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# UAE president affirms support for measures that Qatar may take to preserve its sovereignty

Amir, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan review relations

QNA  
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan held a meeting yesterday, where they discussed the solid fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to support them across various fields, in addition to the regional developments and the efforts exerted to achieve peace and stability that will lead to growth and prosperity for all their peoples.

At the outset of the meeting, His Highness the Amir welcomed the UAE president and the accompanying delegation, expressing his pleasure with this visit, which reflects the depth of relations between the two fraternal countries.

For his part, the UAE president reiterated his country's solidarity with Qatar and its support for it following the attack that targeted its territory. The UAE president affirmed his country's support for all measures that Qatar may take to preserve its sovereignty, security, and the safety of its people.

The President of the UAE also commended the efforts made by His Highness the Amir in facilitating the ceasefire agreement between Iran and Israel.

In this regard, His Highness the Amir voiced his deep appreciation



to the president of the UAE for his solidarity and sincere feelings, as well as his country's stance towards Qatar and its people following the recent Iranian military attack.

His Highness the Amir and the President of the UAE exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual interest, particularly the current situation in the Middle East following the announcement of a ceasefire agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel.

In this regard, the two sides stressed the importance of strengthening dialogue and diplomatic solutions as the only means to overcome regional crises and maintain regional and global security.



The meeting was attended by His Highness the Personal Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, HE the Minis-



ter of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Le-khwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE the

Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, and a number of senior officials. **To Page 2**

## Iran nuclear talks next week: Trump

President Donald Trump said yesterday that the United States would hold nuclear talks with Iran next week, teasing the possibility of a deal even after boasting that recent US strikes had crippled the Islamic republic's atomic programme. Trump credited the unprecedented US attacks with the "total obliteration" of Iran's nuclear capabilities, and said they had set the country's programme back "decades". But leaked US intelligence cast doubt on that assessment.

## Socialist set to win NYC mayoral primary

Young self-declared socialist Zohran Mamdani was on the cusp of stunning victory yesterday in New York City's Democratic mayoral primary - pummelling his scandal-scarred establishment rival in a race seen as a fight for the future of the Democratic Party. Results were not yet final. But Mamdani - who is just 33 and would become the city's first Muslim mayor - had such a commanding lead that his biggest rival, former New York governor Andrew Cuomo, conceded defeat overnight. **Page 11**

Today's Gulf Times includes a 4-page special supplement on AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION

## Affected passengers cleared within 24 hours: Al-Meer



Qatar Airways Group CEO Badr Mohammed al-Meer

Qatar Airways Group CEO Badr Mohammed al-Meer said that all passengers from flights that were diverted as Iran launched a missile attack on the US airbase in Qatar were cleared within 24 hours. About 20,000 passengers in all were affected by the flight diversion, he said in a statement yesterday.

In a letter to the airline passengers he said, "Qatar Airways diverted some 90 flights carrying more than

20,000 passengers to Doha due to the "unprecedented closure" of Qatari airspace on June 23. "25 flights diverted into airports across Saudi Arabia, 18 into Turkiye, 15 into India, 13 into Oman, and five into the United Arab Emirates. The remaining aircraft were re-routed to major hubs including London, Barcelona, and others across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East." He said, "This week brought an operational crisis few airlines will ever encounter, and one that challenged the very core of what it means to run a global airline. "At around 6pm local time on Monday, June 23, an unexpected and unprecedented closure of Qatari airspace forced Qatar Airways to suspend global operations with immediate effect. Shortly after, airspace was also closed in Bahrain, the UAE, and Kuwait. **To Page 5**

## Great progress in Gaza talks: Trump

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that "great progress" was being made to end the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza as a new ceasefire push began more than 20 months since the start of the conflict.

"I think great progress is being made on Gaza," Trump told reporters ahead of a Nato summit in the Netherlands, adding that his special envoy Steve Witkoff had told him "Gaza is very close." He linked his optimism about imminent "very good news" for the Gaza Strip to a ceasefire agreed on Tuesday between Israel and Iran to end their 12-day war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also suggested that Israel's blitz of Iran's nuclear and missile facilities, as well as its



Volunteers from Palestinian families organised in committees to prevent theft, guard trucks carrying aid as they enter the Gaza Strip yesterday.

security forces linked to overseas militant groups, could help end the Gaza conflict. Key mediator Qatar announced Tuesday that it would launch a new push for a ceasefire. **(AFP)**

## Amir visits Joint Operations Command HQ; lauds Armed Forces for defending homeland

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani visited the Joint Operations Command (Northern Sector) of the Qatari Armed Forces yesterday in Al Mazrouah area. His Highness the Amir toured the command headquarters, where he was briefed on the most prominent systems used in surveillance, command, and control systems, as well as the mechanisms and procedures for joint operations. His Highness also listened to a briefing on the success of the Qatari Amiri Armed Forces in intercepting the missile attack that targeted Al-Udeid Air Base, and the precautionary measures taken by the armed forces. His Highness the



Amir praised the efficiency of the Armed Forces and their readiness to defend the homeland, expressing his thanks and appreciation to all those working in the military and security fields in the country. His Highness the

Amir was accompanied by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani, and a number of senior military and security officers. **(QNA)**

## Cabinet commends Armed Forces for thwarting Iran missile attack

The Cabinet yesterday commended the role of the Qatari Armed Forces, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, in successfully and decisively intercepting the missile attack launched on Monday by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, targeting Al-Udeid Air Base.

The Cabinet stressed that, by God's grace, the readiness and vigilance of the armed forces, and the precautionary measures that were taken, the attack did not result in any deaths or injuries.

The Cabinet renewed Qatar's strong condemnation of the Iranian attack, deeming it a blatant violation of Qatar's sovereignty and airspace, as well as a breach of international law and the UN Charter, not to mention that it is completely inconsistent with the principles of good neighbourliness and the close relations between the two countries.

The Cabinet expressed its thanks to the brotherly and friendly countries that rushed to condemn and denounce the Iranian attack and declared their solidarity with Qatar, appreciat-

ing their stance that reflected the sincerity of their fraternal relations.

The Cabinet also renewed its welcoming of the ceasefire agreement between Iran and Israel, expressing its hope that both parties will adhere to the agreement. The Cabinet highlighted Qatar's ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions, pursue dialogue and diplomatic means to resolve disputes, and settle conflicts peacefully, in order to maintain security, peace, and stability in the region and around the globe. **(QNA) To Page 2**





## UAE president affirms support for measures that Qatar may take to preserve its sovereignty

**From Page 1**

On the UAE's side, the meeting was attended by Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Special Affairs Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Advisor to the UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoun al-Nahyan, Secretary-General of Supreme Council for National Security Ali bin Hamad al-

Shamsi, HE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications Omar Sultan al-Olama, Adviser to the President for Strategic Research and Advanced Technology Affairs Faisal Abdulaziz al-Bannai, and a number of members of the accompanying delegation.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani led well-wishers to welcome his brother President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan upon his ar-

rival at the Amiri Terminal in Hamad International Airport on a fraternal visit to the country.

Also present to welcome President of the UAE was His Highness Personal Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, HE Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al- Khulafi, Ambassador of the UAE to Qatar Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa bin Sultan bin Shakhboot al-Nahyan and a number of senior officials.

The President of the UAE is accompanied by Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, and a number of ministers, members of

the official delegation accompanying the president. Later, His Highness the Amir led the farewell of President of the United Arab Emirates upon his departure along with the accompanying delegation from the Amiri Terminal in Hamad International Airport after concluding a fraternal visit to the country.

The UAE president was also seen off by His Highness the Personal Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani.

Also present were HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, HE Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, Ambassador of the UAE to Qatar Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa bin Sultan bin Shakhbutor al-Nahyan and a number of senior officials.



# Cabinet hails MSDF strategy for Qatari society

**From Page 1**

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting yesterday at the Amiri Diwan.

The Cabinet hailed the Ministry of Social Development and Family Strategy 2025-2030, launched by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, which represents a qualitative leap from the traditional care model to a more comprehensive, empowering, and sustainable approach, based on a realistic understanding of the needs and challenges of the Qatari society.

The strategy is based on five main pillars, namely: strengthening the cohesion of the Qatari family, empowering Qatari women and enhancing their participation in various fields, particularly in leadership and decision-making.

ing positions, empowering vulnerable groups, fostering a spirit of participation and solidarity, and improving the standard of living of individuals and families.

Afterwards, the Cabinet considered the topics on its agenda, as it acknowledged the Shura Council's approval of a draft law on lost and abandoned property.

The Ministry of Interior had prepared this draft law to regulate procedures for dealing with lost and abandoned property and items, with the aim of ensuring the preservation as well as encouraging these who find such to hand over any items they find so that they can be returned to their owners. The Cabinet also acknowledged the Shura Council's approval of a draft law concerning water. Prepared by the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corp (Kahramaa), this draft law seeks to achieve water security, conserve water resources, and

**The Cabinet approved a draft Cabinet decision establishing a grievance committee related to the expropriation of real estate for public benefit and the procedures for grievances thereof**

protect them from depletion, waste, or pollution. It also aims to improve the efficiency of water services and their uses, ensure their quality, and ensure proper maintenance and operation of water facilities.

The Cabinet approved a draft Cabinet decision establishing a grievance committee related to the expropriation of real estate for public benefit and the procedures for grievances thereof.

The Cabinet also approved draft decisions proposed by the Minister of State for Energy Affairs to determine the areas for district cooling services, deter-

mine the corridors and paths of district cooling networks and the exceptions thereto, and the criteria for considering the areas, facilities and residences located therein eligible for district cooling services, and to determine the rules necessary to facilitate the entry and access of licensees to public properties and lands to establish, operate or maintain the district cooling system, in addition to determining the procedures and controls necessary for submitting a request to remove, move, change or divert any part of the district cooling system and deciding on it, and determining the controls for compensating property and land owners for damages, costs or expenses caused by the licensee resulting from the installation of the district cooling system.

These drafts, prepared by Kahramaa in co-ordination with the Ministry of Municipality, come

within the framework of the Kahramaa's strategy, which aims to establish rules regulating district cooling works and services, and monitoring their implementation, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 19 of 2024 regulating district cooling services. The Cabinet reviewed the proposals submitted by the Shura Council regarding the status of persons with disabilities and took the appropriate decision in their regard.

The Cabinet decided to take the necessary measures to ratify an agreement between the governments of Qatar and Russia on co-operation in the fields of healthcare, medical education, and medical sciences.

The Cabinet decided to approve a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) for twinning between the Doha Municipality and the Guatemala Municipality, a draft MoU in the field of

endowments and Islamic affairs between Qatar's Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs and Jordan's Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places, a draft MoU for co-operation on human resources management in the civil service between the governments of Qatar and Kazakhstan, a draft executive programme for an MoU for co-operation in the field of endowments and Islamic affairs between the governments of Qatar and Tunisia for the years 2025-2028, and a draft executive programme within the framework of an MoU for co-operation in the field of youth between the governments of Qatar and Turkmenistan for the years 2025-2026.

The Cabinet reviewed a report on the measures taken to implement the proposals resulting from the visit of HE the Minister of Social Development and Family to Morocco. **(QNA)**

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## Amir visits Joint Operations Command



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani visited the Joint Operations Command (Northern Sector) of the Qatari Amiri Armed Forces yesterday in Al Mazrouah area. His Highness the Amir toured the command headquarters, where he was briefed on the most prominent systems used in surveillance, command, and control systems, as well as the mechanisms and procedures for joint operations. (QNA)

## View Hospital performs Middle East's first magnetic surgery in private sector

The View Hospital, in affiliation with Cedars-Sinai, has performed the first magnetic duodenal-ileostomy case in the private sector in Middle East, a revision surgery for patients who have experienced weight regain following sleeve gastrectomy.

The advanced, minimally invasive procedure was conducted by Dr Jassim Fakhro, consultant in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, and the medical director of Qatari physicians at The View Hospital, in the presence of Prof Michel Gagner, a global pioneer in metabolic surgery and the inventor of the magnetic technique.

Unlike conventional surgical approaches that require cutting or stapling, magnetic duodenal-ileostomy involves placing two rare-earth magnets into the small



Dr Fatih Mehmet Gul

intestine — one in the duodenum and the other in the ileum. Over the course of a few days, the magnets gradually compress the tissue between them to form a secure, suture-free connection. This rerouting of the digestive tract enhances hormonal responses that regulate appe-



The team of doctors.

tite and metabolism, supporting long-term weight loss while reducing the risks and recovery time associated with traditional surgery.

"Bariatric surgery has long been the most reliable and effective way we have for treating

the severe obesity. Now, with the successful use of magnetic anastomosis we can lower the risk of complications like bleeding and leakage. Our most effective operations for the treatment of obesity are now safer than ever thanks to magnetic compression

anastomosis," said Dr Fakhro.

"We are proud to be the first private hospital in Qatar to experience this transformative platform. As a health system dedicated to remaining at the forefront of medical technology and innovation, we are excited about adopting this innovation to advance patient outcomes at The View Hospital," said Dr Fatih Mehmet Gul, CEO of The View Hospital.

The successful procedure highlights The View Hospital's ongoing mission to bring world-class surgical innovation to Qatar. By being the first private healthcare provider in the country to adopt this technology, the hospital continues to set new benchmarks in bariatric and metabolic care, expanding its leadership in minimally invasive and patient-centred solutions.



Dr Jassim Fakhro.



## Bosch honours Video Home for successful brand management

Bosch Security and Safety Systems has awarded Video Home & Electronics Centre - Jumbo Electronics with a 'Certificate of Appreciation,' presented to vice-chairman and managing director Sajed Jassim Sulaiman.

The recognition celebrated the successful management and representation of Bosch Communication Systems in 2024, particularly on various state-held projects, reflecting the robust partnership between the two entities, a statement said.

Bosch Security and Safety Sys-

tems has formally recognised Video Home as their extended arm and local representative in Qatar, serving as a premium distributor for Bosch's CCTV, Public Address, Communication, Access Control, and Intrusion Systems.

Together, the teams have successfully delivered an array of high-profile projects across diverse sectors, including airports, stadiums, healthcare, defence, anti-drone, Q-Rail, transport, petrol stations, media, entertainment, Intelligent Traffic Sys-

tems, and numerous commercial and residential buildings. Video Home & Electronics Centre, with over a decade of presence in Qatar, is a trusted leader in the electronics and communication industry, specialising in advanced audio-visual solutions, security systems, and communication technologies.

Bosch Security and Safety Systems, a global leader in innovative security, safety, and communication solutions, continues to enhance its market presence through such partnerships, the statement added.

# Shura Council Office condemns attack on Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar

QNA

Doha

The Shura Council Office has strongly condemned the attack on Al-Udeid Air Base by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard on Monday, stressing that it is a blatant violation of Qatar's sovereignty and airspace, as well as a breach of international law and the UN Charter.

In its meeting yesterday, chaired by HE the Shura Council Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, the Council Office expressed its denunciation of this completely unacceptable act, which is inconsistent with the principles of good neighbourliness and the close relations between the two countries at the official and popular levels in various fields.

It noted that Qatar has always been an advocate of dialogue with Iran, and it has exerted great efforts in this regard. From day one, Qatar strongly condemned the Israeli attacks on Iran and stood



in solidarity with it. The Shura Council commended the role played by the Qatari Armed Forces, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, in repelling the attack. It also lauded the role of all relevant authorities in the country and their handling of this attack with a well-thought-out action plan that limited its effects and reassured citizens and residents.

The office noted the solidarity shown by all brotherly and friendly countries, expressing the Council's gratitude to parliamentary organisations for their soli-

darity with and support for Qatar, and their rejection of this attack. In the same context, the Council Office welcomed the ceasefire agreement between Iran and Israel, which began yesterday, appreciating the efforts of Qatar in this agreement, which confirms its ongoing role in establishing peace and stability in the region, on the one hand, and its adherence to a policy of good neighbourliness with Iran despite its aggression, on the other hand.

The meeting discussed the items on the Office's agenda, and the agenda for the next session was approved.

## NHRC chairperson calls for encouraging countries to incorporate equality into legislation, public policies

QNA

Geneva

HE the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiyah called for encouraging countries to incorporate the concept of equality into legislation and public policies and to adopt temporary positive measures to enhance women's participation in all fields.

In her remarks during the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, HE al-Attiyah highlighted the progress made by Qatar in this field, as well as in many countries around the world, and pointed out the challenges that continue to hinder women's empowerment.

Al-Attiyah stated that the forefront of these challenges is climate change, armed conflicts, rising rates of migration and displacement, in addition to the

unethical use of emerging technologies that deepen violence, discrimination, and the digital gender divide.

As part of the NHRC's efforts in Qatar as well as in monitoring national and international efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, al-Attiyah said that the Committee recommends supporting conflict-affected countries in implementing national action plans related to the Resolution 1325, to ensure the effective participation of women in peace, security, recovery, and reconstruction efforts, in accordance with the General Recommendation No. 30 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in addition to emphasising the importance of women's participation in policy-making and decision-making processes, in line with the principle of inclusivity and ensuring that women take part in shaping the future of their communities.

## 'QIB Junior App' launched

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has announced the official launch of the QIB Junior App, the country's first digital banking and financial education platform for kids and teens aged eight to 17.

Developed with a mobile and tablet-first mindset, QIB Junior introduces young users to smart money management securely and intuitively.

The solution brings together a prepaid Visa card which can be used for online payments, to tap and pay at physical stores, and can be added to digital wallets like Apple Wallet, Google Wallet, or Samsung Wallet.

The QIB Junior App provides a dedicated "savings pot" which allows juniors to move money between the card and the savings pot, encouraging the habit of saving. The app offers a suite of engaging features, allowing juniors to earn rewards every time they complete tasks set by parents as well as to enjoy exclusive deals and discounts tailored to their age group. In addition, QIB will be offering a special gift voucher to the early adopters who are



on board with the Junior App. Through the main QIB Mobile App, parents can seamlessly sign up their children for the QIB Junior App and issue a prepaid card. With full control through the QIB Mobile App, parents can set allowances, load the card, assign tasks, monitor spending, manage access, activate or deactivate the Junior App and the prepaid card and locate the child's device. The solution is designed to grow with its users, automatically transitioning to

QIB's Bedaya student account at age 18. D Anand, QIB general manager - Personal Banking Group, said: "The launch of QIB Junior is a major milestone, reflecting QIB's leadership in digital innovation and future-ready banking." QIB Junior is now available for existing QIB customers. Parents can activate the service through the QIB Mobile App, available on the App Store, Google Play, and Huawei AppGallery. More information is available from [www.qib.com.qa/en-Junior](http://www.qib.com.qa/en-Junior)





Official

Amir congratulates presidents of Slovenia, Mozambique


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 President of Slovenia Natasa Pirc Musar on the anniversary of the Statehood Day. 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 Dr Robert Golob.

■His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Deputy Amir sent yesterday cables of congratulations to President of Mozambique Daniel Chapo on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Maria Benvinda Levi. (QNA)

President of Russian Republic of Ingushetia meets Qatar's envoy



President of the Russian Republic of Ingushetia Mahmud-Ali Kalimatov met with Qatar's ambassador Sheikh Ahmed bin Nasser al-Thani, at the embassy headquarters in Moscow. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries. (QNA)



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

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

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period		Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	GT25106800	Start Date	End Date	10.08.2025	3,500,000.00	QAR	500.00	QAR
Title of Tender: PROVISION OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SERVICES (HARD SERVICES) AT QATARENERGY HEADQUARTERS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location : To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time : To be advised if required								

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

Qatar participates in GCC Directors of Drug Control Agencies in Riyadh

Qatar is participating in the 37th meeting of the Directors of Drug Control Agencies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, being held at the headquarters of the Council's General Secretariat in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from Jun 25 to 26. The Qatari Ministry of Interior delegation to the meeting is headed by Director General of Drug Control Colonel Rashid Saree al-Kaabi. Participants will discuss means to enhance co-operation and joint co-ordination in combating drug crimes, exchange expertise, and develop preventive and security efforts across the GCC countries. The Qatari delegation is also participating in the activities of the GCC Anti-Drug Week, which aims to raise community awareness of the dangers of drugs and ways to prevent them. (QNA)



Qatar adopts a comprehensive approach to battling drug abuse

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is being observed today (June 26). It aims to raise public awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and its negative effects on individuals, families, and communities, as well as to strengthen prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation efforts.

In a message marking the occasion, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "The global illicit drug trade continues to exact a devastating toll: claiming lives, ravaging public health services, and fuelling violence and organised crime."

Guterres added: "Drug trafficking is tearing through communities with substances that are more potent, more dangerous, and more deadly than ever. Meanwhile, criminal networks prey on the most vulnerable – particularly women and youth – as they rake in hundreds of billions annually through the illicit drug trade."

"This year, we shine a light on prevention as the most essential strategy for halting the flow of drugs that fuels organised crime worldwide. We must reduce demand through investing in education, treatment, harm-reduction measures and care."

The way to go about doing this, according to the UN Secretary-General, is by targeting the machinery of production by eliminating illicit laboratories, severing trafficking networks by strengthening global trade routes, and choking the financial flows of criminal networks.

He called for breaking the cycle of suffering and destruction once and for all while always ensuring respect for human rights.

Also to that end, Qatar has adopted a comprehensive and integrated approach to combating drug abuse, in line with national legislation and relevant international conventions. Qatar has updated its laws and regulations related to this issue, formed national and sub-national committees to ensure co-ordination among concerned authorities, and developed a national strategy focused on prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration. It has also strengthened partnerships and co-operation with relevant regional and international organisations and implemented ongoing awareness programmes targeting all segments of society through various media channels

Drug problem a global challenge

Director of the GCC-Criminal Information Center to Combat Drugs (GCC-CICCD) Col Mohammed Abdullah al-Khater said that the drug problem has become a complex global challenge, affecting the lives of millions suffering from substance use disorders and impacting communities dealing with the consequences of organised crime linked to illicit trafficking.

In a statement marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, observed annually on June 26, Col al-Khater said this year's theme "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention" highlights the importance of prevention, healthcare, community support, and international solidarity. He called for the adoption of effective, evidence-based policies that respect human rights and consider the social, economic, and health-related aspects of drug use.

Col al-Khater explained that the GCC-CICCD has intensified its efforts to

combat this scourge by exchanging intelligence on trafficking and distribution operations to dismantle criminal networks that pose a threat to the safety of GCC societies. He noted the centre's growing co-operation with several regional and international organisations, in addition to the competent national authorities in friendly countries. These efforts have contributed to intercepting criminal networks attempting to smuggle drugs into GCC countries, as part of a comprehensive strategy based on co-ordination and integration among anti-narcotics agencies.

Col al-Khater emphasised the centre's role in capacity building and enhancing the efficiency of personnel working in drug control across GCC countries through specialised training programmes and ongoing workshops tailored to the needs of security and customs agencies in member states. (QNA)

and educational, health, and religious institutions.

The country has also adopted a comprehensive health, psychological, and social policy to protect individuals from falling into addiction, through monitoring, analysis, evaluation, and developing effective operational plans to curb the spread of this phenomenon, provide early intervention in this regard.

As part of Qatar's efforts in addressing this problem, it has established the Naufar Center for addiction treatment, one of the most prominent specialised centres in the Middle East, serving as an integrated model for providing treatment and rehabilitation services based on the latest global medical standards.

Naufar's mission aligns with the Qatar National Vision 2030, by offering comprehensive healthcare and psychological support, with the aim of preventing addiction, providing timely and appropriate treatment, supporting community and vocational rehabilitation, offering aftercare for those in recovery, and promoting research in the field of addiction and public health.

The centre operates on a set of core values reflected in all its services: dig-

nity, by respecting the individual regardless of their past; compassion, by delivering care with a human touch; trust, by building a safe relationship between the beneficiary and the professional; teamwork, by ensuring integrated roles within the therapeutic team; and excellence and leadership, by adhering to the highest standards of quality. Moreover, the patient is placed at the centre of care, with treatments designed to suit individual needs, and hospitality is emphasised by providing a supportive and reassuring treatment environment.

Similarly, and as part of the Gulf Co-operation Council's (GCC) commitment to strengthening joint efforts against drug abuse, the GCC General Secretariat held special activities for the Gulf anti-drug week, held from June 22-26, which coincided with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

This initiative reflected the GCC countries' dedication to unified action in combating drug abuse and raising awareness in Gulf societies, affirming that prevention is a collective responsibility requiring the co-operation of all sectors. (QNA)

Qatar's envoy at Arab-Hellenic Maritime Conference



Qatar's ambassador to Greece Ali bin Khalfan al-Mansouri attended the opening ceremony of the 2nd Arab-Hellenic Maritime Conference, organised by the Arab-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Development in Athens, under the theme: 'Co-operation Among Sea Neighbours'. (QNA)

Ministry holds cleanliness drives




The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), represented by the Wildlife Protection Department patrols, has conducted a large scale cleanliness drive targeting winter camping areas in the southern region. This campaign, according to an official statement, is part of its ongoing efforts to protect the environment and preserve vegetation. The MoECC has urged all visitors to the wilderness areas to strictly adhere to environmental regulations and avoid any negative actions or behaviour that may affect vegetation or distort the general landscape. It said that preserving the environment is a shared responsibility that requires the concerted efforts of all.

AZF opens children's summer camp registration

Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) announced the opening of registration for its summer camp for children, set to take place from July 13 to August 7. The camp, to be held at the Ladies Sports Hall, five days a week, from 8am to 1pm, is open to both boys and girls aged 6-12, a statement said. The programme includes sports activities such as football, basketball, volleyball, handball, self-defence, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, as well as swimming sessions and recreational games. It also features field trips to destinations around Doha and educational workshops in reading and drawing.

Previous editions have attracted the participation of more than 500 children, engaging them in a wide array of activities. Since its launch in 2017, the camp has become a key annual event in Aspire's calendar.



**Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division**

**Tenders Announcement: -**

Sr. #	Tender No.	Description	Temporary Tender Bond (Q.R)	Documents Fees (Non- Refundable) (Q.R)	Closing Date
1	QRC/WHC/04-2025	Trend Micro Renewal & Upgrade for Medical Affairs Division	25000 Q.R	500 Q.R	17-07-2025
2	QRC/WHC/05-2025	Veeam Subscription Licenses Renewal for Account Qatar Red Crescent Society	5000 Q.R	500 Q.R	17-07-2025
3	QRC/WHC/06-2025	Supply, Install, and Operate Medical devices for workers health centers	12000 Q.R	500 Q.R	17-07-2025

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm till the closing date.

**Required Documents:**

- Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
- Company's Commercial registration copy.
- Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents not refunded & account details:
  - Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
  - Bank: Al Rayan.
  - Account Number: 11199970200
  - IBAN Number: QA83MAFR0000000000011199970200

**For more information: please call: (50044554), or Email: [whc.tenders@qrccs.org.qa](mailto:whc.tenders@qrccs.org.qa)**



## QIC platform offers summer travel advisory

Qatar Insurance Company (QIC) has launched its new summer travel advisory content series on qic.blog to help Qatar-based travellers make informed decisions for their summer trips. QIC chief operating officer (Qatar operations) Ahmed al-Jarboey, said: "We hope that our blog will serve as a valuable reference for travellers this season, and we remain committed to being the insurance partner of choice for all travellers from Qatar to the world throughout the year." QIC's corporate content and insurance literacy platform offers its readers summer-themed features covering a wide range of travel tips. These articles shed light on what travellers need to know, consider, and do before embarking on their summer journeys. This includes pre-trip checklists and recommendations about trending destinations for summer 2025, along with ideas for things to do and explore in popular



hotspots such as the UK, Georgia, Thailand, India, and other destinations. In addition, QIC Blog features detailed how-to guides and explanatory articles on international travel and entry requirements. These include step-by-step instructions on how to apply for and obtain entry permits for popular destinations, such as visas and electronic travel authorisations for the US and the UK, as well as the unified tourist visa for the 29 Schengen

countries. This information helps travellers prepare their documents in advance for a smooth, stress-free experience. The blog also provides content tailored to help readers better understand the logic of travel insurance and how it works. This includes explanations of the differences between types of insurance coverage, how to choose the right policy for each destination, and how to get insured online in under two minutes with QIC.

## QIIB reveals winners in draw for Visa credit cardholders



QIIB has announced the names of the winners of its special promotional campaign launched in celebration of the '2025 Amir Cup' football tournament. The campaign targeted holders of QIIB-issued Visa credit cards. Each winner received a cash prize of QR100,000, with total prizes amounting to QR500,000. The prize draw was held at QIIB's headquarters under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and in the presence of bank officials.

The five winners, as determined by the draw, are: Hamad Ali, Fahad Ali al-Hanzab, Faisal Ebrahim al-Mohsin, Mohamed Khalil al-Darwish, and Fahad Hassan al-Hajri. The campaign was launched on May 6 and ran through May 24, covering all QIIB Visa credit cardholders. Customers were automatically entered into the draw upon meeting the specified spending criteria during the campaign period. Under the campaign terms, any

customer who spent a total of at least QR10,000 using any QIIB Visa credit card was automatically entered into the draw. Customers earned one entry for every QR100 spent locally, and two entries for every QR100 spent internationally or through e-commerce. Talal al-Jaidah, head of Banking Products at QIIB, stated: "The campaign received an enthusiastic response from our customers, reflecting their strong trust in our services, campaigns, and exclusive offers."

# First Bangladeshi Mango Festival opens at Souq Waqif

By Shafeeq Alingal  
Staff Reporter

The maiden edition of the Bangladeshi Mangoes Festival (Al Hamba Exhibition) started at the Eastern Square of Souq Waqif, yesterday. Organised by the Private Engineering Office (PEO) in co-operation with the embassy of Bangladesh, the festival features an array of mango products and fresh fruits from Bangladesh.

Abdulrahman Mohammed al-Naama, representative of PEO, inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of Bangladeshi ambassador Mohamed Nazrul Islam along with ambassadors and diplomats from various countries.

To run until July 1, the expo showcases a distinguished selection of renowned Bangladeshi mango varieties such as Amrapali, Langra, Katimon, Khirsapat, Fazli, Gopalbhog, Haribhanga, Lame Mango, Banana Mango, Himashagor and Lakshmanbhog.

In addition, lychee, jackfruit, dragon fruit, guava, Baccareea Motleyana and pineapple are on sale. The exhibition is open daily from 4pm to 9pm except during official holidays when the opening hours are extended to 10pm.

"The expo is an opportunity to showcase the Bangladeshi fruits in Qatar where we are expecting a large turnout of buyers. The festival will further help Bangladeshi sellers and exporters to find a good market for their products," Nazrul Islam told *Gulf Times*.

He added that the festival will boost the economic relations between the two countries. "Such festivals are venues to highlight the cultural richness of Bangladesh and strengthen the ties with Qatar. We have hosted a number of activities for cultural exchange. This will also help the relations grow further," he said.



PEO representative Abdulrahman Mohammed al-Naama and Bangladesh ambassador Mohamed Nazrul Islam inaugurating the festival as general supervisor Khalid Saif al-Suwaidi and other dignitaries look on. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen



He added that more than 20 exhibitors are part of the festival. "Most of them have come all the way from Bangladesh exclusively for the expo. We are selling high quality fruits that were flown from Bangladesh in special flights," he said.

Khalid Saif al-Suwaidi, general supervisor of the exhibition, said the festival is being held for the first time in conjunction with the peak mango harvest season in Bangladesh with the goal of enhancing healthy competition among participating companies and offering high-quality products at accessible prices.

"The exhibition is the result of collaborative planning between the Celebrations Committee and the Embassy of Bangladesh to provide a platform for both Bangladeshi and local companies to showcase their offerings in a distinguished commercial

setting," he said, inviting the public to relish the Bangladeshi mangoes, which are considered among the finest in the world due to their unique flavour and superior quality. "Many of the varieties on display are being introduced to the local market for the first time making the exhibition a rare opportunity to explore new tastes," he said.

Al-Suwaidi also highlighted the participation of several companies specialising in mango seedlings, which are expected to attract the interest of local citizens and farmers keen on cultivating mangoes for production purposes.

He explained that the exhibition tent has been equipped with proper cooling systems to ensure freshness of the products and visitors' comfort, especially since the mangoes are flown in daily from Bangladesh.

# Affected passengers cleared within 24 hours: Al-Meer

From Page 1

"Hamad International Airport, one of the world's busiest and most connected global hubs, was brought to a standstill, with almost 100 aircraft en route to Doha, several already on approach to our runways, and others lining up for departure.

"In the moments that followed, a missile attack was launched from Iran on Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar. As missiles entered the skies above Qatar, air defence systems were activated and the State of Qatar's Armed Forces took swift, decisive action to protect its people, defend its territory, and ensure the safety of everyone within its borders."

Al-Meer continued, "All departures from Doha were suspended until 00:01 on June 24 at the earliest. Our routine, seamlessly synchronised global operation was, in an instant, scattered into dozens and dozens of disrupted flight scenarios across continents, each with their own complexities and requirements. "Inside Hamad International Airport, over 10,000 passengers were already in transit, expecting to depart when the escalation occurred. They found themselves caught in the middle of one of the most severe and complex operational challenges in modern aviation history.

"Around the world, some of our flight crews had timed out of legal operating hours. Most of our fleet, including A380s carrying more than 450 passengers each, were now out of position, some grounded at airports with curfews. Several flights had to wait for clearance to re-enter restricted regional airspace.

Aircraft routing plans were rewritten in parallel with passenger itineraries. Over 151 flights were immediately disrupted. Every part of the operation had to adapt in real time — without precedent, and without pause.

"The priority for us was clear: to care for our passengers impacted by the unprecedented situation that continued to unfold, and to restore our global operations as safely and swiftly as possible.

"Once airspace reopened shortly after midnight on Tuesday, June 24,

diverted aircraft began returning to our Doha hub over the course of several hours — each arrival a step towards reassembling our operation. As these aircraft and their passengers disembarked at Hamad International Airport, the number of passengers in transit surged to over 22,000 by 5am local time.

"As an airline, our business continuity plans were activated, and our teams co-ordinated on hard resource planning, catering, ground transport, hotel accommodation, and real-time alignment with passenger movements, immigration, customs, and every airport stakeholder.

"Over 4,600 customers were provided hotel accommodation, using approximately 3,200 rooms across Doha. Many of these passengers received onward boarding passes for their rescheduled flights before even leaving the terminal — allowing for a smoother re-entry once our operations resumed.

"Teams from across the airline group stepped into transit areas to assist passengers directly, rebooking journeys, prioritising medical cases, supporting families and elderly travellers, and manually rebuilding complex travel itineraries, some involving other airlines, and expired visas. Over 35,000 meals were distributed, and water, comfort kits, and reassurance were offered face to face, flight by flight.

"We increased capacity to destinations with high volumes of displaced passengers. Contact centre resources were scaled up to cope with global demand. We quickly established a flexible travel policy, allowing passengers who had not yet started their journeys to make changes or refund their bookings without fees.

"Across our global stations, ground handlers and partners moved quickly, supported by live co-ordination between our airport and airline operations control centres.

"A severe geopolitical escalation had forced the shutdown of our global hub, but our focus was to stay agile, adapt, and continue to deliver for our passengers.

By Tuesday, June 24, Qatar Airways operated a total of 390 flights as we worked to rebuild our network

and restore schedule integrity.

All passengers from diverted flights — approximately 20,000 in total — were cleared within 24 hours. More than 11,000 resumed their journeys during the morning wave on June 24, with the remainder departing through the evening wave and morning bank on 25 June. As of today, there are no passengers from diverted flights left stranded.

"Within just 18 hours, our scheduled operations had resumed. Wave by wave, the system began to stabilise. By the end of Tuesday, more than 58,000 passengers had departed Doha — moved not by chance, but by a co-ordinated effort from across the Qatar Airways Group to fulfil our responsibility during this unprecedented disruption."

Al-Meer added, "Today, June 25, our operation has stabilised even further, with 578 scheduled flights operating. This scale and speed of recovery reflects the depth of experience, planning, and commitment we're proud to uphold at Qatar Airways.

"To everyone who travelled with us during this difficult time — to those who waited patiently in long queues, to those who faced uncertainty, and to those who showed understanding in the face of a worrying and rapidly-evolving crisis — I thank you. We are deeply grateful for your patience and trust as we worked to take you to your destination as safely and smoothly as possible."

"My sincere appreciation goes to our teams across the airline, and to our partners around the world, for their immense efforts around the clock over the past few days. Faced with an extraordinary challenge, we came together to support our passengers, recover our network, and return our operations to normal. The professionalism and unity on display reflect the very best of what our airline group and our partners stand for.

"Millions place their trust in Qatar Airways to carry them across borders, continents, and time zones, — and that trust is not taken lightly. It is earned, through action, through responsibility, and a readiness to act when it matters most. Thank you for continuing to place that trust in us."

# Science Cafe series focuses on AI in precision medicine

Msheireb Museums and Sidra Medicine presented the third session of the 2025 Science Cafe series at Bin Jelmood House recently, bringing together experts to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming healthcare delivery in Qatar.

Titled 'The Promise of AI in Precision Medicine: A Healthcare Revolution in Qatar,' the session examined cutting-edge developments in AI-assisted medicine, including machine learning applications in diagnostics, personalised treatment protocols, and the ethical considerations of implementing AI in healthcare settings.

Discussions highlighted Qatar's pioneering efforts in integrating AI technologies with genomic medicine and digital health solutions.

In a press statement, Sidra Medicine chief research officer Prof Khalid Fakhro said: "Qatar's investment in AI-driven precision medicine positions the country as an early adopter of global healthcare innovation.

"Through our ongoing efforts with disease cohorts and our collaborative research networks, Sidra Medicine is building comprehensive da-

**"Science Cafe continues to serve as a vital bridge between scientific innovation and public understanding. By hosting discussions on transformative technologies like AI in medicine, Msheireb Museums fulfils its mission of fostering dialogue about progress while maintaining our connection to humanity"**

taset that, when combined with AI, unlock unprecedented insights into disease mechanisms and treatment responses.

"This Science Cafe session demonstrated how these technologies are already improving patient care and will continue to transform precision medicine in the years ahead," he said.

Msheireb Museums general manager Abdulla al-Naama said: "Science Cafe continues to serve as a vital bridge between scientific innovation and public understanding. By hosting discussions on transformative technologies like AI in medicine, Msheireb Museums fulfils its mission of fostering dialogue about progress while maintaining our connection to humanity."

The session featured speakers and a panel session with Dr Muneera al-Qahtani, senior research associate from Qatar Environment and Energy

Research Institute; Dr Mitch Stotland, vice-chair of surgery and founder of the AI and Medicine Conference series at Sidra Medicine; Dr Madeeha Kamal, acting division chief of Adolescent Medicine at Sidra Medicine; Dr Amr Metwally, assistant executive director at Hamad Medical Corporation's Itqan Clinical Simulation and Innovation Center; and Dr Yosra Mekki, a recent graduate from Qatar University's College of Medicine.

Dr Sahar Da'as, research manager at Sidra Medicine and founder of the Science Cafe series, said: "At Sidra Medicine, we are witnessing firsthand how machine learning algorithms can analyse vast genomic datasets to predict disease patterns, optimise treatment pathways, and deliver truly personalised care. This session showcased Qatar's leadership in harnessing AI to revolutionise patient care and outcomes."





QCS concludes campaign to support people living with cancer

Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) has concluded its awareness campaign titled 'I Am a Survivor and I will Inspire them with my story,' launched during June in alignment with the global calendar for raising awareness about cancer survivors.

The campaign garnered widespread community engagement and positive feedback through its diverse initiatives, aimed to raise awareness and enhance psychological and social support for patients, survivors, and their families. The campaign featured a variety of on-ground and digital activities, most notably the publication of a series of inspirational stories from cancer survivors. These stories highlighted their journeys and conveyed powerful, hopeful messages that encourage other patients to persevere and reclaim their lives.



As part of the campaign, QCS organised a special visit to the National Center for Cancer Care and Research. In the spirit of community support, QCS also hosted a group iftar for children living with cancer and their families. The campaign included awareness-raising SMS messages to the public, encouraging community members to actively

support and empower cancer patients and survivors both psychologically and socially. Several survivors also participated in radio and television interviews to share their experiences and challenges, lending their voices to this often-overlooked segment of the community. Additionally, the campaign launched a social media awareness initiative aimed at educating the public on the needs of survivors and ways to support and empower them. Dana Mansour, head of the Community Psychological Support Department at QCS, stated that the campaign is part of a comprehensive plan to raise societal awareness about cancer survivors, empower them to reclaim their roles in society, and challenge the stereotypes associated with cancer and those affected by it.

WCM-Q study highlights Qatar’s excellence in cancer care and research

Researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) have conducted a comprehensive study of Qatar’s pioneering national cancer care and research strategy, highlighting the significant achievements in improving prevention, detection and treatment.

The report, published in the UK medical journal *Lancet Oncology*, notes the remarkable success of Qatar’s investments in advanced clinical and research infrastructure, cutting-edge technologies, and recruitment of highly skilled healthcare professionals over the past two decades, which have transformed the country into a regional leader in cancer care.

Areas of particular strength in Qatar’s system of cancer care – shaped by the National Cancer Strategy (2010) and the Qatar Cancer Plan (2023-26) – include special expertise in precision and personalised medicine, early detection, and robustly evidence-based cancer management following diagnosis, leading to improved survival rates.

The research, titled ‘Qatar national cancer care and re-



Dr Lotfi Chouchane

search: pioneering strategies for global health excellence’, also highlights areas where some challenges still exist, including late-stage diagnosis, low health literacy relating to cancer among some demographic groups in Qatar, and data collection and long-term analysis.

WCM-Q’s Dr Lotfi Chouchane, professor of genetic medicine and professor of microbiology and immunology, is the senior author of the paper. The report, and a subsequent paper also published in *Lancet*

*Oncology*, additionally highlights the potential for establishing beneficial regional and global collaborations on cancer care and research, particularly with Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The subsequent paper, titled ‘Bridging borders for resilience in cancer control in the Middle East: a strategic alliance of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Jordan’ also provides an epidemiological breakdown of patterns of cancer burden in the three countries.

Dr Murugan Subramanian, senior research associate, is a co-first author of the paper, with Dr Chouchane serving as a co-senior author.

Other researchers who contributed include Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani, director of the Public Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health and associate professor of Clinical Healthcare Policy and Research at WCM-Q and Qatar University; Dr Salha Bujassoum, senior consultant at the National Centre for Cancer Care and Research; Dr Khalid Rashid al-Rumailhi, head of the Department of Urology at Hamad Medical Corporation; and Dr Hilal Lashuel, research development and innovation

adviser to the chairperson of Qatar Foundation and executive director of RDI at the chairperson’s office.

Dr Chouchane said: “This research shows very clearly that the past two decades have been a huge success story for Qatar in its efforts to establish a truly world-class cancer care and innovation infrastructure. Looking ahead, we identified some challenges to overcome in the areas of community health literacy; cultural sensitivities surrounding important cancer-prevention measures; language barriers; data collection, digitisation and long-term analysis; issues around healthcare equity; and the growing global challenge of unhealthy lifestyle choices, which can increase cancer risk.”

The research also draws attention to Qatar’s efforts to prioritise the integration of cutting-edge precision and personalised medicine protocols into clinical practice – a measure which is already having a significant positive impact on survival rates.

Research by Dr Chouchane’s lab at WCM-Q has been at the forefront of precision medicine approaches to cancer care.



WISH panel at Osaka Expo addresses attacks on health in armed conflict

Leading voices in global healthcare spotlighted the escalating attacks on health amid armed conflict globally at the Osaka Expo, during a panel session hosted by Qatar Foundation’s global healthcare initiative, World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH).

Held at the event’s Qatar Pavilion, the panel – titled ‘Protecting Health in Armed Conflict’ – brought together representatives from Médecins Sans Frontières, the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNRWA, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as WISH.

The panel built on WISH’s ongoing efforts to raise global awareness of attacks on health, following a recent official side event at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva and the release of a joint report on the issue by WISH and WHO. The discussion at the Osaka Expo is part of a broader WISH strategy to foster a coalition of organisations and experts to protect

health workers and facilities in conflict zones.

Speaking during the panel, Dr Slim Slama, CEO of WISH, said: “An attack on healthcare is an attack on the very foundation of humanity. Each strike not only destroys hospitals and endangers health workers, but also robs entire communities of safety, dignity, and hope. Protecting medical care in conflict is a legal and moral obligation – when we fail to act, we allow suffering to multiply and justice to fade.”

Alongside Dr Slama, panelists included Chika Suefuji, advocacy director, Médecins Sans Frontières; Dr Rick Brennan, former WHO EMRO regional emergency director; Dr Akihiro Seita, medical director, UNRWA, and Hitomi Makabe, head of communications, International Committee of the Red Cross.

The discussion was moderated by Dr Sumoor Verma, director of partnerships and outreach, WISH.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, BACHINI ANNE GODWIN  
holder of  
SRILANKA Passport No. N8343019  
QID No. 28114409032  
hereby change my name  
from  
BACHINI ANNE GODWIN  
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Any objection, please contact  
THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR  
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

MoECC holds blood donation drive

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), in co-operation with Hamad Medical Corporation's Qatar National Blood Donor Center, organised a blood donation campaign yesterday. Farhoud al-Hajri, director of the Public Relations and Communications Department, said the campaign stems from MoECC's commitment to instilling a culture of giving and social responsibility among employees and supporting national efforts to provide sufficient quantities of blood to patients and those in need in hospitals.

Training programme organised for accounting graduates seeking jobs

The Ministry of Labour, represented by the Qualifying and Skills Development Department, in co-operation with the Qatar Association of Certified Public Accountants (QCPA), organised yesterday a specialised training programme for private sector job seekers, including Qataris and children of Qatari women, specialising in accounting. The programme aims to qualify and prepare them for employment in the labour market. The training programme comes within the framework of the Ministry of Labour's efforts and its commitment to qualifying and training the national workforce, supporting the labour market with qualified Qatari competencies with competitive capabilities, and increasing their percentage of the total workforce in the private sector, in order to achieve the goals of the nationalisation plan. The programme also comes in line with the National Strategy for a Highly Productive and Competent Workforce 2024-2030, as it provides an explanation on understanding the basic theories and concepts of risk management and the application of risk management tools and practices in joint-stock companies and banks. Through initiatives and training programmes organised continuously throughout the year in co-operation with partners, the Ministry of Labour seeks to build a base of competencies and skills within the national workforce capable of participating in the sustainable development process and enhancing Qatar's position as a global hub for innovation and knowledge, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. (QNA)

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, IBRAHIM SHEKH MOHAMED FARHAN  
holder of  
Indian Passport No. V8360828  
QID No. 31135602229  
hereby change my name  
from  
IBRAHIM SHEKH MOHAMED FARHAN  
to  
IBRAHIM FARHAN SHEIKH

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NATIONALITY AFFAIRS  
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Indian Passport No. U0919111  
QID No. 27635600019  
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within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

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# NMoQ marks 50 years of cultural preservation and innovation

The National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) is marking its 50th anniversary in June, celebrating five decades of preserving and showcasing Qatar's cultural heritage and history, a statement said yesterday.

Established in 1975 as the Qatar National Museum, the institution has long served as a vital cultural landmark, offering residents and visitors a profound connection to the nation's past.

From its original home in the historic palace of Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim al-Thani to its transformation into the iconic Jean Nouvel-designed NMoQ of today, the museum continues to illuminate Qatar's history and cultural future.

The 50th anniversary coincides with the 20th anniversary of Qatar Museums (QM), responsible for developing and managing the nation's diverse museum landscape.

To mark these milestones, QM is participating in Evolution Nation campaign, an 18-month celebration honouring Qatar's cultural journey over the past 50 years.

The initiative will be curated by Qatar Creates, the national movement positioning Qatar as a global hub for art, culture, and creativity.

This landmark year honours the enduring vision of Qatar's leadership, beginning with His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, carried forward by His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and continued by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

Their unwavering commitment to cultural enrichment laid the foundation for institutions like QM and NMoQ. Guided by a national vision that places cultural heritage at the heart of identity and pride, NMoQ brings this vi-



National Museum of Qatar

sion to life as a place where Qatar's story is preserved, experienced, and shared with the world.

HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, chairperson of Qatar Museums, said, "Qatar Museums was born from the same vision that founded the Qatar National Museum 50 years ago, and has passionately championed creativity, innovation, and cultural exchange, transforming the museum landscape into a vibrant ecosystem that celebrates our heritage and propels us into the future."

"This vision, shaped and guided by the foresight of His Highness the Father Amir and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim, has laid the foundation for institutions like Qatar Museums and the National Museum of Qatar to flourish as cornerstones of national identity."

"The National Museum of Qatar, in particular, stands as a testament to our cultural identity and collective memory, a place where the stories of our people, traditions, and history are displayed.

As we look ahead, we reaffirm our commitment, deeply rooted in preserving and showcasing our cultural heritage globally, ensuring that the essence of who we are continues to inspire the future generations.

"Together, we are building a legacy where culture is a living, breathing force, one that connects communities, sparks imagination, and shapes the story of Qatar for generations to come."

Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Thani, director of the NMoQ, said: "As we celebrate 50 years, we pay tribute to our rich history, embrace the vibrancy of the present, and commit to inspiring future generations to cherish and continue this extraordinary cultural legacy."

In honour of this landmark anniversary, NMoQ will host a series of engaging events and programmes throughout the year, culminating in the opening of a special 50th anniversary exhibition in October 2025.

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, the NMoQ is launching Memories from the Public, an open call inviting people of all ages and backgrounds to share personal stories and reflections related to the museum. Submissions can include photographs, videos, written memories, voice notes, or drawings.

From visits to the original museum to exhibitions and family outings, each contribution will help capture the museum's enduring impact. Selected submissions will be featured on the museum's social media platforms and presented as part of a special 50th anniversary exhibition.

Details on how to submit will be announced soon via NMoQ's official social media platforms, please follow @nmoqatar for updates.

Further announcements about upcoming events and initiatives will be shared in the coming months as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations, the statement added.



An interior view of erstwhile Qatar National Museum.

## QPHI, QF-PUE strengthen collaboration

Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI), a national centre for research and implementation under Qatar Foundation (QF), has reached a new milestone in its ongoing strategic collaboration with QF's Pre-University Education (PUE) division by launching educational workshops and activations for primary school students.

Building on a shared vision to inspire, educate, and empower young learners in Qatar and globally in genome science, QPHI and PUE have joined their efforts to develop and implement innovative educational programmes, workshops, and knowledge transfer opportunities through interactive learning methods.

These initiatives aim to lay a strong foundation in genome science in students from an early age and aim to encourage curiosity and develop the knowledge and skills needed to drive future advancements in precision health.

The Genome Heroes game is one such initiative developed by the Genomics Education team at QPHI's Qatar Genome Programme with support from students across QF schools. Available in both Arabic and English, it is the first edu-



cational game in the Middle East that simplified Genome Science for primary school students and the public.

QPHI and PUE are rolling out activations for the game across QF schools, giving students in grades 1-6 a hands-on, engaging way to explore genome science. Moreover, students can also participate in a range of other activities designed to deepen their understanding of the fundamentals of genome science.

"Our collaboration with PUE is a vital step towards creating

a robust scientific foundation among young learners," said, Dr Wadha al-Muftah, senior director, Genome Programme at QPHI.

Mehdi Benchaabane, executive director, QF IB Schools, said: "This collaboration reflects our shared vision of delivering meaningful and impact-driven educational experiences that prepare students to navigate future challenges and embrace new opportunities, enabling them to contribute to a society driven by discovery and progress."



## Qatar Charity rebuilds mosque in Jordan

As part of its ongoing efforts to support the local communities, Qatar Charity (QC) has rebuilt the Khalid bin Al-Walid Mosque in the Alkarak region of Jordan.

The project was funded by a donor from Qatar and implemented in co-ordination with Jordan's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, represented by Dr Mohammad al-Khalailah, Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places.

The mosque was inaugurated in the presence of QC's Jordan

office general supervisor Saleh Ghorab al-Marri, Karak Governor Dr Qablan al-Sharif, Karak Mayor Dr Ali al-Haisa, and several officials, sheikhs, and local dignitaries.

The mosque cost approximately 500,000 Jordanian dinars, with a construction area of 900sq m. It can accommodate 800 worshippers and includes a main prayer hall for men and women, ablution areas, a residence for the imam, and a warehouse.

Minister al-Khalailah ex-

pressed his appreciation to Qatar, its leadership, government, and people and to the Qatari donor who funded the reconstruction of the mosque through QC.

He emphasised that the Khalid bin Al-Walid Mosque is a vital religious and social centre in the area, highlighting the depth of fraternal ties between Jordan and Qatar.

Sheikh Musleh al-Khatib, the local Imam, extended his thanks to QC for restoring the mosque.



## RwandAir named Best Regional Airline in Africa at 2025 World Airline Awards



*"RwandAir has been named the Best Regional Airline in Africa at the prestigious 2025 World Airline Awards, often referred to as the 'Oscars of the aviation industry.'"*

This award underscores RwandAir's pivotal role in enhancing connectivity across African countries while linking the continent to the rest of the world. As one of Africa's fastest-growing and most ambitious carriers, RwandAir continues to gain global recognition for its high service standards and reliability. The awards were hosted by Skytrax at the iconic National Air and Space Museum during the Paris Air Show.

Yvonne Makolo, CEO of RwandAir, said: "This award is a powerful recognition of our dedicated team and the high level of service they give to our passengers every day. It reflects our mission to not only be a leader

in regional aviation but to connect Africa to the world with ambition and world-class African hospitality. As an airline, we are transforming African aviation into a new era of growth, opportunity, and innovation."

Edward Plaisted, CEO of Skytrax, said: "RwandAir continues to distinguish itself through a clear focus on service attention, and we congratulate them on winning this award as the Best Regional Airline in Africa at the 2025 World Airline Awards. The airline has created an experience that stands out in its category - professional, considered, and personal as it continues to evolve its regional product with

confidence."

The World Airline Awards were introduced in 1999 to provide a truly global customer satisfaction study. Travellers worldwide vote in the largest airline passenger satisfaction survey to determine the award winners.

The online survey for the 2025 awards was conducted from September 2024 to May 2025, with over 100 customer nationalities participating. A total of 22.3 million eligible entries were counted, with all responses screened to eliminate duplicate, suspicious, or ineligible entries. More than 325 airlines were featured in the final results.





# Erdogan appeals for permanent Iran-Israel ceasefire, Gaza truce

Reuters  
Ankara

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told leaders at a Nato summit yesterday that a ceasefire between Israel and Iran needed to be made permanent, his office said, and called for a ceasefire in Gaza to alleviate the humanitarian crisis there.

Nato member Turkiye has been fiercely critical of Israel and its assault against Palestinian Hamas fighters in Gaza, which has been reduced to rubble after two years of war and had its population displaced. Ankara has also said Israel's "state terrorism" against Iran – with which it shares a 560-kilometre border – heightened the risks of a wider conflict, and welcomed the ceasefire between the two.

At the Nato summit in The Hague,

Erdogan held talks with the leaders of France, Germany and Britain on regional tensions, bilateral ties and relations with the EU, and defence industry co-operation. Erdogan met US President Donald Trump late on Tuesday.

"Our President said he welcomed the ceasefire between Israel and Iran, that the de facto situation needs to turn into lasting calm as soon as possible, that the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is increasingly

continuing, and that a lasting ceasefire is also needed there urgently," Erdogan's office said after his meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron. He repeated that call to German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, adding that a solution needed to be found to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Erdogan also told British Prime Minister Keir Starmer that "these tensions must not leave the humanitarian crisis in Gaza – which has reached a disastrous level –

forgotten". Erdogan said the problems between Tehran and Washington could only be solved through diplomacy, adding that everyone must contribute to achieving lasting peace in the Middle East.

"We welcome the ceasefire achieved through the efforts of US President Trump," he told a press conference following the summit. "We expect the parties to unconditionally abide by the call of my friend Trump."



Palestinians Fawzya Ishreiteh and her grandchildren clear burnt belongings in the living and kitchen area of her family house after a reported attack overnight by Israelis from a nearby settlement, in Susya south of Hebron city in the occupied West Bank, yesterday.

# Palestinians say Israeli fire kills West Bank teenager

AFP  
Jerusalem

The Palestinian health ministry said Israeli troops shot dead a 15-year-old boy in the occupied West Bank yesterday, the second teenager killed there in three days.

"The child Rayan Tamer Houshiyeh was killed after being shot in the neck by soldiers in the town of Al-Yamoun, northwest of Jenin," the Ramallah-based ministry said. Earlier yesterday, the Palestinian Red Crescent said that

its teams had handled "a very critical case" in Al-Yamoun involving a teenager, before pronouncing him dead. The army told AFP that it was "looking into" the events in Al-Yamoun.

The Red Crescent later said that a 30-year-old man also suffered a "serious head injury" in an attack by settlers in the town of Kafr Malik, northeast of Ramallah.

On Monday, the health ministry had said Israeli fire killed a 13-year-old identified as Ammar Hamayel, also in Kafr Malik.

Earlier this month, the army confirmed it had killed a 14-year-

old who threw rocks in the town of Sinjil. In a similar incident in April, a teenager who held US citizenship was shot dead in the neighbouring town of Turmus Ayya, with the Israeli military saying it had killed a "fighter" who threw rocks at cars.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967, and violence in the territory has soared since the Hamas storming of Israel in October 2023 that triggered the Gaza war. Since then, Israeli troops or settlers have killed at least 941 Palestinians, including many fighters, according to the health ministry.

# Ugandan opposition party leader to run for president

AFP  
Kampala

Uganda's main opposition party said yesterday its leader Bobi Wine would run in upcoming presidential elections, likely pitting the popular musician-turned-politician against President Yoweri Museveni.

The east African nation is expected to hold elections in January, with the opposition facing a mounting crackdown as activists and politicians are intimidated, abducted and detained.

Octogenarian leader Museveni declared earlier this week he would seek re-election, hoping to extend almost four decades of rule.

The National Unity Platform (NUP) said Wine, real name Robert Kyagulanyi, had "submitted the expres-

sion of interests to contest for the President of Uganda". NUP secretary-general Lewis Rubongoya told AFP he had submitted the papers to the party, and while the process was internal, "we shall rally behind him this time round for change in Uganda".

Wine previously contested the 2021 election, which was marred by widespread allegations of voting irregularities and state violence.

He has been arrested numerous times, with Museveni's son and heir-apparent, General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, repeatedly threatening on social media to behead him.

Wine's announcement comes as authorities increasingly crack down on the opposition.

Last year, Kizza Besigye, another longtime Museveni opponent, was abducted from Kenya and brought to Uganda, where he now faces a possible death penalty in a treason trial.

# 16 deaths recorded in Kenya protests

Reuters  
Nairobi

Sixteen people died during nationwide anti-government protests in Kenya yesterday, most of them killed by police, the head of Amnesty Kenya said, a year after deadly demonstrations against a tax bill culminated in the storming of parliament.

Thousands of Kenyans took to the streets to commemorate last year's demonstrations, in which more than 60 people died, with police firing tear gas and water cannons to disperse them in the capital Nairobi, according to local



Protesters march as they confront Kenya police officers during clashes in downtown Nairobi, yesterday.

media and a Reuters witness.

Some protesters clashed with police, and 16 people were "verified dead as of 8:30", Amnesty Kenya's executive director Irungu

Houghton told Reuters, adding that the figures were verified by the global rights watchdog and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR).

# Israeli attacks causing collapse of Palestinian health sector

QNA  
Gaza

Palestinian medical sources confirmed yesterday that the ongoing Israeli aggression and the occupation's policies of obstructing the efforts of international organisations are pushing the health sector towards complete collapse and putting the lives of thousands of patients and wounded individuals at risk of death.

Medical sources in the Gaza Strip reported that the remaining hospitals operating in the Strip are threatened with closure at any moment, with severe overcrowding in the inpatient, intensive care, and emergency departments, and an increase in critical injuries that exceed the hospital's capacity. They noted that only 45 out of 312 operating rooms remain operational, with limited capabilities,

and are unable to perform urgent and complex surgical interventions. Meanwhile, hospitals are suffering from a severe shortage of medicines and medical supplies, which has particularly affected services for cancer and heart patients.

The sources announced that 47% of the list of essential medicines has been completely depleted, while the shortage of medical supplies has reached 65%. Only nine of the 34 oxygen stations are still partially operational and do not cover the needs of hospitals. In addition, diagnostic imaging equipment is out of order, and there is a shortage of fuel needed to operate 49 electric generators, which deepens the crisis in vital departments. They added that patients are prevented from travelling to receive treatment, while 338 cancer patients have died while waiting for treatment referrals.

Another 11,000 have been deprived of treatment opportunities after specialised centres were destroyed, and they were prevented from leaving. In addition, 513 patients have also died because the Occupation forces prevented them from travelling to receive treatment outside the Strip. Regarding kidney patients, the same sources confirmed that 41% of those afflicted with the disease have died, while patients in the northern Gaza Strip are suffering from a complete lack of medical care following the destruction of hospitals.

They said blood banks are also suffering from a severe shortage of units, while community donation campaigns have become ineffective due to the spread of anaemia and malnutrition, particularly among children and infants, resulting from lack of therapeutic milk and the absence of nutritional sources and clean water.

# Hezbollah hails Iran's 'divine victory' over Israel

AFP  
Beirut

Lebanese armed group Hezbollah yesterday hailed what it called its ally Iran's victory over Israel after 12 days of war, declaring it the start of a "new historical phase".

In a statement, Hezbollah offered its "most sincere congratulations" to the Islamic republic, praising its "glorious divine victory". The victory, it said, was "manifested in the precise and painful strikes it launched" against Israel, as well as "the lightning response to the American aggression against its nuclear facilities". On Sunday, the United States struck Iranian nuclear facilities in response to the conflict, but a classified intelligence report concluded the attacks would only set back Tehran's nuclear programme by a few months.

"This is nothing but the beginning of a new historical phase in confronting American hegemony and Zionist arrogance in the region," Hezbollah said.

Hezbollah, which fought a devastating war against Israel last year, expressed its "firm and unwavering support for the Islamic Republic, its leadership and people," emphasising that "any surrender, subservience, or concession will only increase our enemies' arrogance and dominance over our region".

Israel on June 13 launched a major bombardment campaign targeting Iranian nuclear and military sites and killing top officials. The Iranian health ministry reported at least 610 civilians killed and more



People celebrate what they say is Iran's victory, after US President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, in Beirut, yesterday.



than 4,700 wounded in the fighting.

Iran's retaliatory attacks on Israel have killed 28 people, according to official figures.

Hezbollah called on its supporters to a rally in front of the Iranian

embassy in Beirut yesterday to celebrate "the culmination of the struggle and sacrifices" of Iran and its people, "who triumphed over the Israeli-American aggression".

Iran has backed Hezbollah since the group's founding in the 1980s.

# Nigerian gangs kill 20 soldiers in raid

AFP  
Kano

Criminal gangs in central Nigeria earlier this week killed at least 20 soldiers in a raid on a military base, security sources said yesterday.

Armed "bandits", as they're known in the west African country, stormed a base in Nigeria state Tuesday, overrunning it after a gun battle with troops stationed to combat criminal gangs and militants operating in the region, the sources said.

The military put the toll at 17.

The state is part of a region in central and northwestern Nigeria that has for years been terrorised by criminal gangs who carry out deadly raids on villages, conduct kidnappings for ransom and burn homes after looting them.

In Tuesday's raid, armed men stormed a base outside the town of Bangi in Mariga district in the early morning.

"We lost 20 soldiers and several injured in the well-co-ordinated attack on the base," a military officer said.

Some attackers were also killed in the raid, the military officer said, without giving a toll.



## King Charles to host Trump in second UK state visit

King Charles will host US President Donald Trump for his unprecedented second state visit to Britain later this year, Buckingham Palace confirmed yesterday. Trump accepted an invitation from Charles for a second state visit in February, making the US president the first elected political leader in modern times to be hosted for two state visits by a British monarch. "Your country is a fantastic country and it'll be our honour to be there," Trump said after Prime Minister Keir Starmer handed him a handwritten letter from Charles in the Oval Office, describing the king as "a beautiful man".

No date was set at the time for the event which Britain hopes will help cement close ties between the two allies at a time of global upheaval, and one that is always marked by lavish displays of pomp and pageantry. "His majesty has known President Trump for many years and looks forward to hosting him and the First Lady later this year," a Palace aide said. Last week, the "Manu Regia", an official signed invitation from the monarch which signals the start of formal planning, was hand-delivered to the White House by British representatives, with confirmation of the exact date for the trip to follow.

## King's Trust Awards winners feted



Britain's King Charles stands with celebrities and winners of the King's Trust Awards 2025 during a reception, at Buckingham Palace, London, Britain, yesterday.

# UK premier defiant as welfare rebellion grows

Reuters  
The Hague

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed to lead his party into the next general election and rejected suggestions he was failing to listen to the concerns of his party yesterday, as he faces a growing rebellion from lawmakers over welfare reform. Lawmakers from Starmer's Labour Party have spearheaded an effort to kill the government's welfare plan at a vote due next week, saying it failed to provide support for disabled people and those with long-term health conditions. More than 100 lawmakers have vowed to vote for an amendment that would halt the proposed reforms, in what would be a major political embarrassment for the prime minister.

Starmer insisted he "can read the room" in response to a question at a press conference about whether he had the political skill to lead Britain. Taking questions at the Nato summit in The Hague, Starmer said the same criticism was made in the run-up to last year's general election, before he led his party to one of the largest parliamentary majorities in modern British history. "Is it tough going? Are there plenty of noises off? There always are, there always have been, there always will be," Starmer said. "I'm comfortable with reading the room and delivering the change the country needs." Due to rising welfare spending, which had been on course to top £100bn (\$129bn) by 2030, Labour said in March it planned to cut more than £5bn from its welfare budget by 2029-30. Asked if he was confident he

would lead his party into the next election, due in 2029, Starmer said "very", adding: "we were voted in absolutely clearly saying we need a decade of national renewal." Some of his lawmakers say the bill contains "dangerous and counterproductive cuts to entitlements aimed at disabled people" and lacked "measures to take proper account of the needs of people with ... long-term conditions". Starmer insisted that the vote would go ahead on July 1 and said his party was "pretty united" about the need to reform the welfare state and the question was how to do it. "We're committed to reforming our welfare system. It doesn't work, it traps people, and it has to be reformed," Starmer said. "It's really important I lead from the front and take the long-term decisions for the future of UK."

## China calls CIA videos an 'absurd' bid to recruit spies

Beijing yesterday accused the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of making an "absurd" attempt to recruit Chinese citizens via videos posted to social media. China's ministry of state security (MSS) said the placement of what amounted to job advertisements on social media platform X was an "amateurish gambit" to convince people to spy for the Americans. "These two painstakingly crafted 'job ads', riddled with clumsy rhetoric and slanderous claims, lay bare the absurd logic and paranoid delusions of American intelligence agencies," the ministry said in a statement posted to its official WeChat account. "Once again, the self-proclaimed 'world's top intelligence power' has turned itself into an international laughingstock through its baffling incompetence," it added. CIA director John Ratcliffe said that the videos posted last month - which implored the sharing of state secrets - were aimed at "recruiting Chinese officials to help the US".

## Flood-hit China braces for cyclone



Flooded buildings are seen at Rongjiang, in China's southwest Guizhou province. Severe flooding in China's southwestern province of Guizhou has forced more than 80,000 people to flee their homes, Beijing's state media said yesterday. China is enduring a summer of extremes, with heat waves scorching wide swathes of the country while rainstorms pummel other regions. A tropical depression may hit southern China as early as today, meteorologists cautioned.

## S Korea court rejects arrest warrant for ex-president

Reuters  
Seoul

A South Korean court yesterday rejected a request to issue an arrest warrant for former president Yoon Suk-yeol related to an investigation into his short-lived attempt to impose martial law, his lawyers said. South Korea's special prosecutor had asked the court on Tuesday to issue an arrest warrant for Yoon as an investigation intensified over the ousted leader's botched bid to declare martial law. A spokesperson for the Seoul Central District Court and the prosecution office did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A senior member of the special prosecutor's team of investigators said on Tuesday that the arrest warrant was on a charge of obstruction and accused Yoon of refusing to respond to summons for questioning. Lawyers representing Yoon

criticised the special prosecutor for what they said were attempts to summon the former president "based on superficial and secondary matters that invited suspicion the probe was politically driven". Nonetheless, his legal team said Yoon would comply with another summons and appear for questioning on Saturday. The special prosecutor had said it would consider seeking another arrest warrant if Yoon failed to turn up for questioning on Saturday, the Yonhap News Agency reported. Yoon, who is already facing a criminal trial on revolt charges for issuing the martial law declaration, was arrested in January after resisting authorities trying to take him into custody, but was released after 52 days on technical grounds. The former president is fighting the charges against him that include masterminding the revolt, which is punishable by death or life in prison.

# Australia prepares for verdict in mushroom murder trial

Reuters  
Morwell, Australia

The trial of an Australian woman accused of murdering three of her estranged husband's elderly relatives using toxic mushrooms entered its final stages yesterday, with the jury soon to begin its deliberations in a case that has gripped the nation. Erin Patterson, 50, is charged with the murders of her mother-in-law Gail Patterson, father-in-

law Donald Patterson and Gail's sister, Heather Wilkinson, along with the attempted murder of Ian Wilkinson, Heather's husband, in July 2023. The prosecution accuses her of foraging for poisonous death cap mushrooms and knowingly adding them to individual portions of Beef Wellington that she served to her guests at her home in Leongatha, a town of about 6,000 people some 135km southeast of Melbourne. Patterson denies the charges, which carry a life sentence, with

her defence calling the deaths a "terrible accident". Justice Christopher Beale, the presiding judge, began his second day of instructions to the jury yesterday at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court in Morwell, a former coal mining town whose best known tourist attractions until the trial were a rose garden and a regional art gallery. Beale has said the process will take until at least the end of the day, meaning the 14-member jury will retire to consider their verdict today at the earliest. Their deci-

sion must be unanimous. Outside, despite the winter cold and rain, members of the public began queuing for the limited seats in the court hours before proceedings began. "I am a true crime fanatic," said Philip Mayers, a social worker who got up at 5am and drove two hours from Melbourne, the state capital, to get his place in the court. "It's the uniqueness of it, you don't hear it every day." The trial has caused a sensation in Morwell, where Patterson requested to be tried rather than

Melbourne. Laura Heller, the owner of Jay Dee's Cafe across the road from the modest two-storey court building, said business had tripled since the trial began on April 29. "Even though it's not great circumstances, it has been very good for our community because it's brought people from outside the area," she said. Journalists, podcasters and documentary crews from domestic and international media have descended on the town for the proceedings, which British magazine

*The Spectator* dubbed "Australia's trial of the century". Public broadcaster ABC's daily podcast on the trial is currently the most popular in Australia, while streaming platform Stan says it will soon be airing a documentary on the trial and "media frenzy" surrounding the case. The Cedar Lodge Motel next to the court is fully booked, unusual outside the peak summer season, duty manager John Nicoll said. "It has been a bit of a boom for the motel and for the area in general," he said.

# Flying anxiety peaks in India after fatal Air India crash

Reuters  
Bengaluru

Retired Air Force officer Dinesh K has seen a surge in demand for his \$500 therapy course to help people overcome their fear of flying since Air India flight 171 crashed moments after take-off from Ahmedabad two weeks ago. Dinesh uses a combination of flight simulation and counselling at his Cockpit Vista centre for "fear of flying solutions" in Bengaluru, the only one in India. The centre has received more than 100 enquiries since the disaster, compared to a previous average of about 10 a month. "Fear of flying is typically to do with things happening on an aeroplane - the sounds, motion, vibrations ... exposure therapy is the only solution," Dinesh, 55, said during a tour of the facility where he demonstrated how cockpit controls relate to movements that often worry passengers. The centre has a simulator for a Boeing and Cessna plane to help people experience how landings and takeoffs appear from the cockpit and understand that not every vibration or sound during a flight signals danger. WhatsApp messages Dinesh received, and shared with Reuters, showed individuals complaining about "losing confidence" after the crash while others said it was "too hard on the brain".

A chilling 59-second CCTV clip showing the crash of the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, which killed 260 people, has been widely shared on social media and TV channels since the June 12 accident, which aviation and mental health experts said had led to an unusually high number of counselling requests. Some travellers are becoming more choosy in selecting their airline and aircraft - Boeing or Airbus - while others are so anxious they are taking more drastic steps by rescheduling or cancelling their air travel plans altogether. "I am filtering on the basis of not having to fly a Boeing ... I'm terrified currently, and I don't want to get back on a flight," said London-based Indian marketing consultant Nidhi Bhatia, 25, who flew to Mumbai in an Air India Boeing 777 plane a day before the Ahmedabad crash. Unlike India, Western countries



Retired IAF wing commander Dinesh K poses in a cockpit simulator room at Cockpit Vista in Bengaluru, India.

have many more formal setups to help people tackle their fear of flying, in its most intense form known as aerophobia, as fatal crashes often spike worries among travellers across the world. Days after an American Airlines plane collided with a helicopter in Washington, killing more than 60 people, a survey of 1,000 US consumers by research firm Prodege found 55% of travellers had higher anxiety, while 38% had reconsidered or cancelled travel plans. Google Trends data shows searches for the term "flying fear" in India hit "peak popularity" a day after the Air India crash, and the phrase was still being widely searched. Flying is typically seen as a safe mode of transport, and crashes during takeoff are especially rare. The International Civil Aviation Organisation said there were 1.87 accidents per million departures in 2023, its most recent annual air safety report. Of the nine hull loss accidents without fatalities recorded in 2024, only two occurred on take off, according to Airbus' website. The airport CCTV recording from Ahmedabad shows the Air India plane rose to a height of 650 feet after it took off, but suddenly lost altitude, crashing in a fireball into a nearby building - all within 60 seconds. The disturbing footage was a key cause of the panic among Indian travellers, five mental health experts said. People were seeking help because they had developed insomnia or become obsessed with flight updates, they said.

Others were scared of letting their loved ones travel on planes, complaining of "debilitating anxiety" for their relatives in transit "to an extent where they have been unable to focus on their daily chores" because they are constantly checking messages to see if they have landed, said psychologist Pankti Gohel. In Bengaluru, the \$500 Cockpit Vista course is spread over 14 hours and led by Dinesh, who oversaw ground operations during the undeclared 1999 Kargil war between India and Pakistan and retired as an Air Force wing commander in 2014. He also offers to accompany worried clients on the first flights they take after completing the course. Since the crash, many travellers fear travelling with Air India and are seeking alternative airlines, according to Jaya Tours, a mid-sized booking agency in Mumbai. Taken over by the Tata Group from the Indian government in 2022, Air India continues to face criticism for poor service and an outdated fleet. This year, the airline was also warned about flying three Airbus planes which lacked mandatory inspection checks on escape slides. The Indian Association of Tour Operators, which represents more than 1,600 agents, said overall flight bookings dropped by 15%-20% soon after the Air India crash, while 30%-40% of booked tickets were also cancelled. "We are getting very unusual questions about aircraft type. Earlier passengers didn't really care about what kind of aircraft it is," said the group's president, Ravi Gosain. "People don't want to hear about Dreamliners."



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US defence firms chase European military spend wave

US defence giants, backed by a strong Congressional delegation from Washington, used the Paris Airshow to showcase cutting-edge technologies and court European partners as they seek to tap into rising regional military spending.

Many European nations have pledged to significantly increase defence budgets in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and as US President Donald Trump's administration has threatened to scale back military support for the region.

That tension has been notably absent at this week's Paris Airshow, where US lawmakers and arms manufacturers pledged greater transatlantic partnership as Europe ramps up spending on everything from artillery shells and fighter jets to missile defence systems.

"We understand that our allies and partners are a force multiplier, so we are stronger when we are working together," US Senator Jerry Moran, a member of Trump's Republican party, told reporters at the show, the world's largest aerospace and defence gathering.

'National sovereignty matters but fragmentation is detrimental'

Moran, whose delegation was supporting US weapons makers, said it was in Paris to send a message that the US "is a dependable and reliable partner".

The conciliatory tone stands in stark contrast to the Trump administration's recent string of disparaging remarks about Europe and its defence industry.

"I think antagonising our allies does not make us stronger," Democrat Senator Jeanne Shaheen told reporters in Paris, expressing her desire to cement defence relations with Europe.

Despite pledges by many European nations to boost military self-sufficiency, the continent remains heavily reliant on US defence manufacturers. For instance, Europe buys American-made fighter jets and missiles from Lockheed Martin, Patriot missile defence systems from Raytheon Technologies and military jets and helicopters built by Boeing. In emerging military areas, like artificial intelligence, drones and satellite constellations, US tech firms like Anduril, Palantir and Elon Musk's SpaceX are far ahead. US firms are hoping to press home their advantage as European military spending surges, including through partnerships which are a way to soften any potential diplomatic tensions, delegates said.

US drone-maker Anduril and German defence giant Rheinmetall said last Wednesday they will link up to build military drones for European markets, in a sign of Europe leveraging American technology to boost military capabilities.

Thomas Laliberty, president of Land & Air Defense Systems at Raytheon, said there were no easy replacements for its weapons in Europe and he expected the firm to maintain a long-term footprint on the continent, including through new partnerships. Laliberty said Raytheon was close to announcing a plan to manufacture Stingers – a lightweight air defence missile used by Ukrainian forces against Russia – in Europe.

"For immediate needs, Raytheon is well positioned to support the European demand," Laliberty told reporters in Paris.

"We have a very bright future here."

Boeing, which won a contract from Trump's administration to develop the next-generation F-47 fighter jet this year, said Europe and the US would remain long-term partners despite political wobbles, partly to hold off the Chinese threat.

"Nobody can do it themselves – maybe the Chinese can try, but certainly the rest of us, we are going to have to work together," said Turbo Sjögren, Boeing's general manager for government services.

"To do otherwise takes too long and will be unaffordable."

The chairman of Italian aerospace and defence group Leonardo, Stefano Pontecorvo, added that US participation in some European programmes would be "unavoidable" in coming years due to the defence technologies available to them. European rivals were bullish about their future growth prospects but said budget constraints and a lack of regional alliances were holding back progress, conceding that they would continue to need significant US support.

"National sovereignty matters but fragmentation is detrimental. We need to find a way to hit a balance," Leonardo CEO Roberto Cingolani told reporters last week.

Jean-Brice Dumont, head of air power, defence and space at Airbus, said Europe's dependence on the US was "very high".

"Zero dependency on the US, I believe is a dream. We have a need for interoperability that drives some US needs," said Dumont, whose firm makes the Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jet with Britain's BAE Systems and Italy's Leonardo, as well as Earth observation satellites and drones.

Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said Europe had "too much bureaucracy" compared to the US and needed to adapt to a new military era of faster, cheaper and more nimble technology.

"Either Europe adapts its industry to these new parameters – different from those with which it has lived until four years ago – or it will have huge competitors, and not only the American ones," he said. – Reuters

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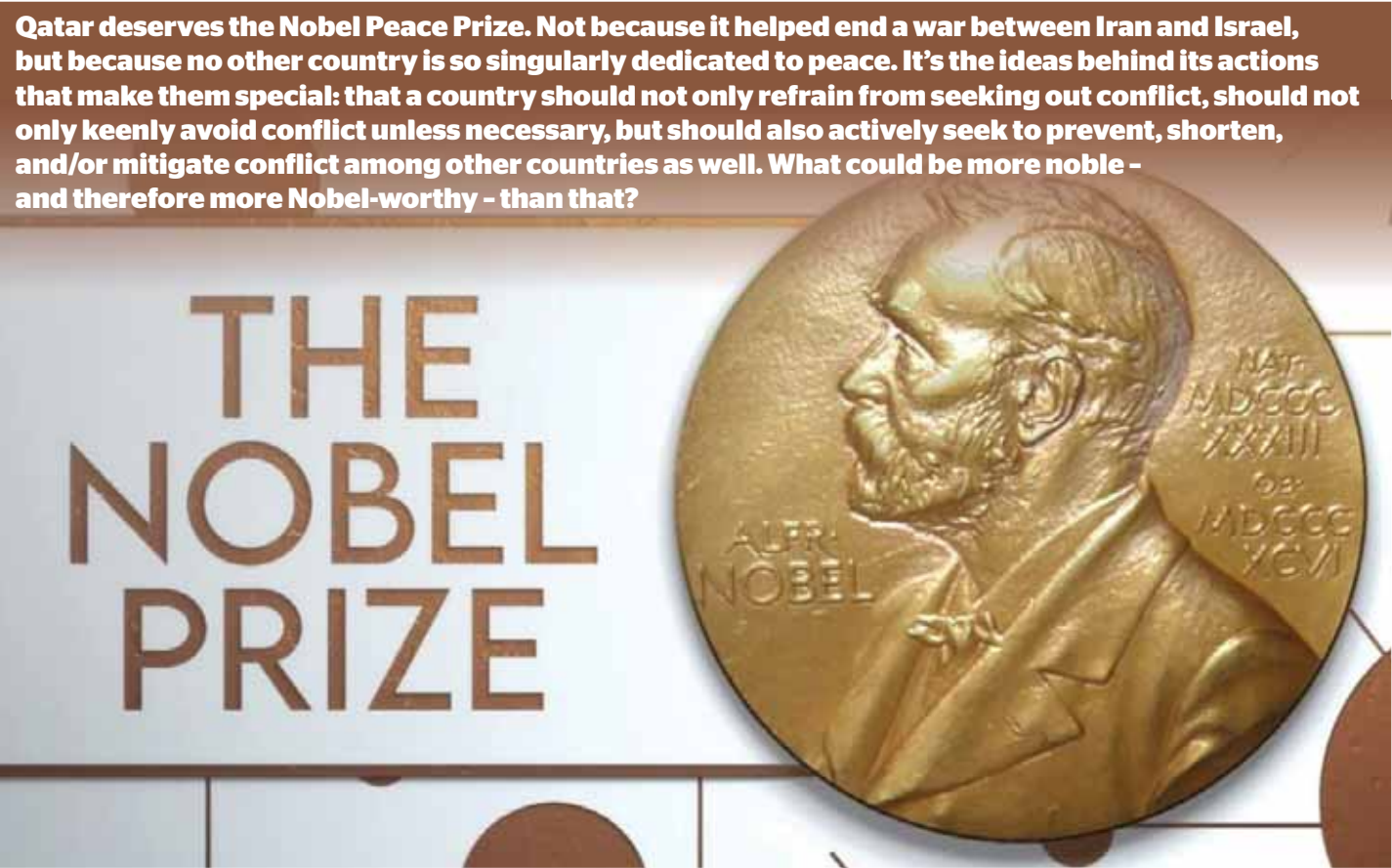
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Qatar deserves global thanks – and a whole lot more



Israel-Iran ceasefire is just latest example of Nobel-worthy diplomacy



By Roudi Baroudi  
Doha

Most of the world is watching and waiting, hoping and/or praying that a hastily arranged ceasefire between Israel and Iran will hold. If it does, there will be sighs of relief virtually everywhere; if it does not, the State of Qatar should still be considered for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Yes, you read that correctly: even if the ceasefire that it helped to secure falls apart, Qatar should be considered for what many regard as the most prestigious prize on Earth.

I believe this because peace is more important than any other cause on Earth, and pound-for-pound, no country does more than Qatar to promote peace. Peace is more than a photo opportunity, more than a process that often allows belligerents to let their guns fall silent, more even than the gratitude of those whose lives and livelihoods are spared. It also serves other useful purposes, too, including as a commodity that promotes stronger growth and better socioeconomic development, and frees up resources for investment in education, healthcare, and transport infrastructure. Accordingly, achieving peace means more than simply not being at war: it means having

the chance to better one's own situation by leaps and bounds. By extension, anyone who provides such a chance to anyone else deserves deep admiration.

By this measurement alone, Qatar's case for a Nobel is rock-solid – and has been for years, long before the world's most powerful county asked it to obtain Iranian consent to a ceasefire. A quick glance at Qatar's track record reveals a foreign policy focused almost entirely on the peaceful resolution of differences. Over the past quarter-century, Qatari diplomacy has helped to resolve or mitigate multiple crises, disputes, and conflicts in too many places to count, including Afghanistan, Darfur, Gaza, Eritrea, Iraq, Lebanon, Russia and Ukraine, Sudan and South Sudan, and Yemen. These feats have included the winding down of one all-out civil war and the prevention of another, the brokering of several exchanges involving thousands of prisoners/hostages, the securing of temporary cease-fires, the resolution of dangerous constitutional deadlocks, and – most importantly – the kindling of hope in the hearts of millions.

Not surprisingly, Qatar's diplomatic corps is almost constantly and relentlessly engaged in one form or another of peacemaking. It does not always succeed, but its investments – both political and financial – in this mission pay dividends in other ways, too. Repeated successes are their own reward, but even "failure" both raises Qatar's profile and reaffirms its commitment to dialogue and peace. In addition, both the leadership and the professional diplomats learn important lessons from each

and every engagement, making Qatari intervention increasingly effective over time. Just as importantly, this increasing effectiveness contributes to Qatar's growing reputation as an honest and capable broker, and that perception gives it still more influence, leverage, and flexibility going forward.

There are critics, of course. Many American officials, for instance, have criticised Doha for maintaining friendly relations with entities such as Hamas, the Taliban, and, indeed, the Islamic Republic of Iran. But when Washington and Paris wanted to end the presidential vacuum in Beirut, they turned to Qatar and other brotherly nations, which then helped to gain the acquiescence of Iran and Hezbollah. When Washington wanted to negotiate the release of Israeli soldiers and civilians held in Gaza, it was Qatar that made it happen. When the first Trump administration wanted a negotiated exit from Afghanistan, it was Doha that made the contacts and hosted the talks. And when the current Trump administration decided it was time for Israel and Iran to end hostilities, it was the Qataris who delivered the Iranians – and this despite the fact that Iran had just retaliated against US air strikes by lobbing missiles at a US air base inside Qatar!

In effect, the peninsula is now a platform for peace promotion, and not by accident. As impressive as they are, even Qatar's obvious enthusiasm and evident aptitude for dialogue and diplomacy cannot account for the unprecedentedly large role it has come to play on the world stage.

Instead, today's Qatar is the product of a bold strategy rooted in both purpose and principle. Led

by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the country's entire leadership views respect for international law and the maintenance of international peace and stability as existential objectives for Qatar and its population.

The Amir inherited some of this strategy from his father, but he has expansively built on it, adding both breadth of vision and depth of commitment. Even – and perhaps especially – when this approach has carried dire risks, His Highness the Amir has refused to waver, and his steadfast pursuit of fraternal relations among nation-states has continued. That resolve has been noted by state and non-state actors alike, and some former antagonists have even come to embrace and even emulate much of the Qatari approach.

That's why Qatar deserves the Nobel Peace Prize. Not because it helped end a war between Iran and Israel, but because no other country is so singularly dedicated to peace. It's the ideas behind its actions that make them special: that a country should not only refrain from seeking out conflict, should not only keenly avoid conflict unless necessary, but should also actively seek to prevent, shorten, and/or mitigate conflict among other countries as well.

What could be more noble – and therefore more Nobel-worthy – than that?

• Roudi Baroudi is an energy and policy expert with more than four decades of experience in both the private and public sectors. The author of several books, he currently serves as CEO of Energy and Environment Holding, an independent consultancy based in Doha.





# Trump claims ‘win’ amid Nato nod for major spending hike



US President Donald Trump and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio react during a press conference at a Nato summit in The Hague yesterday. (Reuters)

AFP  
The Hague

Nato countries agreed yesterday to massively ramp up their defence spending to satisfy US President Donald Trump, who hailed it as a “monumental win” for America — and reaffirmed his country’s commitment to protect its European allies.

Trump cut a jubilant figure after Nato’s 32 countries agreed to his headline target of five percent of GDP on defence spending following two days of talks in The Hague.

Taking credit for a “fantastic” outcome that “no-one really thought possible”, Trump described the spending hike as “a monumental win for the United States”.

“They said you did it, sir,” he told a news conference. “Well I don’t know if I did it — but I think I did.”

In a reassuring move for Euro-

pean allies worried over the threat from Russia, Trump signed off on a final leaders’ declaration confirming “our ironclad commitment” to Nato’s collective defence pledge that an attack on one is an attack on all.

Nato allies backed the spending increase to help counter a growing threat from Russia but also — crucially — to keep Trump engaged, with the US leader repeatedly suggesting Washington could withhold protection from lower-paying allies in Europe.

The deal appeared — for now at least — to have laid those gripes to rest.

The compromise hatched by Nato sees countries promise to dedicate 3.5% of GDP to core military spending by 2035, and a further 1.5 to broader security-related areas such as infrastructure.

While signing off on the target on paper, Spain has said it thinks it can fulfil Nato’s demands while spending less — earning a fresh rebuke yesterday from Trump, who

threatened to hit its trade interests in response.

But the pledge endorsed in The Hague allows Trump to claim triumph, while in practice providing some wiggle room for cash-strapped governments in Europe.

Diplomats said that behind closed doors Trump had given strong assurances of Washington’s commitment as an ally and urged others to spend some of the new money on US weaponry.

Everything was choreographed at the gathering in The Hague to keep the volatile US president on board: from chopping back the official part of the meeting to putting him up overnight in the royal palace.

Underpinning the leaders’ discussions on defence was Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, and in another sop to the demands of allies the United States allowed Nato to refer to the “long-term threat posed by Russia to Euro-Atlantic security” in the communique.

Though its language was wa-

tered down from previous years, the declaration also said allies would continue to support Ukraine “whose security contributes to ours” and could use money from the new spending pledge to fund military aid for Kyiv.

Ukraine’s Volodymyr Zelensky played a less central role here than at previous summits — with leaders wary of any bust-up after his infamous Oval Office shouting match with Trump.

But the US president did meet the war-torn country’s leader on the summit sidelines, declaring afterwards the encounter “couldn’t have been nicer” and Zelensky hailed a “substantive” meeting.

Trump also said he was talking to Russian President Vladimir Putin about the war, saying: “I think progress is being made.”

That said, despite the insistence by Nato chief Mark Rutte that Ukraine’s bid for membership remains “irreversible”, the summit statement avoided any mention of Kyiv’s push to join after Trump ruled it out.

Trump had rattled allies on the summit’s eve by appearing to cast some doubt on the validity of Nato’s mutual defence clause — known as Article Five of the alliance treaty. But the pledge was reaffirmed unequivocally in the summit’s final statement — and Trump drove the point home at his closing press conference.

“I came here because it was something I’m supposed to be doing,” Trump said in closing remarks to the press, when pressed on the mutual defence clause known as Article Five.

“But I left here a little bit differently,” said the US leader — who was visibly delighted at the red carpet welcome and the praise lavished on him by Nato’s Rutte among others.

“Without the United States, they couldn’t really have Nato. Wouldn’t work,” Trump said. “It will in the future, because now they’re paying much more money.”

## All Nato, including US, ‘totally committed’ to Ukraine fight: Rutte



The whole of Nato, including the United States, is “totally committed” to keeping Ukraine in the fight against Russia’s invasion, alliance Secretary-General Mark Rutte told Reuters in an interview yesterday.

Speaking at the end of a summit of Nato leaders in The Hague, Rutte also said nobody in Nato was naive about Russia and all alliance members “have more or less the same assessment” of Moscow.

US President Donald Trump’s more conciliatory stance towards Russia in his efforts to bring an end to the war in Ukraine has prompted questions about US commitments to Kyiv.

“The whole of Nato, including the United States, is totally committed to keep Ukraine in the fight, to make sure that if there is a peace deal, that peace deal — or the ceasefire — will be lasting, will be durable,” Rutte said.

He said the clear direction of travel was that Europeans would be responsible for more of the military aid to Ukraine.

But he said the United States would still be “very much involved with intelligence-sharing, with also practical military support” including potentially air defence systems.

“I think there will still be a huge, big American involvement,” Rutte said.

The Trump administration has also told Europeans that they must take over primary responsibility for their own security, rather than relying on the United States through Nato.

Rutte said this process would be possible as Europeans had committed to spending more on defence, and it would be “well-organised” to avoid any gaps that Russia could exploit.

“I’ve had these discussions in Washington over the last couple of months,” he said.

“For years, the US has said ‘we have to pivot more towards Asia’. Now that the Europeans are stepping up, that also makes it possible,” he said.

“You will see that what the US is delivering to Nato in terms of capabilities will gradually come down. But there’s also total clarity from the US that they don’t want any capability gaps to emerge in Europe,” Rutte said.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (left) meets with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the Nato summit in The Hague. (AFP)

## Sidelined Zelensky still gets Trump face time

AFP  
The Hague

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky may have been left largely on the margins of Nato’s summit in the Netherlands — but he still managed to score a sit-down meeting with US President Donald Trump yesterday.

“Couldn’t have been nicer,” Trump said after the 50-minute meeting, held behind closed doors.

No journalists were allowed into the room at the first encounter between the two men since they talked at the Vatican two months ago.

But they appeared to have avoided a repeat of the infamous Oval Office bust-up that soured relations between Kyiv and what had been its key backer. “I had a good meeting with Zelensky,” Trump said. “He’s fighting a brave battle. It’s a tough battle.”

The positive mood music was about as good as Kyiv could have hoped, after Nato planners specifically sought to keep Zelensky at arm’s length so as not to rile Trump. The most Zelensky appeared to get was a vague promise from the US leader on Patriot air defence systems.

“We’re going to see if we can make some available,” Trump said of the missiles that Kyiv is desperately pleading for to shoot down Russian attacks. “They’re very hard to get,” he added.

Trump said he would talk again soon to Russian President Vladimir Putin to push stalled peace efforts — but there was no mention of possible sanctions on Moscow for stalling.

Zelensky hailed the “long and substantive” sit-down.

“I thank Mr President, I thank the United States. We discussed how to achieve a ceasefire and a real peace,” he wrote on X.

“We spoke about how to protect our people. We appreciate the attention and the readiness to help bring peace closer.”

As US support for Ukraine has dried up under Trump, focus at the summit in The Hague was firmly on pleasing the US leader with a pledge by allies to spend more on their defence.

And while he got his face time with Trump, playing second fiddle was still a downgrade for Zelensky from the central stage he occupied at Nato’s last two summits. Last year in Washington, the war-time leader was feted by US President Joe Biden and secured a pledge from Nato that Ukraine’s push for membership was “irreversible”.

This year — despite Nato chief Mark Rutte insisting that remains the case — the final declaration of the summit had no mention of Ukraine’s bid to join. Trump has essentially ruled out Nato membership for Kyiv and Zelensky, who has been vociferous on the subject before, was quiet this time round.

# Upstart stuns ex-governor in NYC mayoral primary

AFP  
New York

Young self-declared socialist Zohran Mamdani was on the cusp of stunning victory yesterday in New York City’s Democratic mayoral primary — pummelling his scandal-scarred establishment rival in a race seen as a fight for the future of the Democratic Party.

Results were not yet final. But Mamdani — who is just 33 and would become the city’s first Muslim mayor — had such a commanding lead that his biggest rival, former New York governor Andrew Cuomo, conceded defeat overnight.

Mamdani’s success was seen as a rebuke to Democratic centrists who backed the powerful Cuomo, as the party flails nationally in search of a way to counter Republican President Donald Trump’s hard-right movement.

The Ugandan-born Mamdani was behind Cuomo in polls until near the end, surging on a message of lower rents, free daycare and other populist ideas in the notoriously expensive US city.

“Tonight we made history,” he said in a victory speech to supporters. New Yorkers “have stood up for a city they can afford.”

Cuomo, a 67-year-old political veteran vying to come back from a sexual harassment scandal, told supporters: “Tonight was not our night.”

“I called him, I congratulated him,” he said.

Mamdani had taken 43% of the vote with 95% of ballots counted,



New York mayoral candidate, State Representative Zohran Mamdani (D-NY) stands with his mother Mira Nair and father Mahmood Mamdani as they celebrate during an election night gathering at The Greats of Craft LIC yesterday in the Long Island City neighbourhood of the Queens borough in New York City. (AFP)

according to city officials. Cuomo was at around 36% and appeared to have no chance to catch his rival.

However, the contest is ranked-choice, with voters asked to select five candidates in order of preference.

When no candidate wins 50% of the vote outright, election officials start the time consuming process of eliminating the lowest-ranking candidates and re-tabulating.

Cuomo had big money and near universal name recognition in the city, as a former governor and son of another governor.

However, he was weighed down by having quit in disgrace four years ago after multiple women accused him of sexual harassment. He was also accused of

poured millions against you and our public finance system. And you won,” Ocasio-Cortez wrote on X.

Sanders posted: “You took on the political, economic and media Establishment — and you beat them.”

Curtis Sliwa, the Republican candidate, called Mamdani “too extreme for a city already on edge.”

And Texas Senator Ted Cruz, a Republican, told New Yorkers “who are not Communists: Come to Texas!”

Currently a New York state assemblyman representing the borough of Queens, Mamdani’s eye-catching policy proposals include freezing rent for many New Yorkers, free bus service, and universal childcare.

In a city where a three-bedroom apartment can easily cost \$6,000 a month, his message struck a chord.

Voter Eamon Harkin, 48, said prices were his “number one issue.”

“What’s at stake is primarily the affordability of New York,” he said.

But Sheryl Stein, who works in tourism marketing, was sceptical. “I like youth,” she said. But Mamdani having “no experience and no proven track record to run the largest city in this country and one of the largest in the world is pretty scary.”

The confirmed winner will face several contenders in November, including current Mayor Eric Adams, who is a Democrat but has vowed to run again as an independent.

## 11 killed in Mexico state mass shooting

At least 11 people were killed, including a teenager, and more wounded in a Tuesday night shooting in the central Mexican city of Irapuato, authorities said yesterday.

The attorney general’s office in Guanajuato, the violence-plagued state where Irapuato is located, said that 20 others were hospitalised with gunshot wounds.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said earlier yesterday that the victims included

children, although the attorney general’s office later confirmed only one casualty was a minor, aged 17.

“It is very unfortunate what happened. An investigation is under way,” Sheinbaum said.

Local media reported the shooting happened during an evening party celebrating a Catholic holiday, the Nativity of John the Baptist. A video circulating on social media showed people dancing in the patio of a

housing complex while a band played in the background, before gunfire erupted. Reuters was not immediately able to verify the video.

Guanajuato has been for many years one of the most violent regions in the country, where criminal groups fight over routes to price drugs and commit other crimes. On Tuesday, five other people were killed in other parts of the state, according to the attorney general’s office.





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# Spotlight on innovations at sustainability conference

**Fifth Recycling Towards Sustainability Conference & Exhibition 2025 kicks off**

The fifth edition of the Recycling Towards Sustainability Conference & Exhibition 2025, organised by the Ministry of Municipality under the theme “From Waste to Wealth,” kicked off in Doha yesterday.

The two-day event is being attended by a number of Their Excellencies the Ministers, with broad participation from government and semi-government institutions, private sector companies, local factories, numerous international entities, and a host of experts.

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiah said the conference offers a leading national and international platform for exchanging experiences and expertise. It embodies the ministry’s commitment to translating Qatar National Vision 2030 into concrete projects that promote the circular economy and enhance the quality of life through an integrated waste management system.

In his opening remarks, HE al-Attiah highlighted the ministry’s key achievements in 2024, including the conversion of more than 835,000 tonnes of waste at transfer stations, generating more than 40,000 megawatt-hours of energy, 27,000 tonnes of organic fertiliser, and 277,000 tonnes of recyclable materials, in addition to the allocation of 51 specific plots of land in the Al Afjah area, the launch of 30 investment opportunities, and the provision of more than 28,000 tonnes of sorted materials to the private sector free of charge in support of the circular economy.

He also noted the launch of specific initiatives within the “Zero Waste” programme, including the construction of a modern landfill, the rehabilitation of old landfills, and the operation of an advanced sorting station in Al Khor, in addition to digital transformation projects that developed a unified driving system, vehicle tracking, and the immediate issuance of waste disposal permits electronically.

HE al-Attiah noted that the conference’s theme, “From Waste to Wealth,” reflects a firm belief that waste represents a promising economic opportunity and an important source of sustainable development. He added that the visions, experiences, and partnerships presented will contribute to promoting a culture of sustainability and providing practical, applicable solutions.

The current edition features 11 panel discussions and 35 international speakers, focusing on the latest innovative solutions in waste treatment, strengthening public-private partnerships, and examining the role of education and content creators in spreading a culture of sustainability.

The conference is accompanied by an exhibition in which more than 40 exhibitors are taking part, including the Ministry of Municipality and private sector companies, to showcase the latest technologies and initiatives in the field of recycling.

This annual event is part of the Ministry of Municipality’s efforts to realise Qatar National Vision 2030 by promoting sustainability practices. (QNA)



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