians in Gaza, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and for unhindered access for humanitarian aid, as part of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, at the Place de la Republique in Paris, yesterday. **Right:** Pro-Palestinian protesters attend a demonstration calling for an end to the bombing in Gaza, in Barcelona, Spain, yesterday.



## Erdogan warns against ‘devastating’ Israel-Iran war



People attend an anti-Israeli rally following the Israeli strikes on Iran, in Tehran, yesterday.

AFP  
Istanbul

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday warned against a “devastating war” between Israel and Iran that could trigger a refugee crisis, in a series of calls to regional leaders, his office said.

Erdogan told his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian that Israel was seeking “to drag the whole region into the fire”, according to a statement from the Turkish presidency.

His conversations came as Israel and Iran escalated their deadly barrages of missiles and drones, raising fears of an intense war that could affect multiple countries around the Middle East.

To Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Erdogan

said: “Our region cannot tolerate another crisis, and a devastating war could create waves of irregular migration towards all the countries in the region.”

Turkiye already hosts millions of Syrians, who fled their civil war, as well as Iranians seeking lives away from their country’s authoritarian rulers. The influx has created political tensions in Turkiye.

Erdogan told Saudi Arabia’s prince that Israel needed “to be stopped”, calling it “the main threat to stability and security in the region”, the statement from his presidency said.

The issue of Iran’s nuclear programme “can only be resolved through negotiations”, he added.

“The fact that the international community has closed its eyes to the occupation and genocide in Palestine has led Israel to this

level of flouting the law and its aggression,” Erdogan was quoted as saying.

Erdogan also spoke with Jordan’s King Abdullah II and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that he also spoke with Erdogan, and the two agreed that “Israel’s unprovoked aggression against Iran” was “a blatant violation of international law and a threat to regional peace”.

Israel on Friday launched an unprecedented attack on Iran, killing top army commanders, nuclear scientists and other senior officials, in a missile barrage that Tehran said claimed 78 lives.

In response, Iran launched drones and missiles at Israel, killing three people and wounding more than 70 others.

## Internet restored in Gaza after three days: telecom official

AFP  
Ramallah

Internet is back up in the war-battered Gaza Strip, the head of the Palestinian Telecommunications Regulatory Authority said yesterday, after a three-day blackout blamed on Israel’s military.

“The network is up now in all of the Gaza Strip,” said the regulatory body’s CEO Laith Daraghmeh.

The Palestinian Authority’s telecommunications ministry reported on Thursday that Internet and fixed-line communications were down after Israeli forces targeted a fibre optic cable, a claim Israel has not commented on.

The ministry said that its maintenance and repair teams had at first been unable to safely access the sites where the damage occurred.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said on Thursday that the Internet outage hindered its operations by impeding communication with first re-



Palestinians raise their phones as they try to catch an Internet signal in Gaza City’s port, yesterday.

sponders in the field, also blaming Israel for the blackout.

Now in its 21st month, the war in Gaza has caused massive damage to infrastructure including water mains, power lines and roads across the Palestinian territory.

## Putin speaks to Trump, slams Israel’s strikes on Iran: Kremlin

Reuters  
Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke to US President Donald Trump for 50 minutes yesterday, condemning the Israeli military operation against Iran and expressing concern about the risks of escalation, the Kremlin said.

“Vladimir Putin condemned Israel’s military operation against Iran and expressed serious concern about a possible escalation of the conflict, which would have unpredictable consequences for the entire situation in the Middle East,” Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters.

Trump, for his part, described events in the Middle East as “very alarming,” according to Ushakov.

But the two leaders said they do not rule out a return to the negotiating track on Iran’s nuclear programme, Ushakov said.

Ushakov said US negotiators were ready to hold further talks with Iranian representatives, with Oman as mediator. The latest round, scheduled for today in Oman, has been cancelled.

The Kremlin aide said Putin told Trump that Russia stood by proposals to ease tension and resolve issues concerning Iran’s nuclear programme. “The Russian president recalled that prior to the current rise in tension our side had proposed concrete steps intended to find mutually acceptable agreements during talks between US and Iranian representatives about the Iranian nuclear programme,” Ushakov said.

“Russia’s principled approach


and interest in a resolution is unchanged and, as Vladimir Putin noted, we will continue to act based on this.” On Ukraine, Putin told the US leader that Russia was ready to continue negotiations with the Ukrainians after June 22, according to state news agency RIA.

Trump reiterated his interest in “the fastest possible end to the Russia-Ukraine conflict,” the Kremlin aide said.

Ushakov also said that the presidents expressed satisfaction “at their personal relations which have allowed for them to speak in a business-like manner to seek solutions to issues that are bilateral or on the international agenda, however complex those issues might be”.

Putin also congratulated Trump on his 79th birthday.

وزارة البلدية  
Ministry of Municipality  
دولة قطر • قطر • دولة




## Public Auction

### Announcement of a Public Auction for the Sale of (288) Written-off Government Vehicles and Equipment


Auction Venue	Al Wakra Municipality Theater		
	Day	Corresponding to	Specified time
Auction Date	Monday	June 16, 2025	At 3:30 PM Registration Time: At 2:30 PM
	Tuesday	June 17, 2025	
	Wednesday	June 18, 2025	
	Thursday	June 19, 2025	
Or until stocks last.			

Venue of Inspection	Ministry of Municipality Scrapyard - Al-Mashf Area
Time of Inspection	Starting from the date of the Announcement until June 19, 2025 (the last day of the Auction Sessions) From 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Auction Site Location





Auction Terms and Condition



For inquiries, contact the unified call center

184





albaladiya mm.gov.qa 184

# UK moves warplanes to Middle East amid Iran crisis

Britain is deploying fighter jets and other “assets” to the Middle East amid an escalating conflict between Iran and Israel, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said yesterday, AFP reported from on board the UK PM’s plane, “We are moving assets to the region, including jets, and that is for contingency support,” Starmer told reporters travelling with him on his plane to Canada for G7 talks. The UK leader said he had spoken with both US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu since Israel launched attacks on Iranian military and nuclear sites early Friday. According to officials, dozens of people have been killed, including top army and Revolutionary Guards commanders as well as civilians. Iran has responded with

barrages of drones and missiles fired at Israel overnight Friday into yesterday. Starmer said the situation was “fast moving” and “intense”. “We’re having ongoing discussions with our allies all of the time, both myself and (foreign minister) David Lammy... who also spoke to the Iranians,” he said. “Our constant message is de-escalate, and therefore everything we’re doing, all discussions we’re having are to do with de-escalation.” The UK leader said his talk on Friday with Netanyahu had been “good and constructive” and had “included discussions about the safety and security of Israel”. Foreign Secretary Lammy said earlier yesterday that he was “alarmed” by further strikes overnight.

# Azerbaijan will not allow strikes on Iran

Azerbaijan yesterday reassured neighbouring Iran that it would not allow its territory to be used for attacks against Tehran, following unprecedented Israeli strikes on Iranian targets, AFP reported from Baku. Iran has long expressed concern that Israel — a close ally of Azerbaijan and a key arms supplier — could use Azerbaijani territory to stage attacks. “Azerbaijan will never allow its territory to be used for attacks on third countries, including friendly Iran,” Azerbaijan’s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov told his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi. In a phone call with Araghchi, Bayramov warned that the “conflict risked engulfing the broader region”, and called for “diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation”, the Azerbaijani foreign ministry press service told AFP.

# Iraq in contact with Iran, US in bid to stay out of conflict

AFP Baghdad

Iraq has approached the Iranian and US governments in a bid to prevent being caught up in a regional escalation, officials said yesterday, as Washington’s ally Israel and Iran traded blows. The government in Baghdad is a close ally of Tehran, but also a strategic partner of the United States, which has some 2,500 troops in Iraq as part of an anti-militant coalition. The government in a statement late yesterday said that it “reiterates its firm and unequivocal rejection of any violation of Iraqi airspace or its use in military attacks carried out by the Zionist entity against the Islamic Republic of Iran” It called on the United States to “uphold its responsibilities... to prevent aircraft belonging to the Zionist entity from once again breaching Iraqi airspace to carry out such attacks”. A senior Iraqi security official said that Baghdad had also asked Tehran not to strike US targets in its territory. “The request was made. They prom-



People visit to offer condolences at the office of the representative of Iran's supreme leader in Iraq's holy city of Najaf, yesterday.

ised us positive things,” the official said, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters. An Iraqi government official, who also requested anonymity, said Baghdad had made an official request to Washington to help preserve the integrity of its airspace, citing the United States’ role as the leader of the international coalition against the Islamic State group. Baghdad yesterday lodged a complaint with the United Nations over Israel’s use of its airspace to attack Iran.

# Pope Leo calls for dialogue amid tensions

Reuters Vatican City

Pope Leo appealed yesterday for authorities in Iran and Israel to act with “reason” after air strikes between the two countries killed dozens and sent civilians into shelters, and called on the nations to pursue dialogue. Leo, in one of the strongest peace appeals yet of his five-week papacy, told an audience in St Peter’s Basilica he was following the situation with “great concern.” “In such a delicate moment, I strongly wish to renew an appeal to responsibility and to rea-

son,” said the Pope. “The commitment to building a safer world free from the nuclear threat must be pursued through respectful encounters and sincere dialogue to build a lasting peace, founded on justice, fraternity, and the common good,” he said. “No one should ever threaten the existence of another,” said Leo. “It is the duty of all countries to support the cause of peace, initiating paths of reconciliation and promoting solutions that guarantee security and dignity for all.” Leo was elected on May 8 to replace the late Pope Francis and is the first Pope from the United States. Unlike Francis, who often spoke off the cuff at public events, Leo is more cautious with words and almost always speaks from a prepared text.

# Death toll in SA floods rises to 86


AFP Johannesburg

Rescue teams yesterday recovered more victims of heavy flooding that struck South Africa’s Eastern Cape province earlier in the week, with the death toll rising to at least 86. President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the poverty-stricken province on Friday and said the “catastrophic disaster” was due to climate change. Police minister Senzo Mchunu said yesterday he had received news of “the overall figure in the province rising to 86”. Ramaphosa estimated the flood waters had reached more than four metres high after heavy rains and strong winds battered the Eastern Cape. Thousands of houses, roads, schools and health facilities were left caked in mud after being completely submerged in floodwaters. The area worst hit by the floods and subsequent landslides was the city of Mthatha, about 800 kilometres south of Johannesburg.

# At least 45 killed in Nigeria attack

AFP Jos, Nigeria

An overnight attack in a central Nigerian town killed at least 45 people, a spokesman for the state governor’s office said yesterday. “Not fewer than 45 people have been confirmed killed by armed bandits in an early Saturday morning attack on Yelwata,” a town in Benue State, said spokesman Tersoo Kula. Locals told AFP they feared around 100 people had died. “It is terribly bad, many people have died,” Amineh Liapha Hir, a resident of the town, told AFP. “It could be more than 100, and many houses were also burnt.” Another local resident, Christian Msuega, said that he had escaped the attack but that his sister and brother-in-law had died.



## QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/MNT/7184/25 PROVISION OF PNEUMATIC PRESSURE TEST OF EQUIPMENT AND PIPING SERVICES ON CALL-OFF BASIS	15/06/2025 to 07/07/2025	0	250,000	14/07/2025


**Scope of Work:**  
To provide QatarEnergy LNG with Pneumatic Pressure Test of Equipment and Piping services on a call off basis for plant shutdowns for a period of five (5) years duration with an option to extend for another two (2) years.

**Minimum requirements:**  
1- The bidder must have a minimum of five (5) years of experience in providing similar services.  
2- Proposed personnel for this contract must possess valid certification and competencies, with at least five (5) years of experience specifically in Pneumatic testing.

**Bid Validity:** Bid Offer should be valid for **180** calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

**Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:**  
ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

**Note:** Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) are advised to refer to the tender documentation and In-Country Value (ICV) Digital Portal: - <https://icv.qa/en-US/> for details of ICV compliance that may be applicable.




## QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY INVITATION TO TENDER

### QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ-6000003171	SUPPLY OF CALIBRATION, INDUSTRIAL AND PURE GASES - FRAME AGREEMENT ON CALL OFF BASIS FOR 5 YEARS	500/- (Non-refundable)	Not Applicable	15.06.2025 16.06.2025 17.06.2025 18.06.2025 19.06.2025 20.06.2025 21.06.2025	07.07.2025

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company’s following Account at any QNB branch:
  - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
  - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
  - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA00000000013025828058**
  - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company’s name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder’s name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to [purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa) on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the last date of Tender Fee Receipt Submission Date, you may contact at ‘[purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa)’ or on 44227797
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- The Tender shall be strictly submitted using the QAFCO’s Supply Chain Portal – SAP / Ariba, on or before the “Tender Closing Date”. Tenderers who fail to adhere to this requirement will result in the disqualification of their Tender.



## AL KHALIJ CEMENT COMPANY INVITATION TO SUBMIT A BID

SER. NO.	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	DOCUMENT'S FEES	Tender CLOSING DATE
1	AKCC/PROC/T02/25	Supply of Raw Gypsum (0-50MM)	120,000 Tons	300 QR	07/03/2025

**General conditions:**  
1) Tender Documents can be collected from Qatari Investors Group head office at below address:  
**Qatari Investors Group**  
**Lusail, 1st Floor, Zone No: 69 / Street No: 223,**  
**P O Box 22504, Doha, Qatar**  
**TEL. 974 44747000, FAX 974 44860976**

2) Documents fees should be paid by cash during collection of documents and non refundable  
3) Offers validity should be 120 days from BID CLOSING DATE  
4) Offers should be sent in sealed envelope on order before July 3, 2025. Any offer after this date and time will be automatically rejected.



## OPEN CALL

Tender Ref. No.	Description	Tender Bond	Tender Fees	Bid Closing Date
QC-TDR-2025-002	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - PRODUCTION COMPANY FOR HIGH LEVEL EVENTS FOR AWARDS CEREMONY GALA AND SHOWCASE EVENT PRODUCTION	N/A	N/A	25-JUN-2025

QC Enterprise invites qualified and experienced **event production companies** to submit proposals for the full-scale production of the High level events for **Awards Ceremony Gala and showcase event production**, scheduled for **November 2025**, with an expected guest count of approximately **500 attendees**.

**Scope of Work Includes (but is not limited to):**

- Event production, décor, and stage design
- Lighting, sound, video walls, and filming
- Red carpet experience, cocktail reception, and catering
- Floral design, staffing, and logistics
- Full technical and safety compliance with Qatari regulations
- Permits, clearances, and transportation arrangements

The awarded company will be fully responsible for delivering a turnkey solution aligned with the highest standards of event execution and safety.

Interested companies may obtain the full Scope of Work electronically by contacting QC Enterprise Procurement Department. Proposals must be submitted in two separate files - (1) Technical Proposal and (2) Commercial Proposal—and sent via email to [gclusetc@qm.org.qa](mailto:gclusetc@qm.org.qa) and [iabbassi@qm.org.qa](mailto:iabbassi@qm.org.qa). The deadline for submission is **25 June 2025**.

For more information, please contact us on Direct (+974) 3315 0770/4402 8358 or Email: [imen.abbassi@qm.org.qa](mailto:imen.abbassi@qm.org.qa)

## Electoral ban sparks outcry in Ivory Coast



Supporters of the PDCI (Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire) protest during a march towards the Ivorian independent electoral commission who removed their leader Tidjane Thiam from the electoral list, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, yesterday.



## Kenyan blogger's wife seeks answers after his death in police custody

Reuters  
Nairobi

When the policemen came for Albert Ojwang — the Kenyan blogger whose death in custody sparked protests this week and prompted a rare acknowledgement of police brutality by the president — his wife initially thought he would be safe.

Unlike the dozens of political activists abducted by suspected security agents over the last year, the 31-year-old schoolteacher was taken to a police station and officers shared their phone numbers with his family.

“When they came, they were so soft. They were not violent,” said Nevnine Onyango, who was present when the officers arrived, accusing her husband of insulting their “boss”. “So that is what gave me even more confidence.” The next morning, a family member called with the news that Ojwang, the father of their three-year-old son, was dead.

In the week since, the blogger's death has become a lightning rod in a nation just one year removed from mass youth-led protests that were fuelled, in part, by disgust at pervasive police violence.

Hundreds protested in the capital Nairobi this week, with vehicles set ablaze and the police firing teargas. Demonstrators cited Ojwang's death as evidence that nothing had changed one year after more than 60 people were killed in demonstrations initially sparked by proposed tax hikes.

Ojwang was arrested in Homa Bay, in western Kenya, as part of an investigation triggered by a formal complaint from the deputy chief of the national police force, Eliud Lagat, according to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority



Nevinina Onyango, the widow of Kenyan blogger Albert Ojwang who died in police custody, stands with his parents, Meshack Ojwang and Eucabeth Adhiambo, after giving a statement to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), in Nairobi, Kenya.

Authority, Kenya's government-funded police watchdog.

Lagat had stated he had been the target of alleged false and malicious information published on X, IPOA said.

Kenya's police chief initially implied that Ojwang had died by suicide but later apologised after an autopsy found that his wounds — including a head injury, neck compression and soft tissue damage — pointed to assault as the cause of death.

President William Ruto said on Wednesday that Ojwang had died “at the hands of the police”, which he said was “heartbreaking and unacceptable”.

Three people have so far been arrested in the case: the policeman in charge of the police station in Nairobi where Ojwang was found dead, a police constable and a closed-circuit television technician at the station.

Reuters was not able to reach Lagat for comment, and a police spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment. In the past, the police have called examples of

abuse isolated incidents.

It is not clear what Ojwang posted that got the attention of the police. His social media accounts no longer appear to be active. According to IPOA, which is investigating his death, Lagat's complaint triggered a probe that led to the arrest of another blogger.

Interrogations of that blogger identified Ojwang as a person of interest, IPOA said.

And so, last Saturday at lunchtime, police officers arrived at Ojwang's house on motorcycles and told him “there are some remarks that he had made about their boss, that the boss is corrupt”, his wife Onyango said. They did not identify their boss.

They first took Ojwang to the local police station before telling his family they would transfer him to Nairobi, nearly 300km away, she said. She last heard from him at around 9pm (1800 GMT) the Saturday of his arrest when he called her from Nairobi's Central Police Station. She said he sounded worried and asked if she would be able to come to Nairobi.

## Death toll from DR Congo boat accident passes 60

AFP  
Mbandaka

Another 26 bodies were recovered following a deadly boat accident in north-western Democratic Republic of Congo, local officials said yesterday, bringing the total confirmed dead to more than 60.

The official toll for Wednesday's accident, when a passenger boat carrying mourners to a funeral sank on Lake Tumba in Equateur province, was initially put at 40 people on Friday.

But local official Dieu-Merci Akula told AFP yesterday: “This morning, we found 26 more bod-

ies in the waters of the lake, in the Bikoro region.”

Red Cross personnel were working with local government officials on the continuing search for bodies and the burial of those recovered, he added.

On Friday provincial interior minister Crispin Mputu Molia said the accident involved three large canoes that had been attached together.

The boat was carrying the body of a woman and more than 200 people to a funeral in the village of Ikoko-Bonginda, said local officials.

Kolomba Mampuya, president of the local Red Cross, said Saturday would be the last day

of searching, as 72 hours after the disaster “there won't be any more hope of finding bodies”.

One civil society group for Equateur province, citing witnesses, alleged the boat had been overcrowded. But interior minister Mputu Molia said on Friday that the absence of a passenger list made that difficult to determine. Some witnesses told officials the boat ran into large waves, he told AFP.

DRC, a vast country rich in natural resources but racked by decades of conflict, frequently suffers deadly accidents on lakes and rivers, which serve as highways in many areas because of a lack of roads.

## INVITATION TO SUBMIT A PRE-QUALIFICATION

Invitation to submit a pre-qualification for the following dual tenders:  
**Design & build of Auto Cluster Roads & Infrastructure (Phase 2) at Um Alhoul Free Zone & the Provision of Infrastructure Small Works on Call-Off to Ras Bufontas & Um Alhoul Free Zones**  
The Qatar Free Zone Authority (QFZ) would like to invite competent and experienced local companies to a Pre-Qualification for the following dual projects:

Project Title and Number	High Level Description of the Tender
<b>Design &amp; Build of Auto Cluster Roads &amp; Infrastructure (Phase 2) at Um Alhoul Free Zone.</b>  Tender No: UAH/2024/016	1. The appointed Contractor will carry out the ‘Design & Build’ of the roads and infrastructure expansion to Auto Cluster (Phase 2) of the Automotive Sector at Um Alhoul Free Zone.  <b>Auto Cluster Roads &amp; Infrastructure (Phase 2) will consist of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Construction of new roads &amp; infrastructure for Phase 2.</li><li>Adaption of existing design from Phase 1.</li><li>Utility services connections.</li></ul>
<b>Provision of Infrastructure Small Works on Call-Off at Ras Bufontas and Um Alhoul Free Zones.</b>  Tender No: QFZ/2024/019	2. The appointed Contractor will carry out varying elements of roads and infrastructure small works on a call-off basis over a 3-year term at both Ras Bufontas and Um Alhoul Free Zones.  <b>Infrastructure Small Works will consist of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Construction of new plot access roads &amp; infrastructure.</li><li>Adaption of existing plot access roads &amp; infrastructure.</li><li>Construction of new/adaption of surface water swales.</li><li>Other infrastructure minor works.</li></ul>

Interested parties are to note that QFZ intends to award both the above dual tenders to a single Contractor under separate contracts. Therefore, interested parties subject to pre-qualification process will be required to undertake the tendering of both tenders.

Eligibility of Tenders:	Pre-Qualification Fees
In order to pre-qualify, tenderers must be able to demonstrate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Be able to demonstrate compliance with local Qatar trading requirements.</li><li>Experienced Roads and Infrastructure Contractor with similar previous experience, necessary skills with fully capable and sufficient resources to successfully deliver the requirements of the scope of works.</li><li>Provide confirmation of the Tenderer's undertaking to tender both dual projects.</li><li>Proof of ability to provide and maintain a Tender Bond of QAR 200,000 for the duration of the Tender from a registered bank in Qatar.</li></ul>	A fee of 2,000 QAR is applicable to obtain this Pre-Qualification questionnaire.  The Pre-Qualification Fee must be paid and confirmed by QFZ prior to the issue of the Pre-Qualification Documents (Please mention the name of your company upon making bank deposit or transfer)  The Pre-Qualification Fee is payable to the following bank account: Name of Account: FREEZONE Bank Name: AlRayan Bank Account No.: 0003 115500 205 Account Type: Special Term Investment Account Swift Code: MARFOAQA IBAN No.: QAA21MAFR00000000003115500205

**Issue of Pre-Qualification Documentation:**  
The Pre-Qualification Documents shall only be issued in soft copy from the following email address [contracts@qfz.gov.qa](mailto:contracts@qfz.gov.qa). Participants are required to submit their expression of interest to the same email address, along with proof of payment of the Pre-Qualification Fee to be able to receive the Pre-Qualification Documents.

**Closing of Date for Submission of Pre-qualification Questionnaire:**  
Pre-Qualification documentation must be submitted to QFZ not later than 15 July 2025 and must be submitted in accordance with the instruction in this notice.



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

Invites prospective suppliers to participate in the following tender

Tender Reference and Description	Submission of information & willingness for bidding	Tender fee (non-refundable)	Tender publication	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
RFQ-GHC/SCO/007/2025 Supply of Refreshments and Cleaning Supplies for Three (3) Years	Until 22 June 2025	QAR 500/- Until 24 June 2025 10:00 am	26 June 2025	QAR 25,000/-	20 July 2025 12:00 noon

**Brief Scope:** GHC invites reputable and qualified suppliers to submit their bids for the supply and delivery of refreshments and cleaning supplies for a period of three (3) years. The scope of work requires the regular supply and delivery of a variety of refreshments such as beverages, snacks, and pantry items, as well as cleaning materials including but not limited to disinfectants, detergents, paper products, and general hygiene supplies. Suppliers are expected to maintain consistent quality, ensure timely delivery, and comply with all applicable health and safety regulations in the State of Qatar.

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and send contact details to GHC email ([tender@gulhelicopters.com](mailto:tender@gulhelicopters.com)) indicating company name, address, telephone, official email, authorized company representative, etc. latest by 22 June 2025.

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

ii. Non-refundable tender fee of QAR 500/- is payable to GHC, only through QNB account # 0013-036531-001 via online or at any QNB branch. Interested bidders shall attach the evidence of the tender fee payment and send it via bidder company official email to GHC email: [tender@gulhelicopters.com](mailto:tender@gulhelicopters.com), latest by 24 June 2025, 10:00 am for GHC approval.

iii. Tender package will be sent via email to the confirmed participants by 26 June 2025. GHC shall provide the necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.

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

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

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

v. For any clarifications on the above, please send your queries with tender reference and description addressed to Supply Chain Mail to email [tender@gulhelicopters.com](mailto:tender@gulhelicopters.com).

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



# Minnesota lawmaker gunned down, another wounded in targeted attack

Reuters  
Minneapolis/Washington

A gunman posing as a police officer killed a senior Democratic state assemblywoman and her husband yesterday in an apparent “politically motivated assassination” and wounded a second lawmaker and his spouse, said Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and law enforcement officials.

A major search backed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was underway for the suspect, who fled on foot after firing at police and abandoning a vehicle in which officers found a “manifesto” listing other legislators and officials, law enforcement officials said.

A police official said there were “people of interest that we are looking for.”

The pre-dawn Minnesota killings came amid a surge in US political attacks in recent years, underscoring the dark side of the nation’s deepening political divisions.

Planned anti-Trump demonstrations in Minnesota organised nationwide by the “No Kings” coalition have been cancelled

following the shootings, the group said. President Donald Trump said that he was briefed on the “terrible shooting that took place in Minnesota, which appears to be a targeted attack against State Lawmakers”.

“Such horrific violence will not be tolerated in the United States of America. God Bless the great people of Minnesota, a truly great place!” he said in a statement.

Democratic state assemblywoman Melissa Hortman, a former assembly speaker, and her husband, Mark, were shot dead in their home in the Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Park, Walz and law enforcement officials told reporters.

Her official website says they have two children.

Walz said that the gunman went to the Hortmans’ residence after shooting Senator John Hoffman and his wife multiple times in their home in the nearby town of Champlin.

They underwent surgery, Walz said, adding that he was “cautiously optimistic” that they would survive “this assassination attempt”.

“This was an act of targeted political

violence,” he said. “Peaceful discourse is the foundation of our democracy. We don’t settle our differences with violence or at gunpoint.”

Law enforcement officials said the gunman attacked the Hoffmans at around 2am CDT (0700 GMT) and then drove about five miles to the Hortmans’ residence.

Brooklyn Park Police Chief Mark Bruley said that a “very intuitive” police sergeant who responded to the Hoffman attack asked colleagues to “proactively” check the Hortmans’ residence.

The two officers arriving at the Hortmans’ residence noticed what appeared to be a police vehicle parked in the driveway with its emergency lights on and an individual dressed and equipped as a police officer leaving the home, he said.

The suspect “immediately fired upon the officers, who exchanged gunfire and the suspect retreated back into the home”, Bruley continued.

The suspect, who was wearing a vest with a taser, other police equipment and a badge, is believed to have fled from the rear of the home, he said.

The Hortmans and Hoffmans were on the

list of names found in the suspect’s car, officials said.

Recent political violence in the US has occurred in so-called battleground states such as Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Minnesota has been reliably Democratic in recent presidential elections, but Trump and Republicans have made significant gains.

The spate of political violence includes the attempted 2020 kidnapping of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, and a man who broke into Democratic Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro’s residence in April and set it on fire.

In July last year, then-candidate Trump escaped an assassination attempt by a gunman while speaking at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

Trump has faced criticism from some opponents over his handling of incidents involving political violence.

In one of his first moves in office earlier this year, Trump pardoned nearly everyone criminally charged with participating in the January 6, 2021, Capitol attack, a move critics said signalled support for the rioters.

## ICE ordered to pause most raids on farms, hotels, restaurants

Reuters  
Washington

US President Donald Trump’s administration has directed immigration officials to largely pause raids on farms, hotels, restaurants and meatpacking plants, according to an internal e-mail reviewed by Reuters, a senior Trump official, and a person familiar with the matter.

The order to scale back US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids came from Trump himself, the person familiar with the matter said, and appears to rein in a late-May demand by top White House aide Stephen Miller for more aggressive sweeps.

Trump was not aware of the extent of the enforcement push and “once it hit him, he pulled it back”, the person said.

The new directive, issued on Thursday, still allows for investigations into serious crimes such as human trafficking.

The *New York Times* first reported the guidance.

Trump took office in January pledging to deport millions of immigrants in the US illegally.

While Trump framed the effort around removing serious criminals, thousands of suspected immigration offenders with no criminal records have been swept up in recent months.

The ICE’s more aggressive tactics – including raids in Los Angeles – have sparked protests and pushback from Democrats.

Some Republican lawmakers have called on the administration to focus on criminal offenders.

Trump said on Thursday that he would issue an order soon to address the effects of his immigration crackdown on the country’s farm and hotel industries, which rely heavily on immigrant labour.

“We will follow the president’s direction and continue to work to get the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens off of America’s streets,” US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement when asked about the new ICE guidance.

The White House pointed to a Trump social media post on Thursday where he said farms and hospitality businesses were concerned the administration’s far-reaching immigration enforcement was taking away “very good, long time workers” and promising changes.

US farm industry groups have long wanted Trump to spare their sector from mass deportations, which could upend a food supply chain dependent on immigrants.

The United Farm Workers union said on Friday that it was sceptical that the new directive would help workers without legal status.

The group said it had calls from members about immigration arrests even after the new directive was issued.

“As long as Border Patrol and ICE are allowed to sweep through farm worker communities making chaotic arrests... they are still hunting down farm workers,” the union said in a statement.

# US protesters hit streets before Trump’s military parade

Reuters/AFP  
Washington

Tens of thousands of Americans attended rallies yesterday to protest President Donald Trump’s aggressive approach in major cities from New York to Atlanta to Los Angeles, on a day marred by the assassination of a Democratic lawmaker in Minnesota (*see lead story*).

The protests marked the largest outpouring of opposition to

Trump’s presidency since he returned to power in January, and came the same day that thousands of military personnel, vehicles and aircraft will march through and fly over Washington, DC, in a parade celebrating the US Army’s 250th anniversary.

Trump’s 79th birthday took place the same day.

The Republican president has ordered National Guard troops and US Marines to Los Angeles, a heavily Democratic city – a deployment that California Governor Gavin Newsom has challenged in court.

Anti-Trump groups planned nearly 2,000 demonstrations of varying sizes across the country to coincide with the parade.

Many are taking place under the theme “No Kings”, asserting that no individual is above the law.

All planned “No Kings” protests in Minnesota were cancelled following that Democratic Minnesota Governor Tim Walz said was the “politically motivated assassination” of one Democratic lawmaker and wounding of a second.

People heading into Washington for the parade encountered a massive security presence, with some 18.5 miles (30km) of 8’ (2.4m)-high black fencing, much of it reinforced with concrete traffic barriers, cordoning off streets and surrounding landmarks including the Washington Monument.

The celebrations will cost the US Army between \$25mn and \$45mn, US officials have told Reuters.

That includes the parade itself as well as the cost of moving equipment and housing and feeding the troops.

Critics have called the parade an authoritarian display of power that is wasteful, especially given Trump has said he wants to slash costs throughout the federal government.

A festive atmosphere had taken hold in front of City Hall in Los Angeles where hundreds of people had gathered an hour before the main “No Kings” protest was set to begin.

Trump has warned people against protesting at the parade itself, saying



Protesters march with placards and banners during a nationwide ‘No Kings’ rally at Logan Circle in Washington, DC. – AFP



US soldiers go through a security checkpoint manned by uniformed US Secret Service officers in Washington, DC. – Reuters

that “they’re going to be met with very big force”.

Members of the far-right Proud Boys appeared at an Atlanta “No Kings” protest, wearing the group’s distinctive black and yellow colours.

The protests, and any response by law enforcement agencies, will form a contrasting backdrop to the day-long celebration of the US Army’s history,

which will seek to honour different eras of military history with uniforms and military weaponry from those periods.

While the Army has said the parade will take place come rain or shine, weather forecasts for the evening show the potential for heavy thunderstorms in the Washington area.

Trump put a brave face on the forecast yesterday, saying on Truth Social:

“Our great military parade is on, rain or shine. Remember, a rainy day parade brings good luck. I’ll see you all in DC.”

Defenders of the plans say the Army’s 250th anniversary is a unique event that deserves an outsized celebration.

Military parades in the United States are rare. Other countries usually stage them to celebrate victories in battle or showcase military might.



Right: A child is allowed to inspect military hardware at one of the many booths set up on the National Mall during the Army 250th Anniversary Parade in Washington, DC. – AFP



This aerial view shows people taking part in a ‘No Kings’ protest at Liberty Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia. – AFP

## Afghan man pleads guilty to plotting US election day attack

An Afghan man has pleaded guilty on Friday to plotting to carry out an attack on US election day on behalf of the Islamic State (IS) group, the Justice Department (DOJ) revealed.

Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, was arrested in the central US state of Oklahoma in October, several weeks before the November 5 presidential election.

He pleaded guilty in a federal court in Oklahoma City to charges of conspiring to provide material support to IS and attempting to receive firearms and ammunition to carry out an attack.

Tawhedi is facing a maximum of 20 years in prison for the conspiracy charge and up to 15 years in prison for the firearms charge.

“By pledging allegiance to IS and plotting an attack against innocent Americans on Election Day, this defendant endangered lives and gravely betrayed the nation that gave him refuge,” US Attorney-General Pamela Bondi said in a statement. “Today’s guilty plea guarantees he will be held accountable, stripped of his immigration status, and permanently removed from the United States.”

Tawhedi and a co-conspirator, Abdullah Haji Zada, sought to buy two AK-47 rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition to carry out a “mass-casualty attack” on November 5, according to court documents.

The seller turned out to be a Federal Bureau of Investigation employee who was undercover. Zada, 18, pleaded guilty in April to the firearms charge and is awaiting sentencing.

According to the criminal complaint, Tawhedi entered the United States in September 2021 on a special immigrant visa. – AFP

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, MONA LIZA OTIC DELGADO

holder of

PHILIPPINE Passport No. P8363346B  
QID No. 28460813208

hereby change my name

from

MONA LIZA OTIC DELGADO

to

MONA LIZA DELGADO GAVINO

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ARIF GAZI KHALASI

holder of

BANGLADESH Passport No. A18053304  
QID No. 29305006854

hereby change my name

from

ARIF GAZI KHALASII

to

ARIF KHALASHI GIZUDDIN KHALASHI

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, PIA VILLANUEVA CORDERO

holder of

PHILIPPINES Passport No. P6114524A  
QID No. 28360814844

hereby change my name

from

PIA VILLANUEVA CORDERO

to

PIA CORDERO PETISME

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

## Austria plans tougher gun laws after shooting at school

The Austrian government plans to tighten national gun laws after enduring its worst school shooting, Chancellor Christian Stocker said in an interview broadcast yesterday.

Speaking to ORF radio, Stocker said officials aimed to set stricter eligibility rules for possession and purchase of arms after a 21-year-old Austrian man on Tuesday shot dead ten people at a high school in the city of Graz before killing himself.

The planned measures would look at things such as age requirements and how to treat certain weapons, Stocker said in an excerpt of an interview due to air later in the day.

The cabinet plans to agree the measures on Wednesday, a spokesperson for the chancellor's office said.

The proposals include enhancing psychological expertise in schools, increasing police presence there, improving data exchange between authorities and tightening restrictions for individuals deemed to be a risk, newspaper *Kronen Zeitung* said.

The spokesperson confirmed the details.

Police described the shooter as an introvert and avid player of online shooting games who had largely withdrawn from the outside world before he planned the attack.

Authorities have yet to establish what moved him to carry out the shooting. – **Reuters**

## 10 dead in Texas floods

Flooding from heavy rains in the US state of Texas led to at least 10 deaths, officials reported on Friday, with several additional people reported missing.

Intense downpours hit on Thursday morning in the city of San Antonio, Texas, causing flash flooding on roads which pushed vehicles off the streets into a nearby creek bed, according to local broadcaster KENS5.

The station reported the San Antonio Fire Department was searching for at least four victims.

City officials reported the death toll had reached 10 fatalities by afternoon on Friday.

“Our hearts are with the families of those we’ve lost to this week’s flash floods and the families who continue searching for their loved ones,” San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said in a post on X. “I want to personally thank our San Antonio first responders and their families for their sacrifices toward the recovery efforts.” – **AFP**

## Violeta Chamorro, who brought peace to Nicaragua, dead at 95

AFP  
San Jose

Violeta Chamorro, who brought peace to Nicaragua after decades of war and was the first woman elected president in the Americas, died yesterday at the age of 95, her family said.

Chamorro, who ruled the poor Central American country from 1990 to 1997, “died in peace, surrounded by the affection and love of her children”, said a statement issued by her four children.

As president, Chamorro managed to bring to an end a civil war that had raged for much of the 1980s as US-backed rebels known as the ‘Contras’ fought the leftist Sandinista government.

That conflict made Nicaragua one of the big proxy battlegrounds of the Cold War.

Chamorro put her country on the path to democracy in the difficult years following the Sandinista revolution of 1979, which had toppled the US-backed right-wing regime of Anastasio Somoza.

In a country known for macho culture, Chamorro had a maternal style and was known for her patience and a desire for reconciliation.

When she won the 1990 election at the head of a broad coalition, she defeated Daniel Ortega, the Sandinista guerrilla leader and icon who is now president again.

Ortega has been in power for 17 years and is widely criticised by governments and rights groups as having crushed personal freedoms, all political opposition and judicial independence with autocratic rule.

Chamorro died in Costa Rica, where she moved in 2023, to be close to her children, three of whom are living here in exile because of their opposition to Ortega.

Chamorro – Nicaraguans referred to her affectionately as “Dona Violeta” – had been living far removed from public life for decades.

In her later years, she suffered from Alzheimer’s disease.

“Her legacy is unquestionable,” said Felix Madariaga, a Nicaraguan academic and political activist living in exile in the United States.

“She led the transition from war to peace, healing a country destroyed by war. The contrast with Ortega is clear and deep,” said Madariaga.

Chamorro was the widow of Pedro Joaquin

# Zelensky warns against drop in aid due to Israel-Iran escalation

AFP  
Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday that it hoped the military escalation between Israel and Iran would not lead to a drop in aid to Kyiv, at a time when European support is stalling without US engagement.

Israel unleashed large-scale attacks on Iran on Friday, targeting nuclear and military facilities, high-ranking generals and atomic scientists.

Iran in return launched barrages of drones and missile at Israel.

The escalation sparked international calls for restraint as fears of broader conflict grow.

In Kyiv it also sparked anxiety about future supplies of military aid, fearing Washington might relocate more resources to beef up the defence of its close ally Israel.

“We would like to see aid to Ukraine not decrease because of this,” President Volodymyr Zelensky said. “Last time, this was a factor that slowed down aid to Ukraine.”

The Ukrainian leader warned that Eu-

rope’s support was already stalling without Washington’s engagement.

“Europe has not yet decided for itself what it will do with Ukraine if America is not there,” he said.

The return to the White House of US President Donald Trump has upended the West’s provision of aid to Kyiv.

It has left Europe scrambling to work out how it can fill any gap in supplies if Trump decides to pull US military, financial and intelligence support.

Zelensky urged the United States to “shift tone” in its dialogue with Russia, saying it was “too warm” and would not help to end the war.

Trump has sought rapprochement with Moscow and held three phone calls with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin so far this year.

He has stunned North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) allies with the stark change in policy from that of the previous US administration, which aborted almost all contacts with Moscow after Russia invaded Ukraine.

The Israeli attacks on Iran also drove oil

prices up, which Zelensky said would benefit Russia.

“The attacks led to a sharp rise in oil prices. This is bad for us,” he added, reiterating a call for the West to introduce price caps on Russian oil exports.

The Ukrainian leader said he hoped to raise the issue of price caps at a possible meeting with Trump in the near future.

He added, however, that the Israeli strikes might prove favourable for Kyiv if they lead to a drop in Iranian supplies of military equipment to Russia, which has relied heavily on Iranian-made attack drones.

Ukraine and Russia exchanged prisoners yesterday, the fourth such swap this week, under agreements clinched in Istanbul earlier this month.

Kyiv also said it had stopped Russian advances in the northeastern Sumy region.

The deals to hand over killed soldiers and exchange captured ones are the only agreements to have come out of two rounds of peace talks in Istanbul.

Russia has rejected calls to halt its three-year invasion.

It has demanded Ukraine cede even more

territory and renounce Western military support if it wants peace.

Since Russia invaded in February 2022, the war has forced millions of people to flee their homes as towns and cities across eastern Ukraine have been flattened by heavy bombardments.

As part of the Istanbul agreements, Kyiv also said it had received another 1,200 unidentified bodies from Russia.

It said Moscow had said they were those of “Ukrainian citizens, including military personnel”

Ukraine did not say whether it returned any bodies to Russia.

Meanwhile, Russia intensified its offensive along the front line, especially in the northeastern Sumy region, where it seeks to establish a “buffer zone”.

This zone is designed, ostensibly, to protect the Russian border region of Kursk, previously partly occupied by Ukraine.

Zelensky said Russia’s advance on Sumy was stopped and that Kyiv’s forces had managed to retake one village.

He said 53,000 men Russian soldiers were involved in the Sumy operation.

## Gunfire kills one near migrant camp in France

Gunfire near a migrant camp in northern France killed one person yesterday, a prosecutor said, after authorities rescued almost 100 people trying to cross the Channel to Britain in two days.

The shots near the Loon-Plage camp outside Dunkirk also wounded five people, two seriously and three others lightly, including a child, the northern city’s prosecutor Charlotte Huet said.

An adult and a 17-year-old were arrested following the shots, she said. Their nationalities were not immediately clear.

An aid worker told AFP that more than 1,500 people live in and around the camp.

Many migrants with ambitions of reaching Britain gather on the shores of northern France hoping to make the perilous sea crossing.

France and Britain have pledged to crack down on people smugglers who charge steep fees for migrants to board often overloaded and unseaworthy boats.

French maritime authorities said that, on Thursday and Friday alone, they rescued 99 people from dinghies that were carrying too many people, adrift or taking in water.

British authorities said that, on Friday, 919 people landed on its shore after crossing the Channel in 14 small boats. – **AFP**

## Trump reports over \$600mn in income from crypto, golf and licensing fees

Reuters  
Washington

Donald Trump reported more than \$600mn in income from crypto, golf clubs, licensing and other ventures in a public financial disclosure report released on Friday that provided a glimpse of the vast business holdings of America’s billionaire president.

The annual financial disclosure form, which appeared to cover the 2024 calendar year, shows the president’s push into crypto added substantially to his wealth but he also reported large fees from developments and revenues from his other businesses.

Overall, the president reported assets worth at least \$1.6bn, a Reuters calculation shows.

While Trump has said he has put his businesses into a trust managed by his children, the disclosures show how income from those sources still ultimately accrue to the president – something that has opened him to accusations of conflicts of interest.

Some of his businesses in areas such as crypto, for example, benefit from US policy shifts under him and have become a source of criticism.

“President Trump, Vice-President Vance, and senior White House staff have completed required ethics briefings and financial reporting obligations,” White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in an e-mailed statement to Reuters. “The Trump Administration is committed to transparency and accessibility for the American people.”

The financial disclosure was signed on June 13 and did not state the time period it covered.

The details of the cryptocurrency listings, as well as other

information in the disclosure, suggest it was through the end of December 2024, which would exclude most of the money raised by the family’s cryptocurrency ventures.

Given the speed at which the Trump family has made deals during his ascent to the presidency, the filing is already a time capsule of sorts, capturing a period when the family was just starting to get into crypto but was largely still in the world of real estate deals and golf clubs.

A meme coin released earlier this year by the president – \$TRUMP – alone has earned an estimated \$320mn in fees, although it’s not publicly known how that amount has been divided between a Trump-controlled entity and its partners.

In addition to the meme coin fees, the Trump family has raked in more than \$400mn from World Liberty Financial, a decentralised finance company.

The Trump family is involved, also, with a bitcoin mining operation and digital asset exchange-traded funds.

In the disclosures, Trump reported \$57.35mn from token sales at World Liberty. He also reported holding 15.75 billion governance tokens in the venture.

The wealth of the Republican businessman-turned-politician ranges from crypto to real estate, and a large part on paper is tied up in his stake in Trump Media & Technology Group, owner of social media platform Truth Social.

Besides assets and revenues from his business ventures, the president reported at least \$12mn in income, including through interest and dividends, from passive investments totalling at least \$211mn, a Reuters calculation shows.

His biggest investments were

## Sao Paulo’s pumas under threat from ‘stone jungle’

By Facundo Fernández Barrio  
AFP

Apartment blocks and shopping centres sprout like mushrooms around a wild cat sanctuary that shelters pumas recovering from injuries suffered at the hands of mankind in Brazil’s Sao Paulo state.

The Mata Ciliar refuge stretches over the equivalent of 40 football fields just 90km (56 miles) from the state capital Sao Paulo – Latin America’s biggest metropolis.

Twenty-five pumas and 10 jaguars are receiving treatment at the centre – including Barreiro, a five-year-old puma named after the semi-rural neighbourhood where he was found caught in a trap made with a steel cable.

Barreiro is being treated for a deep cut to the hip.

“Due to the advancement of urbanisation into its natural habitat, when the puma moves, it gets lost between roads, gated communities and other human interventions,” Mata Ciliar president Jorge Bellix told AFP.

As its habitat shrinks in step with human expansion, the puma is forced to move closer to settlements to find food – which may include pets and livestock, as its natural diet of



A puma (*Puma concolor*) is pictured at the Mata Ciliar association, an organisation for the conservation of biodiversity, in Jundiá, Sao Paulo state, Brazil. – **AFP**

Right: An aerial view of a neighbourhood near a forested area in Jundiá, Sao Paulo state, Brazil. – **AFP**



deer and smaller wild animals gets diminished.

The big cats risk being run over by cars, electrocuted by security fences or trapped in snares set by either hunters trying to catch wild boar or residents warding off predators.

Some are poached for their skins or as trophies.

“If this continues, we will unfortunately witness the extinction of several (animal) species within a few years,” said Bellix, whose refuge has treated some 32,000 creatures since it was founded nearly 30 years ago.



This picture from 1990 shows then-Nicaraguan president Violeta Chamorro receiving an AK-47 assault rifle from a member of the Contra forces to symbolise the end of the war, in El Almendro. – **AFP**

Chamorro, who came from one of Nicaragua’s most prominent families.

As owner and chief editor of the newspaper *La Prensa*, he was killed in 1978 in an attack blamed on the regime of Anastasio Somoza.

His death propelled Chamorro to take over the newspaper and, eventually, to get into politics.

After the Sandinistas seized power in 1979, she became the only female member of a national reconstruction government.

However, she quit that junta in 1980, believing the Sandinistas were moving too far to the left and into the sphere of communist Cuba.

Chamorro became prominent in the opposition to the Sandinistas as they fought the “Contra” rebels financed by the United States under Ronald Reagan.

In 1990, she stunned the country by winning the presidency – and beating Ortega – as leader of a coalition of 14 parties.

During the campaign, she was known for wearing white and had to use a wheelchair because of a knee injury. In her memoirs, Chamorro said she won because she gained the trust of war-weary Nicaraguans as she spoke in simple language “typical of a homemaker and a mother”

“In the macho culture of my country, few people believed that I, a woman, and what is more, handicapped, had the strength, energy and will” to beat Ortega, she wrote. “But if the Berlin Wall fell, why not the Sandinistas?”



# More than 600 evacuated as Myanmar military fights anti-coup forces

AFP  
Pekon, Myanmar

Hundreds of Myanmar families were being uprooted from their homes yesterday, a community organiser said, piling their belongings onto evacuation convoys to escape fighting between the military and anti-coup guerrillas. Myanmar has been consumed by a many-sided civil

war since the military snatched power in a 2021 coup, leaving more than 3.5mn people displaced according to United Nations figures. Heavy combat has been raging since Monday around the village of Saung Nang Khae in the eastern state of Shan, according to locals and evacuation organisers. Ramshackle convoys of tractors were piled with livestock, wheelchairs and suitcases on Friday as they hauled local families to tem-

porary shelter in the village of BC Kone some 60km southwest. Yesterday Khun Pyae Linn, the spokesman of the youth wing of the Kayan New Land Party which controls the enclave and which organised evacuation efforts, said “rescue operations are still ongoing”. “We evacuated more than 600 people but there were other organisations that helped villagers too. So it could be over 1,500 villagers

that were moved to safe shelters,” he added. The military and some of its adversaries had pledged a truce this month as the country recovers from March’s devastating magnitude-7.7 earthquake which killed more than 3,700 people. But Anyne Zel, 24, said she had been forced to flee as artillery and air strikes pounded her home area – the second time she has been forced to evacuate in two years. “I

want to ask them to stop the war. Every time they fight the victims are us, the civilians,” she said on Friday. “I don’t even think about the future of our lives anymore.” After four years of war, Myanmar’s military has turned to conscription to bolster its ranks after suffering stinging territorial losses against the myriad of anti-coup fighters and ethnic armed organisations opposing its rule. But analysts say it is still far from defeat,

with a superior array of military hardware supplied by its backers China and Russia. Lone Phaw, a 63-year-old farmer, said the onslaught of fighting in Saung Nang Khae was so sudden that he and his wife abandoned their home with only a single piece of clothing each, some blankets, pots and a bag of rice. “We only had time to run when it happened,” he said. “We can’t guess what our future holds.”

# Thailand, Cambodia hold talks to address border tensions



Cambodia's Minister in Charge of the State Secretariat of Border Affairs Lam Chea (right) shakes hands with Thai Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Prasasvinitchai during the sixth meeting of the Cambodian-Thai Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) in Phnom Penh.

Reuters  
Bangkok

Thai and Cambodian officials met yesterday to try to ease tensions amid fears of military clashes after a long-running territorial dispute reignited, leading both countries to mobilise troops on the border. The two neighbours share an 820-km land border, parts of which are undemarcated and include ancient temples that both sides have contested for decades. The latest standoff followed a brief skirmish on May 28 that left a Cambodian soldier dead. The row comes at a challenging time for Thailand’s government, which is losing popular-

ity in prolonged struggle to spur economic growth. Paetongtarn’s administration is under pressure to take a tougher stand on Cambodia, accompanied by initially strong rhetoric from the Thai military. Thailand’s foreign ministry said the meeting of the Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) in Phnom Penh would continue into Sunday and the atmosphere of the talks had been good. “Thailand sincerely hopes that it would further contribute to deescalating the tensions, paving the way for a sustainable solution in the future,” spokesperson Nikorndej Balankura told a press conference in Bangkok. Cambodia’s information ministry said it would not comment until after the meeting concludes.



Officials attend the sixth meeting of the Cambodian-Thai Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary (JBC) in Phnom Penh.

## Resolution unlikely

Despite both countries pledging dialogue to handle the issue and to calm nationalist fervour, Bangkok has threatened to close the border and cut off electricity supplies to its neighbour. Phnom Penh announced it would cease buying Thai electric power, Internet bandwidth and produce. It has also ordered local television stations not to screen Thai films. A resolution this weekend is not expected and it is unclear where the two sides can find common

ground, with Cambodia determined to file a case at the International Court of Justice to determine jurisdiction over four disputed areas, which Thailand has rejected, insisting on a bilateral solution. “There’s not much left to discuss at the JBC apart from maintaining an atmosphere for further dialogue,” said Dulyapak Preecharush, a Southeast Asian studies expert at Thammasat University in Bangkok. Cambodia’s Prime Minister Hun Manet said on Friday his country would not discuss the four contested areas at the boundary com-

mission, adding the government would send an official letter to the ICJ on Sunday on its plan to file the case. Influential former strongman premier Hun Sen, Hun Manet’s father, has criticised Thailand’s military for restricting border crossings and has accused generals and Thai nationalists of fanning the tensions. “Only extremist groups and some military factions are behind these issues with Cambodia because, as usual, the Thai government is unable to control its military the way our country can,” he said late on Thursday.

## Two Australians shot in Indonesia’s Bali island, one dead

Reuters  
Jakarta

An Australian man was fatally shot and another Australian man injured in a shooting incident on the Indonesian island of Bali just after midnight yesterday, local police told media. Bali police are currently hunting for two people believed to be involved in the shooting in a villa in the Badung regency on the southern side of the tourism island, spokesperson Ariasandy said, according to news website Detik.com.

## Police said witness had provided descriptions of two people who fled from the scene on two motorcycles

Identified only by their first names, Zivan R, 32, died at the scene, while Sanar G, 35, was seriously wounded and has been taken to intensive care at a hospital, Detik reported. Ariasandy said witness had provided descriptions of two people who fled from the scene on two motorcycles. He said the two were heard speaking English with an Australian accent.

# US warship arrives in Australia ahead of war games, summit

Reuters  
Sydney

A key US warship arrived in Australia yesterday ahead of joint war games and the first summit between Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and President Donald Trump, which is expected to be dominated by military issues. The America, the US Navy’s lead amphibious assault ship in the Indo-Pacific, entered Sydney Harbour as the first of three ships in a strike group carrying 2,500 sailors and marines, submarine-hunting helicopters and F-35B fighter jets. More than 30,000 personnel

from 19 militaries have begun to arrive in Australia for Talisman Sabre, the largest Australian-US war-fighting exercise. It will start next month and span 6,500km, from Australia’s Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island to the Coral Sea on Australia’s east coast. The commander of the America, Rear Admiral Tom Shultz, said exercising in Australia was critical for the US Navy’s readiness, while the Australian fleet commander, Rear Admiral Chris Smith, said the “trust and robust nature” of the bilateral relationship allowed the two allies to deal with change. “The diversity of how we view the world is actually a real great

## The America heads US strike group with 2,500 sailors, marines; Military issues expected to dominate first Albanese-Trump summit; Pentagon wants Australia to lift defence spending

strength in our alliance,” Smith told reporters, adding that Australia also had strong relationships with nations across the region. Albanese and Trump are expected to meet on the sidelines of a summit in Canada of the Group of Seven economic powers, which starts on Sunday.

Washington’s request for Canberra to raise defence spending to 3.5% of gross domestic product from 2% is expected to dominate the discussion. The Pentagon said this week it was reviewing its AUKUS nuclear submarine partnership with Australia and Britain. Australian De-

fence Minister Richard Marles said yesterday this was “not a surprise”, adding the two countries continued to work closely. But Michael Green, a former national security adviser to President George W Bush, said it was unusual for the review into AUKUS to be conducted solely by the Pentagon and that Trump might link it to the spending request or to tariffs. “It is unusual to make the review unilateral and public right before a summit, even if the Australian side knew. That is not good alliance management – it jams the Australian side,” said Green, president of the United States Studies Centre in Sydney.

Support for AUKUS in the Congress and US Navy is considerable, however, and the review is unlikely to result in the submarine programme being cancelled, he said. India will participate for the first time in Talisman Sabre, along with a large contingent from Europe, said the exercise’s director, Brigadier Damian Hill. Australia, Singapore, the US and Japan will hold large-scale live firings of rocket and missile systems, he said. “It is the first time we are firing HIMARs in Australia, and our air defence capability will work alongside the United States Patriot systems for the first time, and that is really important,” Hill added.

## Caught in the rain



Pedestrians with umbrellas walk as rain falls in Beijing. The city has seen a shower in spots yesterday morning, followed by periods of rain in the afternoon.





Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales, attends the Trooping the Colour parade.



Prince George reacts as he rides a carriage with Prince Louis.



The Red Arrows, aerobatic display team of the Royal Air Force (RAF), fly over the Buckingham Palace.



Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales (second left) parades down the Mall after attending the King's Birthday Parade.



Britain's King Charles III, and members of the royal family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace after attending the King's Birthday Parade.

## Indian air crash victims remembered at King Charles's birthday parade

AFP  
London

A minute's silence for victims of the Air India plane disaster was held yesterday at a London birthday parade for King Charles III, in which some members of the royal family also wore black arm bands. The king, 76, requested amendments to the parade, known as Trooping the Colour, "as a mark of respect for the lives lost, the families in mourning and all the communities affected by this awful tragedy", a Buckingham Palace spokesperson said.

A total 279 people, including passengers, crew and people on the ground, died on Thursday when a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner bound for London's Gatwick Airport crashed on take-off from Ahmedabad in western India. The victims included 52 Britons. A sole survivor has been named as British man Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, from the central English city of Leicester.

In a written message after the disaster, Charles said he was "deeply shocked by the terrible events" and expressed his "deepest possible sympathy". Trooping the Colour, a minutely choreographed

military tradition dating back more than two centuries, marks the British sovereign's official birthday. It starts at Buckingham Palace and moves down The Mall to Horse Guards Parade, where Charles receives a royal salute before inspecting soldiers.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the palace and along The Mall to watch the spectacle.

They included a group of anti-monarchist protesters with yellow placards reading "not my king" and "down with the crown". Charles, who is still undergoing weekly treatment for an unspecified cancer, was accompanied by

Queen Camilla for the parade.

Also present were heir Prince William, 42, his wife Catherine, also known as Kate, and their three children: George, 11, Charlotte, 10 and Louis, seven. Catherine, 43, whose formal title is Princess of Wales, has also faced her own cancer battle. She announced that she had also been diagnosed with an unspecified cancer in March 2024 just weeks after Charles revealed his cancer. The princess said in January 2025 that she was "in remission" and she has since made a partial return to public life.

Not present at yesterday's parade, were Charles's estranged

younger son Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, who both stepped down from royal family duties in 2020, and moved to the United States. Harry's fraught ties with his family have worsened since he and Meghan made various public allegations against the royals.

Harry and his brother William are said to barely be on speaking terms, according to UK media.

After the parade, the royal family made their traditional appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. A fly-past included a team from the Royal Air Force's aerobatic team, the Red Arrows, whose aircraft trailing red, white and blue

vapour were powered by a blend of sustainable aviation fuel and vegetable oil.

Charles was an early champion of sustainability and climate action. Although Trooping the Colour takes place in June, the king was actually born in November. The second birthday tradition dates back to 1748, when King George II wanted to have a celebration in better weather than at his own birthday, which was in October. The parade comes on the same day that US President Donald Trump presides over a huge military parade in Washington on his 79th birthday.

## India orders inspection of Boeing 787s after air crash

Reuters  
Ahmedabad

India's aviation regulator has ordered all Boeing 787s being operated by local carriers to be inspected after an Air India crash killed over 270 people this week, the aviation minister said yesterday, adding the authorities were investigating all possible causes.

The aviation regulator had on Friday ordered Air India to conduct additional maintenance checks on its Boeing 787-8/9 aircraft equipped with GENx engines, including assessments of certain take-off parameters, electronic engine control tests and engine fuel-related checks.

"We have also given the order to do the extended surveillance of the 787 planes. There are 34 in our Indian fleet," aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu told reporters in New Delhi. "Eight have already been inspected and with immediate urgency, all of them are going to be done."

He did not say whether government officials will be involved in the inspections. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with 242 people on board bound for Britain's Gatwick Airport began losing height seconds after take-off on Thursday and erupted in a fireball as it hit buildings below, in what has been the world's worst aviation disaster in a decade.

Air India operates 33 Boeing 787s, while rival airline IndiGo has one, according to data from Flight-radar24. IndiGo did not respond to a request for comment. In a statement, Air India said it is currently completing the one-time safety checks directed by the Indian regulator, adding that "some of these checks could lead to higher turnaround time and potential delays on certain long-haul routes."

The planes, however, have not been grounded, but a source on Friday told Reuters the Indian government was considering that as an option. Naidu also said the government will look at all possible theories of what led to the crash. Air India and the Indian government were looking at several aspects of the crash including issues linked to its engine thrust, flaps, and why the landing gear remained open as the plane took off and then came down, Reuters has reported.

At least 270 bodies have been recovered from the site of the crash, Dhaval Gameti, president of the Junior Doctors Association at B J Medical College, told reporters. Only one of the 242 passengers and crew on board survived while others were killed as the plane struck the medical college's hostel as it came

### Air India crash sparks scrutiny of 787s; Panel to make a report in 3 months: minister; Crash has cast a shadow on Air India



Ratheesh G Nair, brother of air crash victim Ranjitha G Nair, who died leaves after giving his DNA sample at a hospital in Ahmedabad.

down. The crisis has cast a shadow on Air India, which has for years struggled to rebuild its reputation and revamp its fleet after the Tata Group took over the airline from the Indian government in 2022. Tata's chairman said on Friday the group wants to understand what happened, but "we don't know right now." Naidu said a government panel was investigating the crash and will issue a report within three months. "We are going to improve every necessary thing that is going to come our way, to improve the safety," he said at the briefing, declining questions from journalists.

#### Wait for bodies

Later in the afternoon, authorities removed the tail of the aircraft that was stuck on top of a building, while hospital and rescue officials said a body of a cabin crew member was recovered from the wreckage. Air India said it will provide an interim payment of Rs2.5mn (\$29,000) each to the families of the deceased and to the survivor, to help address immediate financial needs, in addition to 10mn rupees in support announced previously by the Tata Group.

"The process of reuniting next of kin with their loved ones and personal effects has begun," Air India CEO Campbell Wilson said in a statement, as authorities started handing over bodies of passengers and crew members to their families, nearly 48 hours after the crash. Dozens of anxious family members have been waiting outside an Ahmedabad hospital to collect the bodies, as doctors were working



Relatives of the deceased killed in crash, wait for reports at a DNA testing centre in Ahmedabad.

overtime to gather dental samples from the deceased to run identification checks and DNA profiling.

At least 11 DNA samples have been matched so far, and authorities expect to hand over three bodies by Saturday evening, said Rajnish Patel, a senior official at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. He told reporters that the matching of samples was a meticulous process that had to be done slowly. The wait, however, had made some family members more distraught.

Rafiq Abdul Hafiz Memon, who lost four relatives in the incident, said he was not getting any answers from authorities. "We have lost our children ... we are not understanding anything. Please help us get information about our children. Tell us when they are going to release their bodies," Memon said.

Another father was upset about not being able to get the body of his son, Harshad Patel, saying he was told by authorities it will take 72

hours for DNA profiling. "The authorities are trying to help but our patience is running out," he said. Most bodies in the crash were badly charred and authorities are using dental samples to run identification checks.

Jaishankar Pillai, a forensic dentist, told reporters on Friday they had the dental records of 135 charred victims, which can then be matched through reference to victims' prior dental charts, radiographs or other records.

Even for doctors, things are getting difficult, as the plane struck a hostel building of the B J Medical College, where many of the dead are undergoing identification checks. "Most of us are struggling with our emotions and are mentally disturbed because of the loss of friends and colleagues," said one doctor who did not wish to be named.

"The loss of so many colleagues and friends in this incident is difficult."

### Fact file on plane crash and investigation

Air India's deadly plane crash that killed at least 270 people has triggered a wave of speculation about what led to the world's worst aviation disaster in a decade, but authorities are slowly narrowing down areas of investigation. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner is one of the most advanced jets in service and experts say it has a generally strong safety record, with no previous fatal accidents. Here's what is known about the air crash so far:

#### VISUAL EVIDENCE

One of the strongest pieces of evidence that investigators are reviewing is a 59-second CCTV video clip that clearly shows the takeoff and the crash of the plane from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad city, western Gujarat state. The CCTV camera was located on the far left of the runway near a wall with barbed wire. The video shows that the Tata Group-owned Air India plane takes off, gains some altitude, flies flat for a couple of seconds, and then starts descending with its tail down.

The descent of the plane starts roughly 17 seconds after takeoff. There is no fire visible around the engine or elsewhere when the plane appears to start going down, and has already crossed the airport boundary wall.

The landing gear visibly remains open throughout the clip. It took roughly 33 seconds from wheels-up for the plane to crash, erupting into a huge fireball.

#### WHERE DID THE PLANE FALL

The Indian aviation ministry said the pilots issued a "mayday" call to air traffic controllers at 1:39pm local time on Thursday. When officials tried to communicate, the pilots did not respond. The plane started losing height after reaching an altitude of 650 feet. It then crashed into the B J Medical College hostel nearby. Images of the dining area shortly after the incident showed wheels and other parts of the aircraft embedded in the walls, while debris and belongings of the students, including clothes and books, lay scattered on the floor.

Steel tumblers and plates still containing food lay on the few tables that were left intact. A strong stench of jet fuel hung in the air at the site on Friday, as authorities used cranes to remove charred trees and debris.

#### POSSIBLE CAUSES

Air India officials and scores of Indian government investigators have been at the crash site since Thursday. No initial findings have been disclosed so far, but investigators are considering at least three key possible issues, according to a source with direct knowledge. Investigators are assessing if there are any issues related to engine thrust, which is the force produced by the engine to push it forward through the air. Investigators are also looking at any possible operational issues with flaps. Anti-terror squads have also been part of the investigation teams.

Officials are also assessing why was the landing gear was open for so long after takeoff. A possible bird strike is not a focus of the probe. The source added that officials are also looking at any possible fault of Air India, including any possible maintenance issues.

#### WHERE'S THE BLACK BOX?

India's aviation ministry has said investigators and rescue workers recovered the digital flight data recorder - one of the two black boxes on the plane - from the rooftop of the building on which the jet crashed. There was no information on the cockpit voice recorder, the other black box, which is also crucial to the probe. India's aviation regulator has conducted additional maintenance actions on Air India's Boeing 787-8/9 aircraft equipped with GENx engines, including "one-time check" of the take-off parameters before the departure of every flight from midnight of June 15. The airline has also been asked to conduct electronic engine control tests and engine fuel related checks.



Children hold candles as they pray for the deceased killed in the Air India flight 171 crash in Ahmedabad.

CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

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

GULF TIMES

Trade policy volatility  
a major drag  
on global growth

The World Bank has revised its global growth forecast for 2025, downward by 0.4 percentage points to 2.3%, citing escalating tariffs and mounting policy uncertainty as major headwinds affect nearly all economies.

In its semi-annual Global Economic Prospects report published recently, the multilateral lender downgraded growth projections for majority of the world's economies – including the United States, China, and Europe – as well as six key emerging market regions.

These downward revisions come against the backdrop of increased global trade frictions that have intensified since President Donald Trump assumed office.

President Trump's implementation of a series of tariff increases has pushed the effective US tariff rate from below 3% to the mid-teens – its highest level in nearly a century – prompting retaliatory measures from China and other trading partners.

The World Bank joins a growing number of institutions that have reduced their growth outlooks in response to trade policy volatility. While US officials maintain that any near-term drag will be counterbalanced by anticipated investment growth and pending tax reforms, the report stops short of predicting a recession, according to Reuters.

However, it warns that global growth in 2025 is expected to be the weakest in a non-recession year since 2008.

Looking further ahead, global GDP growth is projected to average just 2.5% through 2027—marking the slowest pace of any decade since the 1960s.

Global growth  
in 2025 is  
expected to be  
the weakest in  
a non-recession  
year since 2008



Bank modeling, a further 10 percentage point increase in average US tariffs – along with proportional retaliation – could reduce global growth by an additional 0.5 percentage points in 2025.

Such a scenario could lead to a sharp contraction in global trade in the latter half of the year, accompanied by a steep decline in business and consumer confidence, increased market volatility, and broader financial instability.

Despite these risks, the report assesses the likelihood of a global recession as less than 10%.

Meanwhile, Qatar's economy will clock a real GDP growth of 2.4% this year, 5.4% in 2026 and 7.6% in 2027, the World Bank said in its latest forecast.

Qatar will outperform the other five GCC countries in real GDP growth in 2026 and 2027, World Bank data reveal.

According to the World Bank forecast, Bahrain's economy will grow 3.5% this year, 3% in 2026 and 2.8% in 2027.

For Kuwait, the World Bank forecasts a real GDP growth of 2.2% this year, and 2.7% in both 2026 and 2027.

Oman, the World Bank forecast says, will grow at 3% this year, 3.7% in 2026 and 4% in 2027.

According to the World Bank forecast, Saudi Arabia's real GDP will grow at 2.8% this year, 4.5% in 2026 and 4.6% in 2027.

UAE, the World Bank forecast says, will grow at 4.6% this year and 4.9% in both 2026 and 2027.

The World Bank said growth in members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is forecast to increase to 3.2% in 2025, 4.5% in 2026, and 4.8% in 2027.

The phase-out of oil production cuts is expected to lead to rising oil production, despite projected lower oil prices amid weakening global demand, it said.

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

☎ 44466621 📠 44418811

Classified

☎ 44466609 📠 44418811

✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2025 Gulf Times. All rights reserved



Trump hurting America's  
technological lead

The real threat is internal decay, not foreign rivals

By Carl Benedikt Frey  
Oxford

From Sputnik in the 1950s to Japan's electronics boom in the 1980s, Americans have repeatedly feared losing their technological edge to foreign rivals. Each time, though, the United States responded by doubling down on its strengths – attracting global talent, investing in cutting-edge research, enforcing competition (antitrust law – and ultimately emerged stronger. Today, however, the gravest threat to America's tech leadership isn't another Sputnik or Sony; it's the internal erosion of core advantages. President Donald Trump's policies almost seem designed to dismantle the very pillars of US innovation.

The first pillar is America's research institutions. During the Cold War, a bipartisan consensus supported ambitious programmes such as the Apollo programme and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Researchers and investigators enjoyed considerable intellectual autonomy. Seminal precursors to the modern internet – J C R Licklider's concept of "interactive computing" and the ARPANET packet-switching network – originated within a deliberately loose federal/university lattice linking Stanford, MIT, the University of California at Berkeley, Columbia, and other campuses.

But the Trump administration's spending cuts have undermined this model: the budgets for the National Science Foundation, Nasa's science directorate, and the National Institutes of Health face reductions of 56%, nearly 50%, and about 40%, respectively. Such deep cuts,

together with political litmus tests for research grants, will suffocate the ecosystem on which breakthrough discoveries depend.

The second, closely related pillar is talent. For more than two centuries, America's greatest advantage has been its ability to attract people from around the world. In the nineteenth century, Samuel Slater brought critical British industrial know-how to US mills. More recently, Hungarian-born biochemist Katalin Karikó spent decades in American labs laying the groundwork for lifesaving mRNA vaccines. Yet Trump's visa crackdowns, bans on international students, and hostility toward universities have made the US less appealing to global talent. European research institutions now celebrate attracting top scientists from the US. America's historic "brain gain" is dangerously close to becoming a brain drain.

The third pillar is competition. America's tech revolution didn't come from protected industries; it came from companies that had to compete with challengers, both domestically and abroad. Unlike Japan, where lax competition policy favoured established conglomerates and stifled innovation, America's robust antitrust regime consistently targeted monopolies, thereby promoting entrepreneurship. For example, the breakup of telecommunications giant AT&T in 1984 prevented a single company from monopolising the emerging internet, creating a competitive environment in which innovation could thrive organically.

But America's commitment to vigorous competition has been weakening for decades. Industry concentration is rising, fewer

startups are launching, and productivity growth is sluggish. And as if these trends weren't bad enough, Trump's tariff wall will accelerate the slide, shielding entrenched firms from foreign challengers and – through an opaque waiver system – turning trade policy into a cash-for-favours bazaar.

Hence, lobbying outlays tied to tariff exemptions – rewarding political proximity rather than performance – skyrocketed by 277% year on year in the first quarter of 2025. This politicised waiver system signals a drift toward crony capitalism, and away from the open, competitive marketplace that once powered US innovation.

The fourth factor is finance. US venture capital – anchored by deep, liquid public markets – is what allowed Apple and Microsoft in the 1970s, followed by Amazon and Google in the 1990s, to scale up at warp speed. By 2000, VC-backed firms comprised one-third of US market value, dwarfing Europe's bank-centred model.

But this engine is now sputtering. Trump's tax cuts will widen the fiscal deficit, forcing the Treasury to borrow more, and likely pushing up interest rates. Higher borrowing costs will hit startups just as tariff-driven market volatility is already sapping investors' risk appetite. Recent reports warn that tariffs and uncertainty have darkened the prospects for venture funding and initial public offerings, threatening the foundations of America's startup economy.

The fifth pillar is an impartial state. America learned during the Gilded Age that unchecked monopolies and political corruption threaten growth. Congress responded with pro-competition reforms: the

Pendleton Act of 1883 replaced patronage with a merit-based civil service, and the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 curbed anticompetitive practices.

Today, these institutional safeguards are weakening. Trump's proposed "Schedule F" rule change would purge thousands of career government experts and replace them with loyalists, mirroring President Xi Jinping's approach in China (where loyalty is often prized over competence). Similarly, the Department of Government Efficiency – spearheaded by Elon Musk, before falling out with Trump – risks producing a less capable and more politically compromised civil service. Agencies like the Internal Revenue Service have massive staffs primarily because the US tax code is overly complicated and filled with loopholes. Without regulatory simplification, bureaucracy cannot be meaningfully reduced, nor can rules be effectively enforced.

The only consolation is that America's main competitor, China, also faces big internal challenges. Although China's most innovative activity still comes from private or foreign-backed firms, the government has been recentralising economic power: the allocation of licenses, credit, and public contracts increasingly favours politically reliable conglomerates; antitrust rules are enforced selectively; and Xi's anti-corruption drive doubles as a loyalty filter. Productivity has stalled as an overstretched property sector absorbed a staggering one-third of GDP.

Meanwhile, firms lacking strong political patrons – the AI startup DeepSeek among them – operate in a legal grey zone, and the state's tight grip on critical information technologies invites ever-tighter oversight that throttles grassroots experimentation. Xi's "divide-and-rule" strategy may secure political control, but it erodes the provincial decentralisation that powered China's post-1980s rise.

Yet liberal democracies are not guaranteed continuous technological progress, either. Innovation depends on openness, impartial rules, and vigorous competition. These cannot be taken for granted. Under the Trump administration, America's historical advantages are deteriorating rapidly. Sustaining innovation – the source of America's prosperity – requires actively defending institutions, not protecting industries. – Project Syndicate

• Carl Benedikt Frey, Associate Professor of AI & Work at the Oxford Internet Institute and Director of the Future of Work Program at the Oxford Martin School, is the author of the forthcoming How Progress Ends: Technology, Innovation, and the Fate of Nations .



US President Donald Trump speaks at the White House in Washington, DC, last week. (Reuters)



# Why Brazil’s ‘King of Cattle’ is embracing a plan to save the Amazon

By **Manuela Andreoni, Ana Mano**  
Xinguara

Decades of ranching in the Amazon have earned Roque Quagliato, Brazil’s “King of Cattle,” great wealth — and some trouble. His family’s immense farms were accused of submitting workers to slavery-like conditions in the 1990s and deforesting huge tracts of the rainforest in the early 2000’s.

But as Brazil’s beef industry evolves under pressure from some of the world’s greatest export markets, Quagliato, at 85, is now in evidence for something else: he is the face of the push to fix cattle ranching in the Amazon, one of the world’s biggest drivers of deforestation.

Quagliato’s cattle were the first to be tagged with chips in their ears as part of a government programme to make millions of cattle in the Amazonian state of Para traceable around the time world leaders arrive there for the United Nations climate summit in November.

“What we hope is that, at the end, the international market gives Brazil a better price,” he said at the sidelines of a recent cattle auction in Xinguara, one of the beef capitals of Para. Deforesters, he added, are now “a matter for jail.”

Quagliato has his eyes on exporting pricier and more demanding markets in the United States, Europe and Asia, some of which buy from Brazilian states but not Para at least partly because of concerns around animal health and links to deforestation.

“Brazil is hustling to open high-demand markets such as Japan and South Korea, and improving its traceability system is one of the key steps to reaching that goal,” said Renan Araujo, a senior market analyst at S&P Global.

Para, which has a herd of 26mn, about the size of Australia’s, wants to tag all its cattle by 2027 as it seizes on the global spotlight to become a test for a wider policy and a major shift for the world’s largest beef exporter.

So far, it’s off to an inauspicious start. The law, passed in late 2023, requires that ranchers in Para identify their cattle by the end of 2026. But by May ranchers in the state of Para had only tagged some 12,000 cattle.

But the buy-in of big ranchers, like Quagliato, has allayed concerns that “there was going to be wholesale rejection” of the policy, said Andy Jarvis, who directs the program Future of Food at the Bezos Earth Fund, which donated \$16.3mn to Para’s project. “The success of this initiative needs the farmers and ranchers themselves to be supporting it.”

The ambitious move, if successful, could be a turning point in the struggle to halt the destruction of the world’s largest rainforest.

Environmentalists have long argued that improvements in cattle traceability would give law enforcement a powerful

**Ranchers in Amazonian state of Para being asked to tag cattle**

**Tags will determine if cattle grazing on illegally cleared forest**

**Tagged cattle are easier to sell in key markets like the EU**

**Ranchers worry tags will expose illegal deforestation**



A drone view shows cattle during an auction in the city of Xinguara in the interior of Para state, Brazil. **(Reuters)**

according to 2024 data from the Brazilian Beef Exporters Association.

That’s partly because Uruguay sells much of its beef to the European Union, which has long worked to rid its supply chains of ties to deforestation and requires individual traceability at least 90 days before cattle are slaughtered.

Most big ranchers interviewed by Reuters see cattle tagging as an unavoidable path forward, though some fear Para is moving too fast for farmers to adapt and would like the policy to be watered down.

Quagliato declined to say how big his herd is or how many of his cattle he had tagged. Local publications have estimated his herd size to be around 150,000 cattle.

Ranchers told Reuters they are waiting to comply until the legal deadline comes closer, because they want to make sure it won’t be delayed as many observers expect. Some also complained about technical glitches in the system to register cattle, which the government denies.

Still, the project has gained support from both the meat packing industry and environmental groups. São Paulo-based JBS, the world’s biggest meat packer, has donated 300,000 tags to the program so far.

“I’m optimistic,” said Marina Guyot, a policy manager at Imaflora, a nonprofit that received a grant from Bezos to help implement the policy. “At the moment, we

tool to choke off ranching in illegally deforested farms from the global supply chains relying on Brazil to feed growing global appetite for beef.

While the state’s proposal to track cattle individually is no silver bullet against deforestation, it would be a step forward that many thought unimaginable not so long ago.

Many ranchers are resisting the program, which they think will take some of them out of business, and few believe the government will meet its goals for this year. But several big-time farmers interviewed by Reuters are throwing weight behind the policy.

“There is a cost,” Quagliato said. But when ranchers sit down to talk about it, he added, they simply conclude that “we have to do it.”

The Quagliato family still faces questions over their own impact on the forest and its people. Brazil’s federal environmental

protection agency said Quagliato paid all his deforestation fines, except for one which he settled, agreeing to regenerate the forest. One of his family members was recently convicted of submitting workers to slave-like labor conditions, though he is appealing. Quagliato declined to comment on these cases.

## ‘We have political will’

Tagging each cow in Para isn’t simply a tool to guarantee animals aren’t eating grass where forests were illegally razed. More than anything, it allows animal health agencies to quickly track any sick cattle and their contacts.

Data suggests the market rewards traceable herds. The average price of the beef Brazil exports is 8% lower than Uruguay’s, which traces cattle individually,

# India’s \$80bn coal-power boom is running short of water

By **Krishna N Das, Sarita Chaganti Singh**  
Chandrapur/Solapur

April marks the start of the cruellest months for residents of Solapur, a hot and dry district in western India. As temperatures soar, water availability dwindles. In peak summer, the wait for taps to flow can stretch to a week or more. Just a decade ago, water flowed every other day, according to the local government and residents of Solapur, some 40km inland from Mumbai.

Then in 2017, a 1,320-megawatt coal-fired power plant run by state-controlled NTPC began operations. It provided the district with energy — and competed with residents and businesses for water from a reservoir that serves the area.

Solapur illustrates the Catch-22 facing India, which has 17% of the planet’s population but access to only 4% of its water resources. The world’s most populous country plans to spend nearly \$80bn on water-hungry coal plants by 2031 to power growing industries like data centre operations.

The vast majority of these new projects are planned for India’s driest areas, according to a power ministry document reviewed by Reuters, which is not public and was created for officials to track progress.

Many of the 20 people interviewed by Reuters for this story, which included power company executives, energy officials and industry analysts, said the thermal expansion likely portended future conflict between industry and residents over limited water resources.

Thirty-seven of the 44 new projects named in the undated power ministry shortlist of future operations are located in areas that the government classifies as either suffering from water scarcity or stress. NTPC, which says it draws 98.5% of its water from water-stressed areas, is involved in nine of them. NTPC said in response to Reuters’ questions that it is “continuously striving towards conservation of water with best of our efforts in Solapur,” including using methods like treating and reusing water. It did not answer queries about potential expansion plans. India’s power ministry has told lawmakers in parliament, most recently in 2017, that the locations of coal-fired power plants are determined by factors including



A general view of Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Plant in Chandrapur, India. **(Reuters)**

access to land and water and that state governments are responsible for allocating water to them.

Access to land is the dominant consideration, two federal groundwater board officials and two water researchers told Reuters. India’s complex and arcane land laws have delayed many commercial and infrastructure projects for years, so power operators under pressure to meet burgeoning demand pick areas where they are likely to face little resistance, said Rudrodip Majumdar, an energy and environment professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bengaluru. “They look for areas with easy land availability — minimum resistance for maximum land — even if water is available only far away,” he said.

The federal power ministry, as well as energy and water authorities in Maharashtra state, where Solapur is located, did not respond to queries. Delhi attempted to reduce its reliance on coal before reversing track after the Covid pandemic. It has invested heavily in renewable energy sources like solar and hydro, but thirsty thermal power will still be dominant for the coming decades.

India’s former top energy bureaucrat Ram Vinay Shahi said ready access to power was strategically important for the country, whose per-capita power consumption is far lower than its regional rival China.

“The only energy resource we have in the country is coal,” he said. “Between water and coal, preference is given to coal.”

## ‘Nothing’ in Solapur?

Solapur resident Rajani Thoke plans her life around water in high summer. On days

with supply, “I do not focus on anything other than storing water, washing clothes and such work,” said the mother of two, who strictly polices her family’s water use.

Sushilkumar Shinde, the federal power minister who approved the Solapur plant in 2008, when the area had already been classified “water scarce,” told Reuters he helped NTPC procure the land by negotiating payments to locals.

The member of the opposition Congress party, who won election to retain Solapur’s parliamentary seat a year after the plant’s approval, defended the operation on grounds of NTPC’s sizeable investment. The \$1.34bn plant generated thousands of jobs during its construction and now provides part-time employment to about 2,500 locals. “I made sure farmers got good money for the land NTPC acquired,” he said, adding that mismanagement by local authorities was to blame for water shortages.

Solapur municipal official Sachin Ombase acknowledged that water distribution infrastructure had not kept up with population growth, but said that authorities were trying to address the problem.

Shinde said “there was nothing” in Solapur in 2008 and that residents who received land payments had no reason to oppose the plant. Researcher Shripad Dharmadhikary, who founded environment advocacy group Manthan Adhyayan Kendra, said local politicians often supported splashy infrastructure projects to boost their popularity.

Any “problems come up much later,” he said. Even before the Solapur plant started operating, there were signs of the trouble to come. The first of its two units



A boy fills a bottle with water from a water ATM machine in Solapur, India. **(Reuters)**

was supposed to start generating power by the middle of 2016, but it was delayed by more than 12 months because of years of severe water shortages, according to a 2020 regulatory filing.

The absence of nearby water resources meant the station ended up drawing on water from a reservoir about 120km away. Such distances can sharply increase costs and the risk of water theft, said Dharmadhikary and two plant sources.

As of May 2023, the station is among India’s least water-efficient, according to the latest available federal records. It also has among the lowest capacity utilisation rates of coal-fired plants, according to data from government think-tank NITI Aayog.

NTPC said its data indicates the Solapur plant has an efficiency ratio in line with the country’s norms.

Indian stations typically consume twice as much water as their global counterparts, according to the Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment think-tank. Solapur plant officials told reporters in March that capacity utilisation will improve with increasing demand, indicating that water consumption could surge in the future. A forthcoming survey on water use in Solapur led by state groundwater authorities and reviewed by Reuters showed that irrigation demand in the district outstrips supply by a third.

Dharmes Waghmore owns farmland a few miles from the plant and said that developing it would provide more financial security than his current casual work.

But he said borrowing money to develop the land by drilling a bore well is too risky: “What if there’s no water?”

have political will, which is more than half the way there.”

## ‘It scares us’

Alaion Lacerda’s 50-strong cattle herd at the heart of Para state munch on grass alongside cocoa growing beneath the shade of native trees he planted. He is one of thousands of small producers at the bottom of Brazil’s supply chain, providing young calves that bigger ranchers will fatten and sell to slaughterhouses.

But, like about half the cattle in Para, his herd is grazing in areas where the rainforest was illegally razed, and he now wonders if the new law will make it harder for him to sell his cattle.

“It scares us,” he said, sitting on his porch. “We live in a region where almost all producers have a liability.”

Every day satellites collect visual data on deforestation that the government and meat packers use to mark farms where forests were illegally razed. But tagging will allow officials to geo-locate cattle with a swiping device. The tool could make it harder for farmers to say cattle that were reared in illegally deforested areas came from legal farms, said Ricardo Negrini, a federal prosecutor who monitors links to deforestation in the beef supply. But the programme, he added, “still falls short in terms of environmental standards,” partly because the tags only geolocate animals at specific moments, allowing ample time for bad-faith producers to move cattle without being noticed.

“Whatever you want to control, you can’t catch everything,” said Raul Protazio Romao, the head of Para’s environmental department. “You have to progressively implement control mechanisms that constantly evolve and close gaps.”

Lincoln Bueno, a big rancher whose family also controls beef exporter Mercurio, said he is not yet tracing his cattle because he fears he may be punished for buying from small suppliers who have illegally deforested plots in their land.

“I can only do what I am able to comply with,” he said.

Convincing ranchers like Bueno and Lacerda to tag their cattle is Para’s biggest challenge. It’s why the government now allows farmers who have illegally cleared forest on their ranches in the past to clear their records by committing to allowing the forest to grow back.

On a recent morning, agricultural analysts from a nonprofit called Solidaridad, visited several small ranchers who they hoped would enter the program. Some were open to the idea that cleaning up their records would have benefits. Others, like Lacerda, were more skeptical.

“For me to reforest, isolate the area so I can be legal, I’m going to have to reduce the number of animals,” he said. But that, he added, “will affect my income.” — Reuters



# Awqaf ministry opens new mosque in Al Khor

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, represented by the Mosques Department, has inaugurated a new mosque in Al Khor. The Sultan bin Ali Al Ali Al Maadid Mosque covers an area of 5,676sq m and accommodates 950 male and 100 female worshippers. It includes a spacious ablution space, a large number of parking lots, including those designated for people with disabilities, with well-planned entrances and exits. The mosque has a tall minaret. An Awqaf statement said the mosque is endowed by Ali bin Sultan bin Ali al-Ali al-Maadid. - **QNA**

# 127th anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence marked in Doha



Philippine ambassador Mardomel Celo D Melicor with HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi and Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhro, director of the Protocol Department at Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the cake-cutting ceremony commemorating the 127th anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence, celebrated recently in Doha. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam



# Ashghal to launch 34 projects during Q3 of 2025

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) is set to launch several road, building and drainage network projects during the third quarter (Q3) of 2025.

Ashghal has listed on its website a total of 34 projects to be implemented by the departments of Drainage Networks Projects, Buildings Projects, Roads Projects, Drainage Network Operation and Maintenance, Roads Operation and Maintenance and Assets Affairs.

The projects include 1,200 TSE (treated sewage effluent) Transmission pipeline from Doha South STW to City Centre, Connection Pipes Between DW STW PS Discharge Pipes and Orbital Road Pipes (RW19), Construction of Msheireb Offices, Construction of the Storm Water Flood Mitigation for Education City, Design and Build for Water Treatments Plant, Design and Build of the Management of truck and heavy equipment parking, Design of Storm Water Emergency Flood Areas, Road Crossing and associated works, Doha South STW Improvement works Phase 2, and Flood Prevention Solution at Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club at Al Furousiya Street.

There are also road development and maintenance projects listed.

The projects encompass TSE network replacement, Sewer and Groundwater (SGW) and assets improvements and installation of CCTV system in various locations.

Ashghal also plans to implement the development of Me-saimeer Cemetery.

Ashghal recently announced the launch of a five-year plan worth more than QR81bn to implement vital projects across various infrastructure sectors, ranging from the development of citizens' lands, government building projects, sewage networks to strategic outfalls.

This step outlines the features of Qatar's infrastructure over the next five years.

A wide range of development projects will be implemented during the coming period as part of the five-year (2025-29) plan, which is the biggest in Ashghal's history in terms of the volume of investments and the number of projects.

These projects cover the development of citizens' lands through the implementation of an integrated infrastructure that takes into account the concepts of "humanisation of cities" and focuses on improving the quality of life, in addition to constructing government buildings that serve vital sectors such as health, education, sports and culture.

Ashghal will also implement advanced sewage and rainwater drainage projects, including strategic tunnels, pumping and treatment stations, and home connections, with the aim of reducing flooding and enhancing the efficiency of the national network.

# Qatar Rail wins award for Doha Metro's 'Regenerative Propulsion'

Reinforcing its global leadership in sustainable innovation, Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) won the prestigious CIHT Decarbonisation Award 2025, presented by the UK-based Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT), for its pioneering "Regenerative Propulsion in the Doha Metro: Kinetic Energy to Electrical Energy" project.

The achievement further cemented Qatar Rail's position as a leader in environmental innovation and sustainability within the public transportation sector.

The award was announced during the CIHT annual awards ceremony held in London, which was attended by more than 480 international leaders and experts in transport.

The project was selected from a record number of submissions this year, with only six entries shortlisted for the final stage, making the recognition especially significant.

"What differentiates Qatar Rail is our ability to integrate advanced technologies that deliver both operational and environmental value," Qatar Rail chief of programme delivery engineer Jassim al-Ansari said.

"Our regenerative braking system is a prime example of capturing and reusing energy across the network, reducing dependency on external power sources, and optimising overall system efficiency," he said. "It's a forward-thinking solution that positions us at the forefront of smart transportation innovation."

"This global recognition is a testament to our unwavering commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship," said Senior Qatar Rail QSH-



Jassim al-Ansari and Abdulrahman al-Malik at the awards ceremony held in London.

ESE (Quality, Safety, Health, Environment, Security & Emergency) director engineer Abdulrahman al-Malik.

"At Qatar Rail, we take great pride in aligning our operations with Qatar's national environmental goals by embedding energy-efficient practices across all levels of our transport systems," he said. "The CIHT award reaffirms the importance of our efforts to minimise environmental impact while delivering high-performance infrastructure."

The CIHT Decarbonisation Award rec-

ognised outstanding global projects and strategies that delivered tangible reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprints.

Qatar Rail's success in this category reflected its commitment to adopting cutting-edge technologies that contribute to climate action and responsible energy use.

Qatar Rail's winning initiative focused on the application of regenerative braking technology within the Doha Metro.

This system converted the kinetic energy produced during braking into usable elec-

trical energy, which was then reused across the network, unlike traditional braking systems, where energy is lost as heat.

The regenerative feature allowed the trains to generate up to 46% of their required traction energy during deceleration, transferring it to the grid for use by other trains.

Thanks to this innovation, the Doha Metro was able to achieve significant annual energy savings, reduce operational costs, and cut carbon emissions.

By converting kinetic energy into reusable power through electrodynamic braking, Qatar Rail set a new benchmark for sustainability in urban transit across the region.

This international recognition came less than a year after Qatar Rail won the "Best Innovative Idea" award at the Tarsheed Energy and Water Efficiency Forum in November 2024, which highlighted the same regenerative propulsion system for its positive impact on energy conservation and operational efficiency.

The milestone reinforced Qatar Rail's contribution to the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030 and reaffirmed the role of public transportation in advancing sustainable development and environmental responsibility both nationally and internationally.

The Doha Metro's system is unique in the region, capable of effectively recycling energy that can either be used by other trains or stored within Qatar Rail's energy network for future consumption.

The regenerative braking technology enhances Doha Metro's operational efficiency by reducing maintenance costs and reliance on external power sources, while also minimising the environmental impact of its operations.

# Safari announces winners of third draw of 'Win25 Toyota Raize cars mega promotion'

Safari Hypermarket has announced the winners of third draw of its "Win 25 Toyota Raize Cars" mega promotion.

The event, held on June 12 at Safari Mall in Abu Hamour, was attended by representatives from Safari's management.

The winners of the draw are Shahul Hameed (coupon number STR300931274), Zahid (coupon number STR300149700), Biju Otali Balan Biju (coupon number STR300761435), and Salmadeen Muhammedkutty (coupon number STR300352706).

Winners were selected through a raffle coupon draw, with coupons issued to customers who make a purchase of QR50 or more from any Safari outlet during the "Win 25 Toyota Raize Cars" promotion, which runs until September 30.

Four winners will be selected in each of the first five



draws, and five winners will be selected in the final draw, each earning a chance to win a Toyota Raize car.

The Safari management has expressed its gratitude to

the public for embracing this new promotion.

The fourth draw will take place on July 17 at Safari Hypermarket in the Industrial Area.



# QIB holds blood donation drive to support national health efforts

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) held a blood donation drive recently at its headquarters in partnership with the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day.

The initiative, part of QIB's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, encouraged employees across the bank to take part in a meaningful act that contributes directly to saving lives.

Mashaal Abdulaziz al-Derham, the assistant general manager and head of Corporate Communications & Quality Assurance at QIB, said: "We're pleased to continue our collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation in an effort that supports the well-being of our community."

"I would like to extend a sincere 'thank you' to our colleagues who volunteered to donate their generosity and sense of responsibility to reflect the values we stand for as a bank," he said. "We also appreciate the HMC's continued partnership and the vital role they play in delivering care to those in need."