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TUESDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13409

June 17, 2025
Dhul-Hijjah 21, 1446 AH

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MEGA DRAW ON 01.10.2025

BUSINESS | Page 1

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Citizens urged to register before foreign travel

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has urged Qatari citizens wishing to travel abroad to register their information through the Ministry's app to facilitate communication with them; in preparation for providing the necessary assistance and guidance when necessary. In a statement, the Ministry affirmed its utmost commitment to the safety of citizens and its full readiness to provide all necessary facilities in this regard. **(QNA)**

Qatar-Greece joint commission meets

The 1st Meeting of the Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Co-operation between the Government of Qatar and the Government of the Hellenic Republic convened in Doha yesterday, co-chaired by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Sayed and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic Tasos Chatzivasileiou. The meeting was attended by representatives from various government entities. **Business Page 4**

50 more massacred in Gaza, many trying to reach food

Israeli fire killed at least 50 people yesterday, nearly half of them near an aid distribution site run by the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, the territory's Health Ministry said, as UN officials denounced Israeli-backed aid delivery methods. Medics said at least 23 of those people were killed and 200 others wounded near an aid distribution site in Rafah, the latest in daily mass shootings that have killed hundreds of Palestinians trying to reach food since Israel imposed a new distribution system after partly lifting a near three-month total blockade. Israel has put responsibility for distributing much of the aid it allows into Gaza into the hands of a new US-backed group, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which operates three sites in areas guarded by Israeli troops. The United Nations has rejected the plan, saying GHF distribution is inadequate, dangerous and violates humanitarian impartiality principles. **(Reuters)**

G7 leaders struggle for unity at summit

Group of Seven (G7) leaders met yesterday seeking a common approach on wars in Ukraine and the Middle East but faced early challenges as US President Donald Trump said removing Russia from the former Group of Eight over a decade ago had been a mistake. The once tight-knit grouping has struggled to find unity as Washington retreats from multilateralism and Trump overtly expresses support for Russian President Vladimir Putin. **Page 11**



Trump poses for a photo with Diana Fox Carney and Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney, as he arrives at the G7 leaders' summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada yesterday.

Amir, Kuwaiti Amir discuss ties, Israeli attack on Iran

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah the fraternal relations between the two countries. This came during a phone call His Highness the Amir received from the Amir of Kuwait yesterday. The phone call discussed a number of developments of common concern at the regional and international levels, particularly those related to the Israeli attack on the territories of the Islamic Republic of Iran. **(QNA)**

Amir, Iraqi PM discuss ties, Iran-Israeli war

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with Prime Minister of the sisterly Republic of Iraq Mohammed Shia al-Sudani the relations between the two countries. This came during a phone call His Highness the Amir received from the Iraqi prime minister yesterday. The phone call discussed a number of regional and international developments of common concern, particularly the Israeli attack on the territories of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this regard, His Highness the Amir and the Iraqi prime minister stressed the importance of de-escalation and resolving disputes through diplomatic means. **(QNA)**



PM stresses de-escalation in calls with FM's of Italy, Canada and Greece

QNA
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received yesterday phone calls from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the Italian Republic Antonio Tajani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Anita Anand, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic George Gerapetritis. The calls discussed co-operation relations and ways to support and enhance them. They also discussed the developments in the region, particularly the Israeli attack on the sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran. In this context, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs voiced Qatar's condemnation of the repeated Israeli violations and attacks in the region, which undermine peace efforts and threaten to drag the region into a regional war. He also emphasised the gravity of Israel's targeting of economic facilities in Iran, warning of its



HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani

disastrous regional and international repercussions, particularly for the stability of energy supplies. HE Sheikh Mohammed 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 with its partners to return to the path of dialogue among all parties to address outstanding issues and consolidate security and peace in the region and the world.

Shura Council discusses proposal to enhance privileges for the elderly



QNA
Doha

The Shura Council convened its regular weekly session yesterday, chaired by HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, at the Tamim bin Hamad Hall at the council's headquarters. At the beginning of the session, HE the Secretary-General of the Council, Naif bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud, read out the meeting agenda. The council then approved the minutes of its previous session. During the session, the council reviewed the report of the Social Affairs, Labour, and Housing Committee regarding the proposal submitted by Member Issa bin Ahmed al-Nasr, which focuses on providing enhanced services and privileges to the elderly. The proposal seeks to strengthen care and

support for this respected group, ensuring their needs are met across all aspects of life. Reviewing the report, HE Chairman of the Social Affairs, Labour, and Housing Committee, Abdulrahman bin Yousef al-Khulaifi, emphasised that caring for the elderly aligns with the principles of family cohesion and social justice outlined in Qatar National Vision 2030. He highlighted that this group deserves greater attention and appreciation in recognition of their valuable contributions to society and the nation. Al-Khulaifi further explained that although various initiatives and services for the elderly currently exist, they remain fragmented and lack a unified legislative framework. This calls for the development of specific legislation to safeguard their rights and improve the quality of services provided to them. **To Page 4**

Iran urges Trump to make Israel halt war

● 224 Iranians and 24 Israelis killed ● Iranian state broadcaster hit ● Nuclear watchdog indicates extensive damage at Natanz ● Iranian air defences thwart attack on South Pars gas field ● Iran planning big missile attack

Reuters/AFP
Tel Aviv/Dubai

An Israeli strike hit Iran's state broadcaster yesterday while the head of the UN nuclear watchdog indicated extensive damage to Iran's biggest uranium enrichment plant and Iran called on the US to force a ceasefire in the four-day-old aerial war. Israeli forces have stepped up their bombardment of Iranian cities, while Iran proved capable of piercing Israeli air defences with one of its most successful volleys yet of retaliatory missile strikes. "If President Trump is genuine about diplomacy and interested in stopping this war, next steps are consequential," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi said on X. "Israel must halt its aggression, and absent a total cessation of military aggression against us, our responses will continue. It takes one phone call from Washington to muzzle someone like Netanyahu." Sources told Reuters that Tehran had asked Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Oman to press US President Donald Trump to use his influence on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and push for an immediate ceasefire. In return, Iran would show flexibility in nuclear negotiations, said the two Iranian and three regional sources. Netanyahu told troops at an air base that Israel was on its way to achieving its two main aims: wiping out Iran's nuclear programme and destroying its missiles. "We are on the path to victory," he said. "We are telling the citizens of Tehran: 'Evacuate' – and we are taking action." Late on Monday, Israel said it hit Iran's broadcasting authority, and footage showed a newsreader hurrying from her seat as a blast struck. Iran's State News Agency also reported the strike. Iran has issued evacuation warnings for Israeli news channels N12 and N14 after Israel attacked the building of Iran's state broadcaster. Iranian media said Iran was preparing for the "largest and most intense missile attack" yet against Israel, including against military and intelligence targets.



Smoke rises following what Iran says was an Israeli attack on Sharan Oil depot in Tehran, Iran, yesterday.



Smoke and fire rise at an impacted facility site following missile attack from Iran on Israel, at Haifa, Israel.

Israel says it now has control of Iranian airspace and intends to escalate the campaign in coming days. Israel said it hit Iranian F-14 fighter planes at Tehran airport yesterday, and its air strikes have also put at least two of Iran's three operating uranium enrichment plants out of action. Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told the BBC yesterday it was very likely all the roughly 15,000 centrifuges operating at Iran's biggest uranium enrichment plant at Natanz were badly damaged or destroyed because of a power cut caused by an Israeli strike. There had been very limited or no damage at the separate Fordow plant, he said. Tehran's retaliation is the first time in decades of shadow war and proxy conflict that missiles fired from Iran have pierced Israeli defences in significant

numbers and killed Israelis in their homes. Iran says more than 224 Iranians have been killed, most of them civilians. Media published images of wounded children, women, and the elderly from cities across the country. State TV broadcast scenes of collapsed presidential buildings, burned-out cars, and shattered streets in Tehran. Many residents were trying to flee the capital, describing queues for petrol and bank machines that were out of cash. Iranian air defences thwarted an attack yesterday on the Iranian South Pars gas field, the world's biggest gas field, the Iranian Fararu news website reported. Iran shares the South Pars gas field with Qatar. In Israel, 24 people have been killed so far in Iran's missile attacks, all of them civilians. Round-the-clock television images showed rescuers working in ruins of flattened homes.



Municipality minister meets Greek deputy FM



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met yesterday with the visiting Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Tasos Chatzivasileiou. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between Qatar and Greece in areas of common interest and ways to enhance and develop them. **(QNA)**

Al-Misnad meets Greek deputy FM, Spanish diplomat



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with the visiting Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Tasos Chatzivasileiou. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and enhance them. The meeting also discussed the developments in the region, in addition to a number of topics of common concern. The Director of the Department of European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Fahad bin Mohammed Kafoud attended the meeting.



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with Spain's ambassador Alvaro Renedo Zalba. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them. The meeting also discussed the developments in the region, in addition to topics of common concern. **(QNA)**

Autism Parents Platform's official headquarters in Qatar flagged off

The Autism Parents Platform's official headquarters in Qatar was inaugurated at The Pearl Island yesterday, in the presence of HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, and with the support of the United Development Company.

The headquarters, the first of its kind in the country as an 'Autism community home' accredited by the IBCCES organisation, serves as an important milestone in supporting and empowering individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their parents by providing specialised services within an inclusive and safe environment that promotes community integration.

The opening of the headquarters comes as part of the Ministry of Social Development and Family's commitment to strengthening partnerships with the private sector and supporting national initiatives that contribute to improving the quality of life for all segments of society, particularly people with disabilities.

During the opening ceremony,



HE al-Nuaimi emphasised the importance of institutional co-operation in enhancing services provided to people with autism, praising the efforts of the Autism Parents Platform in providing psychological and social support to families and providing quality programmes for children with autism. For her part, Hamda al-Hitmi, the founder of the platform, said that the opening of the headquarters

reflects the nation's commitment to improving the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families, noting that the idea for establishing the platform was initiated five years ago out of the need for safe, community-based spaces for children with autism.

Over the past few years, the platform has organised awareness workshops and activities to enhance the community's under-

The headquarters, the first of its kind in the country as an 'Autism community home' accredited by the IBCCES organisation, serves as an important milestone in supporting and empowering individuals with autism spectrum disorder

standing of autism, in addition to launching psychological and educational support programs targeting mothers and families, she stated. Chairman of the Autism Parents Platform Saleh al-Khulaifi emphasised that the opening of this headquarters embodies the fruit of community and humanitarian co-operation, hoping that it will serve as a model for supporting and accommodating individuals with autism across the region.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of officials and representatives of supporting organisations, along with families of individuals with autism. The event received support from a number of national and private entities and institutions. **(QNA)**

Al-Muraikhi bids farewell to Finland's ambassador



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met with Finland's ambassador Pekka Voutilainen on the occasion of the end of his tenure in Qatar. HE al-Muraikhi thanked the ambassador for his efforts in supporting and strengthening bilateral relations, wishing him success in his new duties. **(QNA)**

Amiri Guard commander meets UK defence attache



HE Amiri Guard Commander Lieutenant General Staff Hazza bin Khalil al-Shahwani met yesterday with UK Defence Attache to Qatar Colonel (Navy) Charlie Fuller. During the meeting at Barzan Camp, the two sides discussed topics of mutual interest and ways to enhance them. Senior Amiri Guard officers also attended the meeting. **(QNA)**

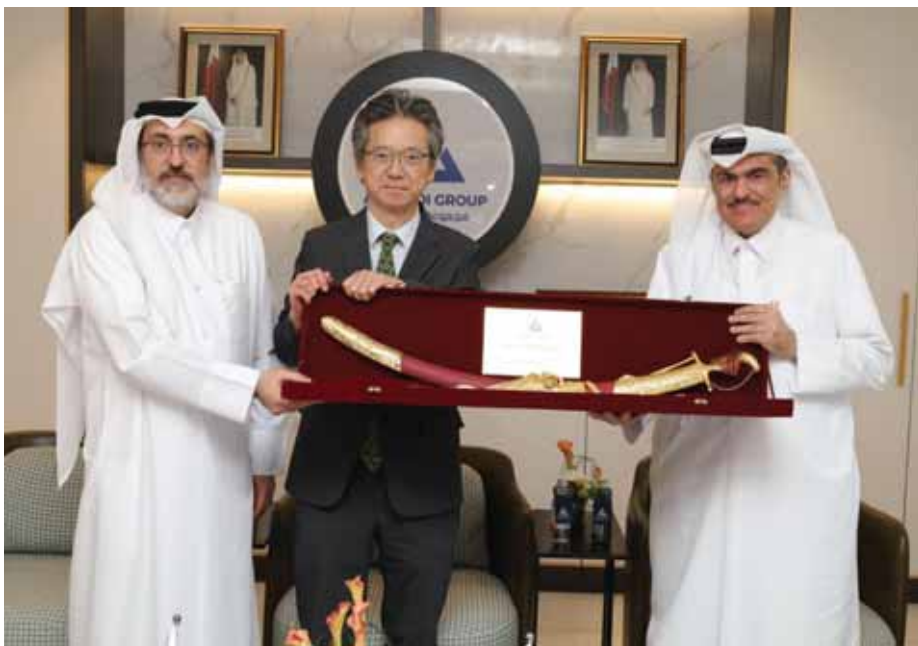


Japanese Ambassador Visits Al Emadi Group, One of Qatar's Leading Electronics and Home Appliance Companies

His Excellency Mr. Naoto Hisajima, Ambassador of Japan in Qatar, paid a visit to Abdul Hamid Abdul Rahim Al Emadi Trading Company — Al Emadi Group — a leading name in the fields of electronics, air conditioning, and home appliances in Qatar. Accompanied by a delegation from the Japanese Embassy, the ambassador was welcomed by the senior executives: Mr. Khalid Al Emadi, CEO; Mr. Tareq Al Emadi, General Manager; Mr. Abdulaziz Al Emadi, Executive manager; and Mr. Abdulrahman Al Emadi, Executive manager.

The visit began with a comprehensive tour of the showroom — one of the largest in the country — where the ambassador was introduced to the prominent international brands represented by Al Emadi Group in the Qatari market. These included the distinguished Japanese brands OGeneral and Daikin, both of which enjoy a strong presence in the Gulf region, along with other renowned global names such as Blue Gas, Blue Star, Aveva, Haier, Wonderchef, and more.

The tour also included a visit to the Abdul Hamid Abdul Rahim Al Emadi Museum, which showcases the rich history and legacy of the company since its establishment in 1961. His Excellency viewed a rare collection of exhibits that illustrate the evolution of the electronics and air conditioning sectors in Qatar. These included some of the earliest appliances imported by the company into the local market, certificates of appreciation, and historical documents — all highlighting the deep-rooted legacy of Al



Emadi Group and its contributions to the development of the retail and technical services sectors in the country.

Ambassador Hisajima expressed his admiration for the wide range of products on display, particularly in air conditioning and home appliances. He emphasized the importance of fostering strong commercial partnerships between Japanese manufacturers and Qatari companies such as Al Emadi Group to further establish trusted technology within the local market. He also praised the showroom's exceptional organization and the knowledgeable customer service provided by the sales team.

The visit continued with a tour of the company administrative offices, where the ambassador was introduced to the corporate structure and the various technical and commercial departments. He



also visited the Engineering and HVAC Technologies Department, where he received an overview from engineers and supervisors on project execution mechanisms, technical service quality, and the innovative solutions offered

by the company across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.

To conclude the visit, Mr. Abdulrahman Al Emadi delivered a brief presentation on the company history, highlighting that Al Emadi Group



was established in 1961 and has, over the past six decades, become one of Qatar's largest distributors of air conditioning systems and electronics. He also showcased the company key achievements, rapid growth in the local market,

and ongoing expansion across the Gulf region through multiple branches.

Ambassador Hisajima extended his gratitude to the management of Al Emadi Group for the warm hospitality and expressed his appre-

ciation for the vital role the company plays in strengthening the presence of Japanese brands in the Qatari market. He praised the visit as a successful example of economic and trade collaboration between the two nations.



The works of the graduates of the first year of Herfah programme were showcased at Al Khater House.



HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani explores creative works of Herfah graduates from first year.

Herfah at QF’s Education City launches second year

After a successful inaugural year of celebrating, promoting, and immersing the community in the richness of Qatari artistry and Islamic crafts, Herfah – a programme delivered through a partnership by Qatar Foundation (QF) and The King’s Foundation School of Traditional Arts – has announced the launch of its second year.

The programme – based within Al Khater House, a historic landmark in Education City – will continue to offer its core programming, including the year-long traditional crafts programme, short-term courses, and Ramadan workshops, all of which will be open to the public.

As the first year of Herfah came to a close, the creative works of the gradu-

Herfah's second-year programme will begin in September, with registration opening in July and selected participants notified by the end of August

ates of its intensive programme were showcased at an event at Al Khater House, attended by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, vice-chairperson of QF. “Our intention with Herfah was not only to preserve traditional skills, but to create a space where craft becomes a form of education, one that helps restore a deeper sense of value,” HE Sheikha Hind said.

“The more time we spend working with our hands, the more reverence we develop for what is well made. And in doing so, we come to see the world

differently.” Herfah’s second-year programme will begin in September, with registration opening in July and selected participants notified by the end of August.

Applicants must be aged 18 years or older and have prior experience in crafts, and can enrol at <https://educationcity.qa/herfah-al-khater-house> and via Education City and Qatar Foundation social media channels. A variety of short-term courses will be announced later in the year.

In its inaugural year, Herfah engaged over 200 participants in hands-on learning experiences and creative exploration.

Among them was Sana Arooj, who said she found the opportunity to explore traditional crafts an enriching

experience while gaining a deeper understanding of Qatari culture especially because of the thoughtful structure and delivery of each module.

Najiba Haqdost, another participant in Year 1 of the programme, said that being part of Herfah gave her the chance to learn and practice traditional craft skills – things she only had the chance to read about before.

According to Kholoud M al-Ali, executive director Community Engagement and Programming at QF, Herfah aims to deepen understanding and appreciation of Qatari and Islamic cultural heritage, while positioning Al Khater House as a dynamic hub for the preservation of tradition, innovation, and a space of learning, discovery, and cultural appreciation.

HMC welcomes Chinese vice-minister

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) welcomed Guo Yanhong, vice-minister of the National Public Health Commission of China, along with an accompanying delegation currently visiting Qatar. The visiting Chinese delegation met with Dr Khalid Mohamed al-Jalham, HMC’s chief medical officer. The two parties discussed matters of mutual interest and explored ways to enhance bilateral co-operation between medical institutions in the People’s Republic of China and HMC. The Chinese delegation conducted an introductory tour of the Ambulatory Care Center and the Qatar Rehabilitation Institute, both located within Hamad Bin Khalifa Medical City. The delegation was briefed on the advanced medical services offered by the two hospitals.



QIIB announces 10 Joud winners of May

QIIB has announced the 10 lucky winners of the monthly prizes for its ‘Joud’ savings account in May. The winners of the QR10,000 prizes for the May draw are: Rabie Kamal Ghanem, Abdulla Hussain al-Darwish, Mahmoud Fouad Dalloul, Khalid Hassan al-Yafei, Luqman Ghulamsaddique, Rasha Adnan al-Hasan, Ibrahim Ali al-Subaie, Reem Khalifa al-Maadeed, Reem Hassan al-Darwish and Hamad Jaber al-Braidi.

According to QIIB, ‘Joud’ savings account stands out as a competitive product, offering a wide range of benefits to its customers. Among the most attrac-



and withdrawals based on their needs.

The total number of prizes for the ‘Joud’ savings account from QIIB is 141 throughout the year. This includes the annual grand prize of QR1mn, 20 quarterly prizes (five per quarter) each valued at QR50,000, and 120 monthly prizes (10 per month) each worth QR10,000.

Every QIIB customer with a ‘Joud’ savings account is eligible to participate in these draws. For every balance of QR10,000 maintained, customers receive an additional entry into the prize draws conducted throughout the year.

tive features is the chance to win significant cash prizes. The account holders also benefit from quarterly dividends, as well as the flexibility to make deposits

RACA discusses ways to support national developments

The Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA) held a co-ordination meeting with the heads of several private charitable institutions in the country to discuss ways to enhance institutional partnerships and integrate roles between the RACA and these institutions.

This will serve to achieve Qatar National Vision 2030 and consolidate the charitable sector’s role as an effective partner in sustainable development.

This meeting comes within the framework of national efforts to enhance the role of the third sector within Qatar’s Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030), particularly in the context of achieving the fourth strategic outcome, “Cohesive Society.”

Director-General of the RACA, Ibrahim Abdullah al-Duhaimi emphasised the importance of

developing the institutional performance of private charitable institutions and raising their organisational efficiency in line with governance and transparency requirements.

He noted that this development reflects the directions of the Charitable and Humanitarian Sector Strategy (2025-2030), which aims to enable charitable organisations to play more strategic and influential roles locally and internationally.

He noted that a number of private charitable institutions in the country have successfully completed the institutional and organisational modernisation requirements, enabling them to efficiently conduct their activities and enhancing their ability to meet community needs within an organised, safe, and innovative work environment.

This contributes to building community capacity and pro-

moting a culture of coexistence and tolerance, while adhering to standards of transparency, disclosure, and performance accountability, and working in close collaboration with government and community entities.

The Director-General of RACA praised the level of positive co-operation demonstrated by private charitable institutions in responding to the regulatory updates approved by the RACA. He highlighted the importance of the strategic projects recently launched by the RACA, most notably the “Sanadi” project for co-ordinating internal aid. This pioneering digital platform contributes to organising support and assistance to beneficiaries nationwide, achieving fairness and integration among various entities.

Al-Dhaimi affirmed the RACA’s commitment to its enabling and regulatory role and its

continued support for building the institutional capacities of private charitable institutions and enhancing their ability to achieve the desired social and humanitarian impact within a framework of effective partnership, accountability, and institutional excellence, contributing to comprehensive and sustainable development.

In a related context, RACA highlighted the importance of monitoring the results of the Charitable Environment Index issued by Indiana University and pushing towards providing a stimulating and stable legal and regulatory environment that contributes to the growth and prosperity of private charitable institutions.

This meeting was part of RACA’s efforts to ensure the country’s charitable sector’s compliance with international standards, particularly those



issued by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), regarding strengthening control systems to mitigate the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing in the non-profit sector.

It also provided an opportunity to highlight the pivotal role expected of private charitable institutions in strengthening so-

cial cohesion in Qatar, as defined by the National Development Strategy.

This role is particularly relevant to consolidating national identity, empowering vulnerable groups, achieving social justice, and transitioning from traditional charitable work to sustainable development. (QNA)

Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas win seven industry awards

Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas has scooped up seven industry awards, recognising excellence across hospitality, dining, spa, and entertainment, a statement said. At the LLQ Lifestyle Choice Awards 2025, the resort was crowned Hotel Resort of the Year. The Luxury Lifestyle Awards 2025 named Hilton Salwa the Best Luxury Beachfront Resort in Qatar.

Two of the resort’s dining venues won at the FACT Dining Awards 2025: Souk Kitchen won Best International Restaurant, while Dante Cucina Italiana earned the title of Favourite Italian Casual Dining Restaurant in Qatar.

The Desert Falls Water & Adventure Park, won two honours at the Menalac Awards 2025: Best Design for a Leisure & Entertainment Facility – Amusement Parks, as well as Best Establishment Manager – Amusement Park, awarded to Adam Du Plooy.

Rounding off this spectacular streak, eforea Spa was named Best Luxury Resort Spa (Country Level) at the 7th Annual International Spa and Beauty Awards 2025. “These seven accolades are a proud reflection of the passion, talent, and dedication of our team,” said Petr Pisecky, general manager of Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas.





Deputy PM meets Somali minister of defence

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani met with the visiting Somali Defence Minister Ahmed Moalim Fiqi and the accompanying delegation. Discussion during the meeting dealt with topics of mutual interest. Senior officers from both sides also attended the meeting. **(QNA)**

Marine Protection Department continues efforts to nurture local environment

The Marine Protection Department at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has made several achievements throughout the first quarter of this year to protect the local ecosystems and the related sea environment. More than four surveillance and inspection tours were carried out by the deep-sea diving team to ensure the health of underwater environment in the country, more than 33 surprise inspection tours were conducted at various marine sites, and more than 865 regular daily inspection tours were carried out by the various marine unit teams.

The number of violations spotted during this period amounted to 61 of non-standard fishing nets, 28 regarding the use of long lines

with hooks for fishing, and 14 for using fishing traps. The department was also active in promoting awareness on related issues holding more than two workshops on different issues, took part at three different public activities, carried out more than four beach cleaning campaigns and more than three meetings held on key issues.

The other marine violations spotted during such period included 13 violations of using spotlights at undesignated areas, 13 violations of illegal use of bird hunting tools, and more than seven violations of using non-standard fishing hooks. The department has continued to offer its various public services and undertake its duties to protect the local marine environment, a statement added.

Coursera: Qatar sees 194% surge in GenAI enrolments

Coursera, a leading online learning platform, announced that Qatar has seen a 194% year-over-year increase in Generative AI (GenAI) enrolments and a 55% growth in Professional Certificate enrolments across Qatar, pointing to growing demand for flexible, job-relevant credentials that correspond to national transformation goals.

The report revealed that Qatar now leads the Arab world in technology and data science skills, scoring 64% in each domain, and also demonstrates strong performance in business skills with a score of 72%. These results align with the country's focus on digital and human capital development under its Digital Agenda 2030, which aims to boost professional competencies by 10% and grow the ICT sector to 3.5% of non-oil GDP by the end of the decade.

According to the report, Qatar ranks third in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region for overall skills proficiency, climbing to 40th place globally in 2025, up from 76th in 2023 and 58th in 2024, according to the platform's annual Global Skills Report. This leap reflects Qatar's ambitious push toward a diversified, knowledge-based economy

and a future-ready workforce.

Drawing on data from Coursera's global community of over 170mn learners, the report identifies where skill proficiencies are rising, where gaps remain, and what drives learner behaviour across more than 100 countries. Qatar's growing investment in AI as a national priority is already shaping both learner behaviour and employer demand.

Based on the set of skills emphasised in the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025, artificial intelligence and machine learning have emerged as the most in-demand skills among employers, with learner enrolments in these areas from Qatar rising by 145%.

This surge supports the goals of Qatar's Artificial Intelligence Strategy and broader economic diversification agenda, especially as 41% of employees view AI as a crucial reskilling pathway.

In this context, Coursera's General Manager for the Middle East and Africa Kais Zribi said: "Driven by a clear vision for the future, Qatar is transforming its advanced digital infrastructure into a catalyst for AI-powered innovation and sustainable economic growth. Course-

ra's Global Skills Report 2025 underscores Qatar's commitment to human capital development as it proactively equips its workforce with advanced technical and job-relevant skills needed to excel in the digital age. This effort is poised to fuel further innovation, positioning Qatar as a regional leader in the digital economy."

Among Coursera's 10.8mn learners in Mena, over 200,000 are based in Qatar, with a median age of 36. Nearly half (49%) of these learners access the platform via mobile devices. Today, 9% of Qatar's labour force is actively learning on Coursera, reflecting the nation's vision for digital fluency and workforce readiness.

New to this year's report is the AI Maturity Index, which assesses countries' readiness for AI by combining Coursera learner data with external metrics from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Qatar ranks 45th globally out of 109 countries and among the top five in the region, signalling strong potential for AI-driven growth. **(QNA)**

Qatar calls on international community to mobilise resources for Afghans

Qatar has called on the international community to continue mobilising financial and technical resources and to fully fund the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan to help ensure a dignified life for the Afghan people.

This came in a statement delivered by Qatar's Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Delegation to the UN Office in Geneva Juhara bint Abdulaziz al-Suwaidi during her participation in the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan held as part of the 59th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva.

Al-Suwaidi affirmed Qatar's continued commitment as an active international partner, highlighting that through its mediation efforts and by hosting the Special Envoys on Afghanistan meetings under the auspices of the UN, Qatar succeeded in enhancing international consensus on many key issues and continued to provide humanitarian and development aid to alleviate the humanitarian suffering of the Afghan people.

She highlighted Qatar's commitment to including human rights issues in its discussions with Afghan parties, particularly in supporting and promoting the participation of Afghan women in the peacebuilding process, ensuring their right to education and equal employment opportunities, as well as protecting the rights of all segments of Afghan society.



The Afghan people endured decades of conflict, natural disasters, and terrorism, she added, pointing out that Afghanistan is currently facing numerous humanitarian, social, political, security, and economic challenges, which in turn affect efforts to promote and protect human rights.

Al-Suwaidi stressed that addressing these challenges requires intensified efforts to rebuild Afghan institutions, ensure continued humanitarian and development assistance for the Afghan people, and maintain dialogue and engagement with all Afghan parties to reach solutions that foster greater stability and growth.


Shura Council discusses proposal to enhance privileges for the elderly

From Page 1

The proposal presented several key recommendations, including the enactment of a dedicated law to grant the elderly distinct privileges and facilities in their daily lives. It also called for the allocation of designated parking spaces for the elderly in both public and private areas across the country, ensuring these spaces are located near main entrances and clearly marked with appropriate signage. The proposal further recommended enhancing healthcare services for the elderly by giving them priority in booking medical appointments at public health institutions, with the option to

refer them to contracted private medical centres, in addition to providing a comprehensive health insurance system that fully covers their medical expenses. Additional recommendations included allocating special areas for the elderly in government service centres to streamline their transactions and exempting them from certain public service fees. The proposal also called for issuing official identification cards for the elderly by a competent authority, enabling them to access discounts and benefits in collaboration with the private sector. Following a thorough discussion of the report and its recommendations, the Council approved the proposal and

resolved to submit it to the government. The Council also approved a draft law concerning lost and abandoned property and a draft law on water, both in their amended forms. It referred the drafts to the government after reviewing the reports of the specialised committees and discussing their details with the members. Separately, the Council discussed a draft law amending certain provisions of the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Law, promulgated by Law No 20 of 2019, as referred by the government. The Council decided to forward the draft to the Internal and External Affairs Committee for further study and reporting.



INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
QF-RFQ-890	Provision of Consultancy Services for Architectural, Engineering Design & Construction Supervision to QF on Call-off Basis for 3 Years with option to Extend for 1 More Year	1,000.00	100,000.00	July 8, 2025, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-875	Provision for Headless CMS Service for QF Communications on Call off basis for 3 years with option to extend for 1 more year	500.00	N/A	July 10, 2025, 2:00 PM

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


- Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender(s). Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.

Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from June 17th to 24th, 2025.
- All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.
 - The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
 - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
 - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
 - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

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



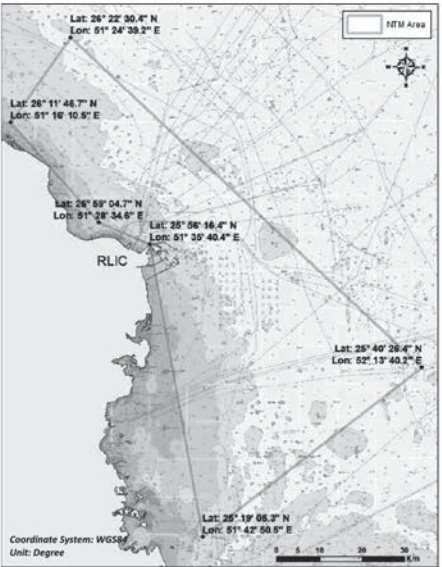
Public Announcement
To all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners
Seismic Survey Acquisition by Vessels AOS Glory, Stanford Hawk, GMS Apollo, Voyager Explorer, BGP Innovator and Safa Searcher
Seismic Survey Works Offshore Qatar from 27th November 2024 – 27th November 2025

Pursuant to and under directives from the Department of Seafarers Affairs & Registration, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen that QatarEnergy LNG intends to perform Ocean Bottom Node Seismic Survey Works with Vessels AOS Glory, Stanford Hawk, GMS Apollo, Voyager Explorer, BGP Innovator and Safa Searcher in the locations bound by the coordinates shown in the diagram below.

All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the survey locations during the operations.

QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation, following publication of this notice.


Point	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	26° 22' 30.4"N	51° 24' 39.2"E
2	25° 40' 26.4"N	52° 13' 40.2"E
3	25° 19' 05.3"N	51° 42' 50.5"E
4	25° 56' 16.4"N	51° 35' 40.4"E
5	25° 59' 04.7"N	51° 28' 34.6"E
6	26° 11' 46.7"N	51° 16' 10.5"E



Any further inquiries should be addressed to: Tel. +974 44531797

Northwestern Qatar takes part in 75th ICA Conference in US

Northwestern University in Qatar, a partner university of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), further deepened its global scholarly engagement at the 75th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), held from June 12-16, 2025, in Denver, Colorado. In a statement, the university said that it participated in the conference this year as both a scholarly contributor and sponsor, building on the momentum achieved in last year's conference, leading critical global conversations. This year's conference, themed "Disrupting and Consolidating Communication Research," brought together thousands of communication scholars, researchers, practitioners, and institutions from around the world. The statement added that as a key contributor, Northwestern Qatar organised several sessions, advanced research on media, identity, and transregional communication, and presented a range of interdisciplinary studies rooted in the perspectives and experiences of the Global South. This year, the university also served as the Opening Reception Sponsor. "Our engagement at ICA this year was especially meaningful as we broadened the scope and depth of our contributions," said the Dean and CEO of Northwestern Qatar Marwan M Kraidy.



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

Effective from 01st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Law of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender closing date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned / notified) will not be accepted. Local companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement. For further details, please visit ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>).

SI No.	Tender Reference and Description	(i) Deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding	(ii) Tender Fee & Payment date	(iii) Tender Publication on ARIBA	(iv) Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	RFP: P03-05-291 Supply of high voltage power cables and low voltage instruments cables	22 nd June 2025	QAR. 750. 00 (Seven hundred Fifty) 22 nd June 2025	23 rd June 2025	QAR. 100,000. 00 (one hundred thousand)	30 th June 2025 12:00 Noon Qatar LT

- Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official E-mail, etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.
- Non-refundable tender fee as indicated above is payable to QAPCO through **QNB account # 0013-001688-060** only at any QNB branch latest by 22 June 2025. (Tender Number, Subject and bidder name are to be stated in the payment receipt)
- Tender link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders. Tender Document will be accessible only after attaching the evidence of the tender fee payment in ARIBA by the bidder followed by Qapco approval.
- QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.
- Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):** Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to the following address latest by the Bid closing date & time:

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

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

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

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

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

Dukhan Bank announces June winners for Thara’a

Dukhan Bank has announced the names of the most recent round of draw winners for Thara’a, its Shariah-compliant savings account, at the bank’s headquarters.

The draw was conducted under the supervision of a representative of the qualitative licence and market control department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

In the latest draw, Mohammed al-

Kuwari won the top prize of QR50,000, while the following winners each received QR5,000: Yousif al-Abdulla, Jassim al-Haili, Khater al-Ajmi, Amanda Lavalley, Muhammad Malik, Raed Mahmoud, Mona Alyafei, Rashid Saleh al-Nabet, Abdulaziz Alkathiri, Shaikha al-Saai, Faisal al-Siddiqi, Kady Mohamed Eljabry, Tarek Hmaidany, Eman Ahmed Hasan al-Azaizah, Sara Almaghi, Abdulbari Alsadi, Hind Mansoor,

Jun Samson, Sarah Elnamla, Rajab al-Esmail, Noof al-Subaey, Glen Dcruz, Ali al-Atas, Saif Hassiba, Almaha al-Kaabi, Magesh John, Al Anood al-Kuwari, Haya Alkhelaifi, Mamoun Khalil, Yousef al-Obaidan, Hassan Badr al-Bardini, Sara Bouhamidi, Helmi bin Othman, Muna Aldoseri, and Sheikh Hassan al-Thani.

Dukhan Bank continues its customer-centric approach with its enhanced

Thara’a savings account campaign, reaffirming its commitment to rewarding clients. The upgraded campaign now features a total prize pool of QR5.025mn with 327 winners throughout the year. The initiative includes three grand prizes of QR1mn each, awarded every four months, along with monthly draws featuring a QR50,000 prize and 35 additional prizes of QR5,000.

Thara’a, a Shariah-compliant savings

account, offers customers exclusive benefits, including access to Dukhan Bank’s innovative digital banking services. Customers interested in participating can open a Thara’a savings account via Dukhan Bank’s website, mobile app, or by visiting any branch. For more information, customers can call 800 8555 or reach out to Rashid, the bank’s virtual assistant, via WhatsApp at 44100888.



Qatar Airways partners with French chef

Qatar Airways has announced a new ‘gastronomic collaboration’ with acclaimed French chef Yannick Alléno, who has 17 Michelin stars across 19 restaurants in seven countries.

Qatar Airways chief retail and hospitality officer Thabet Musleh, said: “At Qatar Airways, we are constantly striving to innovate and collaborate with the best in their fields. Chef Yannick Alléno – one of the most celebrated names in global gastronomy, represents a benchmark for excellence that reflects our shared passion for innovation, sophistication, and the art of hospitality.”

Alléno, said: “Partnering with Qatar Airways, whose reputation for excellence is undisputed, is a true honour. Together, we have crafted menus that reflect our shared values and aim to leave travellers with a lasting impression and a timeless moment.”

Blending French refinement

with global influences, the bespoke menus curated by Chef Alléno will be introduced in first and business class, and later extended to select premium lounges.

These menus are a celebration of l’art de vivre – the French art of living and reflect both brands’ dedication to craftsmanship, and hospitality.

The upcoming culinary experiences, include the opening of a Pavillon restaurant in the First Class Lounge at Hamad International Airport in Doha, offering diners a seat at the counter facing an open kitchen – a signature of Alléno’s ‘gastronomic counter’ concept.

The introduction of exclusive creations for Qatar Airways lounges at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport and the debut of first and business class menus on selected flights between Paris and Doha, showcasing Alléno’s interpretation of modern French cuisine are also expected soon.

Mercedes model recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Nasser Bin Khaled and Sons Automobiles, has announced the recall of Mercedes G-Class, 2024 model, as the ESP software control unit does not correspond to the current series production configuration causing the engine indicator light not to be displayed as intended in the event of an independent hardware fault in the ESP system. The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The ministry said it will coordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The ministry urges all consumers to report any violations or breaches by contacting the Consumer Protection and Combatting Commercial Fraud Department, which receives complaints, suggestions, and inquiries through the following communication channels: call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, ministry’s accounts on social media: @mociqatar, ministry’s mobile app: MOCIQATAR (available on iOS and Android devices)

GU-Q students turn interviews into graphic novels

This summer, the library at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) is the home of an exciting collection of graphic novels about historical events such as war, migration, and political upheaval, outcome of an innovative course taught: History and the Graphic Novel.

Taught by Dr Karine Walther, associate professor of history, the course studies graphic novels as secondary history resources. “Graphic novels can show history, not just describe it. There’s a unique emotional weight when you see history unfold through art, it feels more personal and real than just reading facts or dates,” said Mohamed Jaski, a culture and politics major with a minor in history, who was one of 12 students enrolled in the class.

Teaching history in novel and interesting ways is not new to Dr Walther, who was voted ‘Faculty Member of the Year’ by the graduating class at this year’s Tropaia senior award ceremony. “I first took Prof Walther during my freshman year for proseminar, and since then, she’s remained my absolute favourite professor,” said Jaski.

Another cornerstone of the class was a technical workshop on how to use Canva, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, and Artificial Intelligence to generate images and develop storyboards for their graphic novel, taught by associate director of the library, Robert Laws.

“The course introduced us to so many diverse graphic styles, which inspired me to blend techniques in my own way,” said Jaski. His graphic novel, titled “Maryam,” which explores the loss and grief of war, blends Marvel-style design with a transition to stark black-and-white visuals for a dramatic, immersive feel.



“Seeing the students take ownership of the history-making process is always the best part of a class,” said Dr Walther. “In this class, they interviewed a member of their family or a community member, and translated those memories into a graphic novel. Although I guided them through the process of creatively engaging with their own history in conversation with historical texts, they were the ones who made this class all that it could be.”

The course culminated in an exhibit of student work in the library, which, due to its essential role in supporting the class, had become an extension of the classroom.

The graphic novels produced were also printed professionally by the GU-Q bookstore and gifted to the students as a tangible reminder of the power of creative expression in academic settings.



ZULAL WELLNESS RESORT BY CHIVA-SOM INTRODUCES THE BODY TRANSFORMATION RETREAT

A Comprehensive Wellness Journey Blending Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine (TAIM) with Modern Therapies

Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som, the Middle East’s first full-immersion wellness destination, has unveiled a new Body Transformation Retreat that profound heritage of Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine (TAIM) with the latest advances in health and wellness technology. This retreat is an invitation to achieve sustainable weight loss and body contouring through a comprehensive and integrated wellness approach.

The Body Transformation Retreat highlights six wellness modalities, each thoughtfully selected to support comprehensive transformation:

Holistic Healing: Traditional practices like acupuncture (2 sessions) and colonic hydrotherapy guide detoxification and internal rebalancing, aligning with TAIM’s emphasis on internal purification.

Aesthetic Enhancements: Non-invasive yet highly effective treatments such as BodyTiteFX, LPG Endermologie (3 sessions), and other contouring methods enhance the body’s appearance while stimulating natural regeneration and improving skin tone.

Holistic and TAIM-Inspired Therapies: Grounded in ancient Arabic traditions, the retreat includes Dry Hijama Cupping and Al-Batin Abdominal Massage - both rooted in the wisdom of TAIM and focused on restoring energy flow and digestive balance.

Nutrition & Wellness Cuisine: At Zulal, dining is more than a meal - it’s an integral part of the wellness journey. Rooted in TAIM principles, the cuisine promotes nourishment, balance, and sustainability. A personalised Nutrition Consultation helps guests align their dietary choices with wellbeing goals and encourage the long-term adoption of healthy, sustainable eating habits.

Fitness Conditioning: A full-body transformation requires movement. This retreat includes Body Composition analysis, four Personal Training sessions, and



three Super Stretch sessions, tailored to boost strength, flexibility, and fat-burning capacity.

Physiotherapy Support: Three sessions of Infrared Slimming Capsule therapy harness deep-heat technology to support fat metabolism, circulation, and recovery, forming the technological core of the program’s contouring approach.

The Body Transformation Retreat is offered as an all-inclusive retreat, available for stays of 7 nights from now to 30 September 2025, priced starting at QAR 16,500 per person.

The retreat includes:

- A 7-night stay
- Accommodation
- All listed treatments and consultations
- Three wellness meals per night of stay, served in the resort’s dining outlets
- Access to daily group activities
- Access to the world-class wellness facilities


• In-room daily replenished wellness minibar

• Daily laundry services for 3 pieces of sport attires

By combining traditional practices, personalised wellness plans, and advanced technologies, Zulal Wellness Resort continues to redefine the contours of premium health retreats in the region, with the Body Transformation Retreat setting a new benchmark for integrative, culturally rooted wellness experiences.

For more information or reservations, please email Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som at reservations@zulal.com, call/WhatsApp +974 4477 6555 or visit www.zulal.com.





QFZ
مجلس المناطق الحرة - قطر
Qatar Free Zones Authority

INVITATION TO SUBMIT A
PRE-QUALIFICATION

Invitation to Submit a Pre-Qualification for Call-off Contract for the Construction of Electrical Works at Ras Bufontas and 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 Project:

Project Title and Number	High Level Description of the Tender
Call-off Contract for the Construction of Electrical Works at Ras Bufontas and Umm Alhoul Free Zones. Tender No: QFZ/2024/017	The experienced Electrical Contractor will carry out varying small to medium size KAHRAMAA approved schemes for Medium (MV) and Low Voltage (LV) Electrical infrastructure works across locations of Ras Bufontas and Um Alhoul Free Zones on a 3-Year call-off contract. The MV/LV Contractor’s works will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procurement.• Construction & reinstatement works.• Supply, installation of cabling, etc.• Pre-commissioning & commissioning.• Testing & Energization.• Shop Drawings and As-Built Drawings.• All required authority approvals.

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">1. Be able to demonstrate compliance with local Qatar trading requirements.2. Experienced Electrical Contractor with similar previous experience, necessary skills with fully capable and sufficient resources to successfully deliver the requirements of the scope of works.3. Interested Contractors are required to provide supporting evidence of their certification by KAHRAMAA for MV and LV works.4. 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.	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.: QAZ21MAFR000000000003115500205

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. 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 17 July 2025 and must be submitted in accordance with the instruction in this notice.

Qatar Free Zones Authority

www.qfz.gov.qa



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VCUarts Qatar Opens Registration for Summer Art & Design Programs

Empowering Young Creatives Ages 8–14 and Pre-University Students Ages 16+



VCUarts Qatar's Community and Continuing Education (CCE) department has officially opened registration for its highly anticipated Summer Art & Design Programs, running through July and August. Designed to nurture creativity, develop technical skills, and build confidence, the programs offer distinct learning experiences for children aged 8–14 and high school students aged 16 and up.

High School Summer Program (Ages 16+)

Dates:

Core Program: July 13 – 31, 2025

Optional Portfolio Development

Week: August 3 – 7, 2025

Schedule: Sunday–Thursday,

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Fees: Without the optional

Portfolio Week : 3000 QAR

Fees with Optional Portfolio Week

Included: 3500 QAR

This three-week intensive program provides high school students with a university-level studio experience that introduces them to the majors offered at VCUarts Qatar: Graphic Design, Interior Design, Painting and Printmaking, and Kinetic Imaging. An optional fourth week is dedicated to portfolio development for students considering applying to art and design universities.

Participants will engage in hands-on projects, critiques, and collaborative exercises that build

creative thinking, communication skills, and technical abilities—all within the inspiring environment of a top-tier design institution.

“Before this program, I wasn't sure what I wanted to study. Now I know I want to pursue Interior Design—and I can't wait to apply to VCUarts Qatar,” shared Tarek M., a 2024 participant.

Children and youth from ages 8 to 14 who are just beginning to discover their artistic side and hone their creative skills can join the Children's Summer Program from July 13 – 24, 2025.

Schedule: Sunday–Thursday,

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Fees: One week: 850 QAR | Two-

week bundle: 1400 QAR

Designed to foster creativity through fun and structured exploration, the Children's Summer Program includes two themed weeks of interactive workshops led by practicing artist Sumam Azaam. Through painting, storytelling, digital illustration, and more, children will gain new skills while developing confidence, focus, and imagination.

“Every day was a new adventure. My daughter came home excited to show me what she made,” said one parent whose child attended the 2024 session.

Why These Programs Matter

The High School Summer Program offers a unique opportunity for pre-university

students to experience VCUarts Qatar from the inside out. Participants gain exposure to studio practices aligned with first-year university coursework, helping them discover their passions and prepare for future studies in creative fields.

Meanwhile, the Children's Summer Program provides a joyful and enriching space for younger learners to explore art and design. The workshops not only develop artistic skills but also build self-expression, critical thinking, and teamwork—key abilities that benefit learners in and beyond the classroom.

“This summer, the program is focusing on helping participants gain a deeper and more nuanced understanding of what VCUarts Qatar is all about—our culture of creativity, innovation, and academic excellence,” said Rasha Alkasab, Program Manager of Community and Continuing Education at VCUarts Qatar. “It's not just about making art—it's about discovering the impact a creative education can have on your life.”

Registration Now Open

Enrollment is now live and spaces are limited.

To learn more and secure a seat:

High School Summer Program:

<https://qatarvcu.edu/summer-program>

Children's Summer Program:

<https://qatarvcu.edu/childrens-summer-program>

For inquiries:

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Anti-Israel protests in Iraq, Turkiye



Supporters of Iraqi pro-Iran groups hold pictures of Iranian Revolutionary Guard commanders killed in the Israeli air strikes in Tehran during a protest in Baghdad near the green zone, the ultra secured neighbourhood hosting the US embassy, yesterday amid the Israel-Iran escalating conflict.



Demonstrators hold pictures of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and late Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah during an anti-Israeli protest, following the Israeli strikes in Iran, near the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul, Turkiye, yesterday.

Tehran residents flee Israeli attacks, sparking huge jams

AFP
Paris

Residents of Tehran have fled the Iranian capital in large numbers in the face of Israeli bombardments, creating immense traffic jams on the main road heading north, according to social media content posted yesterday.

Images verified by AFP, shot by a social media user from an overpass, showed near immobile traffic on a Tehran highway heading north with almost no vehicles in the opposite lane.

Israel on Friday launched a surprise aerial campaign targeting sites across Iran, saying the attacks aimed to prevent its archfoe from acquiring atomic weapons – a charge Tehran denies.

The Israeli strikes have so far killed at least 224 people, including top military commanders, nuclear scientists but also civilians, according to Iranian authorities.

Iran launched strikes on Israel in retaliation which so far have killed 24 people, according to Israeli authorities.

Iranian authorities have closed civilian air space until further notice due to the Israel attacks, leaving land routes the only way out of Tehran which has been the main focus of Israeli attacks.

Israel has warned Iranians to



People walk past closed shops in Tehran's Grand Bazaar as fighting between Israel and Iran entered a fourth day, yesterday.

stay away from any military infrastructure in a city where the security forces maintain a heavy presence, both overt and covert.

Videos filmed inside Iran and posted by Persian-language TV channels based abroad, such as Iran International and Manoto, as well as widely followed bloggers including Vahid Online, showed long queues of cars barely moving as they tried to leave Tehran.

The congestion appears to be concentrated on Highway 49 which connects Tehran with Chalus on the Caspian Sea in the Mazandaran province.

The region, about 150 kilometres north of Tehran and typically a three-hour drive even in normal times due to the moun-

tain roads, has so far been largely spared.

It is popular with Tehranis for its mild climate, with many maintaining holiday homes there. Persian-language outlets meanwhile also posted images of hundreds of cars lining roads outside petrol stations in Tehran and its satellite city of Karaj, saying they were filling up ahead of long journeys outside of the city.

While air travel is impossible, Iranians can still in theory cross borders by land to go abroad. Footage posted on social media, which has not been verified by AFP, showed hundreds queueing at the Bazargan crossing point in western Iran with Turkiye close to the eastern Turkish city of Dogubayazit.

War-weary Gazans share images of destruction in Israel

Reuters
Cairo

Residents of the Gaza Strip have circulated images of wrecked buildings and charred vehicles hit by Iranian missiles in Israeli cities, and some were hopeful the wider conflict could eventually bring peace to their ruined homeland.

Iranian missiles struck Tel

Aviv and the Israeli port city of Haifa before dawn yesterday, killing at least eight people, part of a wave of attacks by Tehran in retaliation for Israel's strikes targeting its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

"The Iranian response was a surprise to me, to many Palestinians, and the Israelis too. Everyone thought it would be mild," said Mohammad Jamal, 27, a resident of Gaza City.

Erdogan tells Putin Israel threatens regional security

AFP
Istanbul

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused Israel of threatening security in the Middle East during a phone call with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin yesterday, his office said.

"The spiral of violence that began with Israel's attacks on Iran has put the security of the entire region at risk," Erdogan was quoted as saying.

His office said he told Putin that the "lawless attitude" of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government "poses a clear threat to the international

system", adding that the Middle East "cannot tolerate a new war".

The Kremlin said Putin and Erdogan used the conversation to call for an "immediate" end to fighting between Israel and Iran.

"The leaders called for an immediate end to hostilities and the settlement of contentious issues, including those related to Iran's nuclear programme, exclusively through political and diplomatic means," the Kremlin said in its readout of the call.

Turkiye has stepped up its diplomacy since Israel launched aerial attacks on Iran last Friday and Tehran struck back on the weekend, in their most intense confrontation in history.

'Very scared': Israelis reel from escalating Iran missile fire

AFP
Petah Tikva

After an Iranian strike early yesterday gouged a gaping hole in his apartment building in central Israel, Idan Bar said he feared for his family as the air war between the longtime foes escalated.

A tangle of metal protruded from the charred section of a high-rise building in Petah Tikva near Tel Aviv, as rescuers wheeled elderly residents away from the damage.

One woman's mouth hung open as she was taken away in a wheelchair. "My building got bombed from Iran," Bar said.

"It was very scary while I have four children, four boys. We're very scared, but everyone is ok." Inside the building, first responders in orange helmets scoured the blown-out apartments. Debris from the blast littered the ground below, where plastic patio furniture lay overturned.

Iran unleashed a missile barrage on Israeli cities after Israel hit deep inside the Islamic republic, pressing a major offensive that began in the early hours of Friday.

On the fourth day of the escalating air war, the death toll in Israel rose to 24 after authorities announced yesterday 11 dead. In Iran, officials said the Israeli attacks had killed at least 224 people since Friday.

The scenes of devastation wit-



People look at an impacted site following missile attack from Iran on Israel, in Bnei Brak, yesterday.

nessed in Petah Tikva yesterday are relatively rare in Israel, whose advanced air defence systems usually intercept incoming threats.

The country has long been used to rockets and drones fired by Iran-backed fighter groups like Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon's Hezbollah, but volleys of ballistic missiles launched from the Islamic republic have left the population feeling vulnerable.

Since Friday, air raid sirens have sent people across Israel running to bomb shelters on a nightly basis.

The latest Iranian attack followed Israeli strikes in central Iran, which Israel's military said targeted surface-to-surface missile launchers.

Israel has said that its surprise attack launched on Friday – after decades of enmity and a prolonged

shadow war – targets Iran's nuclear programme and military facilities. The deaths in Iran have included top military commanders, nuclear scientists and civilians, according to authorities.

AFP images showed fires blazing next to gutted buildings and charred cars in the coastal hub of Tel Aviv, after the military warned people to take cover from incoming Iranian missiles.

Henn, a Petah Tikva resident who declined to give his last name, said he ran to take shelter after hearing sirens.

The 39-year-old said he heard a loud explosion, "and after a few minutes we saw all the damage, all the houses broken".

Israeli officials said four people were killed in Petah Tikva and some 35 others taken to hospital with injuries.

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Uganda passes law to try civilians in military courts

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni yesterday signed a new law allowing civilians to be tried in military courts that critics said could be used against opposition leaders ahead of next year's election, AFP reported from Kampala.

The new law comes despite a ruling by the Supreme Court in late January that it was unconstitutional for civilians to be tried in military courts as was the case for opposition leader Kizza Besigye. Besigye, 69, was abducted by armed men in Nairobi in November and re-emerged a few days later at a military court in Uganda, where he was charged with treason, which carries a potential death penalty. Following the Supreme Court ruling, his case was moved to a civilian court. But the new law provides for "exceptional circumstances" under which civilians can be subjected to military law, including the "unlawful possession of arms, ammunition or equipment," one of the other charges Besigye is facing. The signing of the law was announced by Uganda's parliament on X. Besigye's lawyer Erias Lukwago told AFP the law was designed to facilitate the "illegal detention and trial of Besigye and others". Besigye has been in jail for more than the six-month legal limit for detention without trial.

ANNOUNCEMENT

UK commits £8bn to flood defences

Britain government has announced plans to invest almost £8bn (\$11bn) on flood defences over the next 10 years, citing growing risks posed by climate change. The funding forms part of an infrastructure strategy this week due to outline the government's long-term plan to invest billions of pounds on delivering major infrastructure projects. The government said new funds will "protect hundreds of thousands of homes, small businesses, and vital infrastructure from the growing threat of flooding". The Climate Change Committee, an expert group that advises the government, warned in April that Britain is not properly prepared for severe floods and heatwaves.

DISPUTE

Cambodia threatens to ban Thai fruits, vegetable imports

Cambodia's former leader Hun Sen yesterday issued an ultimatum to Thailand to lift border crossing restrictions or his country will ban all Thai fruit and vegetable imports in the latest round of the border spat between the two countries. One Cambodian soldier was killed on May 28 as troops exchanged fire in a disputed area known as the Emerald Triangle, where the borders of Cambodia, Thailand and Laos meet. In an address to the nation, Hun Sen - father of current Prime Minister Hun Manet - threatened to ban all fruit and vegetables from Thailand unless Bangkok lifted all border crossing restrictions within 24 hours.

TRADE

Nepal begins commercial power export to Bangladesh

Nepal said it has begun commercial electricity exports to Bangladesh, marking its entry into the international power market. The Himalayan nation started transmitting 40 megawatts (MW) of electricity to Bangladesh via India on Sunday under a five-year agreement. "Nepal will continue supplying electricity to Bangladesh during the monsoon season from mid-June to mid-November," Rajan Dhakal, spokesperson at Nepal Electricity Authority, said. In October, the country signed a tripartite power export deal with the Bangladesh Power Development Board and India's NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, which is facilitating access to the transmission line.

ECONOMY

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka vows reforms as growth slows

Sri Lanka's president yesterday vowed to press ahead with unpopular reforms, including the closure of loss-making state institutions, as official data showed economic expansion slowing down. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said maintaining the country's 1.5mn-strong public service was unsustainable and that there would be cutbacks. Addressing an IMF-backed review of the country's economic recovery from the unprecedented meltdown of 2022, the president said he has identified several state institutions to be shut down. "We have already decided that certain state institutions should be closed," Dissanayake said.

US 'pushes Vietnam firms to decouple from Chinese tech'

Reuters
Hanoi

The US is pushing Vietnam in tariff talks to reduce the use of Chinese tech in devices that are assembled in the country before being exported to America, three people briefed on the matter said.

Vietnam is home to large manufacturing operations of tech firms such as Apple and Samsung, which often rely on components made in China. Meta and Google also have contractors in Vietnam that produce goods such as virtual reality headsets and smartphones.

The Southeast Asian nation has been organising meetings with local businesses to boost the supply of Vietnamese parts, with firms showing willingness to co-operate but also warning they would need time and technology to do so, according to one person with knowledge of the discussions.

The Trump administration has threatened Vietnam with crippling tariffs of 46% which could significantly limit access for Vietnam-made goods to their main market and upend the country's export-oriented growth model.

Vietnam has been asked "to reduce its dependency on Chinese high-tech," said one person familiar with the discussions. "That is part of the restructuring of supply chains and would in turn reduce US dependency on Chinese components," the person added.

The ultimate objective is to speed

up US decoupling from Chinese high-tech while increasing Vietnam's industrial capacity, a second person said, citing virtual reality devices as an example of Vietnam-assembled products that are too dependent on Chinese technology.

All sources declined to be identified as the discussions were confidential. Reuters was not able to learn if the US has proposed numerical targets such as caps on Chinese content for "Made in Vietnam" goods or different tariff rates based on the amount of Chinese content.

Apple, Samsung, Meta and Google did not reply to requests for comment.

As the US-imposed deadline of July 8 nears before the tariffs take effect, the timing and scope of a possible deal remain unclear.

All sources stressed that while the US has made broader requests for Vietnam to reduce its reliance on China, tackling the issue of Chinese high-tech content in exports was a key priority.

Last year, China exported around \$44bn of tech such as electronics components, computers and phones to Vietnam, about 30% of its total exports to the country. Vietnam shipped \$33bn of tech goods to the US or 28% of the US-bound exports. Both flows are on the rise this year, according to Vietnam's customs data.

Vietnam's trade ministry did not reply to requests for comment. Separate sources have previously said that US demands were seen as "tough" and "difficult" by Viet-

namese negotiators.

The US also wants Vietnam to crack down on the practice of shipping Chinese goods to America with misleading "Made in Vietnam" labels that draw lower duties - which Vietnam is also trying to heed.

The ministry said on Sunday that a third round of talks last week in Washington ended with progress, but critical issues remain unresolved.

Vietnam's ruling Communist Party chief To Lam intends to meet US President Donald Trump in the US, possibly in late June, officials with knowledge of the matter said. No date has been announced for the trip.

The White House and Vietnam's foreign ministry did not respond to requests for comment on the possible visit.

Local firms attending meetings organised by the trade ministry in recent weeks expressed a general willingness to adapt, but many warned that instant changes "would destroy business", according to one of the sources.

Vietnam has been slowly developing an industrial ecosystem with local suppliers but it has a long way to go before it can match China's advanced supply chains and cheaper pricing, industry executives say.

"Vietnam is about 15-20 years behind China in somewhat fully replicating its supply chain scale and sophistication, but it's catching up fast, especially in key sectors like textiles and electronics," said Carlo Chiandone, a Vietnam-based supply chain expert.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cyprus' President Nikos Christodoulides speak to the press after their meeting at the presidential palace in Nicosia yesterday.

India expects EU trade deal by year-end as Cyprus vows support

Reuters
Nicosia

India expects to finalise a free trade agreement with the European Union by the end of this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday, while Cyprus, which assumes the EU presidency in 2026, said better ties would be its priority.

Modi, on an official visit to the east Mediterranean island, said there were unlimited possibilities

in expanding economic ties with Cyprus in a visit aimed at pushing forward India's global trade agenda. "We are working on finalising a mutually beneficial India-EU trade agreement by the end of this year," Modi said in joint remarks with Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides. India is pursuing a trade link by sea and rail known as the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor, but the visit is being held in the shadow of an escalating crisis in the Middle East.

"We agree the India-Middle

East Europe Corridor will pave the way for peace and prosperity in the region," Modi said.

Cyprus, which has close relations with India through its shared membership of the Commonwealth, is offering facilities to be a first point of entry to Europe and a transhipment hub, Christodoulides said. "A strengthening of EU-India relations will be among the priorities of the Cypriot EU presidency," Christodoulides said. Cyprus assumes the rotating six-month presidency of the bloc in early 2026.

Fugitive jeweller Choksi accuses India of orchestrating kidnap

Fugitive jeweller Mehul Choksi accused India of orchestrating his kidnapping to extradite him on fraud allegations, with his lawyers telling London's High Court yesterday that only India had the motivation and resources to do so. Choksi - who was arrested in Belgium in April - is wanted in India over his alleged involvement in one of India's biggest bank frauds at Punjab National Bank, which in 2018 announced it had discovered alleged fraud worth \$1.8bn. The Indian government has since sought to extradite Choksi, who faces charges alongside his nephew Nirav Modi, who has been in custody in

Britain since 2019. The pair deny any wrongdoing. Choksi is separately suing the Indian government in London, arguing that the state was responsible for his kidnapping in Antigua in 2021, when he says he was abducted and taken to Dominica in an attempt to extradite him to India. India's lawyer Harish Salve said in court filings that "there is no evidence of India having anything to do with the alleged events". Choksi alleges he was beaten in a failed attempt to extort a false confession and implicate India's political opposition, which he says points to state involvement in the incident.

UK to toughen laws to halt child grooming gangs

The UK government yesterday announced it would bring in tough new laws to "root out the scourge" of grooming gangs suspected of sexually exploiting thousands of girls and young women. Authorities have launched a nationwide crackdown on the gangs.

The announcement, by Interior minister Yvette Cooper, came as a damning report written by member of the upper house of the UK parliament Louise Casey was published.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Sunday announced a new national inquiry would be launched into the scandal, one of Casey's 12 recommendations.

The report "concludes that further local investigations are needed, but they should be directed and overseen by a national commission with statutory inquiry powers" to compel witnesses to give evidence under oath, said Cooper.

Royals attend Order of the Garter service



Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales and Catherine, Princess of Wales leave in a carriage after the Order of the Garter service at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, west of London, yesterday. The Order of the Garter is the oldest and most senior Order of Chivalry in Britain, established by King Edward III nearly 700 years ago.

India's monsoon back on track, heatwave to ease

Reuters
Mumbai

India's monsoon has revived after stalling for more than a fortnight, and rains are set to cover central parts of the country this week, bringing relief from the heatwave in the grain-growing northern plains, two senior weather officials said yesterday.

The monsoon, the lifeblood of the country's nearly \$4tn economy, delivers nearly 70% of the rain that India needs to water farms and replenish aquifers and reservoirs.

Nearly half of India's farmland, which has no irrigation, depends on the annual June-September rains for crop growth.

The monsoon has revived after a fortnight as a favourable weather system has developed in the Bay of Bengal, which would help

the monsoon to cover entire central India this week, an official of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Monsoon rains yesterday covered almost entire western state of Maharashtra and entered into neighbouring Gujarat and central state of Madhya Pradesh, the official said. The monsoon's onset over Kerala occurred on May 24 and quickly covered southern, northeastern and some parts of western India ahead of its usual schedule, but its progress has stalled since May 29, according to an IMD chart that tracked the monsoon's progress.

The monsoon has gained the required momentum, and heavy rainfall is likely over west coast, central and some parts of north India in the next 10 days, which will significantly bring down temperatures, another weather official said.

Crash should drive effort to build safer airline: Air India chief

Reuters
New Delhi

Air India's chairman N Chandrasekaran yesterday told staff that last week's plane crash that killed at least 271 people should be a catalyst to build a safer airline, urging employees to stay resolute amid any criticism.

In a town hall held at the headquarters of the Tata Group-owned airline near New Delhi and attended by 700 staff, Chandrasekaran said the crash was the "most heartbreaking" crisis of his career, a spokesperson said.

"I've seen a reasonable number

of crises in my career, but this is the most heartbreaking one," he said, according to a Tata Group spokesperson.

"We need to use this incident as an act of force to build a safer airline," Chandrasekaran told the meeting.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with 242 people on board bound for Gatwick Airport south of London began losing height seconds after take-off in Ahmedabad on Thursday, and erupted in a huge fireball as it hit buildings below.

All but one on board were declared dead in the world's worst aviation disaster in a decade, and around 30 people died on the ground.

The airline and the Indian govern-

Top Boeing executive Pope visits Air India HQ

The head of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Stephanie Pope, met the chairman of Air India yesterday in India, two sources said, as the companies seek to find the cause of last week's fatal crash. Pope met Air India chairman N Chandrasekaran at the airline's headquarters in Gurugram, near New Delhi airport, and was accompanied by Boeing's India president Saili Gupta, one of the sources said. Details of the discussions were

not immediately clear. Pope oversees design, production and delivery of advanced jetliners to Boeing customers around the world, according to the US plane maker's website. The Dreamliner was fitted with GE engines and GE Aerospace's CEO for Commercial Engines and Services, Russell Stokes, and its South Asia chief, Vikram Rai, also met Chandrasekaran yesterday, one of the sources said.

ment are looking at several aspects of the crash, including the plane's

engine thrust, flaps, and why the landing gear remained open as the

plane took off and then came down.

"We need to wait for the investigation ... It's a complex machine, so a lot of redundancies, checks and balances, certifications, which have been perfected over years and years. Yet this happens, so we will figure out why it happens after the investigation," Chandrasekaran, 62, said during the staff meeting.

He is also the chairman of the Tata Group conglomerate.

The crash poses a new challenge for both Air India which has for years been trying to revamp its ageing fleet, and Boeing, which is trying to rebuild public trust following a series of safety and production crises.

Yesterday, an Air India Boeing

787-8 Dreamliner plane bound for New Delhi returned to its origin of Hong Kong shortly after takeoff following a technical issue.

"It's not easy to face criticisms," Chandrasekaran said. "We are going to get through this. We need to show resilience." In Ahmedabad, dozens of anxious family members have been waiting to collect bodies of relatives killed in the crash, as doctors worked to gather dental samples from the deceased and run identification checks.

Only 99 samples have been matched so far, and 64 bodies have been handed over to the families, Rakesh Joshi, medical superintendent of a civil hospital in the city, said.

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How to let Zelensky attend Nato meet but not provoke Trump

Officials organising a Nato summit in The Hague this month are expected to keep it short, restrict discussion of Ukraine, and choreograph meetings so that Volodymyr Zelensky can somehow be in town without provoking Donald Trump.

Though the Ukrainian president is widely expected to attend the summit in some form, Nato has yet to confirm whether he is actually invited. Diplomats say he may attend a pre-summit dinner but be kept away from the main summit meeting.

Whether the brief summit statement will even identify Russia as a threat or express support for Ukraine is still up in the air.

The careful steps are all being taken to avoid angering Washington, much less provoking any repeat of February's White House blow-up between Trump and Zelensky that almost torpedoed the international coalition supporting Kyiv.

Nato's European members, who see Russia as an existential threat and Nato as the principal means of countering it, want to signal their continued strong support for Ukraine. But they are also desperate to avoid upsetting a volatile Trump, who stunned them at a summit seven years ago by threatening to quit the alliance altogether.

Diplomats say Ukraine leader may attend a pre-summit dinner but kept away from the main summit meeting

Trump towards partly accepting Russia's justifications for the war and disparaging Zelensky, the 32-member alliance no longer speaks with a single voice about Europe's deadliest conflict since World War Two. Trump has taken Ukraine's Nato membership off the table, unilaterally granting Moscow one of its main demands.

After dressing down Zelensky in the Oval Office in February, Trump cut vital US military and intelligence support for Ukraine for days.

Since then, the two men publicly mended fences in a meeting in St Peter's Basilica for the funeral of Pope Francis. But mostly they have spoken remotely, with Zelensky twice phoning the White House on speakerphone while surrounded by four friendly Europeans — Britain's Keir Starmer, France's Emmanuel Macron, Germany's Friedrich Merz and Poland's Donald Tusk.

Trump is expected to come away from The Hague with a big diplomatic victory as Nato members heed his longstanding complaints that they do not spend enough on defence and agree a much higher target. They are expected to boost their goal for traditional military spending to 3.5% of economic output from 2%. A further pledge to spend 1.5% on related expenses such as infrastructure and cyber defence would raise the total to 5% demanded by Trump.

But the summit itself and its accompanying written statement are expected to be unusually short, minimising the chances of flare-ups or disagreements. A pledge to develop recommendations for a new Russia strategy has been kicked into the long grass.

Meanwhile, Zelensky may have to be content with an invitation to a pre-summit dinner, hosted by Dutch King Willem-Alexander, diplomats say. Unlike at Nato's previous two annual summits, the leaders do not plan to hold a formal meeting of the Nato-Ukraine Council, the official venue for talks between the alliance and Kyiv. The senior Nato diplomat said a working dinner with either foreign ministers or defence ministers could instead serve as an NUC.

Last Wednesday, Nato boss Mark Rutte said he had invited Ukraine to the summit, but sidestepped a question on whether the invitation included Zelensky himself.

After meeting Rutte on Monday, Zelensky said on X that it was "important that Ukraine is properly represented" at the summit. "That would send the right signal to Russia," he said.

US and Ukrainian officials did not reply to questions about the nature of any invitation to Ukraine. Some European countries are still willing to say in public that they hope to see Zelensky invited as the head of the Ukrainian delegation.

Estonian Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur said he would like to see a "delegation led by President Zelensky". Asked about an invitation for Zelensky, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said "I, for my part, strongly welcome the invitation" without giving further details. — Reuters

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Asean-GCC-China Summit: A new chapter in Global South co-operation

By Hui Fan

Amid growing trade tensions and rise in protectionist policies on the international landscape, the inaugural Asean-GCC-China Summit, hosted under Malaysia's Asean chairmanship for 2025, has drawn significant international attention. This gathering marks yet another step forward in Global South co-operation, with implications for both regional development and global growth.

Foundations for partnership

The three parties share deep historical and economic ties. Centuries ago, the Silk Road facilitated cultural and commercial exchanges among their peoples. Today, China remains a pivotal trade partner for both Asean and the GCC. Recent advancements, such as the full conclusion of China-Asean Free Trade Area 3.0 negotiations, underscore ongoing efforts to deepen economic integration. These longstanding relationships, nurtured through bilateral and multilateral frameworks, provide a robust foundation for expanded co-operation.

Shared vision for inclusive growth

As advocates for open markets, the three parties reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism during the summit. The event highlighted a shift in Global South

nations from passive participants to proactive contributors in shaping international economic frameworks. Discussions underscored the importance of a rules-based global trading system, one that prioritises equitable development over zero-sum competition. This vision aligns with broader calls for inclusive globalisation that benefits all.

Complementary strengths

Each region brings unique advantages to the table: Asean's youthful demographics and natural resources, the GCC's energy resources and financial capital, and China's vast consumer market and manufacturing prowess. By leveraging these complementary strengths, the partners will benefit from reduced energy and resource costs, accelerated logistics, and more efficient financial services. These synergies will enhance all three parties' competitiveness and resilience while enabling more secure and sustainable development, which are indispensable for navigating challenges in today's volatile global markets and maintaining growth amidst trade uncertainties.

Synergy in scale: 1+1+1>3

The trilateral co-operation has already registered positive progress. Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced at the summit that China has decided to offer five-year multiple-entry visas to eligible applicants from Southeast Asian countries for business and other purposes, and to effectively

give all GCC countries visa-free status. And with a regional business council in conception, the three parties have charted a united course for co-operation in areas including economic integration, connectivity, energy security and sustainability, digital transformation and innovation, food and agriculture, and people-to-people exchanges.

Collectively, Asean, China, and the GCC account for nearly a quarter of the world's population and global GDP. Their collaboration signals a growing preference for co-operative and open regionalism in addressing shared challenges, such as trade disputes and supply chain disruptions. By improving infrastructure connectivity and streamlining trade, this partnership could foster synergies that multiply rather than simply add their individual strengths.

A model for South-South co-operation

Amid ongoing tariff and trade wars, the best way to navigate the current difficulties is to seek strength through unity. Through the practice of cross-regional co-operation, the three parties have demonstrated that the Global South can collectively counteract the adverse impact of unilateral tariffs by exploring new trade and investment opportunities, diversifying trade partners, and reducing reliance on traditional markets.

The three parties' connected market, one of the world's largest intra-regional markets, will also

allow other countries to share more benefits, and inject much-needed certainty into the global economy. By pooling together the three important forces in the world, this innovative, inclusive and pragmatic model represents a shared commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, and marks a concrete step toward a peaceful, prosperous and equitable future.

A powerful boost to globalisation

In an era of interconnected economies and shared global challenges, globalisation retains its transformative potential — but only if nations choose collaboration over isolation. As an innovative co-operation mechanism among Global South partners, the Asean-GCC-China Summit demonstrates how diverse regions can align interests to strengthen multilateral frameworks and advance equitable trade.

The Summit's success sends a clear message: Solidarity doesn't require uniformity. It thrives when nations bridge divergences through structured co-operation. By prioritising dialogue and economic interdependence, countries can transform differences into opportunities while fostering shared progress. In an uncertain world, such collaboration isn't just idealistic — it's the cornerstone of collective resilience and a more equitable future.

• The author is a Beijing-based observer of international affairs.

Milei seeks legislative leverage amid IMF demands and public discontent

By Nicolás Misculin
Buenos Aires

Argentina's firebrand right-wing President Javier Milei has largely tamed runaway inflation with a ruthless austerity plan and he aims to solidify power when his party and its allies take on a divided opposition in legislative elections in October. The trash-tweeting economist, who famously handed tech billionaire Elon Musk a chainsaw at an event in Washington earlier this year, has overseen a steady dollar-peso peg but relies on legislative allies in Congress to pass his agenda. Many of the changes he has implemented have been through presidential decrees, like his ideological ally, US President Donald Trump, who called Milei his favourite president.

Voters will choose about half the seats in the lower chamber of Argentina's Congress and a third of the upper Senate on October 26. A big victory would not give Milei a legislative majority, but it would offer him leverage to make deals to sell off government-owned companies, cut social spending, change tax and labour policy and embrace social conservatism.

That plan is in stark contrast to the programme of the parties that are the ideological descendants of General Juan Peron, who ruled the country from 1946-1955 and 1973-1974, and his wife Evita. Their governments nationalised industries, unveiled pro-labour policies and rolled out social programmes including free healthcare.

The economic stability spurred by Milei, who took power in late 2023 and quickly slashed spending as part of a shock therapy



Argentine President Javier Milei reacts as he takes part in the closing session of the Madrid Economic Forum, an event sponsored by a cryptocurrency platform, in Madrid on Sunday. (AFP)

programme to pull the South American country out of a deep crisis, has not translated into across-the-board improvements. Prices of basic goods like jeans and tennis shoes are reportedly double what they are in other parts of the Americas.

Pensioners continue to protest the cost of living, and anger over the relatively poor salaries of healthcare workers at a respected paediatric hospital has turned into a months-long saga. Nearly 40% of Argentines remain in poverty, and many of them reject Milei's policies.

"I'm not a Peronist, but I'll vote for them because I'd vote for anyone before Milei," said Jorge, a 42-year-old "cartonero" who collects cardboard for recycling, an extremely poor living. The man, who declined to give his last name, said one of his four children was treated at the paediatric hospital where staff are protesting. Posing another threat

to Milei's popularity is the possibility that he may in coming months have to further tighten economic policy to meet the terms of a \$20 billion International Monetary Fund loan that has boosted Argentina's reputation among investors, whose dollars the country desperately needs.

'Rupture is inevitable'

Up for grabs in the election is the vast province surrounding the capital, Buenos Aires, which is the geographic heart of Peronism and home to 40% of the country's voters. A government source told reporters Milei has vowed to defeat Peronist Governor Axel Kicillof there.

Milei's candidate unexpectedly placed first in a recent Buenos Aires local election, and consulting firm Observatorio Electoral shows Milei's Libertad Avanza party with a slim 37%-36% advantage over the centre-left Peronists. Nationally, 42% of voters favour Milei against 23% for the Peronists. Beating the standard-bearers of Juan Peron's legacy would have seemed impossible a few years ago, but with inflation down to a projected 30% this year, from 118% last year, and Milei credited with cutting corruption, some voters are ready to give the political firebrand more power.

"I'll vote for Milei again because he's achieved a degree of normality in the economy," said Federico Segovia, a 22-year-old university student who blamed the last Peronist president, Alberto Fernandez, for leaving the economy in disastrous shape. A recent survey by the consulting firm Synopsis found that the share of those who viewed Milei positively rose to 43.4% in May from 40.9% in April. — Reuters

France shuts controversial Israel weapons booths at Paris Air Show

Geopolitical tensions roiled the opening of the Paris Air Show yesterday as French authorities sealed off Israeli weapons industry booths amid the conflicts in Iran and Gaza, a move that Israel condemned as “outrageous”. The decision added drama to the major aerospace industry event, which was already under the shadow of last week’s deadly crash of Air India’s Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Black walls were installed around the stands of five Israeli defence firms at the trade fair in Le Bourget, an airfield on the outskirts of Paris. The booths displayed “offensive weapons” that could be used in Gaza — in violation of agreements with Israeli authorities, a French government source told AFP. The French government has not given its exact definition of “offensive” weapons. The companies — Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Rafael,

Uvision, Elbit and Aeronautics — make drones and guided bombs and missiles. French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou defended the decision during a press conference at the air show. “The French government’s position was very simple: no offensive weapons at the arms exposition,” he said. “Defensive weapons were perfectly acceptable.” Bayrou cited the ongoing conflict in Gaza as the rationale behind the ban. “Given the situation in Gaza... which is extremely serious from a humanitarian and security point of view, France was keen to make it clear that offensive weapons should not be present at this exposition,” Bayrou said. Israeli President Isaac Herzog said he was shocked by the “outrageous” closure of the pavilions and said the situation should be “immediately corrected”.



A view of the Israeli Defence Ministry stand which was shut down at the Paris Air Show. (Reuters)

“Israeli companies have signed contracts with the organisers... it’s like creating an Israeli ghetto,” he said on French television channel LCI. The Israeli defence ministry said in a statement that the “outrageous and unprecedented

decision reeks of policy-driven and commercial considerations”. “The French are hiding behind supposedly political considerations to exclude Israeli offensive weapons from an international exhibition — weapons that compete with

French industries,” it said. The presence of Israeli firms at Le Bourget, though smaller than in the past, was already a source of tension before the start of the Paris Air Show, because of the conflict in Gaza. A French court last week rejected a bid by NGOs to ban Israeli companies from Le Bourget over concerns about “international crimes”. Local lawmakers from the Seine-Saint-Denis department hosting the event were absent during Bayrou’s visit to the opening of the air show in protest over the Israeli presence. “Never has the world been so disrupted and destabilised,” Bayrou said earlier at a roundtable event, urging nations to tackle challenges “together, not against each other”. The show’s organisers said that a dialogue was underway “to find a positive resolution”. The row over Israel cast a shadow over a trade fair that is usually

dominated by displays of the aerospace industry’s latest flying wonders, and big orders for plane makers Airbus and Boeing. Airbus announced an order of 30 single-aisle A320neo jets and 10 A350F freighters by Saudi aircraft leasing firm AviaLease. The European manufacturer also said Riyadh Air was buying 25 long-range, wide-body A350-1000 jets. But Boeing chief executive Kelly Ortberg last week cancelled plans to attend the biennial event, to focus on the investigation of the Air India crash. “Our focus is on supporting our customers, rather than announcing orders at this air show,” a Boeing spokeswoman told AFP yesterday. The London-bound Dreamliner crashed shortly after take-off in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad, killing 241 passengers and crew and another 38 on the ground. One passenger survived.

G7 leaders struggle for unity in Canada

- Trump says removing Russia from group was a mistake
- Leaders begin talks on global economy, trade differences
- Trump won’t sign joint statement on Israel-Iran: US official
- Effort under way to put Ukraine back on Trump’s radar

Reuters
Kananaskis (Alberta)

Group of Seven leaders met yesterday seeking a common approach on wars in Ukraine and the Middle East but before their summit formally began, US President Donald Trump said removing Russia from the former Group of Eight over a decade ago had been a mistake. Trump’s overt statement of support for Russian President Vladimir Putin was an early challenge for a once tight-knit grouping that has struggled to find unity as Washington retreats from multilateralism. G7 leaders from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the US, along with the European Union, are convening in the resort area of Kananaskis in the Canadian Rockies until tomorrow. Speaking alongside Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Trump said the former Group of Eight had been wrong to kick out Russia in 2014 after it annexed Crimea. “This was a big mistake,” Trump said, adding he believed Russia would not have invaded Ukraine in 2022 had Putin not been ejected. “Putin speaks to me. He doesn’t speak to anybody else ... he’s not a happy person about it. I can tell you that he basically doesn’t even speak to the people that threw him out, and I agree with him,” Trump said. His comments raise doubts about how much Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky can achieve when he meets the leaders today. European nations say they want to persuade Trump to back tougher sanctions on Moscow. Zelensky said he planned to dis-

cuss new weapons purchases for Ukraine with Trump. Trump spoke on Saturday with Putin and suggested the Russian leader could play a mediation role between Israel and Iran. French President Emmanuel Macron dismissed the idea, arguing that Moscow could not be a negotiator because it had started an illegal war against Ukraine. A European diplomat said Trump’s suggestion showed that Russia was very much on US minds. European officials said they hoped to use today’s meeting with Zelensky and Nato Secretary-General Mark Rutte and next week’s Nato summit to convince Trump to toughen his stance. “The G7 should have the objective for us to converge again, for Ukraine to get a ceasefire to lead to a robust and lasting peace, and in my view it’s a question of seeing whether President Trump is ready to put forward much tougher sanctions on Russia,” Macron said. With an escalating Israel-Iran conflict, the summit in Canada is seen as a vital moment to try to restore a semblance of unity among democratic powerhouses. In another early sign the group may struggle to reach agreement on key issues, a US official said Trump would not sign a draft statement calling for de-escalation of the Israel-Iran conflict. A Canadian official, though, said the conflict would come up in bilateral meetings throughout the day and it was too early to speculate on the outcome of those conversations. A senior European diplomat echoed those comments, saying Trump had yet to make a decision. Canada has abandoned any ef-

fort to adopt a comprehensive communique to avert a repeat of the 2018 summit in Quebec, when Trump instructed the US delegation to withdraw its approval of the final communique after leaving. Leaders have prepared several draft documents seen by Reuters, including on migration, artificial intelligence, and critical mineral supply chains. None of them have been approved by the United States, however, according to sources briefed on the documents. Europeans are on the same page on most issues, a European diplomat said. But without Trump, it is unclear if there will be any declarations, the diplomat said. The first five months of Trump’s second term upended foreign policy on Ukraine, raised anxiety over his closer ties to Russia, and resulted in tariffs on US allies. Talks on Monday will centre around the economy, advancing trade deals, and China. Efforts to reach an agreement to lower the G7 price cap on Russian oil, even if Trump decided to opt out, were complicated by a temporary surge in oil prices since Israel launched strikes on Iran on June 12, two diplomatic sources said. Oil prices fell yesterday on reports Iran was seeking a truce. The escalation between the two regional foes is high on the agenda, with diplomatic sources saying they hope to urge restraint and a return to diplomacy and would encourage Trump to sign a declaration. “I do think there’s a consensus for de-escalation. Obviously, what we need to do today is to bring that together and to be clear about how it is to be brought about,” British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told reporters.



Japan’s Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, Italy’s Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, US President Donald Trump, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen, and European Council President Antonio Costa attend a working session. (AFP)

What’s not being discussed as Trump shapes agenda

Gender equality, climate change, biodiversity, poverty, health, and more — the list of issues missing at the Canada G7 from past summits is long. The G7 gathering has been carefully planned to ensure US President Donald Trump agreed to attend at all and Canada is keen to avoid a public dust-up. Official agenda items are the global economic outlook and energy security, with organisers naming priorities as critical mineral supply chains and AI adoption, as well as “international peace and security.” Last year’s Group of Seven summit in Italy, when Joe Biden was US president, ended with a joint declaration promising better ties with Africa, action on poverty, and determination to tackle “the triple crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.” Such subjects are almost totally absent at the G7 talks this year in order to placate Trump, said John Kirton of the G7 Research Group at the University of Toronto. “There’s no point in putting them on the agenda if the Americans will just refuse to discuss them. And if you put too many of them on, Trump wouldn’t even come,” he said. Kirton added that the schedule was also crowded out by crises from Ukraine to the Middle East, with G7 nations increasingly concerned with defence spending rather than development aid. For the G7 — founded 50 years ago by the world’s leading economies at the time — such a lurch in priorities poses major questions about the club’s purpose and future. But, for the Trump administration, the group is just returning to its original function of promoting global economic stability and growth. “Canada knows its audience and if it wants a unified outcome of this year’s G7 leaders summit then it should stick close to traditional G7 values while avoiding controversial topics,” said Caitlin Welsh of the Washington-based Center for

Strategic and International Studies. The impact on the ground has alarmed many campaigners who say the G7 reduction of foreign aid is hitting millions of world’s poorest, threatening food supplies, water, education and health. “The G7’s retreat from the world is unprecedented and couldn’t come at a worse time,” said Oxfam International Executive Director Amitabh Behar. “Rather than breaking from the Trump administration’s cruel dismantling of USAID and other US foreign assistance, G7 countries like the UK, Germany and France are instead following the same path.” Oxfam calculated that G7 nations, which provide three-quarters of all official development assistance, are cutting aid by 28 percent between 2024 and 2026. No joint communique is expected at the end of the summit today to avoid the potential failure for all members to agree on the text. But there is one way that the non-US members of the G7 are fighting back — discreetly. An unexpected item on the agenda is to “boost collaboration to prevent, fight and recover from wildfires.” The wildfire issue “allows us to talk about climate change without saying it directly because we know that unfortunately not everyone likes it,” a Canadian official speaking anonymously told AFP. Both Canada and the United States are increasingly affected by major forest fires — worsened by climate change — including blazes that burnt down swathes of Los Angeles earlier this year. Professor Kirton said the wildfires agenda tactic was “clever rather than sneaky.” “They saw wildfires as a point of entry, and one that would work with Donald Trump,” Kirton highlighted that wildfires are currently causing damage across the US states of North and South Carolina, both Trump heartlands. “That’s getting into his MAGA base,” he said.

Embattled Spain premier dares opposition to file no-trust motion

AFP
Madrid

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez yesterday challenged the conservative opposition to submit a no-confidence vote against his minority coalition government as a corruption scandal rocks his ruling Socialists. The case against a top Socialist official increases legal and political pressure on Sanchez, one of Europe’s longest-serving leftist leaders whose inner circle faces several ongoing investigations. The main opposition Popular Party (PP) and far-right Vox have demanded that Sanchez resign after a judicial report published last week suspected Socialist heavy-weight Santos Cerdan of accepting kickbacks in the al-

leged improper awarding of public contracts. After an hours-long crisis meeting with top Socialist officials at party headquarters in Madrid, Sanchez hit back at the two opposition parties, who do not command a parliamentary majority. “They should present a no-confidence motion and tell parliament and the citizens what model of country they want for Spain,” Sanchez said. The report also implicated Jose Luis Abalos, a former transport minister and once a member of Sanchez’s inner circle, and his ex-adviser Koldo Garcia. Cerdan, the Socialists’ third-highest ranked figure, resigned as its organisation secretary last week. Yesterday, he relinquished his position as MP and the party definitively expelled Abalos, who sits in parliament as an independent.

Defending the Socialists’ response to the case, Sanchez said his party was “clean” and would not “cover up the corruption that emerges in our ranks, however painful it may be”. Sanchez again ruled out quitting or holding early elections, saying that he would conduct discussions this week with the far-left and Basque and Catalan separatist parties who backed his government. The PP reiterated its demand for Sanchez’s resignation and early elections, with party spokesman Borja Semper telling reporters that “the only possible, dignified future is giving the Spanish people their say”. As well as the Cerdan affair, legal investigations are ongoing against Sanchez’s wife, brother and the country’s Socialist-appointed top prosecutor.

World faces new N-arms race: researchers

Most of the world’s nuclear-armed states continued to modernise their arsenals last year, setting the stage for a new nuclear arms race, researchers warned yesterday. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said nuclear powers including the United States and Russia — which account for around 90% of the world’s stockpile — had spent time last year “upgrading existing weapons and adding newer versions”. Since the end of the Cold War, old warheads have generally been dismantled quicker than new ones have been deployed, resulting in a decrease in the overall number of warheads. But SIPRI warned that the trend was likely to be reversed in the coming years. “What we see now, first of all, is that the number of operational nuclear warheads is beginning to increase,” SIPRI Director Dan Smith told AFP. This was especially the case with China, which SIPRI said had about 600 nuclear warheads and had added 100 new warheads in 2023 and 2024. “China is increasing its nuclear force steadily,” Smith said, adding that the country could reach 1,000 warheads in seven or eight years. While that would still be well short of Russian and US arsenals it would make



IAEA logo is seen in this illustration taken yesterday. (Reuters)

China “a much bigger player”, said Smith. He said the world faced new threats “at a particularly dangerous and unstable moment” for geopolitics, adding: “We see the warning signs of a new nuclear arms race coming.” SIPRI counted a total of 12,241 warheads in January 2025, of which 9,614 were in stockpiles for potential use. The institute noted in its report that both Russia and the United States had “extensive programmes under way to modernise and replace their nuclear warheads”. The United Kingdom was not believed to have increased its number of warheads in 2024, but SIPRI said that given the country’s 2021 decision to raise its limit on the number of warheads from 225 to 260, it was likely to increase in the future.

Similarly, while France’s arsenal was believed to have remained steady at around 290, “its nuclear modernisation programme progressed during 2024”. India and Pakistan both “continued to develop new types of nuclear weapon delivery systems in 2024”. India had a “growing stockpile” of about 180 nuclear weapons at the start of 2025, the institute said, while Pakistan’s arsenal remained steady at about 170 warheads. SIPRI also noted that North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme remained “central to its national security strategy”, estimating that it had around 50 warheads and was believed to possess “enough fissile material to reach a total of up to 90 warheads”. Israel — which does not acknowledge its nuclear weapons — is also believed to be modernising its arsenal, which SIPRI estimated was about 90 warheads at the start of the year. Smith stressed that the looming nuclear arms race would not just be about “the numbers of warheads”. “It’s an arms race which is going to be highly technological,” Smith said. He added that it would be both in “outer space and in cyberspace” as the software directing and guiding nuclear weapons would be an area of competition.

Qatar sees ‘significant progress in protecting domestic worker rights’

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar has made significant progress in protecting the rights of domestic workers guaranteed in the Permanent Constitution, a senior official of National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) stated yesterday.

“Qatar has made significant strides in protecting and promoting the rights of domestic workers which is reflected in the legal reforms culminating in the enactment of Law No (15) of 2017 regarding domestic workers,” said Dr Mohammed bin Saif al-Kuwari, vice-chairman, NHRC.

He was addressing an event organised by NHRC and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to mark the International Domestic Workers’ Day, observed annually on June 16.

Held under the theme ‘Advancing Access to Justice for Domestic Workers: Enhancing Legal Support and Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms’, the event saw several discussions with participants from the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Interior along with several experts.

Dr al-Kuwari said: “There are about 168,626 individuals performing domestic work in Qa-



Some of the dignitaries at the event.



A panel discussion during the programme.

tar, according to the 2022 Labour Force Survey report issued by the Planning and Statistics Authority in 2023. These individuals represent 8.39% of the total non-Qatari

workforce, which has made this work an integral part of our economic and social life in Qatar. We continue our efforts in education, awareness and advocacy with our

partners and stakeholders.”

He highlighted that these workers have left their communities in search of livelihood opportunities that ensure a decent life for them and sustainable development for their communities.

“From our perspective, protecting the rights of domestic workers is a protection of human rights guaranteed in the Permanent Constitution of Qatar, which stipulates that Qatari society ‘is based on the pillars of justice, benevolence, freedom, equality, and noble ethics’. These are the fundamental components that reflect

Qatari society’s vision of domestic workers as an integral part of the Qatari family, based on values of giving, respect and goodness for all its members,” he explained.

Roula Hamati, in charge of IOM Mission in Qatar, in her address emphasised the importance of the event, the first joint event of its kind between NHRC and IOM.

Hamati said: “Qatar has made remarkable progress in legislation aimed at protecting the rights of migrants in general, and domestic workers in particular. The labour policy reforms implemented by Qatar since 2020, starting with ensuring freedom of movement in the labour market, changing employers, and the minimum wage, have constituted a qualitative leap in working and living conditions for hundreds of thousands of workers including domestic workers.” The event included three accompanying sessions. The first session addressed legal pathways and institutional frameworks, with presentations by Nasser Marzouq Sultan al-Marri, director of the Legal Affairs Department, NHRC who provided a presentation from the Committee, and Captain Mohammed Nasser al-Jaber, from the Research and Follow-up Department at the Ministry of Interior, whose speech included a presentation on the



Dr Mohammed bin Saif al-Kuwari addressing the event in Doha, yesterday.

PICTURES: Thajudheen

protection and redressal mechanism for domestic workers in vulnerable situations.

Dr Lena Moller from Qatar University’s College of Law discussed the challenges and opportunities in implementing the 2017 Domestic Workers Law and international best practices and Margaret Kabue, chairperson of the Kenyan Domestic Workers Association also presented her perspectives at the session. The second session focused on enhancing accountability mechanisms; improving law enforcement and strategic co-ordination for legal assistance and identifying policy and recommendations to promote justice. The session saw the participation of several officials and experts. The closing session covered a summary of the main points of the discussion, compilation of its outcomes, reaffirmation of stakeholder commitments, and identification of next steps and concluding remarks by the IOM and NHRC.

Qatar Museums unveils triple summer art treat

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

For visitors and residents seeking a cultural escape from the summer heat, Qatar Museums is offering a diverse art lineup, featuring internationally acclaimed cinema, a deep dive into national art history, and a tribute to a pioneering Qatari artist.

Qatar’s rich summer arts season is anchored at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, guiding visitors on a journey from international cinema to deeply personal Qatari heritage.

According to QM, the offerings provide a comprehensive experience, covering international contemporary issues, the development of Qatar’s national identity through art, and the vision of one of its most important modern artists.

From a highly acclaimed premiere at the Venice Biennale, ‘Your Ghosts Are Mine: Expanded Cinemas, Amplified Voices’ brings the work of more than 40 filmmakers and artists from the Arab world, Africa, and Southeast Asia to Doha.

This immersive exhibition, produced by QM in collaboration with multiple partners including the Doha Film Institute and the future Art Mill Museum, explores contemporary experiences of community, exile, and the perils of crossing borders. It will be on view until August 9.

Visitors navigate 10 distinct sections with themes like deserts, ruins, and the cosmos, view-



‘Your Ghosts Are Mine: Expanded Cinemas, Amplified Voices’.

PICTURES: Qatar Museums

ing works that blend fiction with documentary and modernity with tradition.

Shifting focus from the global to the national, ‘Qatar: Close to My Soul’ exhibition offers a poetic journey through the country’s modern art history.

Drawn from the collection of Sheikh Abdulla bin Ali al-Thani, it showcases a broad overview of Qatari art from the late 1960s onwards. Its title is inspired by the 1975 poem and song *Allah Ya O’mri Qatar*, reflecting a deep love for the homeland.

‘Qatar: Close to My Soul’ is organised into three sections, exploring how artists drew inspiration from the landscape, portrayed society, and experimented with abstraction and hurruffiya (art incorporating Arabic letterforms), providing deep insight into the nation’s cultural evolution. This exhibition also runs until August

9. The season’s offerings culminate in a deeply personal and historic tribute: “Wafa al-Hamad: Sites of Imagination”.

This is the first-ever comprehensive museum exhibition dedicated to the 40-year career of the pioneering Qatari artist, educator, and designer Wafa al-Hamad (1964–2012).

The retrospective celebrates al-Hamad’s underrepresented role in the development of modern Qatari art, presenting her unique style that integrated Arabic calligraphy, dreamlike optical illusions, and vibrant abstraction.

Featuring 23 pieces from Mathaf’s collection, the exhibition highlights her distinct interpretation of Gulf modernism, as seen in work like *Atlat* (The Tower of Barzan) (1985) and *Henna Night* (1992). Art enthusiasts will have the chance to explore this show until August 9.



‘Qatar: Close to My Soul’ exhibition.



‘Wafa al-Hamad: Sites of Imagination’

Indian Mango Festival draws 44,000 visitors

The second edition of the Indian Mango Festival (Al Hamba Exhibition) at Souq Waqif has received over four days about 44,000 visitors and recorded sales of 47,000kg, indicating the event’s success in both public engagement and commercial impact, a statement from the Private Engineering Office (PEO) said.

Different varieties of Indian mangoes are on sale at the festival, at the Eastern Square of Souq Waqif, until June 21. The event, organised by the PEO in co-operation with the Embassy of India, is open from 4pm–9pm except on public holidays when the closing is at 10pm.

“The exhibition has drawn a diverse audience of families, citizens, residents and tourists from various nationalities, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere,” the statement said. “Participating vendors confirmed that all mango varieties showcased at the exhibition

were imported specifically for this event via direct air shipments from India on a daily basis, ensuring the highest levels of freshness and quality to meet visitor expectations,” it explained.

The festival features 55 mango varieties along with cakes, sweets, ice creams and juices. Most famous Indian mango varieties including Rajapuri, Malgova, Neelam, Alphonso, Kesar, Badami, Mallika, Imam Pasand, Kalapadi, Totapuri, Chakkarakutti and Sindoor are featured in the expo.

The expo has the participation of 38 Indian companies. Planes are arriving daily with mangoes specifically for the exhibition. The quality of the mangoes are also checked by the Ministry of Public Health.

“This success reflects the dedicated efforts of the organisers and exhibition team, in collaboration with the supporting entities and partners,” the PEO statement added.

