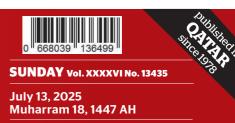


### ESG Rating, Cementing Its Leadership in Regional and Global Sustainability







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**SPORT** | Page 1

Swiatek crushes Anisimova 6-0, 6-0 to win maiden Wimbledon crown





#### **Sudan army battles RSF in Darfur city**

The Sudanese army was locked in heavy fighting yesterday with paramilitaries who had advanced into the battleground Darfur city of El-Fasher the previous day, a military source said. Residents said they were woken before dawn by heavy exchanges of machine-gun fire on the streets of the city which has been under siege by the paramilitaries since May last year. Regular army troops took back several key sites in the south and west of the city which the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) had captured on Friday, the military source said.

#### **US tariffs to hit Europe hard**

President Donald Trump's threatened 30% tariffs on EU imports would be damaging for Europe and the United States, Germany's Economy Minister Katherina Reiche said yesterday, calling for a pragmatic solution to the escalating trade war. "The tariffs would hit European exporting companies hard. At the same time, they would also have a strong impact on the economy and consumers on the other side of the Atlantic," she said in an emailed statement. "A pragmatic outcome to the negotiations must be reached quickly," she added. Page 11

#### **Palestine supporters** arrested in UK



British police arrested scores of supporters yesterday of a pro-Palestinian protest group that was banned this month under anti-terrorism legislation. Police said they had arrested at least 41 people in London and 16 others in Manchester for showing support for the group Palestine Action. "Officers have made 41 arrests for showing support for a proscribed organisation. One person has been arrested for common assault," London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement on social media about the demonstration

#### 3,800-year-old Peru citadel unveiled

A 3,800-year-old citadel of the Caral civilization - one of the oldest in the world - opened its doors to visitors in Peru yesterday, after eight years of study and restoration work. The archaeological site, known as Penico, was a meeting point for trade between the first human communities on the Pacific coast and those from the Andes and Amazon regions, researchers have said. Penico is located in the Supe valley, some 180km north of the Peruvian capital Lima.

#### 6 die in Russia drone attack across Ukraine

Russia fired more than 620 drones and long-range missiles overnight, killing at least six people in the latest wave of strikes, Ukraine said yesterday, adding that it was close to an agreement to receive more Patriot air-defence systems. "Twenty-six cruise missiles and 597 attack drones were launched. of which more than half were 'Shaheds'." President Zelensky said, referring to Iranian-made drones. The Ukrainian air force said it had downed 319 Shahed drones. Page 11

#### In implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, a team from the Qatar International Search and Rescue Group of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) arrived at Aleppo International Airport, representing the Standing Committee for Rescue, Relief and Humanitarian Assistance in sisterly and friendly countries. The step comes in the framework of the team's participation in firefighting operations in areas of the Latakia countryside on the Syrian coast, in addition to providing urgent humanitarian aid to help mitigate the effects and repercussions of these fires. The initiative embodies Qatar's commitment to supporting the brothers in the Arab Republic of Syria, and supporting them during times of emergency and disasters through immediate response to urgent humanitarian needs. (QNA) Page 2

Qatari Search and Rescue team arrives in Syria on Amir's directive

### GCC population hits 61.2mn

The population of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries reached approximately 61.2mn by the end of 2024, an increase of 36%, or more than 2.1mn people, compared to 2023. In a report marking World Population Day, which falls on July 11 of each year, the GCC Statistical Center (GCC-Stat) outlined that the population in the GCC countries are rapidly recovering from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The population has increased by approximately 7.6mn people since 2021, or 14.2%, relecting the resumption of population growth at an accelerated pace after the slowdown experi-

enced by some countries during the pandemic. The total male population in the GCC countries reached approximately 38.5mn, constituting 62.8% of the total population, while the number of females reached approximately 22.7mn, representing 37.2% of the total population. Data from the GCC Stat indicated that the population of the Gulf Co-operation Council countries constitutes 0.7% of the world's population. The sex ratio in the GCC countries reached 169 males for every 100 females in 2024, while the gender ratio for the total global population reached 101 males for every 100 females in 2024. (**QNA**)

### **Fuel to Air India jet engines** cut off seconds before crash

Fuel control switches to the engines of an Air India flight that crashed shortly after takeoff, killing 260 people. were moved from the "run" to the "cutoff" position moments before impact, a preliminary investigation report said yesterday.

The report indicated that one pilot asked the other why he cut off fuel, and the second pilot responded that he had not. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner was headed from Ahmedabad to London when it crashed, killing all but one of the 242 people on board as well as 19 people on the ground. The report said that once the aircraft achieved its top recorded speed. "the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another with a time gap of O1 sec".



Wreckage of the Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane sits outside Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, in Ahmedabad, India.

"In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cutoff. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," it said. The switches then returned to the "RUN" position and the engines appeared to be gathering power, but "one of the pilots transmitted 'MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY"".

### Gaza talks stuck on Israeli troop pullout

### •17 killed in latest shooting near aid centre

**Reuters/AFP** Jerusalem/ Gaza

rogress is stalling at talks aimed at securing a ceasefire in Gaza, with the sides forces' withdrawal from the Palestinian enclave, Palestinian and Israeli sources familiar with the negotiations in Doha said yesterday.

The indirect talks over a US proposal for a 60-day ceasefire continued throughout yesterday, an Israeli official said, seven days since talks began. US President Donald Trump has said he hoped for a breakthrough soon.

In Gaza, medics said 17 people trying to get food aid were killed yesterday when Israeli troops opened fire, the latest mass shooting around a US-backed aid distribution system that the UN says has resulted in 800 people killed in six weeks

Delegations from Israel and Hamas have been in Qatar pushing for an agreement which envisages a phased release of hostages, Israeli troop withdrawals and discussions on ending the war.

The Israeli official blamed the impasse on Hamas, which he said "remains stubborn, sticking to positions that do not allow the mediators to advance an agreement". Hamas has previously blamed Israeli demands for blocking a deal.

A Palestinian source said that Hamas had rejected withdrawal maps which Israel had proposed that would leave around 40% of Gaza under Israeli control, in-



Palestinian women line up to receive bags of flour at a UN World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse on Al-Jalaa street in Gaza City, yesterday.

cluding all of the southern area of Rafah and further territories in northern and eastern Gaza.

Two Israeli sources said Hamas wanted Israel to retreat to lines it held in a previous ceasefire before

it renewed its offensive in March. The Palestinian source said aid issues and guarantees on an end to the war were also presenting a challenge. The crisis could be resolved with more US intervention,

the source said. A second source said mediators had asked both sides to postpone discussions until US President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, arrives in Doha.

Israeli media reported that new maps would be presented on Sunday, quoting an unnamed foreign official with knowledge of the details.

The second Palestinian source said "some progress" had been made in the latest talks on plans for releasing Palestinian prisoners held by Israel and getting more aid to Gaza.

Thousands of Israelis rallied in central Tel Aviv yesterday demanding a deal that would release all remaining hostages being held by Hamas.

In the Occupied West Bank, a US-Palestinian man has been killed in an Israeli settler attack, his family said yesterday, demanding that Washington launch a probe into his death.

Saif al-Din Kamil Abdul Karim Musalat was beaten to death on Friday in Sinjil, a village north of Ramallah, the Palestinian health ministry said. Page 8

### QM marks 20th anniversary, 50 years of NMoQ

atar Museums (QM) is participating in the 47th Session of the World Hercommittee (July 6-16 ) at Unesco Headquarters in Paris, where it celebrates its 20th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ).

Under the theme of "More than Museums", QM hosted a special event and reception marking the two major anniversaries, where participants reflected on Qatar's longstanding commitment to fostering cultural diplomacy and dialogue, and the nation's forward-looking commitment to



QM delegation at the celebrations.

transforming museums into dynamic platforms for creativity, education, heritage, and innovation.

"These momentous anniversaries are a testament to the vision of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, and the path for national development laid out by the His Highness the Father Amir, and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani," said Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi, CEO, QM. "For more than half a century,

our nation has been committed to culture as a catalyst for dialogue, bridging the gaps between people and cultivating local and regional talent to present on the world's stages. As we mark the 20th anniversary of Qatar Museums, we are continuing a creative journey in which culture is not only preserved but lived, shared, and continually reimagined."

The gathering in Paris brought together cultural leaders, diplomats, and international stakeholders, including HE Dr Nasser al-Hinzab, ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to Unesco. To Page 5



### **Qatar relief team in Syria to deliver aid**



In implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, a team from the Qatar International Search and Rescue Group of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) arrived at Aleppo International Airport, representing the Standing Committee for Rescue, Relief and Humanitarian Assistance in sisterly and friendly countries. The step comes in the framework of the team's participation in firefighting operations in areas of the Latakia countryside on the Syrian coast, in addition to providing urgent humanitarian aid to help mitigate the effects and repercussions of these fires. **(ONA)** 





# Syrian delegation visits security, service departments at Qatar's Ministry of Interior



delegation from the Syrian Ministry of Interior, headed by Assistant Minister of Interior for Security Affairs Major General Abdel Qader Tahan, visited a number of security and service departments at the Ministry of Interior as part of enhancing cooperation and exchanging expertise between the two sides.

The visit aimed to learn about the Qatari Ministry of Interior's experience in security and service work, as well as the latest technical applications adopted to support security work and enhance its efficiency.

It also reviewed the work mechanisms and services provided by various departments.

The visit included the National Command Center (NCC), the Al Fazaa Police Department, the Po-



lice Academy, the Airport Security Department, the Airport Passports Department, in addition to the General Directorate of Passports, the Department of Nationality and Travel Documents, the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation, the General Directorate of Traffic, and the General Directorate of Drug Control. (QNA)





### **Official Announcement**



We hereby announce that

Mr. Shaheen Backer, Managing Director,
have officially stepped down from the leadership role
of Safari Group of Companies.

The organization will continue to operate under its existing corporate structure.



Management, Safari Group of Companies, Doha - Qatar

### Syria praises Qatar's support at OPCW session

**QNA**The Hague

Syria, during its participation in the 109th session of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, expressed its deep thanks and appreciation to Qatar for its temporary sponsorship of Syria's interests at the organisation.

Syria affirmed that this support reflects the strength of bilateral relations and Qatar's commitment to supporting Syria's stability and its active return to

international forums.

Ibrahim al-Alabi, who serves as Adviser to the Syrian Foreign Minister and Commissioner for the Chemical Weapons, emphasised in his speech the importance of progress made on the ground, as well as plans to launch internationally-led working groups un-

der the Syrian leadership to address the legacy of chemical weapons.

The members of the executive council and the director-general of the organisation unanimously praised what they described as Syria's serious shift and effective co-operation, reflecting a clear break from previous obstruction. They stressed the importance of President Ahmad al-Sharaa's meeting with the director-general of the organisation in Damascus

# Qatar attends UN conference on competition, consumer protection

QNA

atar participated in the 9th United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection, which aims to discuss policies and practices related to competition and consumer protection at both the national and international levels, in addition to evaluating the implementation of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection and the United Nations Set of Principles on Competition.

Assistant Undersecretary for Consumer Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Hassan bin Sultan al-Ghanem led the Qatari delegation at the conference held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The conference addressed a number of emerging issues, most notably consumer protection in the field of artificial intelligence and the circular economy, as well as competition in global food value chains.

The sessions featured discussions on key topics, including the implementation of the international principles and rules aimed at reducing restrictive commercial practices, and the evaluation of twenty years of voluntary peer reviews of competition policies and laws among nations. The conference also addressed methods to achieve integration between competition policies and consumer protection, and the impact of competition laws on food value chains.

Discussions also included reports from informal working



groups on cross-border monopolistic conglomerates, product safety, and consumer protection in e-commerce.

Qatar's participation in the conference reflects its commitment to strengthening its active presence in international forums and its dedication to supporting principles and rules that promote competitiveness and protect consumer rights in line with developments in the global economy. The conference also served as an important platform for member states to exchange views and experiences, contributing to the development of effective policies that serve the interests of nations and people.



### Ministries hold meeting to support school scouting programmes

QNA

he Ministry of Education and Higher Education held a co-ordination meeting with the Ministry of Defence to discuss prospects for co-operation in supporting school scouting programmes by involving personnel from the Armed Forces in educational activities aimed at instilling values of national belonging and discipline among students.

In a statement, the education ministry said that the meeting was chaired by Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Maha Zayed Qaqaa al-Ruwaili and attended by representatives of the Ministry of Defence: Brigadier General Talib Antar al-Marri and Captain Salem Mohammed Mah-

meed. Commissioner-General of the Qatar Scouts and Guides Association Jassim al-Hardan also participated, along with a number of senior officials from the educational affairs sector.

It noted that the meeting addressed mechanisms for integrating a number of Ministry of Defence personnel as participating leaders in scouting programs for preparatory and secondary schools for boys. This will contribute to developing students' leadership skills and sense of responsibility within a stimulating educational environment that supports character building and promotes active citizenship and self-discipline.

During the meeting, the general framework for institutional co-operation between the two ministries was approved, and the

strategic plan for implementing the project during its pilot phase was discussed. Job descriptions for participating personnel were defined, and tasks and responsibilities were clearly distributed, ensuring regular evaluation and continuous development in preparation for future expansion.

This collaboration comes within the framework of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's commitment to strengthening national partnerships that support the educational process, leveraging national competencies to enrich school activities, refining students' personalities, and developing their leadership abilities. It is in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, which places human development at the heart of its comprehensive development project.



#### Baladna Food Industries W.L.L. "Baladna"

Baladna Food Industries W.L.L. "Baladna" is pleased to announce the release of a public tender for the sale of fresh beef meat, to be awarded to the highest bidder meeting all specified requirements

	Public Tender for the Sale of Fresh Beef Meat			
1	Reference: BFI/TSM/2025/01			
2	Tender Details: The sale of approx. 1,400 tons annually (+/- 10%) of fresh beef meat, which complies with the Qatari Standard Specifications. The awardee will be responsible for all the expenses related to the transportation and storage after collecting the meat from Baladna's site			
3	Company Location: Exit 44, Al Shamal Road, Umm Al Hawaya, Al Khor & Al Dhakira Municipality – Qatar			
4	Last date for Submitting Bids: Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to Mr. / Chairman of the Tenders and Auctions Committee, Baladna Food Industries Company, no later than 4:00 PM on Thursday, July 24, 2025			
5	Tender Fee: QAR 2,000 (non-refundable)			
6	<b>Temporary Tender Bond:</b> QAR 50,000, payable by cheque to Baladna Food Industries Company or by a bank guarantee issued by a local bank, valid for no less than 90 days			
7	Tender Performance Bond: A bank guarantee for 10% of the tender value valid for 1 year			
8	Bank Details: Bank Name: Commercial Bank Beneficiary Name: Baladna Food Industries W.L.L. Account Number: 4680419099001 IBAN: QA10CBQA000000004680419099001 SWIFT: CBQAQAQA Address: P.O. Box 3232, Doha, Qatar Currency: Qatari Riyal (QAR)			
9	Contact Information: Phone: +974 5091 1150   +974 5000 1134 Email: tendering@baladna.co			
10	<ul> <li>Qualification Requirements for Participation:</li> <li>This tender is open to all companies operating in Qatar that are qualified and have at least 5 years o experience in this field.</li> <li>A recent extract from the Commercial Registery, including commercial activities related to meat.</li> <li>A signed and stamped copy of the tender document's Terms and Conditions, acknowledging full acceptance.</li> <li>Submission of the temporary tender bond (tender guarantee).</li> <li>Late bids or those failing to provide the initial guarantee will be automatically disqualified.</li> </ul>			
11	General Provisions:  1. Tender documents will be shared via email after the payment of the fee and receipt of the tender bond.  2. The company reserves the full right to cancel the tender without providing reasons and without any liability.  3. Envelopes will be opened at Baladna's headquarters on July 28, 2025.  4. The sale will be awarded to the highest bidder who meets all conditions, and the company's decision is final and binding.  5. Withdrawal of bids after submission is not allowed, and the tender bond will be forfeited if any condition is violated.			

### **Official Announcement**







The Board is pleased to officially announce:

Mr. Hamad Dafer A A Al-Ahbabi as Chairman,
Mr. Zainul Abideen as Deputy Chairman & Managing Director, and
Mr. Surendra Nath as General Manager
of Safari Group of Companies

The Board extends its congratulations and best wishes to them in their leadership roles.



**Management,** Safari Group of Companies, Doha - Qatar



### Da'wah dept wraps up course on family jurisprudence in Islam





The Da'wah and Religious Guidance Department at the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has concluded a six-month intensive specialised course on family jurisprudence in Islam, with the participation of 15 Qatari preachers. The initiative aimed to develop their

capabilities in addressing contemporary family-related issues.

Held weekly at Imam Muhammad bin

Abdulwahhab Mosque, the course was structured around three main tracks: Sharia, educational, and skills-based, and included 44 lectures covering diverse topics such as marriage and divorce rulings, chastity education, family counselling skills, and challenges related to adolescence and cultural invasion.

The programme also featured interactive presentations and modern training methods. Participants were tasked with

preparing research papers addressing real family problems, enhancing their ability to offer religiously grounded, professionally informed family guidance and social consultation.

The course aimed to develop preacher competencies across four key areas: Shariah, knowledge, skills, and admin-

The department emphasised that the course reflects the ministry's commit-

**New role** 

for Saud

Media

Cor-

poration

(QMC) is-

sued a deci-

sion appoint -

ing Saud Ali

al-Maadeed

(pictured) as

al-Maadeed

at Qatar TV

Assistant Director of Oatar TV.

in addition to his current du-

This appointment reflects

Saud al-Maadeed is one of the

QMC's confidence in his pro-

fessional competence and dis-

most prominent young talents

in the Qatari media sector, with

extensive experience in visual

media and television produc-

tion. Over the past years, he has

contributed to the development

and projects that have garnered

widespread attention from local

This appointment comes

within the framework of Qatar TV's strategy to strengthen the

administrative structure and

expand the scope of media de-

velopment by injecting young

talent with a modern vision and a deep understanding of viewer needs and media trends in the

**New digital services** 

unveiled for urban planning sector As part of the digital transformation project in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, the Ministry of Municipality has launched a new package of digital services for the Urban Planning

Affairs Sector, aiming to simplify

procedures, enhance quality. efficiency, and performance. and to provide a smoother and

more effective user experience.

advantages for being compre-

hensive digital services within

one system, online integration

with various data and informa-

tion sources, digital verification

that guarantees the accuracy of

data and which reduce the need

for more attached documents.

These services will be easily ac-

cessible around the clock from

The new public services include

survey of deep sea, request

for ebb and flow data for the

current situation, request for

the future prediction of ebb and flow data, verification of the

names of streets, among others

The other available support

application for consultation

services for the public include

from a government entity (re-

application for attachments

for the use of previous survey

transactions, management of

land price lists, and manage-

encroachments.

ment of the estimation prices of

To access such services the us-

ers should visit www.mm.gov.qa

quest of information certificate),

anywhere.

These services have many

of several media prog

and Arab audiences.

digital age.

tinguished media career.

ment to promoting family stability and societal cohesion by preparing preachers capable of addressing family issues with balanced scientific methodology rooted in Islamic values and the objectives of Shariah. (QNA)

### مواصرات mowasalat

#### The Transport Company **MOWASALAT (KARWA)**

### Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:

Tender Ref. No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
TC-049-ITC-2025	Provision of IT Manpower Services (Automation Resources) on Call-off Basis	QAR 1,000	13 to 17 July 2025	QAR 30,000	10 August 2025

#### **CONDITIONS:**

- ▶ Interested bidder shall pay the tender fee to Mowasalat Bank Account details as shown:
- Bidder must submit proof of tender fee payment (Bank Deposit Slip + a Signed & Stamped Expression of Interest (indicating Tender Ref. No. and Title / Company Name and details of nominated contact person i.e., Tel. No., Fax No., and Email address) + Copy of valid Commercial Registration to Mowasalat Secretary - Tender Committee at email tenders@mowasalat.com

MOWASALAT-KARWA COMPANY A/C No. 0013 - 011272 - 060 QA07 QNBA 0000 0000 0013 0112 7206 0 QNBAQAQA 26887

- ▶ Tender documents will be released via email on the next working day after the tender fee payment date to all bidders who have submitted the bank deposit slip and other documents requested (i.e. 20 July 2025).
- ▶ Bonds: Tender Bond & Performance Bond: Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the tende documents. Bids without Tender Bond shall not be considered.
- ▶ Tender validity: Bid validity period shall be 180 days from the bid closing date.
- ▶ Tender documents submission: Bids must be submitted in 3 separate sealed (IN RED WAX) envelopes addressed to Secretary - Tender Committee clearly highlighting the Tender Ref. No. & Tender Title:
  - Envelope 1# must include the Technical Bid submission (1 Original + 1 non-Editable copy in a USB) • Envelope 2# must include Commercial Bid submission (1 Original + 1 Editable MS Excel spreadsheet copied
- Envelope 3# must include the Tender Bond (1 Original)
- Bid Closing Date: Bid submission deadline is 12.00 noon Doha Local Time as on the Bid closing date shown above. The 3 envelopes must be handed over to the Office of The Secretary - Tender Committee, located at

Tel.: 4458 8724 Fax: 4458 8850













الكاديبية كروه مراكب ودوناليونين مركز مواطات الطبي خدمات كروه ودوناليونين مروم dohalimousine karua services mouasalat medical center



### **ARPM Tender Committee announces the following Tender**

		Tender	Tender	Opening	
Tender No.	(Tender Title) Scope of work	Fee	Bond	Date	Closing Date
ARPM/219/2025/TEN/DOH	Staff Transportation Services to ARPM Group for 2 Year Term	2000	25,000	13-Jul-25	03-Aug-25
ARPM/220/2025/TEN/DOH	Elevator Maintenance Services for ARPM Hotels-2 Year Term	1000	5,000	13-Jul-25	03-Aug-25
ARPM/221/2025/TEN/DOH	Generator & HV Components Maintenance Services for ARPM Hotels-2 Year Term	1000	25,000	13-Jul-25	03-Aug-25
ARPM/222/2025/TEN/DOH	Supply and Installation of UPVC & Marine Grade Wooden Decking at Banana Island	500	5,000	13-Jul-25	03-Aug-25
ARPM/223/2025/TEN/DOH	Supply and Plantation of Landscaping Plants at Banana Island Resort	1500	20,000	13-Jul-25	03-Aug-25

- 1. Interested parties can collect copies of the tender documents from ARPM Purchasing Department, via email to m.aseef@arpm.com.qa and L.cabral@arpm.com.qa during working hours 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Fri & Sai
- 2. A payment of a non-refundable document's fees should be deposited in cash to:
  - Beneficiary Name: Al-Rayvan Projects Management (ARPM) 0013-022375-004 (Qatar National Bank) Account No.
  - QA86QNBA000000000013022375004

And the original deposit receipt should be submitted upon receiving of the terms and conditions.

- 3. A tender bond (as stated above), issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 180 days from the closing date should accompany tenders. The executed tender bond should be included with the technical
- 4. All tenderers MUST collect their original bonds from ARPM Purchasing department upon expiry of the Tender Bond, unless alternative instructions are issued by ARPM.
- 5. Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP requirements in both HARD COPY & SOFT COPY
- 6. Copies of valid Company Commercial Registration, Computer Card & Authorization Letter must be
- The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the total contract sum and shall be valid for a period expiring 180 days after contract
- 8. Offers should be valid for 180 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).
- 9. ARPM has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms and conditions. 10. ARPM is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show any
- 11. Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Box
- provided in the ARPM Purchasing office, located at the 9th Floor, ARPM, Head office and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman - Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject.
- 12. Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

### **CHAIRMAN – TENDER COMMITTEE**

TEL: 40341804

### **Maritime Transport Affairs records** 5,042 transactions during Q2-2025

The Maritime Transport Affairs at the Ministry of Transport (MoT) recorded 5,042 transactions during the second quarter (O2) of 2025, according to an X post by the ministry.

These covered maritime vessels' main services, including issuance and accreditation of certificates of competency for safe manning, naval architect and marine of-

Also, services were provided for maritime vessels' ownership transfer, renewal and registration. Data monitoring and renewal services were extended for foreign vessels engaged in operations in Qatar waters. The MoT is providing various services to small and large vessels in order to develop the maritime transport sector. They are also designed to facilitate operations and procedures, and to keep pace with technological advancements through the automation of all ship services.



The various services are provided through integration with MoT's national documentation and archiving system to ensure business procedures are facilitated and completed through the mobile app or portal.

### Al Jazeera closes Balkan branch

Al Jazeera Balkans has stopped broadcasting, it said yesterday, some 14 years after the Qatari-based channel opened the branch, AFP reported from Sarajevo. "This was the last news programme for Al Jazeera Balkans. Thank you for nearly fourteen years of your trust," said anchor Dalija Hasanbegovic at the end of a midday news broadcast. Contacted by AFP, the channel's management declined to comment. According to local media and press associations, the decision was made for "financial reasons".



#### **Qatar Chemical Company Limited**

Al Dafna - Amwal Tower - First Floor P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar - Tel. 44847111 - Fax 44847695 Website: www.qchem.com.qa

#### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDERS

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	QC/TC/M/97/25	Furnace Convection section inspection, Coil replacement, Tube sheet repair/replacement and PTLE Header replacement at Q-Chem & RLOC on Call-off basis	QR 1,137,500/-	12:00 hrs on 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2025

#### **Brief Scope:**

Company requires the services of qualified and experienced Contractor to carry out furnace convection section inspection, coil replacement, tube sheet repair/replacement and PTLE header replacement services at facilities in Mesaieed and Ras Laffan. Contractor shall deploy dedicated, specific, and sufficient crews or workforce on-site to carry out activities in compliance with Company site-specific requirements. Contractor shall also provide all necessary equipment, tools, PTLE header material, consumables etc. as required to satisfactorily carry out the required services.

Tender Documents for the above description can be obtained as follows:

A. Pay to Bank and send the original receipt with authorization letter via email For each tender pay a non-refundable document fee of QR 1,000/- Payable to Q-Chem, Bank Account (Contract Services - Tender) - Account Number 001-242007-003 with HSBC Bank) and submit the original receipt with an Authorization letter on Tenderer Company Letterhead with ID copy of the Tenderer representative via email to tadvertisement@qchem.com.qa In the authorization letter Tenderer shall nominate a single focal point with contact mobile number, official email address, office number, fax number for the communications related to this tende for the transfer and receipt of the tender documents. The Bank receipt must indicate the

tender number and the tenderer name (company name). B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email

Tender documents issuance from 13th July 2025 to 17th July 2025, 8am-12noon

C. Proposal details Proposals should be valid for 240 days from the tender closing date.

**D. Submission of Proposals** Guidelines for Electronic Bids Submission is attached in the Tender documents.

س الشــ The Shura Council

### Announcement of open tender (Technical/commercial proposal)

Tender No.	Subject	Closing Date
2/2025	Document Management Tender (Two-Envelope System: Technical - Financial) Category of Bidding companies: First Class	17/8/2025

The Tenders/Auctions Committee at the Shura Council is pleased to invite you to participate in the above-mentioned tender in accordance with the following:

- 1 The company must provide the Shura Council Tenders and Auctions Committee with proof of receipt of the invitation, as well as any denial of participation in the tender.
- 2 Tender documents can be obtained from the Tenders and Auctions Committee of the Shura Council (White Palace) by paying a non-refundable sum of QR 3,000 to be deposited in the Shura Council's account No. (001-005853-0013) at Qatar National Bank
- 3 The bid must be accompanied by a temporary bank guarantee letter in the amount of 5% of the financial bid, attached to the company's financial bid, and valid for a period of (120) days. The owner of the accepted bid must submit a bank letter before signing the contract as a final guarantee in the amount of 10% of the total value of the award, valid for a period of (120) days after the end of the contract implementation period.
- 4 The bid must be valid for a period of (120) days from the closing date. The bid shall remain valid and non-revocable during that period.
- 5 The deadline for submitting bids is 12:30 PM on Sunday, August 17, 2025. The Council has the right to increase or decrease the quantities of items or works during the contract implementation period in accordance with the terms and prices of the contract.
- 6 Bids shall be submitted to the Tenders and Auctions Committee of the Shura Council, provided that they are in sealed envelopes, sealed with red wax, and addressed to Mr. Chairman of the Tenders and Auctions Committee, and the tender number, subject, and closing date shall be written on them, without mentioning the company's name on the envelopes, after registration with the Secretary of the Tenders and Auctions Committee of the Shura Council.
- 7 To obtain the tender documents, the following must be presented: a receipt for the deposit of the purchase value of the document mentioned in item (2) above, a letter of authorization from the company - a copy of the valid commercial register - the personal
- 8- For inquiries, please call: (44221049-44221039) Email // aalsuwaidi@shura.gov.qa Tender@shura.gov.qa **Chairman of the Tenders and Auctions Committee**

### Qatar Museums marks 20th anniversary, 50 years of NMoQ

From Page 1

Dr al-Hinzab said: "Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Museum of Qatar during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee reflects Qatar's efforts to promote its national heritage and place it on the global map of culture and development through Unesco's cultural conventions and programmes. These efforts continue in coordination with Qatar Museums to support the Sustainable Development Goals related to heritage and to empower

the local community to safeguard Qatar's cultural and natural heritage."

"We are immensely proud to see the National Museum of Qatar recognised as part of Unesco's anniversaries list, which stands as an acknowledgment of its meaningful contribution to the global cultural, heritage, and museum landscape," said Dr Fatema Hassan al-Sulaiti, director of International Cooperation & Government Affairs at Qatar Museums and Qatar's National Expert to Unesco. "We are deeply committed to preserving our heritage, and this

recognition stands as a testament to 50 years of dedicated efforts to safeguard and share Qatar's rich cultural legacy with the

Founded in 1975 as the Qatar National Museum, the first national museum in the Gulf, the National Museum of Qatar is dedicated to expressing and preserving Qatar's national identity, history, and heritage. Its striking building, designed by renowned architect Jean Nouvel, and cutting-edge galleries immerse visitors in Qatar's ongoing national story, bringing it to life for both the Qatari people and

visitors from around the globe.
"The National Museum of Qatar has grown into a space where tradition meets innovation and where the voices of our people, past and present, can be heard and celebrated," said Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Hamad al-Thani, director, NMoQ.
"For the past 20 years, our Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani's unwavering commitment to culture and heritage has laid the foundation for this journey that spans over 50 years beginning with the National Museum of Qatar."

Since its establishment in 2005, QM has become the umbrella institution for institutions including the National Museum of Qatar, the Museum of Islamic Art, 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, and Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, creative hubs including M7 and the Doha Fire Station that support emerging artists and designers working in creative industries; an expansive public art programme that presents world-class artwork by local, regional and international artists across the country; and cultural heritage sites that testify to Qatar's history.

# The View Hospital first in Qatar to Offer 3D CT Gastric Volume Study

The View Hospital, in affiliation with Cedars-Sinai, has become the first hospital in Qatar to offer the 3D CT Gastric Volume Study, an advanced diagnostic imaging service that gives physicians a clearer view of postsurgical anatomy in bariatric patients.

The launch of this service marks a milestone not only for the hospital but for the country's evolving landscape of precision medicine. Designed specifically for individuals who have undergone bariatric procedures, the 3D CT Gastric Volume Study delivers highly detailed, three-dimensional images that accurately assess the size and shape of the remaining stomach. The technology helps clinicians detect structural abnormalities, track patient progress, and anticipate potential complications, all with exceptional accuracy and speed.

"For many patients, bariatric surgery is a turning point in their health journey," said Dr Jassim Fakhro, senior consultant, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and medical director of Qatari Physicians at The View Hospital. "But it doesn't end in the operating room. Ongoing monitoring is key, and with this technology, we can now offer unmatched insight and support as patients work toward a healthier future."

This imaging advancement couldn't come at a more crucial time. As rates of obesity and metabolic disease rise across the region, bariatric surgery has



The View Hospital.

emerged as a powerful tool for intervention. But surgery alone isn't enough — what follows is a complex physiological transition that demands thoughtful, individualised follow-up care.

That's where the 3D CT Gastric Volume Study makes its impact. By visualising the internal anatomy in such detail, physicians can make data-driven decisions tailored to each patient's unique post-surgical profile. Whether it is adjusting dietary recommendations, identifying mechanical issues, or flagging early signs of nutritional compromise, this diagnostic innovation offers a more complete picture and a more proactive path forward.

Moreover, this technology plays a pivotal role in planning revisional bari-

atric surgeries, particularly in cases of weight regain or severe GERD after the initial procedure. The precise anatomical data provided by the 3D imaging enables surgeons to better evaluate the structural causes behind such complications and tailor surgical interventions, accordingly, improving outcomes and patient safety.

"At The View Hospital, we are committed to healthcare innovation and advancing academic care," said Dr Fatih Mehmet Gul, CEO of The View Hospital. "The launch of Qatar's first 3D CT Gastric Volume Study for bariatric patients reflects our medical expertise and dedication to providing precise, personalised treatment through cutting-edge technologies."

### **AUCTION SALE OF USED EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES (As-Is Where-Is)**

Black Cat Engineering and Construction W.L.L. announces the sale of used equipment and vehicles, the details of which are listed below:

Serial No.	Description	QTY
1	Excavator – JCB	1
2	Truck – Head	1
3	Trailer – Low Bed	1
4	Pick Up – Double Cabin	5
5	Pick Up with Freezer	1

#### <u>Clarifications</u>:

- Equipment and vehicles will be inspected at the company's workshop located in the industrial area (Street No. 2004 - Building No. 95 - Area No. 91) starting from Sunday 13/07/2025 until Sunday 20/07/2025 from 8 am to 4 pm.
- 2. The entry of any person into the auction confirms that he has fully inspected the equipment and vehicles being auctioned and that he accepted it in that condition.

Tornado Tower 9th Floor by latest 24/07/2025.

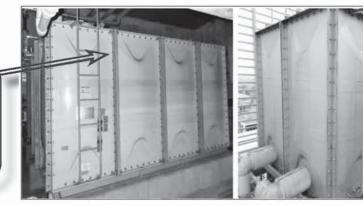
- Price offers must be submitted in a sealed envelope at the Company's main office in
- Applicants to bid must submit a temporary cash margin amounting to QAR 10,000 and the Company has the right to confiscate this amount if the winner of the bid withdraws.
- 5. The bid envelopes will be opened on 03/08/2025, and then the concerned parties to
- 6. When the auction is concluded, 20% of the sale value will be paid as a non-refundable deposit and the full sale price will be paid on the next day.
- 7. If the buyer does not pay the full sale price within two working days of closing the auction, the Auction Committee may re-offer the equipment/vehicle for auction again or sell it to another buyer. It is not permissible to claim the advance sale price paid.
- 8. The handover of equipment and vehicles will take place only after paying the full sale price.
- 9. The ID card or company commercial registration must be presented when the auction is awarded to complete the sale procedures.
- 10. For further inquiries and inspection purposes, please call 50385519 / 55543978

Open Invitation Black Cat Engineering and Construction W.L.L.

# **Notice**



BRIDGESTONE logo on the manhole cover





- (1) Depth: 2 meters, Width: 4 meters, Height: 2 meters
- (2) Depth: 3 meters, Width: 6 meters, Height: 2 meters (3) Depth: 5 meters, Width: 6 meters, Height: 2 meters
- (4) Depth: 10 meters, Width: 12 meters, Height: 2 meters
- Production Year:
- (1) 1987 (2) 1988
- (2) 1988
- (4) 1990
- Number of Products: 4

Product description: Glass Reinforced Plastic water tank, two compartments type, only two-meter height and with partition.

### **Notice: GRP Water Tank**

Bridgestone Corporation, the manufacturer of GRP water tanks ("Tanks"), would like to notify users that the Tanks have completed their safe useful life expectancy. Further use of the Tanks requires that current users diligently implement the following precautionary measures (which instructions must be communicated to staff and independent contractors including cleaning companies):

- Do not use the Water Tank if there are unequal water levels between compartments.
- Completely empty all compartments when cleaning the Water Tanks.
- If you have no choice but to leave water in one compartment when cleaning, or for other temporary reasons, please ensure you undertake the following actions:
- (a) Lower the water level in the compartments as low as possible (preferably no higher than one half of the total volume or capacity of the compartment so as to minimize structural stress due to the water pressure);
- (b) Inspect the Water Tanks prior to such temporary usage to ensure that there is no deformation or any cracks of the panels or other metal parts, water leakage, or any other identifiable defects; and
- (c) Stop the cleaning process and vacate the Water Tanks immediately if there is any indication of observable defects including abnormal stresses being placed on the partition wall or any other indication that the partition may be failing. We strongly recommend that you replace your tank as soon as possible.

Please be aware that our company has stopped manufacturing tanks as of March 2013, and we cannot replace your tanks.

Contact details: [Mohamed Aasim Ismail] - Email: [pro2@7starqatar.com], Telephone: [55543414]

### QIIB honours long-serving employees

IIB honoured a group of long-serving employees who have completed 25 years of service during a special ceremony held at the bank's headquarters, in the presence of chief executive Dr Abdulbasit Ahmed A al-Shaibei.

Dr al-Shaibei presented the employees with certificates of appreciation, in the presence of deputy chief executive Jamal Abdullah al-Jamal, and Ali Hamad al-Mesaifri, head of Human Resources and Administration.

The recognition reflects the bank's appreciation for the efforts of employees who, over a quarter of a century, have played a vital role in shaping its journey and driving its achievements.

They have been key pillars in the bank's continued growth and development.

The long-serving employees are Mohamed Ghasim Mohamed, Hassan Saleh Amoodi, Mahmoud Abdulbaqi Motaqi, Ali Abdullah Saei, Ziad Yousef Abu Dayeh, and Ebrahim Abdulrahman Saadat.

"At QIIB, we believe that human capital is the cornerstone of every successful institution," Dr al-Shaibei said. "Honouring our colleagues who have dedicated many years of continuous service is the least we can do as a small gesture of our deep gratitude for their loyalty, dedication, and pioneering role in supporting the bank's growth and advancing its vision."

"The employees we honour today have witnessed and contributed to every stage of the bank's development," he continued.

the bank's development," he continued. "They were part of each major mile-



The long-serving employees - Mohamed Ghasim Mohamed, Hassan Saleh Amoodi, Mahmoud Abdulbaqi Motaqi, Ali Abdullah Saei, Ziad Yousef Abu Dayeh, and Ebrahim Abdulrahman Saadat - with QIIB officials at the ceremony.



stone we achieved, leaving a clear mark on the performance of the departments they served," Dr al-Shaibei said. "Through their accumulated experience, they have also played a key role in mentoring and supporting new generations of employees."

"We are confident that they will continue, alongside their colleagues, to carry out their duties with the same dedication and team spirit that serve the best interests of all," the official added.

"Appreciating our long-serving em-

ployees is not merely a ceremonial gesture – it is a deeply rooted part of our workplace culture," Dr al-Shaibei stated. "Through this, we reinforce the core values we believe in: loyalty, continuity, and professionalism. These are the very foundations of our commitment to delivering exceptional services and achieving high levels of customer satisfaction."

"Employees' appreciation at QIIB is not just a formality," he stressed. "It is an integral part of our culture, where we consist-

ently promote the core values we believe in, such as loyalty, continuity and professionalism."

"These values are at the heart of our efforts to provide outstanding service and ensure customer satisfaction at the highest level," Dr al-Shaibei emphasised.

"On this occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to providing the best possible work environment for our employees and attracting top talent, particularly from among Qatari men and women, in line

with the State's vision and directives," the official said. "We will continue working to develop a highly qualified banking workforce capable of keeping pace with the evolving financial sector both locally and internationally."

"This recognition is a clear reflection of QIIB's commitment to uphold the highest standards in human capital management," said al-Mesaifri.

"Loyalty and continuity over more than two decades reflect a profound sense of belonging and professional responsibility," he said. "These are values we are dedicated to nurturing across our organisation."

"Our human resources strategy is built on empowering talent and providing continuous professional development opportunities," al-Mesaifri continued. "This approach enhances both individual and team performance, contributing directly to the achievement of our goals. Accordingly, recognition and incentive programs remain a top priority for us."

The employees expressed their gratitude and appreciation.

They affirmed that the recognition holds great significance for them, both professionally and personally, as it reflects the bank's genuine appreciation for their years of dedicated service.

They also emphasised that they have always been, and will continue to be, an integral part of the QIIB family, and will remain committed to working with team spirit and dedication to strengthen further the bank's position as a leading financial institution



### EROE Summer Camp for sports kicks off

A midst an atmosphere of enthusiasm and interaction with the diverse activities and programmes, the EROE Sum-

The participants and trainers at the EROE Summer Camp, which was held at Nibras School and Valley Forge Academy



mer Camp for boys and girls aged 4-14 was launched.

The camp, held at the Nibras School in Lusail and the Valley Forge Academy in Al Waab, will run for eight weeks, concluding on August 21.

The summer camp features activities that include basket-ball, volleyball, and tennis training, along with a variety of programmes, recreational games, stretching, flexibility, and balance exercises, an introduction to the importance of healthy eating, and educational workshops.

The summer camp aims to develop knowledge and promote positive behaviour among children by combining fair sports competitions, education, and awareness.

Summer programme director Aisha Ali Hassan Yousef al-Saai revealed that the summer camp has witnessed remarkable response and great interest.

The number of participants since its launch has exceeded 156 boys and girls.

Al-Saai said that the attendees are enthusiastic, eager to learn, and participate in the activities.

She emphasised that the summer camp represents a great opportunity to benefit from quality activities that contribute to the children's use of their free time, develop their skills, and instil the concept of sports as a foundation for building a community.

Programme director-general Khaldoun Nashawi stated that the camp includes a wide range of diverse activities and events.

Most notable among these is the swimming programme, supervised by professional trainers, to provide a comprehensive sports experience that combines entertainment, training, and learning.

# Al Khor Cultural Centre programme features artistic, cultural activities

he Al Khor Cultural Centre, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, has launched its summer programme under the theme *Our Summer, a Launch into Creativity*.

The programme runs until August 6 and features a wide range of purposeful cultural and artistic activities.

This initiative is part of the Ministry of Culture's ongoing efforts to offer summer programmes that enrich the time of children and youth, while fostering their talents and abilities in a stimulating creative environment.

Al Khor Cultural Centre director Maryam Ali al-Muhannadi stated that the summer programme aims to make productive use of children's free time during the school break by catering to their needs and interests in a way that benefits them, under the supervision of qualified trainers.

She said that the programme includes a variety of workshops that cater to different interests, such as oil painting, creative candle-making, anime drawing, kids' crafts, bead and decoration art, "Make My Own Doll" workshop, advanced resin art, colourful bracelet-making, and floral crown and arrangement workshops for special occasions.

Additionally, a mosaic art workshop is offered exclusively for girls aged 7-18.

Al-Muhannadi added that the programme includes a cooking

Al-Muhannadi added that the programme includes a cooking workshop to teach participants culinary skills, as well as a Majlis Etiquette workshop offered for the first time for boys, in co-operation with the "Nomas" Centre.

This workshop aims to introduce participants to the traditional customs and etiquette of Qatari majlis gatherings. – **QNA** 



### Visit Qatar launches 'QTF Summer Camp' at DECC

visit Qatar has announced the launch of the Qatar Toy Festival (QTF)'s first summer camp.

Dubbed the "QTF Summer Camp", it is a specially designed programme for children and teens taking place at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre from July 6-August 4.

It is a dynamic and structured programme tailored to children aged 4-12.

The camp offers a variety of engaging, educational, and recreational experiences.

Children enrolled in the camp will enjoy sessions in art and design, science experiments led by Science Street, interactive play with beloved characters, and a range of physical activities such as obstacle courses and movement games.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

I, RAJAUL KARIM MOHAMMED ABDUL HAKIM

holder of

BANGLADESH Passport No. EE0891740 QID No. 29005000236

hereby change my name

from

RAJAUL KARIM MOHAMMED ABDUL HAKIM

to

MD RAJAUL KARIM MOHAMMED HAKIM

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

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I, MD HABIBUR RAHAMAN holder of

BANGLADESH Passport No. EG0131761 QID No. 28405024514

hereby change my name

from
MD HABIBUR RAHAMAN

to

**MD HABIBUR RAHMAN MD UDDIN** 

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

## Msheireb Properties announces 'Galleria Ice cream Event'

sheireb Properties has announced the "Galleria Ice cream Event", a family-friendly indoor experience taking place from July 17-26 at Msheireb Galleria in the heart of Msheireb Downtown Doha

The 10-day event will feature two key experiences: the "Galleria Ice cream Event", a vibrant celebration of frozen delights, and the "Arcade Hangout", a nostalgic gaming zone.

Together, they offer a refreshing and engaging way for families and visitors to enjoy summer indoors.

This seasonal activation aligns with Msheireb Properties' vision to create meaningful, community-driven experiences that support local businesses and provide memorable moments for all age groups.

The event brings together fun, flavour, and quality time in a welcoming environment, reflecting the company's ongoing efforts to create accessible and engaging experiences in the district that cater to families, residents, and visitors.

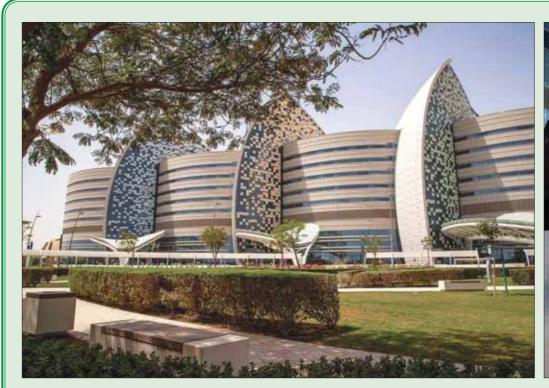
As part of Msheireb Properties' commitment to fostering creativity and meaningful connections within the community, a statement said, seasonal programmes like this contribute to making Msheireb Downtown Doha a lively and welcoming destina-



tion for all ages, particularly during the school holidays when families seek engaging indoor activities.

The event is open to the public and suitable for all age groups, with updates and details available on Msheireb Properties' website and official social media







# Spotlight on mental healthcare for women and children in conflict zones

### Sidra Medicine psychiatrist gives clinical insight about the challenges

#### By Noor Al-rawi

In the latest episode of the Afikra podcast, hosted by Mikey Muhanna, the spotlight is cast on a deeply pressing yet often overshadowed subject - mental healthcare for women and children in crisisaffected areas. Featured guest Dr Atif Elbushra Magbool, a consultant psychiatrist at Sidra Medicine in Qatar, speaks with raw honesty and clinical insight about the challenges and triumphs of supporting survivors of war, displacement, and trauma particularly from Gaza and Sudan. Dr Atif's work brings him face-to-face with the youngest victims of conflict. Their stories are harrowing, their resilience remarkable, and their psychological wounds often as deep as their physical ones. At a time when healthcare infrastructure in many war zones is collapsing, Dr Atif and his colleagues at Sidra Medicine are creating a critical lifeline - not only through surgery and medicine, but through empathy, cultural understanding, and long-term psychiatric

#### A childhood spark: From Sudan to Sidra Medicine

Dr Atif's journey into psychiatry was rooted in his early childhood in Tabat, a small town in Sudan. As a child, he witnessed both the traditional healing rituals of his village and the limitations — sometimes even dangers — of those

"I saw a young man being beaten because they believed he was possessed by jinn," he recalls. "That image stayed with me... I thought there must be a more compassionate, scientific way to help." This early experience, combined with witnessing undiagnosed developmental conditions in his classmates, set him on a path that would eventually take



Dr Atif Elbushra Magbool

him through medical training in Sudan, specialisation in adult psychiatry in Ireland and child and adolescent psychiatry in the UK, and finally to Qatar, where he joined Sidra Medicine eight

### Understanding child psychiatry in a war context

Child psychiatry, Dr Atif explains, differs fundamentally from working with adults. "Children often can't express their feelings the way adults do," he says. "You need to use play therapy, art, and observation — to understand what they can't articulate."

In war zones like Gaza and Sudan, these challenges multiply exponentially. Children arrive with profound trauma, having lost parents, siblings, limbs, homes — and often, their entire sense of safety. "Imagine a five-year-old who won't sleep because she fears an airstrike on the hospital." Dr Atif recounts. "We told her

she's safe, that she's far away. But she couldn't feel it. Her trauma was still alive in her body."

### The Gaza patient programme: A lifeline

At the centre of Sidra Medicine's humanitarian mission is the Gaza Patient Programme, launched in 2014 to offer comprehensive care to children injured in Israeli airstrikes. These young survivors are brought to Qatar, where they receive medical, surgical, and psychological support in a co-ordinated, multidisciplinary effort.

"From day one, we make sure the children and their caregivers feel safe," Dr Atif says. "Only then can healing begin."

The programme involves triage teams of psychiatrists, psychologists, occupational therapists, and social workers. Children go through various therapies – from supportive listening and play therapy to trauma-focused cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). In severe cases, psychiatric medications are prescribed.

One of the most pressing challenges, however is that for most year, thildren, the

however, is that for many children, the trauma is ongoing. "We talk about post-traumatic stress disorder — but for Gaza's children, the trauma is not in the past," he explains. "It's continuous. There is no 'post."

### The burden on mothers

As a women-and-children-focused institution, Sidra Medicine also provides psychiatric care to mothers and female caregivers — many of whom carry the dual burden of their own trauma and that of their children.

"Women in these situations face unique psychological challenges — from lack of hygiene products and reproductive health care to the pressures of caring for children in shelters," Dr Atif explains. "Many are grieving lost children or family members while trying to stay strong for those who remain."

In some cases, societal pressures also lead to child marriage or early motherhood, further compounding the emotional toll on young women.

#### The controversy of 'resilience'

A compelling part of the podcast episode is Dr Atif's discussion of the term "resilience." While often used to praise communities in conflict zones, the term has come under scrutiny for masking the prolonged injustice these people endure. 'Yes, many Palestinian children show remarkable resilience," Dr Atif acknowledges. "But they shouldn't have to. Resilience shouldn't be a requirement for surviving childhood.' He shares that many children he has treated from war zones – including in Ireland and the UK – struggled far more than some of the Palestinian and Sudanese children. "Their coping mechanisms were astonishing," he says.

"But that doesn't mean they don't need

care - or that the world should let them

### Healing the healer

suffer silently."

Mikey Muhanna, the host, asks Dr Atif the deeply personal question: how does he cope with the emotional toll of his work? "At first, I was overwhelmed," Dr Atif confesses. "I heard stories that broke me. a child pulled from the rubble, the only survivor in her family. You don't know what to say. You can't promise things will get better — because even you are

To stay grounded, he says, he practices compartmentalisation. "I listen and I help. But when I go home, I try to leave the stories at the hospital. I don't want it to affect my children, my family."
But he also draws strength from his patients. "Some of these kids... the way they speak, their bravery. They gave me strength"

### What happens after the war?

When asked about the future — about what happens once the war in Gaza ends — Dr Atif answers with caution and hope. "Most Palestinians want to return home. But mental health doesn't exist in a vacuum. If they return to a place with no safety, no infrastructure, no stability — we cannot expect healing." He stresses that while Sidra Medicine and Qatar have done an exceptional job supporting these patients, that care must be replicated and sustained post-conflict. "We need long-term mental health services, education, trained professionals, safe housing. And above all — peace."

### A call to action

Dr Atif ends the episode with a powerful message: "There is no mental health without safety. There is no mental health without ending this genocide."

He calls on the global community — governments, NGOs, and individuals — to do more. Not just to treat symptoms, but to address root causes: displacement, occupation, and ongoing violence. "Children should not need therapy to feel safe," he says. "They should be safe. That's the starting point of all healing."

### **Final thoughts**

This episode of the Afikra podcast is a sobering, necessary listen. Dr Atif Elbushra Magbool's work at Sidra Medicine is not just about treating trauma — it's about bearing witness to the silent aftermath of war, about preserving dignity in the face of devastation, and about advocating for a future where children don't have to be "resilient" to survive. It is a reminder to all of us that mental health is not a luxury. It is a human right —

and one that begins with peace.

### Qatar, Indonesia discuss labour ties

E the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour Sheikha Najwa bint Abdulrahman al-Thani met in Jakarta yesterday with Minister of Migrant Workers Protection and Head of the Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency (BP2MI) Abdul Kadir Karding.

HE Sheikha Najwa met also with Deputy Minister for the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers and Deputy Head of BP2MI Dzulfikar Ahmad Tawalla, and Director General of Promotion and Overseas Employment Opportunity Utilisation at the Ministry of Migrant Workers Protection Dwi Setiawan Susanto.

The two meetings focused on aspects of bilateral relations between Qatar and Indonesia in the fields of labour, and ways to support and develop them, in addition to discussing mechanisms for the recruitment of qualified and skilled Indonesian workers in line with the evolving needs of Qatar's labour market. (QNA)





# Qatar Technical Secondary School for Girls - Al Shamal to be set up next year

he Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has announced its plans to establish the Qatar Technical Secondary School for Girls — Al Shamal, in the northern region of the country during the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year.

The ministry said in a statement that this strategic step aims to enhance technical and vocational education opportunities for female students and provide a specialised learning environment to help prepare qualified national talents for the labor market.

It added that this initiative reflects the ministry's strong belief in the importance of applied learning and its crucial role in equipping students with both technical and vocational skills.

The MoEHE said that the school will implement a balanced curriculum that combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on training, aligned with the evolving demands of the national economy.

The Qatar Technical Secondary School for Girls — Al Shamal will offer high-quality technical education in two main tracks: Information Technology and Laboratory Technician Training, alongside standard academic subjects for the secondary level.

In its inaugural year, the school will accept a maximum of 40 Grade 10 students, with registration for the 2025-2026 academic year now open through the MoEHE's "Maaref" public service portal, specifically for Grade 10 students.

specifically for Grade 10 students.

Applications will be reviewed in accordance with the Ministry's approved regulations with priority to first be given to Qatari students, followed by daughters of Qatari mothers, then to daughters of citizens of Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, and finally, girls who were born in Qatar and currently reside in the country.

All applicants must meet academic and health eligibility requirements, which include passing admission tests and a personal interview, as well as providing a certified medical report confirming the absence of chronic health conditions that could impact participation in workshops or practical training sessions.

The admission portal has been active since June 25, 2025, and official registration procedures will be completed at the beginning of the new school year. Parents will be required to sign a consent form acknowledging the student's transfer to a new technical learning environment and agreeing to

the MoEHE's assessment and registration policies.

The opening of this school is part of the ministry's broader efforts to expand access to specialized educational opportunities in underserved areas, particularly the northern region. It also supports national efforts to diversify secondary education pathways, based on feedback gathered from students and parents in the region, which indicated strong interest in establishing a technical school for girls in Al Shamal.

Currently, Qatar hosts eight specialized schools, including three for girls: Qatar Technical Secondary School for Girls in Doha, Qatar Banking Studies and Business Administration Secondary School for Girls, and this new technical school to be established in Al Shamal.

The MoEHE affirmed that this initiative reflects its ongoing commitment to broadening access to vocational and technical education in all parts of the country, which aligns with the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030 by promoting a knowledge-based economy and empowering national human resources, especially female students, to play an active role in comprehensive development. (QNA)



### REGION/ARAB WORLD/AFRICA

### Iran says co-operation with UN nuclear watchdog will take 'new form'

**AFP** Tehran

ran said yesterday its co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "will take on a new form", expressing a desire for a diplomatic solution to resolve concerns over its nuclear programme.

Iran's 12-day war with Israel last month, sparked by an Israeli bombing campaign that hit military and nuclear sites as well as residential areas, rattled its already shaky relationship with the UN nuclear watchdog.

The attacks began days before a planned meeting between Tehran and Washington aimed at reviving nuclear negotiations, which have since stalled.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said yesterday that Iran's co-

operation with the IAEA "has not stopped, but will take on a new form", after the Islamic republic formally ended cooperation with the UN watchdog in early July.

Iran has blamed the IAEA in part for the June attacks on its nuclear facilities, which Israel says it launched to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon - an ambition Tehran has repeatedly denied. The United States, which had been in talks with Iran since April 12, joined Israel in carrying out its own strikes on June 22, targeting Iranian nuclear facilities at Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz.

Araghchi said requests to monitor nuclear sites "will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis... taking into account safety and security issues", and be managed by Iran's Supreme National Security Council. In early July, a team of IAEA inspectors left Iran to return to the

organisation's headquarters in Vienna after Tehran suspended cooperation. The talks were aimed at regulating Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Before agreeing to any new meeting, "we are examining its timing, its location, its form, its ingredients, the assurances it requires", said Araghchi, who also serves as Iran's lead negotiator.

He said that any talks would focus only on Iran's nuclear activities, not its military capabilities. "If negotiations are held... the subject of the negotiations will be only nuclear and creating confidence in Iran's nuclear programme in return for the lifting of sanctions," he told diplomats in Tehran.

"No other issues will be subject to negotiation." Araghchi also warned that reimposing UN



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi speaks during a meeting with foreign ambassadors in Tehran, vesterday.

sanctions could eliminate Europe's role in the process.

"Such measures would signify the end of Europe's role in the Iranian nuclear dossier," Araghchi said. A clause in the 2015 nuclear agreement, which US President Donald Trump withdrew from during his first term, allows for UN sanctions to be

reimposed if Iran is found to be in breach of the deal. Araghchi stressed that any new nuclear deal must uphold Iran's right under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes. "I would like to emphasise that in any negotiated solution, the rights of the Iranian people on the nuclear issue, including the right to enrichment, must be respected," he said.

"We will not have any agreement in which enrichment is not included." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at the Brics summit in Rio on Monday that Moscow would remain a committed ally of Iran and support its nuclear programme.

"Russia has technological solutions for uranium depletion and is ready to work with Iran in this field," Lavrov said, as reported by Russian state news outlet Tass.

### Family of US-Palestinian killed in West Bank want State Dept probe

**AFP** Ramallah

Reuters

the fighters.

London

US-Palestinian man has been killed in an Israeli settler attack in the occupied West Bank, his family said yesterday, demanding that Washington launch a probe into his death.

Saif al-Din Kamil Abdul Karim Musalat was beaten to death on Friday in Sinjil, a village north of Ramallah, the Palestinian health ministry said.

Musalat, born and based in Florida, travelled to the West Bank last month to spend time with relatives, his family said in a statement issued by lawyer Diana Halum following the deadly attack.

The Palestinian health ministry said a second man, Mohammed Rizq Hussein al-Shalabi, 23, died after being shot during the attack and "left to bleed for hours"

Israel's military said violence flared after Palestinians threw rocks at a group of Israelis.

Musalat's family said they were "devastated" at his death, describing the 20-year-old as a "kind, hard-working and deeply respected" man who was deeply connected to his Palestinian heritage.

They said he was "protecting his family's land from settlers who were attempting to steal it". According to the family's statement, settlers

ommercial ships still sail-

ing through the Red Sea

are broadcasting mes-

sages about their nationality

and even religion on their public

tracking systems to avoid being

targeted by Yemen's Houthis af-

ter deadly attacks this week by

The Red Sea is a critical wa-

terway for oil and commodities

but traffic has dropped sharply

since Houthi attacks off Yemen's

coast began in November 2023 in

what the group said was in soli-

darity with Palestinians in the

Gaza war. The group sank two

ships this week after months of calm and its leader Abdul Malik

al-Houthi reiterated there would

be no passage for any company

transporting goods connected to

ing through the southern Red Sea

In recent days more ships sail-

blocked an ambulance and paramedics from reaching Musalat as he lay injured, and he died before making it to hospital. His death was "an unimaginable nightmare and in justice that no family should ever have to face", they added.

"We demand the US State Department lead an immediate investigation and hold the Israeli settlers who killed Saif accountable for their crimes. We demand justice."

Rights groups have denounced a rise in violence committed by settlers in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967. The United Nations has said that such attacks against Palestinians are taking place in a climate of "impunity".

Last week, AFP journalists witnessed clashes between dozens of Israeli settlers and Palestinians in Sinjil, where a march against settler attacks on nearby farmland had been due to take place.

Israeli authorities recently erected a high fence cutting off parts of Sinjil from Road 60, which runs through the West Bank from north to south.

Violence in the territory has surged since the October 2023 storming of Israel by Palestinian Hamas group triggered war in the Gaza Strip.

Since then, Israeli troops or settlers in the West Bank have killed at least 955 Palestinians – many of them fighters, but also scores of civilians - according to Palestinian health ministry figures.

A Palestinian medic works at the intensive care unit of the Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis. Israel's drastic restrictions on the entry of goods and aid into Gaza has caused shortages of everything, including medicine, medical supplies, and fuel, which hospitals rely on to power their generators.

# Fuel shortages in Gaza at 'critical levels', UN warns

**AFP** 

Geneva

The United Nations warned yesterday that dire fuel shortages in the Gaza Strip had reached "critical levels", threatening to further increase the suffering in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory.

Seven UN agencies said in a joint statement that "fuel is the backbone of survival in Gaza".

Fuel was needed to "power hospitals, water systems, sanitation networks, ambulances, and every aspect of humanitarian operations", they said, highlighting that bakeries also needed fuel to oper-

The besieged Palestinian territory has been facing dire fuel shortages since the beginning of the devastating war that erupted after Hamas's storming of Israel in October 2023. But now "fuel shortage in Gaza has reached

critical levels", warned the agencies, including the World Health Organisation, the World Food Programme and the humanitarian agency OCHA. "After almost two years of war, people in Gaza are facing extreme hardships, including widespread food insecurity," they pointed out.

"When fuel runs out, it places an unbearable new burden on a population teetering on the edge of starvation." The UN said that without adequate fuel, the agencies that have been responding to the deep humanitarian crisis in a territory swathes of which have been flattened by Israeli bombing and facing famine warnings, "will likely be forced to stop their operations entirely". "This means no health services, no clean water, and no capacity to deliver aid," the statement said.

"Without adequate fuel, Gaza faces a collapse of humanitarian efforts," it warned.

"Without fuel, bakeries and

community kitchens cannot operate. Water production and sanitation systems will shut down, leaving families without safe drinking water, while solid waste and sewage pile up in the streets," it added.

lies to deadly disease outbreaks and push Gaza's most vulnerable even closer to death."

"These conditions expose fami-

The warning comes days after the UN managed to bring fuel into Gaza for the first time in 130 days.

While a "welcome development", the UN agencies said the 75.000 litres of fuel they were able to bring in was just "a small fraction of what is needed each day to keep daily life and critical aid operations running".

"The United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners cannot overstate the urgency of this moment," they said.

"Fuel must be allowed into Gaza in sufficient quantities and consistently to sustain life-saving operations."

#### Israeli strike on south **Lebanon kills** one: ministry

Lebanon's health ministry said an Israeli strike in the south yesterday killed one person whom Israel described as a Hezbollah fighter, AFP reported from Beirut. The attack was the latest despite a November ceasefire that sought to end more than a year of conflict between Israel and the fighter group. The ministry said the Israeli strike hit a house in the village of Wata al-Khiam. The Israeli military said it "struck and eliminated a fighter in Hezbollah's anti-tank unit in the area of Khiam". Under the agreement, Hezbollah was to pull its fighters back north of the Litani River, around 30 kilometres from the border. Israel was required to withdraw all of its troops from Lebanon but has kept them in five locations it deems strategic. On Friday, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said that while he was open to peaceful relations with Israel, normalisation of ties was "not currently part of Lebanese foreign policy".

strait have added messages to their AIS public tracking profiles that can be seen when clicking on a vessel.

Ships look to dodge Red Sea

attacks with messages

Messages have included referring to an all-Chinese crew and management, and flagging the presence of armed guards on board. "All Crew Muslim", read one message, while others made clear the ships had no connection to Israel, according to MarineTraffic and LSEG shiptracking AIS data.

Maritime security sources said this was a sign of growing desperation to avoid attack by Houthi commandos or deadly drones - but they also thought it was unlikely to make any differ-

Houthi intelligence preparation was "much deeper and forward-leaning", one source said.

Vessels in the broader fleets of both ships attacked and sunk by the Houthis this week had made

calls to Israeli ports in the past

and the narrow Rah al-Mandah vear shipping analysis showed

Maritime security sources said even though shipping companies must step up due diligence on any tangential link to Israel before sailing through the Red Sea, the risk of attack was still high. In March 2024, the Houthis hit the Chinese-operated tanker Huang Pu with ballistic missiles despite previously saying they would not attack Chinese vessels, the US Central Command said.

The Houthis have also targeted vessels trading with Russia.

"Despite declared ceasefires, areas such as the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait remain designated high-risk by underwriters," insurance broker Aon said in a report this week.

"Ongoing monitoring and adaptive security measures are essential for ship operators." The insurance cost of shipping goods through the Red Sea has more than doubled since this week's attacks, with some underwriters pausing cover for some voyages.

### SA's apartheid crimes panel's work 'unfinished' 30 years on

**AFP** 

Johannesburg

omonde Calata's tears as she testified in court last month about her husband's assassination 40 years ago echoed the raw anguish heard during South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings after apartheid ended in 1994.

From 1996-1998, the TRC heard harrowing accounts of murders, torture and other apartheid-era abuses from hundreds of victims and some perpetrators, aiming to expose the horrors and begin healing. Internationally hailed as a model in reconciliation, 30 years later its reputation is tarnished at home, where critics say the exercise allowed some

to get away with their crimes. Calata was one of the first to



while in police custody in 1976 in South Africa, taking the oath at the start of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in

appear at a hearing. In her midthirties, she told of the 1985 assassinations by police of her husband and other anti-apartheid activists known as the Cradock Four, one of the era's most

notorious cases. She recounted the story again this year in June at a new inquest, still seeking justice and closure, this time supported by lawyers from the "Unfinished Business of the TRC" programme of the Foundation for Human Rights (FHR), a non-profit organisation.

Set up by the July 26, 1995 "Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act", the TRC

heard about 7,000 applications for amnesty from perpetrators of gross human rights violations from 1960 to 1994, the year white-minority rule ended.

It rejected most, including for six apartheid policemen who confessed to involvement in the Cradock killings, and recommended criminal prosecutions for 300 cases where there was no full disclosure or when the acts did not have a clear political purpose. But only a handful of these were pursued. Claims that follow-up was deliberately squashed, including by politicians in the postapartheid leadership, led President Cyril Ramaphosa to appoint an enquiry in May. With many perpetrators now deceased, the FHR hopes the investigation will uncover who blocked prosecutions and make them accountable instead, the group's executive director Zaid Kimmie said.

### VOTE

#### **Cameroon sets** presidential poll date for October 12

Cameroon will vote in a presidential

election on October 12, according to a decree issued by President Paul Biya, AFP reported from Yaounde. Biya — the de facto candidate of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM), of which he is party leader - has neither confirmed nor denied whether he intends to run for an eighth term. Several longstanding supporters of Biya appear to be distancing themselves from the 92-year-old head of state, who has ruled the west African country for nearly 43 years. But the opposition is deeply divided and is struggling to unite behind a single candidate. There have been two defections from Biya's camp. **Employment Minister Issa Tchiroma** Bakary resigned from government in June to stand in the election for his Front for the National Salvation of Cameroon (FSNC), Former PM Bello Bouba Maigari, an ally of Biya's for nearly 30 years, said he was standing for National Union for Democracy and Progress (NUDP).

### Australian prime minister in China to boost trade despite regional angst

**AFP** Beijing

nthony Albanese arrived in Shanghai yesterday to kick off his second visit to China as Australian prime minister, seeking to bolster recently stabilised trade ties even as geopolitical tensions remain high.

Relations between Beijing and Canberra have charted a bumpy course over the past decade, a period marked by repeated disagreements over national security and competing interests across the vast Pacific

Affairs improved in December, when China called off a ban on imported Australian rock lobster, removing the final obstacle in a damaging trade war waged between the countries after ties plummeted in 2017.

"Trade is now flowing freely, to the benefit of both countries and to people and businesses on both sides," Albanese said ahead of the trip.

The Labor Party leader hailed a "very warm welcome" in brief comments to reporters shortly after touching down in the eastern metropolis of Shanghai.

However, Albanese's trip comes as China's sweeping territorial claims ruffle feathers in the region, particularly pertaining to the South China Sea.

The Australian leader said upon arrival that "the full range of issues" would be on the table during discussions with Chinese leaders including President Xi Jinping, making the visit a tricky balancing act as economic and security priorities compete.

'We co-operate where we can, we disagree where we must, and we're able to have those honest conversations about some of the disagreements that are there." Albanese told reporters ahead of the trip.

The two countries "have different political systems" and "different values", he said, adding: "But we've got to be able to

have that engagement directly."

Beijing's foreign ministry said earlier this week that ties between the countries "have continued to improve and grow".

"China hopes that through this visit, the two sides will strengthen communication, enhance mutual trust (and) expand practical co-operation," ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said.

Albanese's visit to Shanghai, Beijing and Chengdu comes at a fraught moment.

US President Donald Trump's global tariff blitz has left Australia and other traditional allies of Washington puzzled about their relationship with the world's top economy, spurring calls to diversify trade ties.

'The visit will not be a walk in the park, especially since Australia also needs to carefully manage its alliance with Trump's America and emerging disagreements about trade," said Huong Le Thu, Asia deputy director at the International Crisis Group.

His trip will be aimed at "striking a balance", she said.

"Ultimately, Albanese and Xi will need to address the security elephant in the room."

Mutual suspicions have been difficult to shake despite the countries' recent rapprochement on trade, with Canberra wary of potential national security risks posed by the presence of Chinese technology in the country.

In February, Australia announced a ban on Chinese artificial intelligence-powered chatbot DeepSeek from all government devices, citing privacy and malware risks.

Beijing criticised the move as "politicisation of economic, trade and technological issues".

Regional anxieties have also remained high since the end of the countries' trade war last year, with a tense encounter between military planes in February sparking sharp rebukes from both sides.

Another key point of contention is the fate of Darwin Port, whose Chineseowned controller could be forced to sell it

"Overall, China wants to present the optic that Australia-China has returned to normal, if not friendly," Jingdong Yuan, an expert on China at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, told AFP. "Beijing probably wants the Darwin issue to go away."

"China would like to use Trump's rather abrasive ways in treating friends and foes... to prod Australia to keep some distance from the United States," he added.

Despite the tensions, China is one of Australia's most important economic partners, accounting for nearly one third of its total trade.

The prime minister is accompanied on his visit by a delegation of key business leaders who will attend a chief executives' roundtable in Beijing.

Albanese will also address tourism and sport during visits to economic hub Shanghai and cultural hotspot Chengdu in the southwest.

Russia's Lavrov

meets N Korea's

Kim, praises ties

ussian Foreign Minister

Sergei Lavrov met North ►Korean leader Kim Jong-un

in the coastal city of Wonsan yes-

terday, where he described the two

nations' relations as "an invinci-

ble fighting brotherhood", Russia's

The ministry quoted Lavrov as

saying that the visit represented

the continuation of "strategic

dialogue" between the two sides

inaugurated by Russian President

Vladimir Putin's visit to North

In a message passed on by La-

Lavrov, the ministry said, also

Relations between the two

Thousands of North Korean

troops were deployed during the

months-long campaign to oust

Ukrainian forces from Russia's

Kursk region, while Pyongyang

has also supplied Russia with mu-

Lavrov also met with his North

Lavrov arrived in Wonsan on

Friday from Malaysian capital

Kuala Lumpur following the Asean

Home to a newly opened seaside

foreign ministers' meeting.

Korean counterpart, Choe Son

countries deepened during the

thanked North Korea for the

vrov, Putin said that he hoped for

more direct contacts in future,

Tass news agency reported.

troops it had sent to Russia.

conflict in Ukraine.

Hui, Tass reported.

nitions.

foreign ministry said.

Korea last year.

as 'invincible

brotherhood'

### **Taiwanese** rocket fails to achieve Japan's first foreign launch

aiwanese private rocket company TiSpace terminated the flight of one of its rockets shortly after lift-off in northern Japan yesterday, failing to become the first foreign company to perform a successful launch on Japanese soil.

TiSpace, through its Japanese unit jtSPACE, tried to reach outer space 100km (62 miles) above the Earth's surface on the inaugural flight of its 12m (40'), hybridfuelled rocket VP01 in a launch from Japan's Hokkaido Spaceport.

The rocket lifted off at 11.40am (0240 GMT), but within a minute its trajectory turned wobbly and it went into freefall, footage from Japanese public broadcaster NHK showed.

"We are examining the situation of the flight," a spokesperson for Space Cotan, the Japanese company operating the Hokkaido Spaceport, said after the launch attempt.

The rocket did not carry a satellite, although Space Cotan has said its success would be a step toward building a satellite-launch-

TiSpace, led by a former Taiwan Space Agency official, has not had a successful spaceflight.

It turned to Japan in search of a test site after failing to launch a ocket in Australia in 20

While local officials and businesses in Hokkaido welcomed the move as a milestone toward becoming an international space hub, some Japan space policy experts have worried about provoking China, which closely monitors Taiwan's advances in missile-related technologies.

In Japan private rocketmakers are racing to gain entry to the commercial launch market dominated by Elon Musk's SpaceX and US rivals, including Rocket Lab.

No privately developed Japanese rocket has achieved orbital satellite launch.

Interstellar Technologies, a Hokkaido-based startup now backed by Toyota, was in 2019 the first private rocket venture in Japan to reach space, although without a satellite payload.

Canon Electronics-backed Space One conducted two failed orbital launches last year. - Reuters

### Fuel to Air India jet engines cut just before crash: report

**AFP/Reuters** New Delhi

uel control switches to the engines of an Air India flight that cracked at after 1.7

after takeoff, killing 260 people, were moved from the "run" to the "cutoff" position moments before impact, a preliminary investigation report said yesterday. The report, issued by India's Aircraft Ac-

cident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), did not offer any conclusions or apportion blame for the June 12 disaster, but indicated that one pilot asked the other why he cut off fuel, and the second pilot responded that he had not.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner was headed from Ahmedabad in western India to London when it crashed, killing all but one of the 242 people on board as well as 19 people on the

In its 15-page report, the investigation bureau said that once the aircraft achieved its top recorded speed, "the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another with a time gap of 01 sec".

"In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cutoff. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," it said.

The aircraft quickly began to lose altitude. The switches then returned to the "RUN" position and the engines appeared to be gathering power, but "one of the pilots transmitted 'MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY'", the report said.

Air traffic controllers asked the pilots what was wrong, but then saw the plane crashing and called emergency personnel to the scene.

The civil aviation minister, Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, told reporters that investigators probed in a "mature, transparent"

"This is a preliminary report. We want the final report to come in, so let us wait for it," he said. "We care for the welfare and the well-being of pilots so let's not jump to any conclusions at this stage."

Earlier this week, specialist website The Air Current, citing multiple sources familiar with the probe, reported that it had "narrowed its focus to the movement of the engine fuel switches", while noting that full analysis will "take months - if not longer".

It added that "the focus of the investigators could change during that time".

The Indian agency's report said the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had issued an information bulletin in 2018 about "the potential disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature".

Though the concern was not considered an "unsafe condition" that would warrant a more serious directive, Air India told investigators it did not carry out suggested inspections as they were "advisory and not mandatory".



A passenger aircraft flies over a damaged building, at the site in Ahmedabad, India, where an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane crashed soon after takeoff from a nearby airport.

Air India was compliant with all airworthiness directives and alert service bulletins on the aircraft, the report said.

The investigations bureau said there were "no recommended actions to B787-8 and/or GE GEnx-1B engine operators and manufacturers", suggesting no technical issues with the engines (GE) or the aircraft

The bureau said the investigation was ongoing, and that additional evidence and information had been "sought from the stake-

Boeing said in a statement that it would "continue to support the investigation and our customer' adding "our thoughts remain" with those affected by the disaster. Air India said it is "working closely with

stakeholders, including regulators." "We continue to fully co-operate with the

AAIB and other authorities as their investigation progresses," it said in a statement on The UN's International Civil Aviation

Organisation (ICAO) stipulates that states heading an investigation must submit a preliminary report within 30 days of an acci-

US and British air accident investigators have taken part in the probe.

Suresh Mistry, who lost his daughter Kinal in the crash, told AFP that his family is still coming to terms with the loss.

"How is possible that there is an internal issue with the flight and nobody knew? Even cars these days indicate when there is a problem. How does it not happen on flights?" he

Imtiyaz Ali, whose brother was killed along with his wife and two children, said the preliminary report took "nothing forward"

playing victims' skulls and watch students

stage dramatic re-enactments of the bloody

Another prison site known as M-13, lo-

cated in a rural area in central Kampong

Chhnang province, was one of the most im-

portant prisons of the early Khmer Rouge

Khmer Rouge cadres "invented and test-

ed various methods of interrogation, tor-

ture and killing" there, and kept prisoners

in pits still faintly visible today, a Cambo-

ry in Cambodia," said Youk Chhang, a sur-

"It is the landscape of our shared memo-

dian submission to Unesco says.

but is today only a patch of derelict land.

"And (it) is not even close to a closure," he said. "It feels like we are at the same spot, where we were a month ago when the crash happened."

The plane was carrying 230 passengers -169 Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese and a Canadian - and 12 crew.

Dozens of people on the ground were in-

One passenger miraculously survived, a British citizen who was seen walking out of the wreckage of the crash, and who has since been discharged from hospital.

Health officials in the Indian state of Gujarat initially said at least 279 people were killed but forencic scientists reduced the figure after multiple scattered and badly burnt remains were identified. The crash is a challenge for Tata Group's

ambitious campaign to restore Air India's reputation and revamp its fleet, after taking the carrier over from the government in 2022. Experts have said a pilot would not be able

to accidentally move the fuel switches. "If they were moved because of a pilot,

why?" asked US aviation safety expert Anthony Brickhouse. The switches flipped a second apart, the

report said, roughly the time it would take to shift one and then the other, according to US aviation expert John Nance.

He added that a pilot would normally never turn the switches off in flight, especially as the plane is starting to climb.

Flipping to cutoff almost immediately cuts

It is most often used to turn engines off once a plane has arrived at its airport gate and in certain emergency situations, such as

The report does not indicate there was any emergency requiring an engine cutoff.

#### resort, Wonsan is also known for its missile and naval facilities. Layrov's visit is the latest h level meeting between the two countries as they upgrade their strategic co-operation to now include a mutual defence pact. "We exchanged views on the

situation surrounding the Ukrainian crisis... our Korean friends confirmed their firm support for all the objectives of the special military operation, as well as for the actions of the Russian leadership and armed forces," Tass quoted Lavrov as saying.

It also quoted his deputy Andrei Rudenko as saying more high-level delegations would visit North Korea later this year. - Reuters

#### **Hundreds of** Myanmar troops, civilians flee into Thailand

ore than 500 civilians and soldiers fled conflict in Myanmar and crossed into Thailand vesterday after an assault by ethnic fighters on a military base, the Thai army said.

Myanmar has been mired in civil conflict since a military coup in 2021, with the junta battling a coalition of ethnic armed groups and pro-democracy resistance forces.

Yesterday's attack by the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) targeted a military base in Kayin state around 3pm local time (0800 GMT), Thailand's military said. "The Myanmar soldiers at-

tempted to resist and called for supporting firepower to defend their position but were ultimately unable to hold the line," it said.

One hundred Myanmar soldiers and 467 civilians had crossed into Thailand yesterday, where Thai military and police disarmed them and provided treatment and humanitarian aid, officials said.

Thai forces have ramped up patrols along the border to prevent what officials described as a "violation of sovereignty by foreign armed forces".

Myanmar's civil war has caused huge waves of population displacement, with 81,000 refugees or asylum-seekers from the country currently living in Thailand, according to UN figures. - AFP

### Three Cambodia genocide sites added to Unesco register prayers in front of the site's memorial dis-

By Suy Se

hree notorious Cambodian torture and execution sites used by the Khmer Rouge regime to perpetrate genocide 50 years ago were inscribed on Unesco's World Heritage List on Friday.

The hardline Maoist group led by Pol Pot reset the calendar to "Year Zero" on April 17, 1975 and emptied cities in a bid to create a pure agrarian society free of class, politics or capital.

Around 2mn people died of starvation, forced labour or torture or were slaughtered in mass killings between 1975 and 1979.

The Cambodian locations entered into the Unesco register include two prison sites and a "killing field" where thousands were

"May this inscription serve as a lasting reminder that peace must always be defended," Prime Minister Hun Manet said in a video message aired by state-run television TVK. "From the darkest chapters of history, we can draw strength to build a better future for humanity?

Two sites added to the list are in the capital Phnom Penh - the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Choeung Ek Genocide Centre.



Tourists at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh. - AFP

Tuol Sleng is a former high school which was converted into a notorious prison known as S-21, where an estimated 15,000

people were imprisoned and tortured. Today the site is a space for commemoration and education, housing the black-andwhite mugshots of its many victims and the preserved equipment used by Khmer Rouge tormentors.

Choeung Ek - a former Chinese cemetery - was a notorious "killing field" where S-21 prisoners were executed nightly.

More than 6,000 bodies were exhumed from over 100 mass graves at the ground in the early 1980s, according to Cambodian government documents filed with Unesco. Every year, hundreds hold remembrance

vivor of the "killing fields" and director of the Documentation Centre of Cambodia, which researches Khmer Rouge atrocities. "This will ensure the teaching of Khmer Rouge history (will) be more efficient and

relevant."

Khmer Rouge crimes.

A special tribunal sponsored by the United Nations convicted three key Khmer Rouge figures, including S-21 chief torturer Kaing Guek Eav, before ceasing operations in 2022.

Pol Pot, nicknamed "Brother Number One", died in 1998 before he was brought to

Yesterday survivors of Cambodia's four-

year genocide told AFP that they were "thrilled" that the site of their lives' biggest horror has gained Unesco recognition.

"I am so thrilled," said Chum Mey, one of just a handful of S-21 survivors who now sells his memoirs in the prison compound where he says he was beaten, electrocuted

"The listing by Unesco reminds me of the torture against me," he said.

"I am so happy and excited that Unesco recognises Tuol Sleng museum, Choeung Ek, and M-13," Chum Mey said. "This is for the next generations." Yesterday students and tourists walked

through the black-and-white mugshots of Tuol Sleng's many victims and the preserved equipment used by Khmer Rouge Norng Chanphal, 55, survived S-21 as a child and returns to the site every day to

sell his memoirs and feel close to his mother who died there. He said he was "so glad" and "excited" that Tuol Sleng - a place of bitter memories

where many lost everything - had earned Unesco recognition. Norng Chanphal hoped the recognition

would allow Tuol Sleng to exist forever and serve as a reminder "to prevent such a regime from happening in Cambodia again".

### COMMENT

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### **GULF @ TIMES**

### Ruto faces tough task taming protests and winning over Gen Z

Protesters braving police batons, water cannon and occasional bullets on Kenya's streets this week have taken up a rallying cry that is likely to unnerve its embattled president, William Ruto: "Ruto wantam", or Ruto one-term.

Ruto won power almost three years ago vowing to protect the poor and end police violence, but he is facing mounting public dissatisfaction over high living costs, corruption and police brutality that could yet seal his fate as a "wantam" leader.

As the faint drum beat of the 2027 election grows louder, analysts say, his administration will need not only to deliver on its economic promises but also adopt a more conciliatory tone to win over a younger, better-educated population. "Persistent economic hardship and widespread allegations of

have for securing re-election in 2027," said Mucahid Durmaz, Senior Africa Analyst at risk intelligence firm Verisk Maplecroft. A government-funded rights group said 31 people were killed nationwide in the latest anti-government protests on Monday, held to mark the 35th anniversary of pro-democracy rallies. Police fired

police violence pose serious challenges to any ambitions he may

to disperse the demonstrators after also using tear gas and water "We can't feed our families, so we have to be on the street to stop the increasing prices, to stop the (police) abductions, and to stand up for our country," said Festus Muiruri, a 22-year-old protester in the

capital Nairobi. "We want the president to hear us."

But Ruto's government has been consistently slow to respond to public discontent. Last year, he only abandoned proposed tax hikes after protesters overran parliament in unprecedented scenes flashed across TV screens around the world.

### The administration's hardline response to protesters has rattled investors in economy

His interior minister, Kipchumba Murkomen, branded last month's protests as a "coup attempt" by what he called "criminal anarchists".

Unlike his Ruto faces a generation of uncompromising young Kenyans desperate for

economic opportunities, who can mobilise amorphously through social media, bypassing opposition parties and leaders. The so-called "Gen Z" protesters, the product of free schooling

introduced two decades ago, have no recollection of authoritarian rule. Many were not yet born when Kenya introduced multi-party

With up to 800,000 young people entering the job market each year, Gen Z are more educated than their elders, but also more likely to be unemployed, according to a report by Afrobarometer, a pollster. "They have no memory of the rough times," said Macharia

Munene, a professor of history and international relations at the United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi. "They've learned how to ask questions."

Discontent with the government found a lightning rod last month with the death of blogger Albert Ojwang in police custody. On June 25 some 19 people lost their lives in demonstrations over Ojwang's death.

The administration's hardline response to protesters has rattled investors in East Africa's largest economy. Business expectations fell to their second-lowest level on record in May, according to a survey by Stanbic Bank Kenva.

"Repeated protests and shutdowns will continue to erode investor confidence and disrupt economic activity, especially if the government continues to prioritise force over dialogue," said Jervin Naidoo from Oxford Economics.

Despite the swelling disillusionment, Kenyans are left with few options for now. Ruto's large parliamentary majority ensures he won't be unseated prematurely. He also faces a weak and fractured opposition which is yet to find a standard bearer for the next election. Following last year's protests, Ruto brought former Prime Minister Raila Odinga into his government, neutralising his main threat.

He has two more years to turn things around, or use his incumbency to help ensure a second term. Ruto will hope that his increased social spending and programmes aimed at tackling youth unemployment, combined with positive economic prospects and a decline in inflation, will bolster his appeal, according to Control Risks.

However, that may not be enough to avoid "wantam", said Javas Bigambo, a political commentator.

"The government is perceived to be blind, deaf and dumb by the young people. This perception needs to be managed. Dealing with the protesters with this condescending attitude will only worsen Ruto's re-election prospects," he said.

"It is urgent that measures are taken to bridge the divide." -

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# Can a public digital dollar save us from meltdown?

**By Yanis Varoufakis** 

argaret Thatcher famously quipped that the problem with socialists is that, eventually, they run out of other people's money. But what happens when bankers run out of other people's money, as seems likely to happen soon? Either we end up with another calamitous financial meltdown or we innovate to serve the public interest in a manner Thatcher would have dismissed as socialist.

Before I propose one such innovative response to the looming financial quagmire, one must understand the monetary transformation currently underway, owing to the steady rise of stablecoins. Unlike Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies which are tethered to nothin and fluctuate like a yo-yo, stablecoins are issued by private corporations that promise that their tokens will faithfully track the value of the US dollar.

There are good reasons why common people, not just criminals, want to use stablecoins: they offer a way to send money, especially abroad, that is cheaper, faster, immune to US sanctions, and more reliable than rickety inter-bank messaging systems such as

There are even more reasons why financiers are keen to offer us their brand of stablecoin: by shifting the trading of shares, bonds, derivatives, and other securities onto their own blockchain, they can make trading much faster and more reliable. Moreover, if their stablecoin becomes dominant, they will own not only the market but also

the currency in which trades are made, creating scope for gargantuan financial gains.

But stablecoins are setting the stage for the next financial meltdown. For starters, their issuers have an incentive to issue more tokens than the dollars they keep in reserve to back them. And, because stablecoin issuers keep a significant portion of their dollar reserves in banks, a bank run will cause a stablecoin run (a rush of requests to convert them into real dollars) which then triggers a cascade of bank runs

Moreover, a doom loop ties together stablecoins, shares, and bonds: once financial trading has shifted to blockchains "lubricated" by a stablecoin, a run on that stablecoin will threaten the stock market and the \$29 trillion Treasuries market. And then there is the global fragility introduced by dollar-backed stablecoins issued outside the United States by companies that US authorities are unlikely to rescue if the need arises.

How significant is the shift from the conventional monetary system to this jungle of private stablecoins? On June 17, the US Senate passed the so-called GENIUS Act. Its chief aim is to legitimise and boost stablecoin adoption. In essence, President Donald Trump's administration is privatising the dollar system for geopolitical, self-serving, and ideological reasons. The US Treasury predicts that US "commercial-bank transactional deposits (non-interest-bearing accounts)" totalling \$6.6tn (the equivalent of 660% of the annual US defence budget) will migrate to stablecoins on the GENIUS Act's coattails. This is nothing short of an enormous time bomb planted at the foundations of our economies.

So, what is the alternative? Suppose that US residents could download a Federal Reserve digital wallet from any app store. Imagine that they could then ask employers to deposit their pay into that wallet and even transfer money from their commercial bank accounts to take advantage of the Fed's overnight interest rates as well as free transactions.

Using the same blockchain technology of stablecoin issuers, the Fed could guarantee that every payment or transfer is utterly private, while enabling everyone to see how much money sloshes around the system in aggregate, thereby preventing the authorities from creating new money without everyone knowing.

This would be the mother of all stablecoins, without any of the drawbacks. Speed, efficiency, and privacy would be combined with a higher interest rate on deposits (compared to commercial banks) and the copper-plated security that your digital tokens are 100% Fed-backed US dollars with none of the moral hazards or doom loops afflicting private stablecoins. Moreover, this public system comes with an additional advantage: it makes possible a trust fund for everyone.

Recall that, under the current system of fractional reserve banking, commercial banks create a lot more dollars from every dollar of deposits they receive (the so-called money market multiplier). Conversely, if the US Treasury is correct that \$6.6tn of deposits are about to migrate from US banks to stablecoins, the overall supply of dollars is about to shrink dramatically. That will cause the Fed to raise interest rates substantially in order to allow banks to do likewise to stem the migration and the fall in

the money supply - a disastrous outcome for the real economy.

By contrast, following a mass migration of bank deposits to Fed wallets, the Fed does not need to increase interest rates. All it needs to do is calculate by how much the money supply is falling and credit each resident's wallet with whatever sum is necessary to keep the money supply steady. In essence, without the state having to raise new taxes or borrow a single cent, the Fed would be offering a substantial trust fund to everyone within this new public crypto network that functions like a truly novel monetary commons.

Bankers will undoubtedly hate the idea. Deprived of their monopoly over payments and savings, Fed wallets would force them to function, as they ought to, like financial intermediaries, turning Jill's savings into loans for Jack.

Financial markets, too. will need to use the Fed's new tokenised dollar for transactions. but without the exorbitant rents they would have received had they been allowed to privatise the tokenised dollar. Bankers and financiers will, for once, need to offer us services under circumstances that allow us to

This new monetary commons, including the sizeable trust fund for everyone, would grant us unprecedented freedom from bankers and financiers. And that's why you will not be hearing about it from any of the mainstream political parties whose campaign financing depends on bankers and financiers. – Project Syndicate

• Yanis Varoufakis, a former finance minister of Greece, is leader of the MeRA25 party and Professor of Economics at the University of Athens.



### 6 killed in massive Russia drone, missile attack

Kyiv

Russia meddrones and long-range model siles overnight, killing at a copile in the latest wave ussia fired more than 620 least six people in the latest wave of strikes, Ukraine said yesterday, calling for fresh sanctions on Moscow to halt its record barrages.

Moscow has stepped up aerial strikes over recent months and US-led ceasefire talks aimed at pausing the over three-year war have stalled.

"Twenty-six cruise missiles and 597 attack drones were launched, of which more than half were 'Shaheds," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said, referring to Iranian-made drones.

The Ukrainian air force said it had downed 319 Shahed drones and 25 missiles, adding that one missile and about 20 drones hit "five locations".

Zelensky said the strikes had killed at least two people and wounded 20 in the southwestern Chernivtsi region, far from the front lines of the east and south.

Twelve people were wounded in Lviv, also in the west.

In the east, two people died in Dnipropetrovsk and three were wounded in Kharkiv, local author-Russia also "dropped two guid-

ed aerial bombs on the homes of civilians" in the northeastern Sumy region killing two, local prosecutor's office said.

"As a result of the enemy attack, a 65-year-old man and his wife were killed. Fourteen residential buildings were destroyed and damaged," it added.

The Russian defence ministry said it had targeted companies in Ukraine's military-industrial complex in Lviv, Kharkiv and Lutsk and a military aerodrome. US special envoy Keith Kellogg

is due tomorrow to begin his latest visit to Ukraine as a Washingtonled peace effort flounders.

US President Donald Trump



A car burning following mass Russian strikes in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv. (AFP)

also said he would make a "major statement... on Russia" tomorrow. On Friday, the Kremlin restat-

ed its opposition to a European peacekeeping force in Ukraine, after French President Emmanuel Macron said Kyiv's allies had a plan "ready to go... in the hours after a ceasefire'

Trump called Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin last week but said afterwards there had been no progress towards ending the war. The Kremlin said Putin would not give up on Russia's war goals but would nonetheless continue to take part in negotiations.

Moscow says its aim in Ukraine is to get rid of the "root causes" of the conflict and has demanded that Kyiv give up its Nato ambitions. In Russia's Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, a drone "hit the Belgorod Arena sports centre, where classes were taking place," regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said Saturday, adding there were no casualties.

He said a man died after a separate strike hit a house in the city of Shebekino.

Washington's announcement earlier this month that it would pause some armament deliveries to Ukraine was a blow to Kyiv, which is reliant on Western military support.

Yesterday, Zelensky urged his Western allies to send "more than just signals" to stop the war launched by Russia in February

2022. "The pace of Russian air strikes requires swift decisions and it can be curbed right now through sanctions," he said on social media.

Zelensky specifically demanded penalties for those who "help Russia produce drones and profit from oil". Oil exports are important for the Russian economy especially in the face of existing Western sanc-

Sanctions imposed on Russia the world's largest fertiliser producer - after the invasion spared its grain and fertiliser exports.

But prices skyrocketed, fuelling fears of food insecurity.

The United Nations signed a deal with Russia in July 2022 to facilitate exports of food and fertiliser to limit global price increases. But on Friday, it said the accord would not be renewed when it ex-

Russia has repeatedly complained the agreement does little to protect it from secondary sanc-

pires on July 22.



French President Emmanuel Macron (centre) reacts as he stands next to President of the Southern Province Assembly of New Caledonia Sonia Backes (right) during a meeting with New Caledonia's elected officials and state representatives at the Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday. (AFP)

### New Caledonia to be a state but will remain French

AFP Paris

rance yesterday announced a "historic" accord with New Caledonia in which the overseas territory, rocked by deadly separatist violence last year, would remain French but be declared a new state.

President Emmanuel Macron had called for talks to break a deadlock between forces loyal to France and those wanting independence. asking New Caledonian elected officials, as well as political, economic and civil society leaders to gather near Paris to hammer out a constitutional framework for the territory

After 10 days of talks, the parties agreed that a "State of New Caledonia" should be created.

The archipelago is to retain "a status within France, with Caledonians who will remain French", said Nicolas Metzdorf, an antiindependence deputy.

"No more referendums are planned, with the exception of the one confirming this agreement." he said in a message sent to AFP.

The priority now was New Caledonia's economic recovery after last year's violence that killed 14 and is estimated to have cost the 10% off its gross domestic product (GDP), he said.

Prime Minister Francois Bayrou said vesterday's deal - which still requires parliamentary and referendum approval - was of "historic dimensions".

Home to around 270,000 people and located nearly 17,000km from Paris, New Caledonia is one of several overseas territories that remain an integral part of France.

It has been ruled from Paris since the 1800s, but many indigenous Kanaks still resent France's power over their islands and want fuller autonomy or independence.

Unrest broke out in May 2024 after Paris planned to give voting rights to thousands of non-indigenous long-term residents, something Kanaks feared would leave them in a permanent minority, crushing their chances of winning independence.

As part of the agreement, New Caledonia residents will in future only be allowed to vote after 10 vears of living on the archipelago.

The last independence referendum in New Caledonia was held in 2021, and was boycotted by proindependence groups over the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Kanak population

The referendum was the last of three since 2018, all of which rejected New Caledonian independ-

Since the 2021 referendum the political situation in the archipelago has been in deadlock.

Macron declared in early June he wanted a "new project" for New Caledonia.

The 13-page agreement announced yesterday calls for a New Caledonian nationality, and the possibility for residents there to combine that status with the French nationality.

According to the deal, a "State of New Caledonia" will be enshrined in France's constitution, and other countries could recognise such a state.

The deal also calls for an economic and financial recovery pact that would include a renewal of the territory's nickel processing capabilities.

Both chambers of France's parliament are to meet in the fourth quarter of this year to approve the deal, which is then to be submitted to New Caledonians in a referendum in 2026.

### Trump ups trade war with threat of 30% tariffs on EU, Mexico

Reuters Washington

resident Donald Trump yesterday threatened to impose a 30% tariff on imports from Mexico and the European Union starting on August 1, after weeks of negotiations with the major US trading partners failed to reach a comprehensive trade deal. In an escalation of the trade war that has angered US allies and rattled investors, Trump announced the latest tariffs in separate letters to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum that were posted on his Truth Social media site yesterday.

The EU and Mexico responded by calling the tariffs unfair and disruptive while pledging to continue to negotiate with the US for a broader trade deal before the deadline. The EU and Mexico are among the largest HS trading partners.

Trump sent similar letters to 23 other trading partners this week, including Canada, Japan and Brazil, setting blanket tariff rates ranging from 20% up to 50%, as well as a 50% tariff on copper.

Trump said the 30% rate was "separate from all sectoral tariffs," which means 50% levies on steel and aluminium imports and a 25% tariff on auto imports would remain. The August 1 deadline gives the targeted countries time to negotiate agreements that could lower the threatened tariffs.

The spate of letters shows Trump has returned to the aggressive trade posture that he took in early April when he announced a slew of reciprocal tariffs against trading partners that sent markets tumbling before the White House delayed implementation.

But with the stock market recently hitting record highs and the US economy remaining resilient, Trump is showing no signs of slowing down his trade war. The US president promised to use the 90-day delay in April to strike dozens of new trade deals, but has only secured framework agreements with Britain, China and Vietnam. The EU has hoped to reach a comprehensive trade agreement with the US for the 27-country

Trump's letter to the EU included a demand that Europe dron its own tariffs, an annaren condition of any future deal. "The European Union will allow complete, open Market Access to the United States, with no Tariff being charged to us, in an attempt to reduce the large Trade Deficit," he wrote. Von der Leyen said the 30% tariffs "would disrupt essential transatlantic supply chains, to the detriment of businesses, consumers and patients on both sides of the Atlantic." She also said while the EU will continue to work towards a trade agreement, it "will take all necessary steps to safeguard EU interests, including the adoption of proportionate countermeasures if required."

Mexico's economy ministry said yesterday it was informed the US would send a letter during a meeting on Friday with US officials.

"We mentioned at the roundtable that it was unfair treatment and that we did not agree," the ministry's statement said.

Mexico's proposed tariff level is lower than Canada's 35%, with both letters citing fentanyl flows even though government data shows the amount of the drug seized at the Mexican border was significantly higher than the Canadian border. "Mexico has been helping me secure the border, BUT, what Mexico has done, is not enough. Mexico still has not stopped the Cartels who are trying to turn all of North America into a Narco-Trafficking Playground," Trump wrote.

China is the main source of the chemicals used to make fentanyl. According to the US Customs and Border Patrol, only 0.2% of all fentanyl seized in the US comes from across the Canadian border, while the vast majority originates from the southern border. Mexico sends more than 80% of its total exported goods to the US and free trade with its northern neighbour drove Mexico to overtake China as the top US trading partner in 2023.

### Macron declares July 12 annual Dreyfus commemoration day

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday declared July 12 a French day of national commemoration for Alfred Dreyfus, a French army captain wrongly convicted of treason in 1894 in a notorious act of antisemitism.

"From now on, there will be a commemoration ceremony every July 12 for Dreyfus, for the victory of justice and the truth against hatred and antisemitism," Macron said in a statement published by his office. The first full remembrance will be in 2026, the 120th anniversary of France's highest appeals court recognising Drevfus's innocence, Macron said. France needed to remain vigilant in the face of the "ancient spectre" of antisemitism, he said. The honouring of Dreyfus, whose condemnation

came amid rampant antisemitism in the French army and wider society in the late 19th century, comes at a time of growing alarm over hate crimes targeting Jews in the country.

Dreyfus, a 36-year-old army captain from the Alsace

region of eastern France, was accused in October 1894 of passing secret information on new artillery equipment to a German military attache. The accusation was based on a comparison of

handwriting on a document found in the German's wastepaper basket in Paris.

Drevfus was put on trial amid a virulent antisemitic press campaign. But novelist Emile Zola then penned his famous J'accuse ("I accuse...") pamphlet in support of the captain.

### Neuschwanstein castle becomes Unesco heritage site

The Neuschwanstein castle in Germany's Bavaria, perhaps best known for inspiring Walt Disney's fairytale castles, has been named a World Heritage site, the UN cultural agency announced yesterday. Three other royal residences, also constructed in the late 19th Century under the famously arts-obsessed King Ludwig II of Bayaria, were also added to the coveted list: Herrenchiemsee, Linderhof and Schachen.

Neuschwanstein, perched on a rocky, 200m-high Alpine crag, is Germany's most visited castle, with almost 1.5 million people flocking there every year. "A fairytale comes true for our fairytale castles: We are #WorldHeritage!" Bavaria's governor, Markus Soeder, wrote on X after the announcement.

Neuschwanstein combines an idealised medieval exterior with architectural techniques considered cutting-edge at the

time. Its main rooms are adorned with paintings of German and Nordic legends, the same stories that inspired composer Richard Wagner, for whom Ludwig was a generous

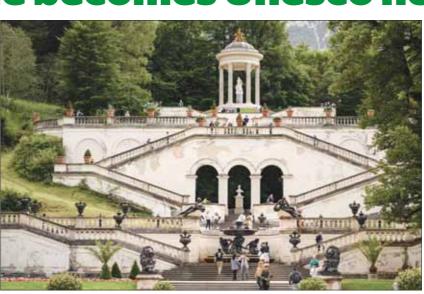
patron. Peter Seibert of the Bavarian Castles Administration (BSV) told AFP that the Unesco listing "is a very great responsibility, but also recognition... for the work we have done so far in preservation". Philippe, a 52-year-old visitor from Canada, was surprised that the castle was not already a World Heritage Site.

"We're lucky to still be able to experience this," he said, calling the listing "a very good idea".

Herrenchiemsee meanwhile evokes a Versailles in miniature on a lake between Munich and Salzburg, an homage to absolute monarch Louis XIV of France, whom Ludwig admired.

Indeed Ludwig nicknamed Herrencheimsee "Meicost-Ettal", an anagram of Louis XIV's alleged aphorism "L'Etat, c'est moit" ("I am the state"). The third site in the Unesco listing is the small castle of Linderhof, completed in 1878, the only one to have been finished in Ludwig's lifetime.

It mixes elements of French Baroque architecture from the reign of Louis XIV with touches of the Rococo style



People visiting Linderhof Castle near Oberammergau, southern Germany. (AFP)

developed in southern Germany. Its park boasts an artificial cave inspired by Wagner's opera Tannhaeuser, 90

metres long and up to 14 metres high, which houses a grotto of Venus and was designed as a personal retreat for Ludwig The electric lighting system used in the cave was state of the art at the time, with glass discs used to illuminate the grotto in

The last of the four sites on the list is Schachen, a royal house in the style of a large Swiss chalet, where Ludwig liked to celebrate the saint's day of his namesake St Louis on August 25.

It is located at 1,800 metres above sea level, not far from Neuschwanstein. The four castles have become "part of Bavarian identity" says Seibert, "iconic and perfectly embedded in a beautiful

landscape". Ironically, while Ludwig's architectural legacy is today a source of pride in Bavaria - not to mention tourist revenue - they were part of the reason for his own

The ruinous construction costs of the lavish residences led the Bavarian government to depose him, declaring him

Interned in Berg Palace, he died shortly afterwards in mysterious circumstances at Lake Starnberg.





The festival runs until July 19 at

### Pakistani Mango Festival sees sales top 45 tonnes in 2 days

The second edition of the Pakistani Mango Festival (Al Hamba Exhibition) has witnessed sales worth 45 tonnes in the first two days, according to an X post by Souq Waqif management.

The festival opened on Thursday at Souq Waqif, where it beckons the visitors to relish the sweetness of an array of mangoes along with its products.

qif, the festival is organised by the Private Engineering Office (PEO) in co-ordination with the embassy of Pakistan.



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PEO representative Abdulrahman Mohammed al-Nama inaugurated the festival in the presence of Pakistani ambassador Muhammad Amir and festival general supervisor Khalid Saif al-Suwaidi, along with a number of diplomats from various

be an ideal venue to manifest the Pakistani culture and boost the cultural and trade relationships with Oatar.

Al-Suwaidi said that the second edition boasts of 74 sellers, with most of them lo-



25 restaurants and shops offering a culinary experience with Pakistani dishes and a variety of mango products.

Al-Suwaidi noted that conditions for participation were strict and focused on ensuring the quality of the displayed items.

The timing of the exhibition was carefully chosen to coincide with the peak mango production season in Pakistan, as all the displayed products are of Pakistani

Al-Suwaidi added that prices were set to be affordable, emphasising that the products on display are unique and not available in local markets.

The exhibition features a suitable en-

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vironment to preserve the quality of the mango, with the event site equipped with appropriate cooling systems to ensure the best possible visitor experience.

The organising committee has urged the public to visit the exhibition early to ensure that they get the finest fresh Pakistani mangoes and to enjoy a unique tasting experience that reflects the diversity and authenticity of Pakistani cuisine.





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