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**BUSINESS | Page 1**

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**PM, Kallas discuss ties, Iran war**

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas. The call discussed co-operation between Qatar and the EU, in addition to discussing the latest developments in the region, particularly the Israeli attack on the sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran. **Page 2**

**Qatar among top 10 in Competitiveness Report**

The National Planning Council (NPC) announced that Qatar has made remarkable progress in its development journey by ranking 9th globally in the 2025 Global Competitiveness Report, issued by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD). **Page 6**

**Israeli tanks kill 59 near Gaza aid site**

Israeli tanks fired into a crowd trying to get aid from trucks in Gaza yesterday, killing at least 59 people, according to medics, in one of the bloodiest incidents yet in mounting violence as desperate residents struggle for food. Video shared on social media showed around a dozen mangled bodies lying in a street in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. The Israeli military acknowledged firing in the area. **(Reuters)**

# Trump calls for Iran’s ‘surrender’ as Israel, Iran continue strikes

**Reuters**  
Washington/Dubai/Jerusalem

President Donald Trump yesterday called for Iran’s “unconditional surrender” and warned that US patience was wearing thin, but said there was no intention to kill Iran’s leader “for now”, as the Israel-Iran air war raged for a fifth day.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said meanwhile that Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei could face the same fate as Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who was toppled in a US-led invasion and hanged in 2006 after a trial.

Explosions were reported in Tehran and the city of Isfahan in central Iran, while Israel said Iran had fired more missiles towards it late yesterday, and air raid sirens sounded in Tel Aviv and southern Israel. The Israeli military said it had conducted strikes on 12 missile launch sites and storage facilities in Tehran.

Trump’s comments, delivered via social media, suggested a more aggressive stance toward Iran as he weighs whether to deepen US involvement.



A damaged residential building in Tel Aviv following a missile attack from Iran.

“We know exactly where the so-called ‘Supreme Leader’ is hiding,” he wrote on Truth Social. “We are not going to take him out (kill!), at least not for now...Our patience is wearing thin.” Three minutes later, he posted, “UN-CONDITIONAL SURRENDER!”

Britain’s leader said there was no indication that the US was about to enter the conflict.

Trump met with his National

Security Council yesterday afternoon to discuss the conflict, a White House official said.

The US is deploying more fighter aircraft to the Middle East and extending the deployment of other warplanes, three US officials said.

The US has so far only taken defensive actions in the current conflict with Iran, including helping to shoot down missiles fired towards Israel.

**Amir, Erdogan stress diplomatic solution for Iran-Israel dispute**

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with President of the Republic of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan the relations between the two countries, in addition to a number of regional and international developments of common concern, particularly

those related to the Israeli attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran. This came during a phone call His Highness the Amir received yesterday from President Erdogan. In this regard, the two sides stressed the need to de-escalate and reach diplomatic solutions. **(QNA)**

**South Pars production normal, focus on de-escalation: Qatar**

Qatar has rejected the new series of escalations in the region and condemned the Israeli attack on Iran.

“All countries have expressed their desire to de-escalate and maintain peace and stability in the region,” Dr Majid al-Ansari, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said at the weekly briefing of the ministry yesterday.

Qatar’s gas production at the South Pars natural gas field is steady and supply is proceeding normally, he said.

Qatar has been working with its international partners, in particular the US, to reach a deal to avoid further reckless targeting of Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Any attempt to undermine the stability of the region would negatively impact global trade and energy supply, he said.

However, he stressed that the situation so far is safe and entities in Qatar are constantly monitoring the radiation levels in

the waters, which is so far normal.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has been working to bring peace through mediation by maintaining regular contacts with world leaders, in particular, the President of Iran, President Donald Trump, and the Amir of Kuwait, the Prime Minister of Iraq, and the Prime Minister of Italy and others, he said.

President Trump has expressed his desire for a peaceful deal with Iran and stop any further escalation, praising the effective role of Qatari mediation.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani is also talking to world leaders in this regard.

He said Qatar is very keen to maintain the security, safety and well-being of all people living and working in the country. Regarding the situation in Gaza, he said Israel should immediately allow the entry of aid to the Strip. **Page 2**

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Amir sends cables of congratulations to president of Iceland

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Iceland's President Halla Tomasdottir on the anniversary of the establishment of the republic. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Kristrunn Frostadottir. **(QNA)**

PM, EU's Kallas discuss Israeli attack on Iran

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received yesterday a phone call from High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas. The call discussed co-operation between Qatar and the EU, in addition to the latest developments in the region, particularly the Israeli attack on Iran. In this context, HE Sheikh Mohammed 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 war. He also emphasised the gravity of Israel's targeting of economic facilities in Iran, warning of its disastrous regional and international repercussions, particularly for the stability of energy supplies. He 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. **(QNA)**

Qatar strongly condemns attack on Yelewata Village in Nigeria

Qatar has strongly condemned and denounced the attack that targeted the village of Yelewata in Benue State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, which resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's stance rejecting violence, terrorism, and criminal acts, regardless of the motives and reasons. The ministry voiced Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims, and to the government and people of Nigeria, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. **(QNA)**

Al-Misnad meets UNRWA official, Egypt's envoy



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with the visiting Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Philippe Lazzarini. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between Qatar and the UNRWA and ways to support and enhance them. They also discussed the developments in the region, in addition to a number of topics of common concern. HE the Director of International Organisations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hanouf bint Abdulrahman al-Thani attended the meeting.

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with Egyptian ambassador Amr El Sherbini. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and enhance them. They also discussed the developments in the region, in addition to topics of common concern. **(QNA)**



QFFD, UNRWA sign deal to support agency's resources



Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) signed yesterday an agreement to support UNRWA's resources for 2025-2026 with an amount of \$20mn, at a rate of \$10mn annually. The signing ceremony was attended by HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, HE the Chairperson of the QFFD Sheikh Thani bin Hamad al-Thani, Director General of the QFFD Fahad al-Sulaiti, and Commissioner-General of the UNRWA Philippe Lazzarini. Qatar has contributed to strengthening UNRWA's regular supplies over the past years by providing support in the amount of \$18mn over two years between 2023 and 2024, in addition to its additional (non-regular/regular) contribution of \$20mn in 2024 to urgently respond to the agency's needs, following the decline in international support for its work. **(QNA)**

Minister of Environment and Climate Change meets envoys of Kuwait, Spain



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie yesterday met the ambassadors of Kuwait and Spain. The meeting with Kuwait ambassador Khaled Badr al-Mutairi came on the occasion of the end of his tenure in the country, according to a statement from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. HE the Minister expressed his thanks and appreciation to the ambassador for his sincere efforts in supporting and strengthening the fraternal relations between Qatar and Kuwait in various fields while wishing him continued success in his future assignments. The meeting with Spanish ambassador Alvaro Renedo Zalba addressed ways to enhance bilateral co-operation and exchange expertise in environmental fields. It also discussed climate change issues and the importance of combating them to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development.



‘Qatar working round-the clock to de-escalate regional tension’

By Ayman Adly  
Staff Reporter

Qatar has expressed its worries and rejection of the new series of escalations in the region as all countries have expressed their desire to de-escalate the situation to maintain regional and international peace and stability, pointed out Dr Majid al-Ansari, official spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) at the weekly briefing yesterday.

He stated that all countries across the world want to stop the escalation in this ongoing exchange of attacks between Israel and Iran but Israel insists on continuing such dangerous escalations. The situation cannot accommodate more escalations.

Besides, Qatar has been working with all international partners and parties and entities concerned, in particular the US, to reach a settlement to avoid such reckless targeting of the nuclear facilities in Iran that could have its negative impacts on the energy supplies in the GCC region and the regional waters and trade routes for energy and fertiliser supplies.

Dr al-Ansari noted that this region supplies 30% of the world energy supplies and fertilisers and 20% of LNG needs. Accordingly, any attempts to undermine the stability and security of the region would have its impacts on the global trade and energy supply. He stressed that the situation so far is safe and stable in the GCC and Qatar regional waters is safe and stable and the entities concerned in Qatar are constantly monitoring the levels of radiation in the waters, which is so far normal and safe. Besides, work is going on normal at the oil and gas fields in-



Dr Majid al-Ansari during the media briefing yesterday.

cluding off-shore ones and the navigation routes in Strait of Hormuz are as usual.

Qatar's peace and mediation efforts are going on to reach a peace settlement as soon as possible with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani communicating with world leaders, in particular, the President of Iran, the US President Donald Trump, the Amir of Kuwait, the Prime Minister of Iraq, and the Prime Minister of Italy and others to support the peace efforts in the region. Further, President Trump expressed his desire to reach a peaceful deal with Iran and stop any further escalations praising the effective role of Qatari mediation.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has made various communications with high-level world officials, including the foreign ministers of Iran, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Italy, Spain, the UK, Greece, Canada and other top-level officials around the world to promote peace talks and avoid any further escalations of the conflict between Iran and Israel.

Dr al-Ansari stressed the Qatari official communications and contacts are going on daily and all the efforts are being exerted to calm the situation as continuing such esca-

lations would have its negative impacts on the whole world. He also explained that Qatar is very keen to maintain the security, safety and well-being of all people living and working in the country, as the North Field Project has thousands of citizens from more than 80 countries working for various international companies affiliated with different countries.

He said: "Our facilities are safe and secured, as there is no sign that there are any risks to our daily operations but we are concerned about the safety and security of the international community around the world."

Asked about emergency plans, Dr al-Ansari stressed that Qatar has plans for every possible scenario and the country has an excellent record and experience in handling and overcoming every crisis. The water of the Arabian Gulf is being monitored on daily basis and all is safe and clean. Yet any expansion of these hostile attacks and reckless actions could have its possible unpredictable ramifications of negative impacts.

Regarding the situation in Gaza, the official spokesperson of MoFA stressed there is no way to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Gaza but to make Israel immediately allow the flow of aid supplies. He also expressed Qatar's worries about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, stressing there is a need for more international pressure on Israel to allow unconditional safe passage for the aid supplies. Qatar is in contact with all the international entities concerned to deliver the aid to the affected people.

Regarding the ongoing efforts to unite the Ukrainian and Russian children with their respective families, Dr al-Ansari said Qatar is still working with both parties separately to reach good outcomes.

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Chairman & Managing Director

# INDIA STANDS RESOLUTE

**L&T participates in national resurgence - strengthening security, driving progress and boosting inclusive growth.**

*Dear Shareholders,*

I am addressing you at a time when there is a groundswell of sentiment across the country bolstering the nation's sovereignty, security and strength. As a company that wears its India colours with pride, we now reaffirm our collective resolve to advance our country's interests. Yesterday, today and for all the tomorrows to come, we are here to ensure that the *Tiranga* flies high.

The year under review has been transformative — not just for your Company, but for the global landscape. Geopolitical realignments, rapid strides in emerging technologies, climate challenges and disruptions in global supply chains have all reshaped the way businesses operate.

Amidst this macroeconomic environment, I am pleased to report that your Company has delivered a standout performance. We have accelerated digital adoption across business verticals, strengthened project execution capabilities, and enhanced customer value through smarter, more sustainable solutions. With a robust order book, an evolving pipeline of opportunities, and a purpose-led approach to sustainable infrastructure and development, L&T is well positioned to lead in a fast-changing world.

## 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | JUNE 17, 2025

### Growth with a Difference

Your Company is closely monitoring the global economic landscape, especially given that a substantial part of our Group's business originates outside India. We remain optimistic about the Middle East, which continues to invest significantly in both physical and digital infrastructure while monetising its oil and gas assets. This confidence is reinforced by the consistent inflow of orders from the region.



New Age Airport Being Built at Panvel, Navi Mumbai

Domestically, we anticipate that the Government of India will maintain strong budgetary support for infrastructure development, recognising its multiplier effect on economic growth. Encouragingly, we are witnessing increased private capital investment in emerging sectors such as energy transition, data centers, electronics and semiconductors, as well as in traditional industries like healthcare and real estate.

Our record-high order book ensures revenue visibility over multiple quarters. Guided by core values of transparency, integrity, professionalism, governance and accountability, your Company remains committed to inclusive growth.

### Group Businesses



Transforming Rail Travel with India's Bullet Train Project

#### 1. Infrastructure

Your Company's capability in delivering large-scale, complex EPC projects remains unmatched.

Milestones:

- Inauguration of Mumbai Metro Line 3 Package 7 and the Riyadh Metro
- A major breakthrough in India's longest railway tunnel under RVNL Package 4, carved through challenging Himalayan terrain
- Successfully commissioned the 1.6 GW AC Sudair Solar PV project in Saudi Arabia
- Achieved completion of the 1.4 GW AC Al Kahfah Solar PV project and 2 GW AC Ar Rass 2 Solar PV Project in Saudi Arabia
- Inauguration of National Cricket Academy, Bengaluru and GMCHs in Jamshedpur and Jajpur
- Over two million people benefitted from the commissioning of 10 water supply projects

#### 2. Energy

Your Company is at the forefront of the global energy transition, with decarbonisation embedded in its strategic roadmap.

Key Achievements:

- Commissioned the 9.0 MMTPA Crude & Vacuum Distillation Unit of HPCL Visakhapatnam Refinery
- Completion of First Offshore Decommissioning Project in Tapti Gas Fields
- The Company secured its largest ever order from an offshore project in the Middle East



Setting Global Benchmarks: Hasbah-II Offshore Project, KSA



Delivering the Decisive Edge — K-9 Vajra-T Tracked Howitzer

#### 3. Hi-Tech Manufacturing

Heavy Engineering Division continues to be a global leader in engineered-to-order equipment, buoyed by renewed investments in the oil & gas sector and underpinned by advanced Industry 4.0 practices.

The Precision Engineering & Systems Division is capitalising on the Government of India's localisation drive and exploring commercial applications of its core capabilities.

Key Achievements:

- On-time delivery of the world's heaviest EO, Hydrotreating and HP-HX reactors
- Record-breaking order from Saudi Arabia for over 100 Filter Vessels
- Strong contributions to the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiative with:
  - Development of Next Gen Helo Harnessing and Traversing system for 11 naval ships
  - Progress on fleet support ships and a Light Tank prototype co-developed with DRDO

#### 4. Services (IT, Engineering, Digital and Financial)

Your Company's listed services businesses remain focused on long-term value creation.

- LTIMindtree:** India's 6<sup>th</sup> largest IT firm, enabling digital transformation and innovation-led growth for enterprises globally
- L&T Technology Services:** A leader in Engineering R&D, now operating in over 25 countries
- L&T Finance:** A technology-driven NBFC with a domestic 'AAA' rating and a 97% retailised loan book

#### 5. New-age Businesses

- L&T-SuFin:** A B2B digital marketplace that streamlines procurement, supply chains, logistics and financing
- L&T-Cloudfiniti:** 32 MW of existing data center capacity with additional capacity in the pipeline
- L&T Semiconductor Technologies:** Aiming to be India's first fabless semiconductor firm
- L&T EduTech:** Bridging industry-academia gaps with digital skilling solutions



5G Centre to Power Tomorrow's Services

### Group Performance Review

Shareholder value creation remains a key priority through the strategic divestment of non-core assets, realisation of cost efficiencies, adoption of technology to enhance productivity and focused capital allocation towards energy transition initiatives, as well as emerging businesses and digital platforms.

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of ₹ 34/- per share for FY 2024–25.

### Group Performance Overview FY 2024-25



**Order Inflow**  
₹ 3,56,631 crore (up 18%)



**Order Book**  
₹ 5,79,137 crore (up 22%)



**Revenue**  
₹ 2,55,734 crore (up 16%)



**EBITDA**  
₹ 26,435 crore (up 13%)



**PAT**  
₹ 15,037 crore (up 15%)

### New Age Solutions

#### (a) Digital and AI Transformation

Your Company has been a frontrunner in adopting and integrating technology, beginning with automation and progressing to Industrial IoT, well ahead of the broader digital transformation trend.

#### (b) Building Climate Resilience and Advancing the Green Business Agenda

The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events have elevated the risks of asset damage and service disruptions. Your Company is uniquely positioned to meet the rising demand for disaster-resilient infrastructure, backed by deep expertise in Clean Energy, Clean Mobility, Water and Sanitation, Green Infrastructure, and other sustainability-linked domains.



India's Largest Floating Solar Project, Madhya Pradesh

L&T has taken bold strides into emerging clean energy segments, particularly in Green Hydrogen and its derivatives, as well as the development of Small Modular Reactors. Electrolyser manufacturing is already underway, reinforcing our early-mover advantage in the Green Hydrogen space.

#### (c) Sustainability: Building 'A Better World'

Your Company's sustainability agenda is firmly anchored in its vision 'For A Better World', encompassing a broad spectrum of initiatives across Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. The Company remains steadfast in its commitment to water stewardship, circular economy, green supply chains, biodiversity preservation, employee welfare and community development.

In line with its long-term environmental goals, your Company has pledged to achieve Water Neutrality by 2035 and Carbon Neutrality by 2040.

### Key Developments

#### Ratings Upgrade

Global rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Fitch assigned a 'BBB+' credit rating with a Stable Outlook, positioning the Company two notches above India's sovereign rating.

#### People Powering Progress

L&T's continued success is driven by its people. By consistently attracting top talent, promoting continuous learning and self-development and nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset, the Company has cultivated a culture of innovation — reflected in the many breakthrough solutions L&T is known for today.

Employees benefit from a rich ecosystem of online learning platforms that supplement conventional classroom training with flexible, self-paced development opportunities. This year, 7.95 lakh learning hours were logged.

A culture of recognition and celebration continues to fuel high performance, foster healthy competition, and reinforce mutual respect among teams. This employee-centric approach has once again earned the Company the prestigious 'Great Place to Work' certification for the second consecutive year, reaffirming L&T's position as an employer of choice.

#### Creating Safer Workplaces

Safety remains a top priority, driven by the 'Mission Zero Harm' philosophy and the 'L.I.F.E.' (Live Injury-Free Everyday) framework. Safety capabilities have been significantly strengthened through enhanced supervision, regular safety briefings and extensive training, leveraging AR/VR technologies.

#### Driving Inclusion Through Transformation

With a strong commitment to creating an inclusive work environment, your Company continues to invest in career-enabling initiatives and women-centric infrastructure. These efforts have placed it on track to achieve the 'Lakshya' goal of 10% women representation by 2026. As of March 31, 2025, the number of permanent female employees stood at 4,758, accounting for 9.06% of the total workforce.

In a pioneering industry-first initiative, your Company has introduced one day of paid menstrual leave per month for women employees, effective April 1, 2025. This progressive step reflects the Company's empathetic approach to employee well-being, acknowledging and supporting the unique health needs of women at the workplace.

#### Giving Back to Society

Your Company remains committed to inclusive growth and building long-term, trust-based relationships with all stakeholders. Through CSR interventions in healthcare, education, skill development and water & sanitation, L&T positively impacted the lives of 1.9 million people during the year.

Since 2014, L&T's *Unnati* watershed development programme has adopted an integrated approach in ecologically sensitive districts of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The programme has treated 44,856 hectares of land and benefitted 30,092 households.



Creating Tomorrow's Scientists through STEM Education Programmes

The *Jyoti* STEM Education Programme bridges foundational learning gaps in grades 6–8 across government schools in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra by equipping classrooms with digital tools, robotics kits, space learning aids and edu-reels. In FY 2024–25, 314 schools and 52,924 students benefitted from the programme.

#### Governance and Ethics

The Company remains steadfast in its commitment to the highest standards of ethics, transparency and accountability across all its operations.

I express my gratitude to our employees, customers, supply chain partners and the Government for their continued support and contribution to our journey. I am also thankful to my fellow Board members for their guidance and commitment.

A special word of thanks to our shareholders — your enduring trust is our greatest strength. We look forward to your continued support as we strive for higher benchmarks of excellence and sustainable growth.

**JAI HIND**

This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of Larsen & Toubro Limited held on June 17, 2025. (CMD Photo Credit: Narendra Bisht, Fortune India)

For the Chairman's Statement, please visit [investors.larsentoubro.com](https://investors.larsentoubro.com)



# Qatar calls for diplomatic efforts to address Iranian nuclear issues

**QNA**  
Vienna

Qatar has called for calm, de-escalation, exercising maximum self-restraint, and carrying on with negotiations to reach a diplomatic solution to the issues pertaining to the Iranian nuclear programme.

Qatar added that facts have shown that there is no alternative to dialogue and diplomacy to ensure peace and stability and to spare the region and the world further catastrophes. This came in a statement delivered by Qatar's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN and international organisations in Vienna HE Jassim bin Yacoub al-Hammadi at the emergency meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Board of Govern-

nors in Vienna. He urged the IAEA director-general to engage with the Iranian side to facilitate technical discussions and diplomatic solutions to the nuclear issues concerning Iran. He also reiterated Qatar's strong condemnation and deep denunciation of the Israeli attack on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, calling on the international community to assume its legal and moral responsibility to urgently stop such violations.

The ambassador stressed Qatar's rejection of the use of force outside the framework of the UN Charter, pointing out that Israel's claim that its attack on Iran was a preemptive act of self-defence lacks any legal basis.

He added that respecting state sovereignty and banning the use of force without UN Security Council authorisation or in self-defence

## Minister holds phone call with IAEA director-general

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi held a phone call yesterday with Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi. During the call, they discussed the latest developments related to the recent Israeli attacks on nuclear facilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as means to enhance the security of nuclear installations and ensure they are not exposed to any threats that could undermine regional and international security. HE Dr al-Khulaifi pointed out during the call that targeting nuclear facilities constitutes a serious threat to regional and international peace and security, stressing that Qatar is making strenuous efforts with its partners to return all parties to the path of dialogue to address outstanding issues and consolidate security and peace in the region and the world. He reiterated Qatar's strong condemnation of the Israeli attack on Iranian territory, describing it as a blatant violation of Iran's sovereignty and security and a clear breach of the rules and principles of international law. **(QNA)**

under Article 51 of the Charter are peremptory norms in international law and the UN Charter.

He said that the international

community and the UN Security Council under its mandate, must firmly uphold these principles and prevent their violation, as doing

otherwise creates chaos in international relations and leads to the law of the jungle. He also noted that an armed attack on nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards is a condemned act, potentially causing wide-scale harm to people and the environment, with serious implications for nuclear safety and security.

HE al-Hammadi praised IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi's statement before the UN Security Council on June 13, in which he reaffirmed the IAEA General Conference's resolutions stating: "Any armed attack on and threat against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitutes a violation of the principles of the UN Charter, international law and the Statute of the Agency," and stating: "An armed attack on a nuclear installation could result in radioactive releases with grave



consequences within and beyond the boundaries of the State which has been attacked."

## Qatar condemns Israeli attacks on Iran as gross violations of international law

**QNA**  
Geneva

Qatar reaffirmed that the attacks and assaults carried out by Israeli occupation forces against Iran represent a blatant violation of state sovereignty, a serious breach of international law and the UN Charter, and pose a grave threat to regional and international peace and security. Qatar also renewed its strong condemnation of these attacks.

This statement was delivered by HE Qatar's Permanent Representative to Geneva, Dr Hind Abdulrahman al-Muftah, during her participation in the interactive dialogue on the Annual Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Agenda Item 2, as part of the 59th session of the Human Rights Council. She em-



phasised that the ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza resulted in heinous crimes, severe violations, death, destruction, displacement, forced starvation, and a genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people unlike anything seen in modern history. She stressed that this demands serious and effective international action to halt

the aggression, protect the Palestinian people, hold all perpetrators accountable for violations and crimes committed, and ensure the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

She welcomed the positive steps Syria has taken toward national

reconciliation and building a state governed by law and institutions, which reflects a clear commitment to restoring security and stability and protecting the human rights of the Syrian people.

She also praised the lifting of economic sanctions on Syria, noting that this move will help the Syrian people and enable their transition toward stability and prosperity.

Furthermore, she affirmed Qatar's solidarity with the brotherly Sudanese people during this critical historic moment, renewing its call to end the fighting, protect civilians, and halt all violations against them.

She also reiterated Qatar's appeal to the international community to intensify efforts and provide increased humanitarian support to meet the growing needs of the Sudanese people. **(QNA)**



## Qatar participates in ITU council meeting

Qatar, represented by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), is participating as an observer in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council 2025 meetings, held in Geneva from June 17-27. The Qatari delegation will be led by Eng Ahmad Abdulla AlMuslemani, President of CRA and Chair-Designate of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26).

Through its participation, CRA will closely follow key agenda items of strategic importance to the global ICT community, particularly those concerning policy development, human capital, financial oversight, and budgetary planning. Active engagement in these discussions ensures that CRA remains aligned with international ICT trends and contributes to shaping future regulatory frameworks in line with Qatar's national priorities.

As part of the Council Meeting, CRA will deliver a detailed presentation outlining Qatar's preparedness to host the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) in Doha in November 2026. This flagship event, the highest governing body of the ITU, sets the Union's strategic vision and plays a pivotal role in guiding global telecommunications and ICT development. CRA will also host a dedicated pavilion showcasing interactive content to offer attendees an immersive experience of Qatar's rich cultural heritage and digital advancements.

The ITU Council plays a central role in steering the Union's strategic direction, ensuring agility in responding to the rapid evolution of the global ICT landscape. It is tasked with supervising the day-to-day functions of the ITU, including programme co-ordination, budget approval, and policy evaluation. **(QNA)**

### Qatar slams Israel's genocidal campaign in Palestine; seeks full restoration of rights

Qatar has said that impunity and lack of accountability have encouraged Israel to continue committing further violations and crimes against Palestinians.

It called on the international community to take the necessary measures to stop these crimes, ensure accountability for those responsible, and compel Israel, the occupying power, to comply with international law and ensure the restoration of all the in-

alienable rights of the Palestinian people, in particular the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and fully sovereign State of Palestine on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

This came in a statement delivered by Qatar's Permanent Representative in Geneva HE Dr Hind Abdulrahman al-Muftah, during her participation in the interactive dialogue with

the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, Item 2, within the framework of the 59th session of the Human Rights Council.

She said that the report cited the seizure, theft, and destruction of Palestinian Islamic and Christian cultural and religious sites by the Israeli occupation forces and Israeli settlers, and the deliberate and unjustified targeting of educational facilities, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as well as UNRWA schools, despite being regularly informed of the co-ordinates of these schools and the lack of any evidence of military targets in these facilities.

She said that these actions were a heinous crime and a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. **(QNA)**

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She said that these actions were a heinous crime and a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. **(QNA)**

## In brief

### Speaker of Slovak parliament meets Qatar's ambassador

Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Richard Rasi, met yesterday with the non-resident ambassador of the State of Qatar to Slovakia, Jassim Yaqub al-Hammadi. The meeting reviewed bilateral co-operation between the two countries. **(QNA)**

### Qatar sponsors 48th Telders International Law Moot Court Competition in The Hague

Qatar contributed to the 48th edition of the Telders International Law Moot Court Competition 2025, held at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, in partnership with Leiden University. The final round was attended by prominent legal and diplomatic figures, including a group of judges from the ICJ. Qatar's contribution reflects its commitment to supporting international law, raising students' awareness of global legal issues, and fostering the development of young legal talents in this field. **(QNA)**



## INVITATION TO TENDER

Doha Golf Club is pleased to announce the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender Title	Tender Bond (QAR)	Tender Fee (QAR)	Last Date to Issue RFP	Tender Closing Date	Email Address
DGC/TC/ 25/006	Medical & Life Insurance	5% of RFP Value	QAR 2000	26th June 2025	6th July 2025	<b>Doha Golf Club</b> To: zaib@dohagolfclub.com <b>Aon Qatar LLC</b> CC: Zeina.najjar@aon.com.qa shajid.areekkadan@aon.com.qa

DGC is keen to invite reputable companies to Tender for Medical & Life Insurance for Doha Golf Club through the appointed broker; Aon Qatar LLC.

#### Who should respond to this invitation?

Local companies that have relevant experience in aforementioned insurances.

#### Tender Process:

- Applicant/s should register and submit their Expression of Interest letter, along with accompanying copy of valid Commercial Registration and Computer Card by email to the relevant email address listed in the table above.
- Upon receipt, the applicant/s will receive an email with the attached Confidentiality Agreement (CA).
- The Applicant/s should then pay the non-refundable tender fee to below DGC Bank Account.

#### DOHA GOLF CLUB

Bank: Commercial Bank of Qatar  
Account No.: 4580-583247-004

IBAN: QA24CBQA000000004580583247004

- Applicants will return a completed CA and Tender fee payment slip with bank stamp to DGC by email to the relevant email address, and submit a hard copy of the CA (in 2 copies) and Tender fee payment slip to the address below:

#### DOHA GOLF CLUB

West Bay Lagoon  
P.O. Box 13530  
Doha, Qatar

- Upon Receipt of a conformant CA and proof of payment of the tender fee, the applicant will be issued a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) through the appointed broker, Aon Qatar LLC.
- Requests for RFP documents after **26th June 2025** will be rejected.
- The decision to issue RFP documents to an applicant rests solely with DGC.
- Technical and Commercial Offers should be submitted by hand in separate sealed envelopes with two (2) copies of each to Doha Golf Club as per the above mail address.
- Tender Bond must be included in a separately sealed envelope and submitted along with technical and commercial offers, otherwise Doha Golf Club will not consider documents for further review.
- Any queries in relation to this tender should be addressed in writing to the email addresses above.



### Tender - Waseef

Waseef Asset Management (Waseef) would like to invite competent Service Providers for the below Open Tender:

Tender Number	Subject	Bid Bond (QAR)	Non-refundable Tender Fee (QAR)	Bid Submission Closing Date
GTC/WSF/AFD/CS/43/2025	APPOINTING SPECIALIZED CONSULTANT TO OFFER OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS AND PROPOSE AN ENHANCED DESIGN CALCULATIONS AND DRAWINGS OF THE SEWAGE LIFTING STATION IN BARWA AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT	10,000	500	July 16, 2025

The Tender Document will be available from June 18, 2025 onwards upon submission of the below documentation to [tender@waseef.qa](mailto:tender@waseef.qa).

#### To collect please provide the following:

- Authorization Letter on Company letterhead, copy of Commercial Registration and valid Identification of the representative.
- Bank deposit slip carrying tender number and subject details. Tender fee shall be deposited to Account Name - Waseef Asset Management Co., Account Number 0002-105222-200 with Masraf Al Rayan Bank.

#### Please note the following:

- Bidders should submit a bid bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date.
- Technical and Commercial offers must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes and delivered to the below-mentioned address:

GTC Secretary, 10th floor, Waseef Head Office, Al Owaina Tower, Old Salata, Museum Park Street, Doha, Qatar.



LET US MANAGE YOUR WORLD





# Ooredoo sponsors Autism Parents Platform

Ooredoo Qatar is the official telecom sponsor of the Autism Parents Platform, which recently held its official opening at The Pearl Island, marking a significant milestone in enhancing support services for the autism community in Qatar.

Autism Parents Platform is committed to raising awareness and delivering essential programmes for individuals with autism and their families. The centre provides a dedicated environment for learning, engagement, and community connection, designed to meet the needs of its members.

Through this sponsorship, Ooredoo reaffirms its dedication to corporate social

responsibility and its ongoing support for initiatives that foster awareness, inclusion, and compassion.

Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, senior director of Marketing Communications at Ooredoo Qatar, said: "Sponsoring the Autism Parents Platform reinforces our continued efforts to serve the communities around us and help create a more inclusive society."

Hamda al-Hitmi, founder of Autism Parents Platform, added: "We take pride in this partnership with Ooredoo, which exemplifies the power of private sector engagement in community initiatives, paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable future."



# Arab Souq to open soon at City Center Doha

By Santhosh V Perumal  
Business Reporter

City Center Doha, which has been witnessing exponential surge in footfall ever since the footbridge connecting to DECC metro station became a reality, will soon house Arab Souq, according to a top official of Aamal Company.

"It is expected to feature a diverse range of stores, reflecting Arab culture, along with local products, enhancing the overall visitor experience," Aamal Company vice-chairman and managing director Sheikh Mohamed bin Faisal al-Thani told a recent meeting with media.

"The Arab Souq will add a distinctive cultural and commercial touch to the mall. The recent opening of the pedestrian bridge connecting the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre metro station directly to City Center Doha has had positive impact by increasing the footfall in the mall," he said.

It was in November 2024 that City Center Doha celebrated the official inauguration of its newly-built pedestrian bridge which directly connects it to the DECC Station located on the Doha Metro's Red Line. The bridge has state-of-the-art design and advanced features, including escalators, an elevator, and a fully air-conditioned passageway.



Sheikh Mohamed bin Faisal al-Thani, Aamal Company vice-chairman and managing director.

City Center Doha continued to see robust revenue growth owing to strong leasing and occupancy rates with the addition of new tenants and periodic increases in the financial terms of existing leases, according to Aamal Company's annual report for 2024.

City Center welcomed more than 30 new shops and kiosks totalling over 4,000sqm of leasable space. This further enhanced the retail experience while the addition of tenants including Sephora, Letoile and Steve Madden underscore the property's sustained attractiveness amongst leading global brands during 2024.

Despite increasing competition, City Center Doha has

maintained its leading position in the market, thanks to Aamal's continuous commitment to development to meet visitors' expectations and overall sector advancements, Sheikh Mohammed said.

City Center Doha is a landmark within Qatar's retail landscape, offering a diverse selection of internationally renowned, regional, and local retail brands across its five expansive floors.

As a prime shopping destination, its family-oriented offerings include a 14-screen cinema complex showcasing the latest blockbusters, an extensive selection of over 38 restaurants serving up culinary delights, and a comprehensive family entertainment centre catering to visitors of all ages.

Aamal's real estate portfolio also includes residential compounds and buildings in prime Doha areas such as West Bay Lagoon, Al Messila, and Al Markhiya. New developments in Lusail and Al Wakra are under review to capitalise on Qatar's urban expansion.

"We consistently undertake refurbishment and occupancy rates across all our properties currently stand at 95%," Sheikh Mohammed said.

Both Aamal Real Estate and City Center Doha maintained high occupancy rates, reflecting consistent demand for premium residential and commercial offerings.

# QF integrates chess into schools to foster strategic thinking

Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education, in collaboration with the Qatar Chess Federation, organised the Qatar Foundation Schools Chess Tournament with the aim of integrating chess into the educational activities of its schools.

As part of a strategic partnership, a series of initiatives led to the establishment of 11 chess clubs across QF schools, providing students with regular opportunities for training and practice, and contributing to the development of their strategic thinking, focus, and self-discipline.

Abdulla Shaheen al-Kaabi, head of Sports Affairs at QF's Pre-University Education, said: "The agreement signed in this context is not merely a temporary collaboration, but a strategic initiative aimed at strengthening the presence of chess in the educational environment.

"Our goal is to identify talented students who can be nurtured to represent Qatar in international competitions, contributing to the advancement of sports in the country."

Al-Kaabi explained that the integration of chess into QF schools began with training certified teacher-coaches and providing the necessary equipment. This led to dedicated lessons, internal tournaments, a major competition during Qatar's 2025 National Sport Day, and, ultimately, the Qatar Foundation Schools Championship.

"We believe that chess plays a significant role in shaping stu-



dents' character, which is why we aim to expand its presence to as many schools as possible," he noted.

"Chess is not just a game, it is a powerful tool for developing critical thinking, decision-making, and effective planning skills, all of which have a direct impact on students' academic performance and success."

He pointed out that sports activities, particularly chess tournaments, have had a clear impact on promoting positive behaviour among students by reinforcing values such as co-operation, mutual respect, and good sportsmanship.

"Through these activities, we strive to build a balanced educational environment that supports students' academic, personal, and skill development," he explained. "We also aim to instil values such as patience, resili-

ence, and self-confidence, key elements in shaping future leaders capable of making effective decisions."

Jassim Nawaf Zainal, an eight-year-old student at Academyti, part of QF's Pre-University Education, said: "I joined the chess tournament because I really love the game. My journey started when I watched instructional videos online, and I kept learning until I mastered the rules.

Munira Ali al-Mohannadi, a nine-year-old student at Qatar Academy Doha, part of QF's Pre-University Education, expressed her happiness about participating, saying: "Even though I lost a few rounds in the tournament, I won't stop playing because I really enjoy chess. I've learned how to plan and think before I make a move, and that made me love the game even more."

# QU's CBE achieves advanced level globally

The College of Business and Economics (CBE) at Qatar University (QU) has been recognised for its societal impact and commitment to sustainability as part of the sixth edition of the Positive Impact Rating (PIR), launched on June 10, 2025, at the PIR Global Summit 2025 and acknowledged during the UN PRME Global Forum.

The CBE at QU is one of the 86 business schools from 30 countries participating in this year's edition, which saw a record engagement of 17,167 student responses, a 13% increase from the previous year. The school achieved Level 4/5, making it a transforming institution within the PIR framework.

The PIR is a global, student- and faculty-centred initiative that assesses business schools' dedication to sustainability and ethical practices. This year's survey evaluated 86 leading business schools across 30 countries, reflecting students' recognition of their schools' contributions to social and environmental impact.

Participants evaluated how the college addresses societal and sustainability challenges and how well



it prepares its students to become responsible leaders. The data collection was organised and led by student representatives who distributed the survey to the college students.


By participating in PIR 2025, business schools demonstrate their commitment to transparency and to listening to the voice of their key stakeholders. Prof Rana Sobh, Dean of the CBE, commented, "This recognition reflects our commitment to developing responsible leaders and creating sustainable impact through business education."

The PIR uses 20 questions grouped into seven dimensions across three overarching areas: Energising, Educating, and Engaging. These results place schools into one of five levels, three of which are published: Level 3 (Pro-

gressing), Level 4 (Transforming), and Level 5 (Pioneering).

Prof Thomas Dyllick, PIR founder and member of the supervisory board, said: "While future students now have an alternative source to select their business school, schools refer to the PIR primarily to measure and communicate their transformational progress. The voice of the student has become a true source of value."

The PIR was initiated by a coalition of business school experts and international NGOs such as WWF, Oxfam, and UN Global Compact and is supported by student organisations including oikos, AIESEC, and Net Impact. It is also backed by VIVA Idea (Costa Rica), the Institute for Business Sustainability Foundation, and FehrAdvice (Switzerland).



### Invitation to participate in Barwa Tender

Barwa Real Estate Company wishes to invite capable and competent companies to participate in the tender described below:

Tender Reference	Tender Description	Tender Bond	Non-refundable Tender Fees	Closing Date
BRE/RFP/GAM/10157/2025	Providing consultancy and design services for projects in Barwa District Cooling Plant	QAR 35,000	QAR 200	7 July 2024 12.00 p.m.

To receive the tender documents, a copy of the tender fee deposit slip and valid commercial registration of the bidder must be forwarded to the following email address: [Tender@barwa.com.qa](mailto:Tender@barwa.com.qa)




To pay the tender fee, it should be deposited into the following account:

**Beneficiary : Barwa Real Estate Company**  
**Bank Name : Dukhan Bank, Main Branch, Doha – Qatar**  
**Account No. : 200000008022**  
**IBAN Number : QA04BRWA000000000200000008022**

No offers submitted beyond the closing date will be considered

Tender bids to be submitted to:

**Director of Corporate Procurement and Contracts**  
**Barwa Real Estate Company**  
**Barwa Al-Sadd Towers – Tower 1 – 12<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**P.O Box: 27777 Doha-Qatar**





# CCQ receives institutional accreditation from NCQAA

The National Committee for Qualifications and Academic Accreditation (NCQAA) has granted institutional accreditation to the Community College of Qatar (CCQ), making it the first national higher education institution in the country to receive such recognition.

During a press conference held yesterday in the presence of HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, NCQAA Chairperson Dr

Mazen Omar Hasnah said that this achievement marks a significant milestone in the history of higher education in Qatar, pointing to the expansion in higher education institutions that the country has been experiencing over the past 15 years, which necessitated the establishment of NCQAA; the first-of-its-kind to be responsible for granting such national accreditation internally.

Dr Hasnah noted that NCQAA has spent the past period developing institutional accreditation



standards and creating a set of models, data, and procedures to carry out this process. He said that are five main accreditation stand-

ards: the institution's mission and structure, integrity assurance, availability of institutional resources and planning, institutional effectiveness, mission fulfilment, and finally a standard regarding the institution's impact on its environment, its engagement with relevant partners, and their satisfaction with it and its performance, along with 48 sub-standards. The chairperson of NCQAA congratulated CCQ on receiving this institutional accreditation, which he emphasised is mandatory, a continuous process,

and a quality assurance mark.

Dr Hasnah said that NCQAA has set the initial institutional accreditation's validity at a maximum of five years, adding that 13 universities will undergo the institutional accreditation process next year, with the ultimate objective of including all higher education institutions in the country. President of CCQ Dr Khalid Mohamed al-Hor expressed his happiness about the College receiving this five-year accreditation, as the first national institution to do so. **(QNA)**

# Qatar among top 10 nations for competitiveness

◆ This marks the first time that Qatar has entered the top 10 in the global competitiveness ranking

The National Planning Council (NPC) has announced that Qatar has made remarkable progress in its development journey by ranking ninth globally in the 2025 Global Competitiveness Report, issued by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).

This marks the first time Qatar enters the top 10 countries in the global competitiveness ranking. This achievement reflects Qatar's well-established position in economic and administrative performance indicators and reaffirms the effectiveness of its long-term national policies in implementing the Third National Development Strategy and achieving Qatar National Vision 2030.

The council indicated in its statement that the Global Competitiveness Report assesses the performance of 67 economies across more than 330 indicators covering four main themes: economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency, and infrastructure. Qatar has made significant progress in overall ranking, rising from 11th in 2024 to 9th in 2025.

A key driver of this advancement was Qatar's leap in the business efficiency axis, from 11th place in 2024 to 5th in 2025, reflecting ongoing reforms to enhance labour market flexibility, stimulate entrepreneurship, and empower the private sector. Qatar also maintained its 7th place globally in both economic performance and government efficiency, highlighting the resilience of its fiscal policy, the efficiency of public institutions and the quality of governance, especially in light of the current global economic challenges.

In the infrastructure axis, Qatar moved up three ranks, indicating continued strategic investment in the sectors of transport, education, healthcare and digital infrastructure. Commenting on this achievement, HE the Secretary-General of the National Planning Council, Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa said: "Qatar's entry into the top ten globally in the competitiveness report is a true testament to the clarity of our strategic vision, the solidity of our institutions, and the cohesion of our national efforts. This progress underscores the country's firm commitment to building a dynamic knowledge and innovation-based economy, that offers fair and sus-

tainable opportunities for all. "We continue to implement the Third National Development Strategy in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030, while focusing on enhancing competitiveness, achieving sustainable development, and improving the quality of life for the entire population," he noted.

The report pointed out that Qatar recorded a significant improvement in several key indicators, where real GDP growth increased by 2.4%, real GDP per capita increased by 0.82%. Additionally, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded a modest 1.07% year-on-year increase, while the homicide rate dropped to 0.07 cases per 100,000 people, the lowest globally.

Moreover, Qatar ranked first globally in 14 sub-indicators in the report, including youth unemployment rate, overall unemployment rate, consumption tax rate, individual income tax rate, homicide rate, human capital from expatriate labour, use of big data and analytics, effectiveness of corporate boards, banking and financial services, credit availability, perceived need for economic and social reforms, environmental legislation, financing of technological development, and healthcare infrastructure. Qatar also ranked second in several other sub-indicators, reinforcing its leading position in various aspects of competitiveness.

This progress yields tangible benefits for individuals and businesses alike. Qatar's high ranking in global indices boosts investor confidence, generates greater levels of foreign direct investment, and expands job opportunities in developed and future-oriented sectors.

It also contributes to creating a business environment that stimulates growth and innovation and supports the diversification and long-term stability of the national economy, which is a key pillar of the Third National Development Strategy.

This advancement underscores the effectiveness of Qatar's data-driven policy approach, empowering the private sector, and instilling a governance system based on performance, transparency and innovation, ensuring Qatar's position as a regional and global leader in competitiveness and sustainable development.

It should be noted that this is Qatar's 17th consecutive participation in the Global Competitiveness Report, representing a sustained collaboration between the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) and the National Planning Council. **(QNA)**

## KMC first in Qatar to offer stem cell therapy to public



The Korean Medical Center (KMC) has officially launched Qatar's first widely accessible stem cell therapy programme, offering a groundbreaking, non-surgical treatment for early-stage joint degeneration.

While stem cell therapy has previously been available only to niche groups, this marks the first time any eligible patient can undergo live stem cell therapy in the country, a statement said yesterday.

Led by Dr Youngwoong Back, head of the Spine & Joint Center at KMC, the programme offers a minimally invasive alternative to joint replacement for patients suffering from cartilage defects, early-stage osteoarthritis, or ligament injuries.

The treatment uses live stem cells extracted from the patient's own bone marrow, injected directly into the affected joint to halt further cartilage deterioration and relieve pain.

"One of the biggest misconceptions I see is that people wait until the pain is unbearable before they seek treatment," said Dr Back. "But by then, we're often dealing with advanced, irreversible degeneration. Stem cell therapy isn't about turning back time, it's about intervening early, when the body still has the biological capacity to respond."

"By harvesting mesenchymal stem cells from the patient's own bone marrow and reinjecting them into damaged joints, we aim to halt the inflammatory cascade that leads to cartilage erosion. These cells do not rebuild cartilage from scratch, but

they create a supportive environment that promotes tissue stabilisation, reduces inflammation, alleviates pain, and slows down further degeneration. It's not a miracle – it's science applied with precision and timing. For patients in the early and middle stages, this could mean the difference between preserving years of mobility and facing inevitable surgical intervention," he added.

With over 13 years of experience, Dr Back is a Korean board-certified orthopaedic surgeon affiliated with South Korea's prestigious Asan Medical Center. He is a member of the Korean Society of Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine and has advanced his training in orthopaedic care at the Mayo Clinic (US) and across the UAE. At KMC, he now brings this expertise to Qatar, tailoring treatments to Qatar's growing demand for preventative and regenerative joint care.

What sets KMC's stem cell therapy apart is its accessibility, precision, and scientific credibility.

While the treatment is especially effective for individuals with early and middle stage joint degeneration, such as those diagnosed with Kellgren-Lawrence Grade 2 or 3, it is not restricted to them. This broad availability marks a major shift in how regenerative care is delivered in the country.

The therapy itself is a game-changer. The needle-based procedure is performed without general anaesthesia or the need for an operating room. Bone marrow is extracted from the

patient's pelvic bone, and live stem cells are reinserted into the affected joint, helping to halt cartilage breakdown. Most patients report no pain during the injection and only mild discomfort on the donor site the following morning.

Backed by scientific partnerships with EHL Bio and GC Genome, Korea's leaders in regenerative research, KMC's approach ensures that global innovation meets local care. Results speak for themselves: over 90-95% of patients with early-stage joint degeneration who underwent stem cell therapy reported significant pain relief and restored mobility within weeks.

"This is not just a medical first, it's a statement of intent," said KMC CEO Dr Fatih Mehmet Gul. "By making stem cell therapy immediately available to the public, we're setting a new benchmark for what healthcare access should look like in Qatar and the region. For too long, regenerative treatments have been confined to niche cases. KMC changes that."

"The launch of this therapy reflects our patient-centric approach above all, a commitment to meeting patient needs with meaningful access, timely intervention, and individualised care. While the science behind stem cell therapy is well established, what sets KMC apart is how we deliver it: responsibly, accessibly, and at scale. This is what modern healthcare should be, defined not just by technology, but by its relevance to the people it serves," he added.

## QRCS, OCHA launch nutrition project in Syria

With funding from the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is conducting a project in Syria to improve access to comprehensive nutrition and infant and young child feeding during emergencies. The overall objective of the project is to save lives and reduce mortality and morbidity rates among the most vulnerable groups in northwestern Syria, particularly under-five children, as well as pregnant and lactating women in conflict-affected



areas. To ensure the early detection of acute malnutrition, the project involves screening, provision of preventive nutritional supplements, and referral of severe and complicated cases to specialised

therapy centres. The project is expected to reach out to more than 212,000 direct beneficiaries in 26 villages and camps for internally displaced persons, including approximately 80,000 children and 60,000 pregnant or breastfeeding women. This includes the provision of health consultations and information on maternal and child nutrition in emergencies, treatment of moderate and severe malnutrition, and provision of reproductive health services when needed.

## Ashghal set to launch 10 drainage projects in Q4 2025

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) is set to launch multiple drainage projects across Qatar during the fourth quarter of 2025, according to the official website.

While nine projects will be implemented by the Drainage Networks Projects Department, the Drainage Network Operation and Maintenance Department will carry out one.

The projects include construction of 755/1TSE transmission main and associated works in Al Shamal area, Foul sewer GAP tunnel in Doha North, foul sewer network refurbishment for Qatar south and west, improvement of Madinat Khalifa Road, rainwater drainage in some areas of Al Thumama, roads and infrastructure in North East of Al Wakra, replacement of existing vacuum sewer system with gravity in Al Dafna and storm water flood prevention works in East Al Thumama Area.

Ashghal has listed a total of 27 projects to be launched during the period. Some of these projects will be implemented by Ashghal's Buildings Projects Department, Roads Operation and Maintenance Department and Roads Projects Department.

These projects include development and maintenance of sports facilities at the Ministry



of Sports and Youth (southern sector) package 2, construction of land transport customs buildings, construction of the expansion of the Aquatic Biology and Fish Farming Research Centre in Ras Al Matbakh, design and build the development of fire systems in accordance with civil defence requirements for 140 schools – phase 2, roads and infrastructure in Rawdat Al Hamama, roads and Infrastructure in South Wadi Lusail Natural Reserve, roads and infrastructure North of Smeisma – package 3, and roads and infrastructure North of Smeisma – package 4.

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

tures of Qatar's infrastructure over the next five years.

A wide range of development projects will be implemented as part of the five-year plan 2025-2029, which is the biggest in Ashghal's history in terms of the volume of investments and the number of projects. These projects include the development of citizens' lands through the implementation of an integrated infrastructure that takes into account the concepts of 'humanisation of cities' and focuses on improving the quality of life, in addition to constructing government buildings that serve vital sectors such as health, education, sports and culture.

Ashghal will also implement advanced sewage and rainwater drainage projects, including strategic tunnels, pumping and treatment stations, and home connections, to reduce flooding and enhance the efficiency of the national network.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **MOHAMMOD ROKON MIA**  
**MOHAMMOD MOTALABMIA**

holder of

**BANGLADESH** Passport No. **A18296125**  
**QID No. 28405010752**

hereby change my name

from

**MOHAMMOD ROKON MIA**  
**MOHAMMOD MOTALABMIA**

to

**MD ROKAN MIAH ABDUL MOTALEB**

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **MUNSIF KHAN KHAN ZARIF**

holder of

**PAKISTAN** Passport No. **FH4116384**  
**QID No. 28658606979**

hereby change my name

from

**MUNSIF KHAN KHAN ZARIF**

to

**MUNSIF KHAN MUHAMMAD ZARIF**

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



# Cyber Media Tour with AITO Concludes: Reaffirming Commitment to Global New Luxury Mobility



**A**ITO — a luxury brand in the world of high-end intelligent vehicles, successfully hosted its inaugural Cyber Media Tour in Chongqing, China. International media representatives experienced first-hand how the AITO is redefining luxury through intelligent innovation and unforgettable luxury experiences. The event showcased the acclaimed AITO 5, AITO 7, AITO 8 and AITO 9, included a tour of the state-of-the-art SERES Super Factory, and a visit to the flagship Chongqing AITO User Center.

“AITO embodies ‘Intelligence Redefining Luxury’,” said Mr. Jack Chen, Rotating President of SERES Overseas. “By merging traditional luxury with cutting-edge technologies, we’re establishing new standards. In the domestic market, the AITO brand has over 600,000 users. As of May 2025, the AITO 9 has secured the title of monthly sales champion in China’s luxury car segment priced above 500,000 RMB for 15 consecutive months. Building on this, we’re expanding globally with plans to bring AITO vehicles to overseas consumers.”

**AITO: Intelligence Redefining Luxury**

AITO stands for “Adding Intelligence to Auto”, a brand committed to redefining luxury with intelligence by combining exceptional safety and comfort, with advanced technology, including driver assistance features, smart cabin, and innovative digital services.

At the pinnacle of New Luxury, the AITO 9 stands out as the all-scenar-

io intelligent flagship SUV. The AITO 8 is positioned as a family intelligent flagship SUV, which is a versatile “mobile living space” that excels in display, comfort, and utility. The intelligent large-size comfort SUV AITO 7 combines uncompromising safety and cutting-edge intelligence. As a smart-tech mid-size sport SUV, the AITO 5 is a perfect match for young professionals.

**First-Hand Cyber Tour Experience of AITO Vehicles in Chongqing**

During the tour, participants evaluated the vehicles in three scenarios: Chongqing’s complex urban experience, Mingyue Lake product experience and professional track experiences.

In Chongqing, The vehicle’s multiple perception sensors maintained flawless situational awareness. The traffic light recognition of NCA ensured seamless intersection navigation through the complex road conditions, while adaptive speed control and intelligent lane-changing assist handled elevation changes and merges with confidence. The Advanced Valet Parking (AVP) system impressed the media by automatically navigating to previously used parking spots.

On the professional track, the media witnessed the Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) system in action, which operates from 4 to 150 km/h, and experienced how the AEB assisted the driver with an emergency brake before a potential collision at 120 km/h. Additionally, an acceleration and S-curve test showcased the 0-100 km/h acceleration

of AITO 9 in 4.9 seconds, and the intelligent chassis leveraging LiDAR and multi-camera sensors delivered instantaneous response handling through S-curves.

**SERES Super Factory: Industry-Leading Technologies and Standards**

The tour included a behind-the-scenes look at the SERES Super Factory with 3,000 collaborative robots (the highest in the industry). AITO’s standout proprietary 9,800T integrated die-casting technology ensures high integration and reliability, while the 100% automation in critical production demonstrates manufacturing excellence. AI Intelligent Inspection enables immediate quality review, and advanced robotics deliver millimeter-level assembly precision.

**Chongqing AITO User Center: High-Quality Full-Lifecycle Services**

Journalists also visited Chongqing AITO User Center, the flagship customer experience hub of SERES Group. The facility combines traditional automotive care with rich service offerings, providing comprehensive full-lifecycle services.

The Cyber Tour with AITO offered participants an immersive experience of intelligent luxury mobility. As the automotive industry ushers in a new era characterized by intelligence, innovation, AITO is poised to deliver an unparalleled product experience to global consumers—tailored to local market demands and regulatory requirements.







# Two oil tankers collide, catch fire near Strait of Hormuz

Reuters  
Dubai/Copenhagen

Two oil tankers collided and caught fire yesterday near the Strait of Hormuz, where electronic interference has surged during conflict between Iran and Israel, but there were no injuries to crew or spillage reported.

With Iran and Israel firing missiles at each other since Friday, interference has disrupted navigation systems near the vital waterway between Iran and Oman which handles about a fifth of the world's seaborne oil.

The United Arab Emirates coast

guard said it had evacuated 24 people from one of the ships, Adalynn, to the port of Khor Fakkan after the crash 24 nautical miles off its eastern coast.

Personnel on the second tanker, the Front Eagle, were reported safe with no pollution seen after a fire on its deck, according to its owner, the Oslo-listed company Frontline.

Frontline later told Reuters the incident would be investigated, but there was no suggestion of outside interference.

The Front Eagle was loaded with 2mn barrels of Iraqi crude oil and was en route to Zhoushan in China, according to monitoring

service TankerTrackers.com.

The Adalynn, a Suezmax-class tanker owned by India-based Global Shipping Holding Ltd, had no cargo and was sailing towards the Suez Canal in Egypt, the monitoring service said.

TankerTrackers.com said on X that the Front Eagle was moving southbound at a speed of 13.1 knots when it "executed a starboard (right) turn, resulting in a collision with the port quarter (aft port side)" of the Adalynn, which was proceeding southeast at 4.8 knots.

**STRATEGIC STRAIT**

The Strait of Hormuz links the Gulf to the northwest with the

Gulf of Oman to the southeast and the Arabian Sea beyond.

Between the start of 2022 and last month, roughly 17.8mn to 20.8mn barrels of crude, condensate and fuels flowed through daily, according to data from Vortexa.

The multinational, US-led Combined Maritime Force's JMIC information centre said in an advisory this week that it had received reports of electronic interference stemming from the vicinity of the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, on the north shore of the strait, and other areas in the Gulf region.

Iran has in the past threatened to close the strait to traffic in retaliation for Western pressure.

Tehran has not commented on yesterday's collision or reports of electronic interference.

There was no immediate response to a Reuters request for comment from the Emirati foreign ministry or Khor Fakkan container terminal yesterday.

Dozens of tankers have dropped anchor in major port hubs in the Gulf close to the Strait of Hormuz around Fujairah and Khor Fakkan and Sharjah on the Emirati side, ship tracking data on MarineTraffic showed yesterday.

Some shipping companies have decided to pause their voyages due to the heightened tensions, while others were awaiting

charter hires due to uncertainty, shipping sources said.

While war risk insurance costs for ships heading to Israeli ports have soared in recent days, the costs so far remain stable for voyages through the Gulf, insurance industry sources said yesterday. "Rates, for the time being, remain stable with no noticeable increases since the latest hostilities between Israel and Iran. This position could change dramatically depending on any further escalation or general conflagration in the area," David Smith, head of marine with insurance broker McGill and Partners, told Reuters.



This handout picture released by the Iranian Red Crescent yesterday shows members of their rescue teams searching the debris inside a building in Tehran, targeted by Israeli strikes.

# Tehran residents caught between fear and resolve as air war intensifies

AFP  
Tehran

As Israeli air strikes on Tehran show no sign of abating, many residents have fled the Iranian capital.

But for others, escape is not an option.

"I've heard multiple explosions near my home in western Tehran," said Mina, a 37-year-old computer scientist. "I wanted to leave, but I have several cats and I can't abandon them."

Israel launched a devastating attack on Friday that has killed at least 224 people – including women and children – leading many parts of the Iranian capital to empty out.

The assault prompted a retaliatory barrage from Iran that has killed at least 24 people in Israel, according to the Israeli prime minister's office.

Israel on Monday warned residents to leave a northern district of the capital before striking the headquarters of state television – an attack the broadcaster said killed three people.

It came two days after Israel declared it had "opened a path to Tehran" by knocking out Iran's air defenses.

But amid the ensuing exodus, those left behind are grappling with fear, shortages and a sense of defiant endurance.

Yesterday, long queues stretched outside bakeries and petrol stations – some several kilometres long – as remaining residents rushed to stock up on fuel



Smoke plumes arise from the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) corporation building in the north of Tehran after it was hit by an overnight Israeli strike, yesterday.

and basic supplies. Grocery and convenience stores stayed open, but markets and jewellery shops across the city remained closed.

Security checkpoints have been set up across Tehran, adding to the atmosphere of tension as authorities monitor movement in and out of key districts.

**SUBDUED CITYSCAPE**

Traffic in central Tehran was visibly thinner, with sporadic lines forming outside pharmacies.

Images posted online – though unverified – showed extensive damage to homes: shattered windows, collapsed facades and debris-filled living rooms.

In Tajrish Square, workers scrambled to repair a water pipeline damaged in an earlier strike, while some residents relocated temporarily to access running water.

"The regime (Israel) must await harsh punishment," read one banner in downtown Tehran, displayed alongside portraits of slain

Iranian military commanders and nuclear scientists.

Other banners quoted Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei: "The powerful hand of the Islamic Republic's armed forces will not relent against the Zionist regime."

The banners – along with headlines from foreign outlets reporting on Iran's retaliation – dotted an otherwise subdued cityscape.

The Grand Bazaar stayed shut, while a banner in Vali-Asr Square honoured Sahar Emami, the state TV anchor who remained on air during the Israeli strike on the broadcaster's headquarters.

Her image, finger raised in defiance, was paired with a verse from the Persian poet Ferdowsi, celebrating the courage of women "on the battlefield".

While fear grips the capital, what remains is a patchwork of resilience, helplessness – and an uneasy stillness as many await what comes next.

# Air raid sirens in Tel Aviv, north Israel after missile warning

AFP  
Jerusalem

Air raid sirens sounded in the Tel Aviv area and parts of northern Israel yesterday, the military said, after warning of a fresh salvo of incoming missiles fired from Iran.

"A short while ago, sirens sounded in several areas across Israel following the identification of missiles launched from Iran toward the state of Israel," a statement from the military said, with residents of the Tel Aviv area and parts of the north urged to seek shelter.



People rest inside an underground train station used as a shelter amid rounds of missile attacks from Iran to Israel in recent days, in Ramat Gan, Israel, yesterday.

# Iranian pilgrims in Iraq long to return home

AFP  
Ayn Tamr

After filing out of their buses in the central Iraqi town of Ayn Tamr yesterday, Iranian pilgrims anxiously sought out Internet connections, desperate for word from their loved ones back home.

The more than 400 Iranians had recently completed their Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah in Saudi Arabia, and since crossing the border by land into Iraq, they had not received any updates.

One woman dressed in black collapsed in tears after receiving a message informing her that her son was missing after Israeli strikes on Tehran, and that her son-in-law – an official killed in a bombardment – had been laid to rest in her absence.

Other women sighed with relief when they finally connected with children and grandchildren via video call.

"We fear for our children," Amna Hammudi said, her voice trembling, before finally managing to reach her kids in Iran after two days of silence.

"We are all worried about our families, our cities and our country," the mother of four added.

In a parking lot in Ayn Tamr,

near the holy city of Karbala, 10 buses wait for permission to transport the pilgrims to the Mehran border crossing between Iraq and Iran. Iraq is expected to receive 76,000 Iranian pilgrims by land after they were stranded in Saudi Arabia by airport closures following the surprise Israeli attack on Iran last week.

It will welcome 2,500 Iranian pilgrims a day in the hope of facilitating their return home, according to Sami al-Massudi, the head of the Iraqi body for pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

Aziz Yusef, 55, said he was still in Saudi Arabia when he learned that a strike hit one kilometre from his house in the western city of Kermanshah.

"They brought war on us. They are not only fighting us, but also Gaza and Syria, and the Americans are not stopping them," Yusef said.

Yusef urged the Iraqi government to speed up the process of getting pilgrims like him home, but even if he crosses into Iran, he doesn't know how he will reach Kermanshah.

Whenever an Internet connection is available, Yusef and his wife are glued to their phones and the television, hoping for good news.

On Friday, Israel launched a

surprise attack on Iran, hitting military and nuclear facilities and killing top commanders and atomic scientists.

It has kept up its bombing campaign since then, with at least 224 people killed in strikes, according to Iranian authorities.

Iran has responded with multiple missile salvos targeting Israeli cities, killing at least 24 people there, according to the prime minister's office.

Residential areas in both countries have suffered deadly strikes, and large numbers of people have fled Iran's capital. US President Donald Trump warned early yesterday that Tehran residents should "immediately evacuate" amid fears of a broader conflict that could engulf the region.

Kadir Ansari, 70, had just contacted his family back home.

"They are good," he said with relief.

In residential areas, "there are no armies and no bombs. You are sleeping, and they hit you," he added.

Ansari was still in Madinah in Saudi Arabia when he learned about the Israeli assault, and now he fears what may come next. Nonetheless, he insists on going back to Kermanshah. "God knows" what will happen after that, he said

# Police officer arrested over shooting of civilian during Kenya protest

Reuters  
Nairobi

A Kenyan police officer has been arrested over the shooting of an unarmed civilian yesterday during protests in the capital Nairobi touched off by the death of a blogger in police custody, a police spokesperson said.

Earlier in the day, a video aired on Kenyan broadcaster Citizen

Television's X account showed two policemen repeatedly striking a man on the head before one of them fired at him with a long-barrelled gun as he tried to walk away.

The man fell to the ground as people in the crowd shouted: "You have killed him." Another video aired on the Nation newspaper's website featured a witness saying the shooting victim was selling face masks and was not a protester.

Reuters could not independently verify the two videos. A Reuters journalist saw the man on the ground with a heavily bleeding head wound, his hand clutching a packet of face masks.

It was not immediately clear if that man was the same person mentioned in the police statement.

Police spokesperson Muchiri Nyaga said an officer who fired his anti-riot gun at a civilian had been arrested.

# WHO says Gaza healthcare at breaking point as fuel runs out

AFP  
Geneva

The World Health Organisation yesterday pleaded for fuel to be allowed into Gaza to keep its remaining hospitals running, warning the Palestinian territory's health system was at "breaking point".

"For over 100 days, no fuel has entered Gaza and attempts to retrieve stocks from evacuation zones have been denied," said Rik Peepkorn, the WHO's representative in the Palestinian territories.

"Combined with critical supply shortages, this is pushing the health system closer to the brink of col-

lapse." Peepkorn said only 17 of Gaza's 36 hospitals were currently minimally to partially functional. They have a total of around 1,500 beds – around 45% fewer than before the conflict began.

He said all hospitals and primary health centres in north Gaza were currently out of service.

In Rafah in southern Gaza, health services are provided through the Red Cross field hospital and two partially-functioning medical points.

Speaking from Jerusalem, he said the 17 partially functioning hospitals and seven field hospitals were barely running on a minimum amount of daily fuel and "will soon have none left".

"Without fuel, all levels of care will cease, leading to more preventable deaths and suffering."

## Zimbabwe ex-minister detained ahead of graft trial

A Zimbabwe court denied bail yesterday to ousted President Robert Mugabe's foreign minister, who was arrested at the airport on corruption charges as he returned from seven years abroad, AFP reported from Harare. Walter Mzembi, foreign minister when Mugabe was removed in a military-backed coup in 2017, was arrested on Friday at Harare's international airport on 2018 graft charges for which he had been granted bail. The allegations include that he stole \$1.6mn in donations while tourism minister. His lawyer told the court that Mzembi had not been able to return to face trial because he was receiving medical treatment in South Africa. In revoking the bail, magistrate Donald Ndirorai said: "It has not been proved that for all these years he was bedridden such that he could not travel to Zimbabwe to cancel his warrants of arrests."



MILESTONE

Taiwan completes first sea trial for domestically made sub

Taiwan yesterday completed the maiden sea trial for its first domestically developed submarine, a major step in a project aimed at strengthening deterrence against the Chinese navy and protecting vital sea lanes in the event of war. Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, has made the indigenous submarine programme a key part of an ambitious project to modernise its armed forces as Beijing stages almost daily military exercises to assert its sovereignty. The submarine programme has drawn on expertise and technology from several countries, including the US and Britain, a breakthrough for diplomatically isolated Taiwan.

CRIME

Two arrested over Indonesia murder of Australian: police

Two suspects allegedly involved in the murder of an Australian man at a villa on the popular Indonesian resort island of Bali have been arrested after a days-long manhunt, police said yesterday. Authorities have been searching for two men after the shooting of Zivan Radmanovic, a 32-year-old Australian national, on Saturday. He was killed when two people burst into his villa in the tourist hub of Badung and at least one opened fire. A second man, 34-year-old Sanar Ghanim, was seriously wounded in the attack. One of the suspects was apprehended in the capital Jakarta while a second was to be returned from abroad.

FALLOUT

Cambodia bans Thai fruit, vegetables in border spat

Cambodia yesterday banned imports of fruit and vegetables from Thailand as the two countries face off over a border dispute that led to a bloody military clash last month. 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. The Thai and Cambodian armies both said they acted in self-defence. Thailand has imposed border restrictions with Cambodia in recent days, while Cambodia banned Thai dramas from TV and cinemas, closed a popular border checkpoint, and cut Internet bandwidth from Thailand.

ADVISORY

India tells citizens to leave Tehran

India yesterday urged its citizens to leave Tehran, while some nationals have already fled across the Iranian border as the country comes under Israeli bombardment. New Delhi said Indian students have already left Tehran. "Residents who are self sufficient in terms of transport have also been advised to move out of the city in view of the developing situation," the foreign ministry said in a statement. New Delhi said "some Indians have been facilitated to leave Iran through the border with Armenia", hundreds of kilometres northwest of Tehran. The foreign ministry did not detail how many of its citizens have been affected in Iran.

Regulator asks Air India for training data of pilots, dispatcher of crashed plane

Reuters  
New Delhi

India's aviation safety watchdog has asked Air India for the training records of the pilots and dispatcher for the plane that crashed last week as part of its investigation into the incident that killed at least 271 people, government memos showed.

The directorate general of civil aviation also asked all flying schools to conduct training compliance checks, according to the confidential memos.

The DGCA said the requests were part of a "regulatory" review of the accident, and also sought details of action taken following the watchdog's audits of Air India in the last few months. It asked for the details to be provided by Monday.

It was not clear whether Air India had complied with the directive. The airline and the DGCA did not respond to requests for comment.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner bound for London with 242 people on board began losing height seconds after take-off in Ahmedabad on Thursday before crashing into nearby buildings. Everyone on board was killed, bar a single passenger, along with about 30 on the ground.

Sumeet Sabharwal, who the Indian government has said had 8,200 flying hours of experience and was also an Air India instructor, was the commanding pilot of flight AI171.

No 'major safety concerns' on Air India's Boeing 787 fleet

India's aviation safety watchdog yesterday said surveillance conducted on Air India's Boeing 787 fleet did not reveal any major safety concerns, days after one of its jets crashed, killing at least 271 people. "The aircraft and associated maintenance systems were found to be compliant with existing safety standards," the directorate general of civil aviation said in a statement. The DGCA also said 24 of Air India's 33 Boeing 787 aircraft had

completed an "enhanced safety inspection" it had ordered the airline to carry out. The regulator, in a meeting with senior officials of Air India, raised concerns about recent maintenance-related issues reported by the airline. It advised the carrier to "strictly adhere to regulations", strengthen co-ordination across its businesses and ensure availability of adequate spares to mitigate passenger delays, it added.

His co-pilot was Clive Kunder who had 1,100 hours of experience. Sabharwal's funeral took place in Mumbai yesterday.

The watchdog requested for training details and supporting documents for the pilots, as well as for the flight dispatcher. The memo did not elaborate on the type of documents required, but accident investigations commonly look at a crew's training and qualifications, flight history, medical records and any actions previously taken against them.

The memo did not raise any concerns with Air India's operations and some of the requests are standard in the aftermath of a major incident.

Dispatchers are DGCA-certified ground-based airline employees whose role includes flight planning, assessing weather and air-space conditions, and co-ordinating with the pilots.

While the request for pilot training data was sent by the DGCA, the accident investigation is being led by another wing of the aviation ministry, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau.

Air India's chairman N Chandrasekaran told staff on Monday the incident should be a catalyst to build a safer airline.

The DGCA, through a separate memo dated June 16, also asked flying schools across the country to "strictly follow additional safety and operational measures."

The regulator said instructors must check for compliance with procedures concerning training, maintenance and licensing, and co-ordinate flight plans with nearby airports in advance to ensure any emergencies are dealt with swiftly.

Indonesia volcano spews ash tower



A volcano in eastern Indonesia spewed a colossal ash tower into the sky yesterday, authorities said, after they raised its alert level to the highest of a four-tiered system. Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, a 1,584-metre-high twin-peaked volcano on the tourist island of Flores, erupted at 5.35pm local time (0935GMT), the volcanology agency said in a statement.

Modi visits Croatia with EU trade on agenda

AFP  
Zagreb

Narendra Modi will visit Croatia today, the first time an Indian prime minister has toured the Balkan nation, in a sign of increasing ties with the European Union.

Modi will visit the EU member on his way back from the G7 Summit in Canada, following an earlier stop in Cyprus.

Croatian newspaper *Vecernji List* reported yesterday that a key focus of discussions will be a proposed trade route between Europe, the Middle East and India – an investment touted to rival Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

"As the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Croatia, it will open new avenues for bilateral co-operation," Modi said in a statement ahead of the trip.

He will meet Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic and President Zoran Milanovic in Zagreb during a visit that was initially scheduled for mid-May, but got pushed back because of an escalation in tensions between India and Pakistan. European leaders are increasingly looking to other trading partners in response to US President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on the bloc, which

are now flagged to increase in July.

The EU is India's second-largest trading partner, accounting for 120bn euros (US\$138bn) worth of trade in goods in 2024 – more than 11% of total Indian trade, according to the EU.

First proposed in 2023, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor would be a railway and maritime route linking the regions and is seen as a potential counter to growing Chinese investment. Although trade between India and Croatia remains relatively small, Croatia, suffering from a chronic workforce shortage, has been attracting more Indian workers.

China fireworks factory explosion kills nine, 26 hurt

An explosion at a fireworks factory in the southern Chinese province of Hunan killed nine people and injured 26 others, the state-run Xinhua news agency said yesterday. The blast occurred at around 8.23am local time on Monday at a factory owned by the Hunan Shanzhou Fireworks Company in a mountainous area just over 60km north of the city of Changde. Videos published by state media showed black and grey smoke rising into the sky as fireworks exploded out of a raging fire while emergency services surveyed the scene. A team from the ministry of emergency management was also sent to the site, Xinhua said. The blast comes just weeks after an explosion at a chemical plant in northeastern China that killed at least five people, and highlights the risk in storage of hazardous and flammable chemicals in the world's top manufacturer despite years of crackdown on unsafe practices.



Naga artefacts on display at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, Britain.

Indian tribes seek ancestral remains from UK museum

Reuters  
Oxford, England

Tribes from the Indian state of Nagaland have held talks at a museum in Britain to secure the return of ancestral remains taken during the colonial era and put on display for decades.

Skulls and other body parts were often brought from Asia, Africa and elsewhere to Britain and to other former colonial powers, as "trophies", to be traded, displayed or studied.

There are growing calls worldwide for such remains, as well as stolen art, to be returned to their communities as part of a centuries-old movement demanding reparations for colonialism and slavery. Just last month, skulls of 19 African Americans were returned to New Orleans from Germany to where they were sent for examination by

phrenology – the now discredited belief that the shape and size of a head shows mental ability and character, especially when applied to different ethnic groups.

Historians say some of the remains were taken by colonial officers from burial sites and battlefields in Nagaland, where for centuries headhunting was common practice. Others were looted in acts of violence. The Pitt Rivers Museum, which displays collections from Oxford University, holds the world's largest Naga collection, including thousands of artefacts, 41 human remains, primarily skulls, and 178 objects that contain or may contain human hair.

It removed all remains from public display in 2020, including ancestors of Dolly Kikon, an anthropologist from Nagaland's Lotha-Naga tribe, who teaches at the University of California and who travelled to Oxford last week.

China civil servants banned from dining out in Xi's austerity drive

Reuters  
Beijing

Some Chinese civil servants have been ordered not to dine out in groups of more than three after deaths linked to excessive alcohol consumption at banquets, according to interviews and social media posts, as Beijing's austerity push ramps up.

Revised austerity regulations released in May targeting Communist Party members and public sector workers now bans lavish banquets, "white elephant" infrastructure projects, luxurious car fittings and ornamental plants in work meetings.

Analysts say the renewed push is a sign of President Xi Jinping's longstanding preoccupation with anti-corruption and party discipline, suggesting previous controls were not effective.

"The drinking culture among civil servants is indeed quite serious but they haven't found a good solution yet so can only implement a 'one size fits all' policy," said Alfred Wu, associate professor at the National University of Singapore.

"While Beijing wants to boost consumption, clean government – which is Xi's fundamental priority – has a price."

The measures come after three widely publicised cases of cadre

deaths since April linked to excessive drinking at banquets. Dozens of officials have been punished in connection to the deaths in Hunan, Anhui and Henan provinces, where they attempted to conceal details of the banquets and privately compensate the families of the deceased.

But new dining guidelines promoted by some localities this week go even further, asking cadres to be wary of social gatherings, not treat bosses or underlings to meals, and avoid "forming small cliques," according to a social media post by a Communist Party body in Anhui province.

"When dining with ordinary colleagues, groups of under three are

usually fine," read the post, titled 'does it violate regulations to dine with colleagues after work?'

"Avoid dining in high-end places, do not constantly meet the same people, do not take the opportunity to form 'small cliques'"

The guidance triggered a rare outpouring of complaints on social media from one of the most tightly-controlled groups in China, who increasingly feel that their personal lives are subject to excessive and arbitrary restrictions.

"Eating alone is hedonism, eating in a pair is engaging in improper male-female relations, eating in a trio is forming small cliques," read a comment from a user in Hunan

province with over 3,500 likes.

"Three of us colleagues went out for hotpot at lunch and each of us were punished with a warning," wrote a civil servant in Shandong province.

"This is overcorrection, the essence of the guidelines is not wasting public money on lavish banquets but at each level of bureaucracy it gets enforced more harshly," wrote a user in Guangxi region.

A civil servant in Sichuan province said her colleagues were ordered to always go straight home after work. Another cadre in Anhui province said her office recently started implementing daily breathalyser tests, while one in Shaanxi province said

she was told to get rid of her office plants.

Another civil servant in Gansu province was asked to study a list of 20 types of dinner gatherings to avoid, while a state-owned enterprise worker in Wuhan was ordered not to eat lunch with colleagues from other departments or bosses.

"Our leader stressed that even if I invite someone in our canteen, spend little and pay the bill, that's not allowed", citing party discipline, she said.

Some cadres in Anhui even reported cold calls from local discipline inspectors asking them to recall the rules from memory or be reported to their supervisors.



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GULF TIMES

Dollar’s global haven allure fading amid worries over economy

The dollar is now at the weakest level in three years amid worries over US tariffs and the outlook for the US economy.

The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index slid as much as 0.8% last Thursday to the lowest level since April 2022. The euro jumped to the strongest since 2021, while the British pound tapped a new three-year high.

All currencies in the Group of 10 gained against the greenback. The dollar is down almost 10% against a basket of major currencies this year, leaving other countries grappling with unanticipated FX moves that are having a knock-on impact on economic growth and inflation.

The latest declines come on the heels of data on Thursday that showed US producer price inflation remained muted in May, held down by tame goods and services costs, which together with other data pushed traders to bet on more interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.

The Fed is set to hold its next policy meeting on Wednesday. “Trump renewed tariff threats are sparking concerns over US economy, which trickles down to increased bets of Fed easing,” according Helen Given, a foreign-exchange trader at Monex Inc.

The concern remains that the US could experience a spike in inflation and start sliding toward a recession amid US President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariffs on imports.

The dollar’s muted rally against major peers after Israel’s strikes on Iran reinforced the impression that the greenback’s role as a global haven currency is fading.

A Bloomberg gauge of the US dollar gained as much as 0.6% at one point on Friday after Israel’s attacks on Iran stoked fears of a wider conflict in the Middle East.

The concern remains that the US could start sliding towards a recession amid Trump’s sweeping tariffs on imports



signs that the gloomy stance toward the dollar is easing a bit.

For example, options traders — while still broadly bearish on the US currency’s prospects — have moderated their negative views in recent weeks and are banking on a pause in the greenback’s sharp decline.

The US’s position as the world’s largest oil producer likely helped buoy the dollar on Friday as crude futures soared, analysts said. So did the possibility of a squeeze in short positions against the greenback.

The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index has dropped about 8% this year as Trump’s efforts to overhaul global trade chipped away at investor confidence in the US economy.

Despite warnings about long-term headwinds for the dollar, here’s the undeniable reality: Dollar is the king, still.

The US currency is on one side of almost 90% of foreign-exchange transactions and accounts for two-thirds of international debt. To be clear, no one would betting that the dollar’s decline will be a straight line as Trump’s tariffs policy continues heighten tensions across the world and the threat of a US recession and geopolitical risks foster demand for havens.

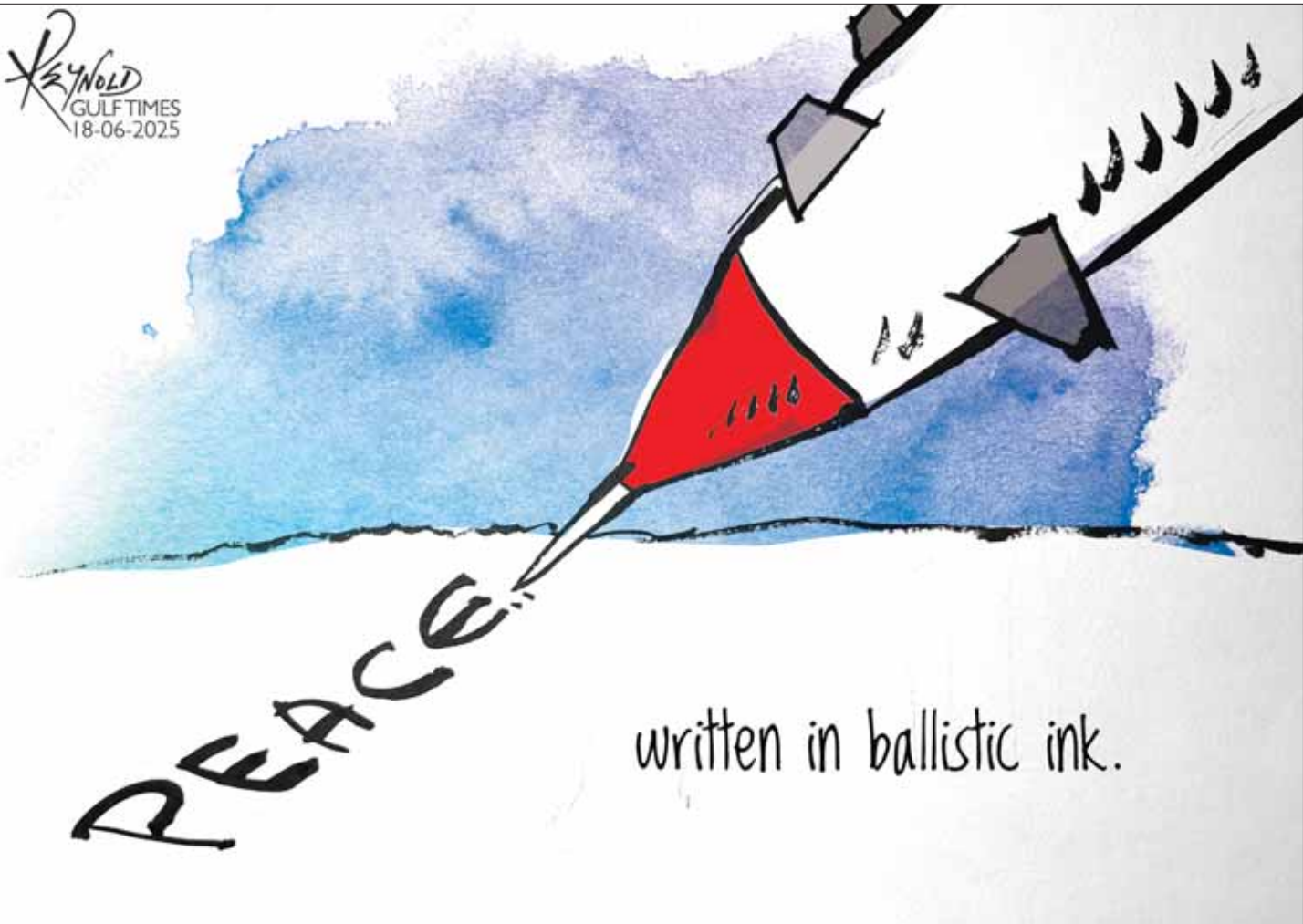
It also remains solidly entrenched as the world’s key currency, used for the majority of central bank reserves and for the purchase of commodities like oil, in large part because no significant alternative has emerged.

However, the currency pared much of its advance and closed some 0.2% higher in New York. The modest recovery left the greenback just above the three-year low it hit last week.

To be sure, last Friday’s trading pattern was a far cry from decades past, when international crises would typically fuel gains in the greenback and Treasuries, long considered havens in part because of their liquidity and confidence in the US as a leader in the global economy.

The dollar has slid during the past five months as Trump pushed ahead with tariffs, which have raised concerns over the US economic outlook and fuelled speculation that foreigners will shun American assets — the so-called “Sell America trade.”

There are, however, some



UN Day spotlights global threat of hate speech, calls for action

As hate speech continues to rise globally, threatening social cohesion and international peace and security, the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, observed annually on June 18, holds growing significance. It serves as a vital reminder of the grave dangers hate speech poses to the safety, livelihoods, and freedoms of individuals and communities, and of its direct threat to civil peace and global security.

This international occasion aims to raise awareness about the urgent need to combat all forms and manifestations of hate speech — whether verbal, written, or behavioural — and to promote global initiatives that foster a culture of coexistence, dialogue, and acceptance of others. This comes amid an unprecedented surge in racist and biased rhetoric on many media platforms and social media networks — rhetoric that fuels division and encourages extremism and intolerance.

The UN defines hate speech as any kind of communication in speech that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group based on their religion, ethnicity, race, gender, or other identity factor.

The UN emphasises that addressing this phenomenon requires concerted efforts from governments, civil society, media institutions, and tech companies — while fully respecting freedom of opinion and expression.

In this context, the UN launched a comprehensive Strategy and Plan of Action to counter hate speech on June 18, 2019, initiated by Secretary-General António Guterres. It was a response to the growing manifestations of racism, extremism, and incitement in various parts of the world, while stressing the importance of upholding fundamental rights and strengthening partnerships between local and international stakeholders.

The strategy underlines the need for a holistic approach to address the phenomenon, while respecting freedom of opinion and expression and fostering co-operation among civil society organisations, media outlets, and technology companies — as part of the UN’s ongoing efforts to defend human rights and the rule of law.

Speaking on the concept of hate speech and whether there is a globally unified definition for it, Professor of Islamic Philosophy and Civilisation at the Community College, Dr Hind al-Hammadi, told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the term itself reveals its nature, as it is based on rejecting and not accepting the other.

She explained that conflicts are not inherently religious or civilisational but are often exploited to achieve political, economic, or social ends driven by



inherent human desires for self-interest and superiority.

Dr al-Hammadi noted that hate speech includes any written or spoken content intended to stir hatred toward different segments of society, and that it implicitly seeks to exclude individuals — through expulsion, marginalisation, or the restriction of rights. It is defined as behaviour that publicly incites violence or hatred against a group based on race, colour, or religion, she added.

The danger of extremist discourse lies not only in its language but also in the consequences it triggers, including reactions that can lead to rising tensions and conflict, she warned, explaining that the real risk stems from the false narratives and inaccurate generalisations promoted by hate speech, which can fuel extremism and hostility. Such rhetoric spreads negative and aggressive ideas that feed racism and hatred, often resulting in violent behaviour — whether individual or collective — that harms vulnerable groups, she pointed out.

Regarding the reasons some media outlets resort to religious incitement and hate speech, Dr al-Hammadi noted that many such outlets are politicised and act according to the agendas of their funders or affiliations, often without awareness. They exploit legally protected freedom of expression as a cover to spread extremist discourse rapidly and with wide impact — aiming to mislead the public, provoke chaos, and exploit societal divisions to justify violence and oppression in pursuit of narrow political or economic gains, she added.

On the hostile attacks against Islam and Muslims in many Western societies and the spread of Islamophobia, Dr al-Hammadi noted that such campaigns are often led by political parties pursuing their own interests, making use of media, education, and technology to serve political and economic agendas — sometimes even resorting to violence and incitement to chaos.

She emphasised that these attacks stem from a variety of religious, economic, and political motives, and that some Western

analysts believe that the rapid spread of Islam poses a threat to their identity and culture, despite Islam being a religion of peace and social justice, pointing out that this makes it a strong ideological competitor to systems that seek dominance and control.

She also pointed out that the Islamic world’s wealth of natural resources is a factor in economic conflicts that contribute to hate, in addition to the use of hateful rhetoric during electoral campaigns.

As for effective ways to confront hate speech, Dr al-Hammadi stressed the importance of promoting understanding of Islam through early education, media, and technology, considering that ignorance is one of the main reasons for distorting the religion’s image.

She affirmed the need for the Arab and Islamic world to unify ranks to face challenges threatening their religious security and identity, so that they may become a strong, dignified, and resilient force.

Dr al-Hammadi also called for enhanced regional and international co-operation to combat hate speech and intolerance, referring to international agreements such as Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which prohibit incitement to national, racial, or religious hatred. She also mentioned the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and laws protecting freedom of expression.

She stressed that the UN and human rights organisations must not neglect their responsibility to protect international peace and security, and must take firm action against those who violate these agreements.

In a related context, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Naimi, said in a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA) that hate speech is a mental state characterised by intense feelings of hostility and contempt towards others. The traditional definition of the term has changed with the development of the media, as the spread of hate speech has become much greater and easier through modern means of communication.

Dr al-Naimi added that the danger of hate speech lies not only in the words or expression, but also in its connection to the heart and belief, making the resulting violence even more dangerous, whether it is driven by individual ego or racial or religious superiority.

He referred to Qatar’s efforts in combating hate speech, highlighting its commitment to promoting peace and harmony both domestically and internationally, its prominent role in mediating between conflicting parties, and providing platforms for dialogue between different religions and cultures, in addition to its effective contributions to the field of dialogue and coexistence.

Dr al-Naimi added that Qatar National Vision 2030 focuses on promoting the spirit of tolerance and benevolence and encouraging constructive dialogue, in line with the country’s Arab and Islamic identity. He pointed to the social cohesion in Qatar, which embodies a model of coexistence between different nationalities and religions, where everyone freely practices their rituals and interacts positively with one another.

He noted the establishment of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue in May 2007, stressing that the Center represents a national voice reflecting Qatar’s vision as a country of tolerance and love. The centre works to expose the false accusations against Islam and seeks to build understanding and peaceful coexistence among followers of different religions, he added.

Dr al-Naimi explained that the centre is implementing two parallel plans: an external plan, which involves holding specialised international conferences bringing together intellectuals and religious leaders from more than 70 countries to discuss issues of coexistence, and an internal plan, which aims to build a generation of citizens and residents in Qatar who uphold the values of tolerance, respect, and coexistence.

Dr al-Naimi concluded his remarks to QNA by emphasising that all religions call for love and peace, and that the mistakes made by some religious followers do not reflect the true nature of religion itself. He emphasised that this is the core of what the centre has addressed in its conferences.

Observers of hate speech around the world emphasise the importance of promoting the principle of real and realistic coexistence, considering that social tensions stem primarily from the failure to implement the values of acceptance of others, and that coexistence is not an option, but rather a national and legal necessity — especially in light of the enduring religious and cultural diversity that characterises humanity. They also emphasised that violence and conflict will only further complicate the humanitarian situation. (QNA)

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# Trump ‘disbands group focused on pressuring Russia’

The Trump administration shelved in recent weeks an inter-agency working group it had set up to formulate strategies for pressuring Russia into speeding up peace talks with Ukraine, according to three US officials. The effort, which was established earlier in the spring, lost steam in May as it became increasingly clear to participants that US President Donald Trump was not interested in adopting a more confrontational stance toward Moscow, said the officials. Despite pledging during his campaign to end the war in Ukraine on the first day of his presidency, Trump in recent months has grown increasingly frustrated that his push has yielded no breakthroughs. He has begun saying that the United States may abandon its efforts to broker peace altogether. In light of that threat, the working group's task seemed increasingly irrelevant, added those officials, who requested anonymity to describe sensitive internal discussions. "It lost steam toward the end because the president wasn't

there. Instead of doing more, maybe he wanted to do less," one of the officials said. The death of the working group, the existence of which has not been previously reported, is likely to deepen European allies' concerns over Trump's at-times conciliatory tone toward Russia and his reluctance to express full-throated support for Ukraine ahead of a pivotal summit of Nato allies later this month. On the first day of a meeting of Group of Seven leaders in Canada on Monday, the Republican president said removing Russia from the former Group of Eight over a decade ago had been a mistake. The final blow for the working group came roughly three weeks ago, when most members of the White House National Security Council – including the entire team dealing directly with the Ukraine war – were dismissed as part of a broad purge, according to the three officials. The effort was set up and co-ordinated by high-ranking NSC staffers, the officials said, though it included participants from

the State Department, Treasury Department, the Pentagon and intelligence community. Among those working on the effort was Andrew Peek, the top NSC official for Europe and Russia, who was removed in May. It is unclear precisely who gave the order to discontinue the effort, but the officials suggested the depth of the NSC cuts made its continuation largely untenable. Since the effort's dissolution, Trump's broader peacemaking efforts, which had been a central element of his campaign pitch, have hit a challenging stretch. Despite some successes – such as a US-brokered ceasefire between India and Pakistan – Trump has made little tangible progress in achieving a ceasefire in Gaza and the risk of a full-blown regional war in the Middle East has risen rapidly with the Israel-Iran conflict. The dissolution of the group also follows a March suspension of work by some US national security agencies on a co-ordinated effort to counter Russian sabotage and

disinformation operations, Reuters reported at the time. Nevertheless, Trump could choose to adopt a firmer stance toward Russia regardless of the fate of the working group, which was set up to develop options for the president "if he wanted to get tougher on Russia," one of the officials said. Some Trump allies, including Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, have publicly advocated for an expansive new round of sanctions directed at Russia, citing Moscow's effective rejection of US ceasefire proposals and the Kremlin's continual attacks on civilian targets as proof of Putin's recalcitrance. Trump has said he is considering such measures, but he has also regularly faulted both sides for the ongoing hostilities. The White House did not respond to a request for comment, nor did the Treasury Department, the State Department or the Pentagon. The Ukrainian and Russian embassies in Washington also did not respond to requests for

comment. The working group was formed in March or April at a time when some close Trump advisers were growing increasingly sceptical of the Kremlin's willingness to reach a deal, while Trump's rhetoric suggested he might be interested in modifying his accommodating stance toward Putin. In an interview with NBC News in late March, he said he was "very angry" at the Russian leader for raising questions about the legitimacy of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. NSC spokesman James Hewitt said in an April 1 statement to Reuters that there was a "deep frustration with the Russian government over negotiations." Among the topics discussed within the working group was how the US could incentivise or pressure former Soviet states, as well as other Eastern European and Asian nations, to limit the flow of goods and energy into and out of Russia, said the officials. It is unclear if Trump was aware of the working group's formation or subsequent dissolution.

The NSC removals left few high-ranking people on the Russia file, complicating the prospects for any robust inter-agency debate on the topic. While reluctant to discuss the details of the options drawn up by the group due to the sensitive nature of the work, US officials said the group was still brainstorming ideas when it was dissolved. The group's work was unrelated to the Russia sanctions package in the US Senate. Ideas ranged from tailored economic deals designed to peel some countries out of Russia's geopolitical orbit to covert special operations efforts, the officials said. One official mentioned the possibility of creating an incentive structure to push Kazakhstan to more vigorously crack down on sanctions evasion. The country, like other post-Soviet states, has been used by traders to bypass some Western-imposed import restrictions on Russia since Moscow's expanded invasion began in 2022. The Kazakhstani embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

## ‘I don’t care what she thinks’

■ **US president rejects spy chief’s intel assessment that Iran is not building a nuke weapon**

Reuters  
Washington



**CONTRADICTION:** President Donald Trump (left) and Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard

US President Donald Trump yesterday repudiated Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard's assessment that Iran has not been building a nuclear weapon, publicly contradicting his spy chief for the first time during his second term. In rejecting his top spy's judgment, Trump appeared to embrace Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's justification for launching air strikes last week on Iranian nuclear and military targets, saying he believed Tehran was on the verge of having a warhead. Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One as he returned early to Washington from the G7 summit in Canada, Trump was asked how close he believed Iran was to having a nuclear weapon. "Very close," he responded. When told that Gabbard testified to Congress in March that the US intelligence community

continued to judge that Tehran was not working on a nuclear warhead, Trump replied, "I don't care what she said. I think they were very close to having one." Trump's comments recalled his clashes with US spy agencies during his first term, including over an assessment that Moscow worked to sway the 2016 presidential vote in his favour and his acceptance of Russian President Vladimir Putin's denials. The office of the Director of National Intelligence did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Gabbard also told Congress that US spy agencies did not believe that Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had ordered the restarting of a nuclear weapons programme that the US and the International Atomic Energy Agency assessed ended in 2003. Iran denies developing nuclear weapons, saying its uranium en-

richment programme was only for peaceful purposes. A source with access to US intelligence reports told Reuters that the assessment presented by Gabbard had not changed. They said that US spy services also judged that it would take up to three years for Iran to build a warhead with which it could hit a target of its choice, a finding first reported by CNN. Some experts, however, believe that it could take Iran a much shorter time to build and deliver an untested crude nuclear device, although there would be no guarantee that it would work. Trump has frequently disavowed the findings of US intelligence agencies, which he and his supporters have charged – without providing proof – are part of a "deep state" cabal of US officials opposed to his presidency. Gabbard, a fierce Trump loyalist, has been among the president's backers who have aired such allegations.



European Council President Antonio Costa, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen, Nato Secretary-General Mark Rutte and US Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent attend a working session on Ukraine during the G7 Summit at the Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge in Kananaskis, Alberta, yesterday. (AFP)

## G7 rallies behind Ukraine after abrupt Trump exit

AFP  
Kananaskis

Group of Seven leaders, holding talks yesterday at a summit in Canada, promised Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky fresh support as Russia stepped up attacks on its neighbour. US President Donald Trump, who has had a volatile relationship with Zelensky, had been due to meet him but left the summit early to return to Washington over the Israel-Iran conflict. Zelensky arrived at the remote resort venue in the Canadian Rockies after Russia hit Kyiv with one of the worst bombardments since it invaded in February 2022, killing at least 10 people in the capital. Prime Minister Mark Carney welcomed Zelensky and announced Can\$2bn (\$1.47bn) of military support, including drones and helicopters, for Ukraine. "This underscores the importance of standing in total solidarity with Ukraine," Carney told him, calling for "maximum pressure against Russia." Carney also joined Britain in tightening sanctions on Russia's so-called shadow fleet of ships used to circumvent international sanctions on its oil sales. Britain said it wanted to ramp up

economic pressure to show Russian President Vladimir Putin it was in his interest to end the war. "These sanctions strike right at the heart of Putin's war machine, choking off his ability to continue his barbaric war in Ukraine," Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a statement. US lawmakers have also drafted a package of new sanctions on Russia but Trump has been hesitant to give his support, saying he wants to preserve relations with Putin, whom he spoke to by telephone on the eve of the G7 summit. Trump infamously berated Zelensky in the Oval Office on February 28, saying he was ungrateful for US aid, but has since voiced disappointment that Putin has rebuffed a US proposal for at least a temporary ceasefire. Zelensky, his voice choked with emotion, told Carney that the latest Russian attack was a "big tragedy" for Ukrainian families and it showed the need for allies' support – and made clear that he still backed Trump-led calls for negotiations. "It's important for our soldiers to be strong in the battlefield, to stay strong until Russia will be ready for the peace negotiations," Zelensky said. "We are ready for the peace negotiation – unconditional ceasefire. For this we need pressure."

French President Emmanuel Macron accused his Russian counterpart of exploiting global focus on the Middle East to carry out the deadly attack on Kyiv. "It shows the complete cynicism of President Putin," Macron told reporters at the summit. Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States – was holding its first summit since the return to power of Trump, who openly questions longstanding US alliances. Trump appeared in relatively good spirits before pulling out early. "Obviously with Trump gone the discussions might be a bit smoother, but they also have less impact with the most powerful nation not there," a diplomat from a G7 nation said on condition of anonymity. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent remained to represent the United States at the summit, where discussions have also concentrated on Trump's attempts to radically overhaul the world's trading system. Trump has vowed to slap sweeping tariffs on friends and foes alike on July 9, although he has postponed once. The US president, speaking to reporters on his way back from the summit, complained that the European Union was not yet offering a "fair deal" on trade.

## Russian strikes kill 14 in ‘horrific’ attack on Kyiv

AFP  
Kyiv

Russia launched dozens of drones and missiles at Kyiv in the early hours of yesterday, killing at least 14 people and wounding dozens of others, as negotiations faltered between Kyiv and Moscow. President Volodymyr Zelensky described the latest overnight barrage as "one of the most horrific attacks" on Kyiv since the Kremlin launched its brutal invasion of Ukraine more than three years ago. Zelensky said a total of 440 drones and 32 missiles were launched in the strikes nationwide and urged the international community not to "turn a blind eye." "Our families had a very difficult night. One of the biggest attacks from the very beginning of the war," Zelensky said at the G7 summit in Canada. "We need support from our allies," he added. AFP journalists saw smoke billowing over the capital's skyline at dawn and a multiple-storey housing block gutted by the attack. Rescue workers were scrambling to find any survivors buried beneath the rubble. "It was probably the most hellish night in my memory for our neighbourhood," 20-year-old student Alina Shtompel told AFP. "It is indescribably painful that our people are going through



Rescuers working at the site of an apartment building damaged during a Russian strike in Kyiv yesterday. (Reuters)

this right now." More than three years into its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Moscow has stepped up attacks despite efforts by the United States to broker a ceasefire. Talks have stalled. Moscow has rejected the "unconditional" truce demanded by Kyiv and its European allies, while Ukraine has dismissed Russia's demands as "ultimatums." Zelensky had been hoping to speak with Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 summit, but the US leader cut short his visit, amid the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran. Russia hit some 27 sites in Kyiv overnight and some residents were left without electricity, officials said. "The total number of dead is now 14 after the enemy

attack on the capital last night," Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram. "The search and rescue operation continues," he added. The Russian defence ministry said it had carried out precision strikes on "military-industrial facilities in the Kyiv region," in a statement similar to those released after major attacks. Germany vowed in response to "increase the pressure" on Russia. The strike showed that "Russia is using diplomacy merely as a facade," the foreign ministry wrote on X. French President Emmanuel Macron accused his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin of exploiting the international climate to carry out a deadly attack on Kyiv.

### French ex-PM gets suspended sentence over wife's fake job

Former French prime minister Francois Fillon was yesterday given a four-year suspended prison sentence over a fake jobs scandal that wrecked his 2017 presidential bid. Fillon, 71, had been found guilty in 2022 on appeal of embezzlement for providing a fake parliamentary assistant job to his wife, Penelope Fillon, that saw her being paid from public funds although the court found that she never did any work in the National Assembly. The Paris appeals court also ordered him to pay a fine of €375,000 (\$433,000) and barred him from seeking elected office for five years. The sentence was milder than the one handed down in 2022, when he had been ordered to spend one year behind bars without any suspension. But France's highest appeals court, the Court of Cassation, overruled that decision and ordered a new sentencing trial. No change was made to the punishment for Penelope Fillon, who is British, and who was handed a two-year suspended sentence and ordered to pay the same fine as her husband.

The couple has always insisted that Penelope Fillon had done genuine constituency work. Neither was present in court for the sentencing. Fillon, a conservative, earlier this year called the ban on seeking public office a "moral wound". The scandal, dubbed "PenelopeGate" by the French press, hurt Fillon's popularity and contributed to his first-round elimination in France's 2017 presidential election that was won by current President Emmanuel Macron. "The treatment I received was somewhat unusual and nobody will convince me otherwise," Fillon said. "Perhaps there was a link with me being a candidate in the presidential election." Fillon claimed that fake parliamentary jobs were common between 1981 and 2021, saying that "a large majority" of lawmakers had been in a "perfectly similar situation" to his during that time. His wife's fake contract ran from 2012 to 2013. "It is the appreciation of the court that there is no proof of any salaried work in the case," the court said in its ruling.



# Woqod supports QF students’ education

**Q**atar Foundation (QF) has partnered with Woqod to provide financial support to 61 students currently enrolled at two of its higher education institutions, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and Texas A&M University at Qatar (Tamuq). Established this year, the Woqod grant aims to ease financial barriers and support students in pursuing their education. Aligning with QF’s belief in inclusive education, the initiative is intended to help students achieve academic success and personal development.

Francisco Marmolejo, president of Higher Education and education adviser, QF, said: “At Qatar Foundation, a key priority is to make sure that every student – regardless of their financial background – has access to the quality and world-class education that is being offered by universities established in Education City.

“Support from partners like



Woqod plays a vital role in this mission. Their generous grant helps ease the financial burden on many of our students, allowing them to focus on their studies, get involved in campus life, and grow personally and professionally.”

Kholood Darwish, from Lebanon, is a student at Tamuq and a recipient of the inaugural grant. “This award means a lot to me – not only to me, but to my family, too,” she said.

“I’m really glad to have this opportunity. I believe it will motivate me – I can focus harder on my future, work harder on my courses, and it gives me a greater sense of responsibility.”

Mohammed Mansour from Egypt, is a fellow grant recipient who is also studying at Tamuq, and said: “It will encourage me to do better, and become a better version of myself as an engineer and a leader, as this opportunity moti-

vates me to strive for other opportunities in the future when I face the real world and the job market.”

Beshr Alsiofy, a student from Syria at HBKU, shared how the grant will positively impact his academic journey. “This grant eases financial pressure, allowing me to focus more on my studies and participate in extracurricular activities,” he said.

“It opens doors to research, internships, and networking op-

portunities I might not have been able to access otherwise. And after university, I plan to work in AI and software development, contributing to tech solutions that make a real impact.”

The selection process for the award included assessing academic merit, financial need, and community involvement, as well as potential recipients’ alignment with the core values of both Woqod and QF.

Dr Abdunnassir Tamimi, execu-

tive director, Student Services,QF added: “Woqod’s commitment to education is truly commendable, especially in its focus on supporting engineering students. Through a dedicated student fund established under a partnership between QF and Woqod, this grant provides these future innovators – 61 students from HBKU and Tamuq – with the financial stability needed to excel in their studies and pursue groundbreaking research.”

# Islamic art, calligraphy, geometry: MIA hosts workshops in June

**By Joey Aguilar**  
Staff Reporter

**T**he Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) in Doha is set to host diverse workshops this month, inviting residents and visitors of all ages to explore Islamic art, calligraphy, geometry, and creative expression.

According to MIA, this comprehensive programme caters to various skill levels and interests, featuring courses led by renowned artists and experts in their fields.

Leading the offerings is the Kufic Intermediate workshop, designed for those with foundational calligraphy skills. Set for June 21 and 28 at the Education Centre at MIA, this four-session course will build on beginners’ knowledge, focusing on more complex words and phrases.

Kufic calligraphy, characterised by its bold and vertical letters, originated from the city of Kufa in Iraq and developed from the Hijazi script. Its distinctive style often resembles modern design.

The workshop, suitable for individuals at an intermediate level and ideal for those who have completed a Beginners’ Ruq’ah course, will be led by Hussein Ammar Ahmed and conducted in both English and Arabic.

Younger art enthusiasts are also in for a treat with several dedicated workshops. The Kufic Calligraphy for Children Workshop, taking place on June 24-25 at MIA, will introduce children to the history of the Kufic script, which adorns many historical Qur’ans.

Under the guidance of Maryam al-Abdulla, participants will learn about the script’s bold and vertical characteristics before designing their own painting based on Kufic scripture.

Meanwhile, the ‘Geometry for Teens’ – a two-day introductory workshop on June 24-25 at MIA, led by Kaltham al-Thani, will ex-



Creative Work by Arabic Calligraphy workshop



Floral Pattern Making workshop

plore the origins of geometry in the Islamic world. Teens will receive brief instructions on creating a geometric star, transforming it into a pattern, and colouring it using various mediums. The workshop will be delivered in Arabic and English.

Flowers of the Past Workshop is scheduled for June 28 at MIA, offering an immersive experience for young artists. Led by Kaltham al-Thani, it will begin with a captivating gallery tour of Islamic art and artifacts.

Participants will explore intricate designs of pots and vases before sketching and painting their unique vase designs on cardboard. The session culminates in transforming these creations into functional masterpieces by adding holes for plants and flowers, inspired by MIA Park.

For adults passionate about general art and design, two workshops promise to hone creative skills. First is the Creative Work by Arabic Calligraphy on June 25 at MIA with Hussein Ammar Ahmed, who will lead this workshop inspired by the Arabic calligraphy housed at MIA’s



Flowers of the Past workshop



Geometry for Teens workshop



Kufic Intermediate workshop.

galleries. Participants can explore the beauty of calligraphy by creating a fine art piece, choosing a text from the Museum collections to write on glossy ornament paper. All required materials will be provided.

Second is the Art Painting Workshop, set for June 28 with Maryam al-Abdulla, focusing on improving technical drawing and design skills. Students will develop their creativity and perception through the use of colours and integration, designing a painting composed of overlapping drawings, pictures, and colours.

Additionally, a Floral Pattern Making workshop is set for June 21 at MIA, led by Maryam AlAbdulla.

# Qatar Museums takes part in Art Basel 2025

**QNA**  
Bern

**Q**atar Museums, represented by the Lusail Museum, is participating in Art Basel 2025 in Switzerland, which runs until June 22.

More than 280 leading art galleries are participating, showcasing works by over 4,000 artists from around the world.

Qatar Museums opened its pavilion at the exhibition, featuring a number of international collections and artworks.

Visitors can view the 3D architectural design of the future Lusail Museum, which will be located on Al Maha Island and serve as a cultural hub for the sustainable city of Lusail.

The Qatari pavilion also features the Qatar Airways Lounge, offering visitors authentic Qatari cuisine blended with international flavours.

Elina Nuitinen, Head of Collections at Lusail Museum, part of Qatar Museums, said in remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA): “The Lusail Museum’s pavilion at Art Basel showcases the future Al Maha Island and Qatar Museums’ vision for it, which includes the Lusail Museum and an art museum.” She noted that the Qatar pavilion



at the exhibition includes four paintings from its Orientalist collection.

These are oil paintings from the 19th century, including a painting by German artist Gustav Bauernfeind, “The Door of the Great Umayyad Mosque in Damascus 1890,” by Turkish artist Osman Hamdi Bey, “The Green Mosque” in Bursa 1890, British artist John Frederick Lewis, “The Frank Camp in the Desert of Mount Sinai” (1842-1862), and French artist Jean-Léon Gérôme, “The Harem in the Kiosk” (1870-1875).

Another painting on loan from the Musée d’Orsay is a painting by Turkish artist Osman Hamdi Bey, “An Old Man Before the Graves of Two Children” (1903).

She noted that the organisers of the Qatar pavilion confirm that These works accurately reflect the traditions of Orientalist

art by highlighting Islamic figures, buildings, and daily customs with a spirit of respect and artistic precision.

Christine Mearns, CEO of QC Plus, a strategic and creative group specialising in cultural commerce, highlighted the company’s reliance on the creative economy and cultural commerce, emphasising that Qatar has invested in the cultural sector over the past 50 years.

Qatar Museums’ participation in Art Basel, the largest and most important modern and contemporary art fair and an international destination for artists from around the world to showcase their works, follows the announcement that Doha will host the first edition of Art Basel Qatar in February 2026, a move aimed at consolidating Qatar’s position as a global destination for the arts.

# Katara holds summer art workshops and space shows for children

**K**atara Cultural Village has launched a variety of summer art workshops for children and young adults, along with a series of educational shows at the Al Thuraya Planetarium. This year’s workshops are part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the cultural scene and develop children’s aesthetic sense.

Katara said in a statement that these workshops, which include pottery making, mask painting, colouring, and cartoon character design, will be held at its art studios in Building 19 over the course of July and August. The workshops will be supervised by a host of Qatari and resident artists and specialist trainers, ensuring the delivery of content that combines aesthetic value with an innovative educational approach.

Head of the Art Exhibitions Department at Katara Hayya al-Mohannadi highlighted the foundation’s commitment to making the summer vacation an opportunity to hone young talents and provide children with a creative space that enhances self-confidence and artistic expression. She emphasised that these workshops are not merely for entertainment, but rather an extension of the foundation’s mission to spread culture, develop aesthetic taste among the generation, and stimulate their imagination and self-confidence.



Al-Mohannadi said that Katara believes that children are not necessarily born as artists, but are naturally creative by nature, requiring only the appropriate space and support to thrive, noting that the workshops are designed to enable children to express their ideas and dreams using simple yet profoundly impactful artistic tools.

Each year, there is a noticeable increase in participation from families, which has led to a diversification of the workshops and an expansion of the target age groups to include children and adolescents of various ages.

In parallel with the workshops, the Al Thuraya Plan-

etarium at Katara presents a range of astronomical shows for children in 3D technology, every Monday and Wednesday of each week. The shows use an attractive visual style and 3D display techniques. The films include: “The Astronaut”, “Space Oases”, “From Earth to the Universe”, “Traveling With Light”, “The Zula Patrol”, “Phantom of the Universe”, “Polaris”, “The Stars”, “8 Scoops of Milky Way”, and “The Universe”.

The aim is to stimulate children’s imagination and expand their scientific knowledge in a fun and simple way, making it an integrated experience that combines art and space in one place.

(QNA)

# 56,000kg mangoes sold at Indian festival

**T**he ongoing second edition of the Indian Mango Festival (Al Hamba Exhibition) at Souq Waqif recorded sales of 56,000kg and received 52,600 visitors in the first five days, according to an X post by Souq Waqif.

Different varieties of Indian mangoes are sold at the festival, held at the Eastern Square of Souq Waqif. To run until June 21, the festival is organised by the Private Engineering Office (PEO) in co-operation with the Indian embassy from 4pm to 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 are imported specifically for this event via direct air shipments from India



Different varieties of Indian mangoes are sold at the festival, held at the Eastern Square of Souq Waqif. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

on a daily basis ensuring the highest levels of freshness and quality,” it explained.

The festival features 55 varieties of mangoes along with cakes, sweets, ice creams and juices. Most famous Indian mango varie-

ties including Rajapuri, Malgova, Neelam, Alphonso, Kesar, Badami, Mallika, Imam Pasand, Kalapadi, Totapuri, Chakkarakkutti and Sindoor are featured in the expo. The expo is participated by 38 Indian companies.