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SPORT | Page 1

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Witkoff ‘hopeful’ on Gaza talks

Reuters/AFP
New Jersey/Gaza City

US President Donald Trump’s Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff said yesterday that he was “hopeful” on Gaza ceasefire negotiations. Witkoff told reporters in Teterboro, New Jersey, that he planned to meet senior Qatari officials on the sidelines of the FIFA Club World Cup final. Gaza’s civil defence agency said Israeli air strikes yesterday killed more than 40 Palestinians, including at a market and a water distribution point, as talks for a

ceasefire between Israel and Hamas stalled. Delegations from Israel and the Palestinian militant group have now spent a week in Qatar trying to agree on a temporary truce to halt 21 months of devastating fighting in the Gaza Strip. But on Saturday, each side accused the other of blocking attempts to secure an agreement at the indirect talks in Doha. On the ground, civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bas-sal said at least 43 people were killed in the latest Israeli strikes, including 11 at a Gaza City market. Elsewhere, eight children were

among the 10 victims of a drone strike at a water point in the Nu-seirat refugee camp, in central Gaza, Bassal said. Israel’s military said it had been targeting a member of Hamas ally Islamic Jihad but “as a result of a technical error with the munition, the munition fell dozens of meters from the target”, a statement read. Hamas-run Gaza’s health ministry says that at least 58,026 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed in Israel’s campaign. UN agencies on Saturday warned that fuel shortages had reached “critical levels”, threatening to worsen conditions for Gaza’s more than 2mn people. Talks to seal a 60-day ceasefire and hostage release were in the balance as Hamas wants the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, but Israel had presented plans to maintain troops in more than 40% of the territory. A source said Israel wanted to force hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into the south of Gaza “in preparation for forcibly displacing them to Egypt or other countries”. Netanyahu last evening faced renewed calls to secure the release of all of hostages when protesters beamed images of captives onto buildings near his Jerusalem office.

Demonstrators gather next to the Freedom Flotilla ship “Handala” ahead of the boat’s departure for Gaza at a port in Syracuse, Italy, yesterday.

6 children collecting water killed in Gaza

At least eight Palestinians, most of them children, were killed and more than a dozen were wounded in central Gaza when they went to collect water yesterday, local officials said, in an Israeli strike which the military said missed its target. The strike hit a water distribution point in Nuseirat refugee camp, killing six children and injuring 17 others, said Ahmed Abu Saifan, an emergency physician at Al-Awda Hospital. **Page 5**

Muhammadu Buhari dies in London

Nigeria’s former president **Muhammadu Buhari**, who led Africa’s most populous country from 2015-2023 and was the first Nigerian president to oust an incumbent through the ballot box, died in London yesterday, a presidential spokesperson said. “President Buhari died today in London at about 4.30pm, following a prolonged illness,” President Bola Tinubu’s spokesperson said in a post on X. Buhari, 82, first led the country as a military ruler after a coup in the 1980s. **Page 6**

Multiple people hurt in Kentucky shootings

Multiple people, including a Kentucky police trooper, were injured in a series of shootings around Lexington. The state police said the sole suspect in the incident is dead and the police trooper is receiving treatment. One of the shootings took place at Richmond Road Baptist Church and emergency responders were at the scene treating multiple victims, state police said. **Page 7**

Novel project to enhance Qatar’s water security

bNovate Technologies, a leader in advanced microbial water quality monitoring, will partner with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) in the SMART-Distribution project, a pioneering initiative to address critical challenges in Qatar’s water distribution networks. The project seeks to enhance the resilience of Qatar’s water infrastructure against climate-induced risks through innovative, real-time water quality monitoring and advanced risk assessment tools. The SMART-Distribution project, led by the Sustainability Division at HBKU’s College of Science and Engineering (CSE), in collaboration with bNovate and end-user Kahramaa, aims to increase the resilience of drinking water systems, enhancing both robustness and adaptability. This partnership will ensure the implementation of an agile, risk-based monitoring system that provides real-time data on water quality during storage and distribution. Water security in Qatar faces escalating threats from climate change, including limited freshwater resources and reliance on vulnerable alternative sources such as seawater desalination. This project will assess the climate readiness of Qatar’s water

distribution networks through a robust resilience and risk assessment framework. It will also deploy a real-time monitoring network mobile platform and evaluate water quality variations under controlled environments and real-world conditions at Qatar Foundation’s Education City, serving as a Living Lab. Peter Desmond, assistant professor, CSE, emphasised the initiative’s importance: “The SMART-Distribution project represents a critical step forward in ensuring the resilience of Qatar’s water infrastructure. By leveraging state-of-the-art technologies and collaborative innovation, we address current challenges and pave the way for sustainable water security in the face of climate change.” bNovate’s CTO, Luigino Grasso, highlighted the company’s role in the project: “bNovate is thrilled to contribute our expertise in microbial water quality monitoring to this transformative project. Our advanced flow cytometry technology will be key in understanding microbial regrowth potential and biofilm development, enabling smarter, data-driven decisions to safeguard Qatar’s water supply. This collaboration underscores our commitment to delivering market-led innovations that address real-world challenges.”

bNovate Technologies partners with HBKU.

Amir’s directive to redress those affected by Iranian missile interception debris

In implementation of the high directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, an extraordinary meeting of the Civil Defence Council convened with the participation of representatives from relevant authorities. Chaired by HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, who is also the Chairman of the Civil Defence Council, the extraordinary meeting was held to assess and evaluate the damages resulting from the interception of Iranian

missiles and to compensate affected citizens and residents. In a statement released yesterday, the Ministry of Interior said that the council reviewed the urgent measures previously taken and approved specific mechanisms that were immediately put into effect, to ensure the prompt implementation of these high directives and contribute to addressing the impact of the incident. The Ministry of Interior (MoI), represented by the Civil Defence Council, later announced that compensation will be provided to citizens and residents whose pri-

vate properties (residential buildings, vehicles, industrial facilities, and commercial establishments) have sustained damages as a result of falling sharpnel from the interception of Iranian missiles. These damages must have been previously documented through official reports filed with the competent security departments. The Civil Defence Council affirmed that this measure comes in continuation of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to identify and assess the damage resulting from the incident. **To Page 2**

Biotech Medical: Powering Qatar’s Healthcare Evolution with Scale, Vision, and Purpose

In a nation with ambitions as bold as Qatar’s, healthcare is more than a service — it is a cornerstone of progress, resilience, and human development. Few organizations exemplify the vision, capability, and impact required to lead this transformation better than Biotech Medical, the healthcare arm of the diversified and highly respected “The Partners Group”. With a proven ability to deliver large-scale, future-ready projects, Biotech Medical is not just supporting the healthcare system — it is actively redefining it.

Under the visionary leadership of Chairman Mr. Mohamed Nasser Al Mismad, whose business acumen spans over 50 years, Biotech has emerged as a key player in Qatar’s healthcare transformation. Fully aligned with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, the company is committed to raising healthcare standards through innovation, operational excellence, and expanded accessibility — all at a scale that creates real, lasting impact.

Delivering Advanced Solutions at Every Level

Biotech Medical’s comprehensive operations span the entire healthcare ecosystem, offering cutting-edge solutions across medical equipment, consumables, pharmaceuticals, and digital health technologies. Through exclusive partnerships with over 50 globally recognized brands—including KLS Martin (Germany), Vygon (France), Horiha (Japan), and Starkey (USA)—Biotech ensures Qatar’s hospitals, clinics, and laboratories have consistent access to world-class innovations that empower healthcare professionals to deliver optimal patient outcomes.

As part of its commitment to knowledge exchange and continuous professional development, Biotech actively organizes high-impact educational programs, seminars, and conferences attended by hundreds of healthcare professionals and medical students. Recent initiatives include:

- A specialized training on advanced laser surgery techniques hosted at Itqan Clinical Simulation and Innovation Center
- A life sciences seminar covering the latest global developments, held at Dusit Doha Hotel
- An ENT-focused symposium conducted at La Cigale Hotel, drawing specialists from across the region
- A Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation conference in collaboration with the Finland Embassy at Sheraton Grand Doha

These programs reflect Biotech’s leadership not only in

distribution but also in advancing medical education and clinical excellence across Qatar.

In pharmaceuticals, the company has elevated access to high-quality, regulated treatments through more than 30 exclusive international tie-ups, bringing critical medicines to the Qatari population with reliability and speed.

Biotech’s digital health division is another hallmark of its progressive thinking — harnessing artificial intelligence and smart technologies to improve patient experience, optimize hospital resources, and enhance accessibility, particularly in underserved segments.

A Catalyst for Regional Leadership

Beyond its immediate impact, Biotech is laying the foundations for Qatar to emerge as a regional healthcare hub. Strategic discussions are already underway with global partners to establish joint ventures that will introduce niche healthcare manufacturing capabilities and specialized technologies previously unavailable in the Middle East — a bold step that promises to position Qatar as a beacon of innovation and self-reliance in healthcare.

A Partner in National Progress

As part of The Partners Group, Biotech Medical benefits from the legacy and expertise of a conglomerate that has shaped Qatar’s industrial, technological, and infrastructural landscape for decades. This synergy enables Biotech to deliver on projects of national importance with unmatched professionalism, scale, and impact — strengthening Qatar’s healthcare infrastructure and delivering sustainable value to society.

More than a healthcare company, Biotech Medical is a partner in progress, committed to realizing a future where every Qatari citizen benefits from world-class healthcare — and where Qatar stands as a model for excellence in the global healthcare community. With its bold vision, strategic foresight, and ability to deliver transformative projects, Biotech Medical continues to prove that it is not just participating in Qatar’s healthcare journey — it is leading it.



MoI introduces new security services on Metrash, website

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has introduced a set of new security services to the Metrash app and the ministry website.

While addressing an awareness webinar on “The E-Services of the Ministry of Interior through New Metrash App and MoI Website”, First Lieutenant Abdulrahman Abdullah Jamal of the Electronic Services and Internet Department at the MoI’s General Directorate of Communications and Information Systems said these services were introduced after identifying the services that ensure the safety of citizens and residents.

The security services include “filing a bounced check case and tracking its status”, “complaints related with Search and Follow Up Department”, “leaving work complaint and purpose violation”, “coasts security services”, “requesting, cancelling and tracking sailing (voyage) applications”, “reporting begging cases”, “submitting complaint on various lost items”, and “possibility to Issue



First Lieutenant Abdulrahman Abdullah Jamal speaking during the awareness webinar.

and follow up the security permits”.

The MoI official, while explaining the new services, said that new supporting services have been developed to provide users with information and to serve different user segments based on their needs.

“These services also help organise the document storage process and make access to them easier,” Jamal said, adding that Metrash has 1.6mn active users.

He explained the application underwent a comprehensive restructuring process, which included merging compatible services, review-

ing and refining existing procedures and reclassifying services with strong focus on simplification.

“The Metrash application has been comprehensively redesigned to reflect the latest advancements in digital technology, offering a streamlined, intuitive, and accessible user experience across all smart mobile devices,” the official said. “Additionally, the colour scheme was carefully chosen to reflect the identity of the Ministry of Interior and to accommodate all users, including those with special needs.”

This, Jamal added, was achieved while adopting contemporary design standards and simple user experiences and unifying design elements including icons and colours.

He said that Metrash stands as one of the most prominent government app in Qatar marking a major milestone in digital public service delivery since its launch in 2011.

“In step with the latest advancements in smart application technologies, a newly enhanced version has been developed,” Jamal said. “This upgrade features a complete redesign, service re-engineering, streamlined procedures and the introduction of a wide array of new services to better meet users’ needs.”

Labour ministry launches course for job seekers

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Labour, represented by the Department of Qualification and Skills Development, in co-operation with Doha Bank, yesterday launched the “Customer Service” specialised programme for job seekers in the private sector, including Qatari citizens and children of Qatari women, university graduates, and high school graduates.

The programme aims to train and prepare them for entry into the banking sector.

The programme is part of the nationalisation plan implemented by the ministry in co-operation with successful private sector partners.

It aims to develop the skills of national cadres through a specialised six-month training programme at Doha Bank.

The programme focuses on providing trainees with basic customer service skills, in addition to practical training on the use of modern banking systems, according to the best quality standards in the field.

This will qualify them to work in a professional banking environment.

The course is one of the programmes that leads to employment.

Successful trainees will be integrated into Doha Bank’s workforce, contributing to the provision of stable and professional job opportunities in the banking sector.

The customer service programme includes a set of practical materials and field training that contribute to honing participants’ capabilities and enabling them to utilise advanced customer service technologies.

The programme also focuses on vital skills that develop their capacity for community communication and integrate them



The training course in session.

with cognitive technology.

It also educates and trains them to deal professionally with various categories of potential customers in the banking sector.

The Ministry of Labour reiterates its commitment to strengthening successful partnerships with private sector institutions by launching quality training programmes that contribute to qualifying national competencies and enabling them to engage in diverse professional and functional fields in the private sector labour market.

This is in response to the requirements of the Third National Development Strategy (2024–2030), which focuses on developing national human resources.

The customer service programme aligns with the ministry’s efforts to achieve the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, which aims to build a highly motivated and competitive national workforce capable of meeting the needs of the private sector and effectively transforming the labour market toward a more productive labour market focused on highly skilled jobs.

This will also increase the proportion of nationals in the total workforce across the country’s economic sectors.

NCSA launches Cyber Security Youth Summer Camp 2025

The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA), through its National Cyber Security Academy, launched yesterday the second edition of the Cyber Security Youth Summer Camp 2025.

The camp will run until August 7 in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

The camp, one of the key national initiatives under the National Cyber Security Academy, aims to identify and empower talent youth aged 13-17, equipping them with the fundamental knowledge and practical skills in cybersecurity through a comprehensive and educational experience.

This year’s camp will host about 400 students.

The assistant director of Cyber Security Policies and Strategies Department, Dalal al-Aqeedi, said: “This camp reflects the vision of the National Cyber Security Agency to attract and empower a new generation of skilled individuals capable of protecting our digital space and strengthening our national cyber security capabilities.”

“We are committed to offering a holistic educational environment that combines practical and theoretical training, helping guide stu-



dents towards technical fields and preparing them for the digital and cyber security markets,” she said.

“This initiative is part of a boarder strategy to enhance digital awareness and cultivate a cybersecurity culture across society, especially among the youth, to ensure that the future generations are well equipped to face cyber challenges

with confidence and competence,” al-Aqeedi added.

The director of the Ministry of Sports and Youths’ Youth Affairs Department, Fawaz al-Musaifri, stressed the importance of co-operation with the NCSA in organising such initiatives.

He said that these initiatives directly contribute to achieving the

ministry’s strategy to empower youth, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Qatar National Youth Policy, especially in the areas of youth, education and information technology, and social media.

The official pointed out that such initiatives open new horizons for Qatari youth and give them real opportunities for development and active participation in building a secure and innovative digital society.

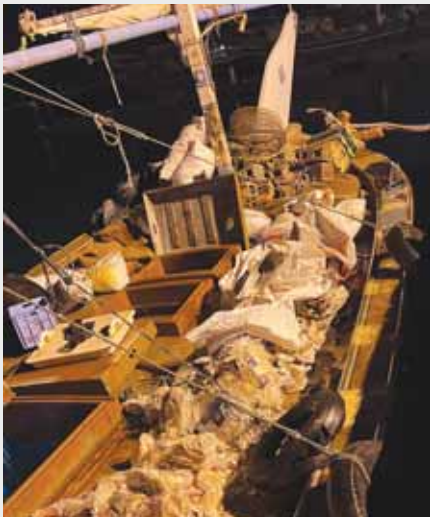
The camp targets students from both public and private schools in Qatar, in two batches.

Activities will be held at Qatar Secondary School for Science and Technology for Boys, with each batch attending for 10 days.

Participants will take part in a dynamic programme that includes theoretical lectures, practical training, and interactive workshops, in addition to educational field trips, all under the supervision of certified cybersecurity experts.

The NCSA will award participants with accredited attendance and professional certificates, such as the ePJT, while also providing career guidance and support for future technical pathways. – **QNA**

Banned fishing tools seized



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)’s Marine Protection Department, in co-operation with the Coastal and Border Security Department of the Ministry of Interior, has carried out a field inspection campaign targeting the entry and exit points of vessels at the fishing ports in the areas of Al Khor, Al Ruwais, and Al Wakra.

The campaign led to the detection of several environmental violations, including the seizure of a number of fishing boats carrying banned multi-headed dragnets which are prohibited from being used, transported, or possessed in marine fishing activities, in accordance with the country’s environmental laws.

MoEHE launches Student Activity Centres for Summer

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) has launched the Student Activity Centres for Summer 2025.

The activities, which will continue until August 7, target Qatari and resident public schools students, as well as Qatari students in private schools, aged 6-18.

Eight centres are located across the country, four for boys and four for girls.

The ministry said in a statement that the launch of these centres comes within the framework of its commitment to investing students’ free time during the summer vacation in quality and integrated activities that contribute to developing their personalities, honing their skills, and promoting the values of citizenship and responsibility within a safe and attractive educational environment that meets their psychological, social, and educational needs.

The MoEHE noted that the summer programme will run from Sunday-Thursday, with daily sessions held from 9am-1pm.

The programme features a diverse array of educational, cultural, artistic, sports, and technical activities, all designed within a comprehensive frame-

work that fosters creativity, encourages innovation, and enhances leadership and life skills.

It also aims to strengthen national identity, support mental and physical well-being, and cultivate a culture of sustainable learning and continuous self-development.

The ministry has designed the programme’s themes to cover modern and diverse fields, including value education, cultural activities, digital solutions, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, arts and design, as well as themes of public health, sustainability, and the environment, to meet the aspirations of generations and enrich their summer experience.

The programme’s activities are organised in co-operation with supporting entities, including the Ministry of Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, Qatar National Library, Qatar Museums, Aspire Academy, Qatar Scientific Club, Dar Katateeb, and the Qatar Red Crescent Society.

The location of the summer centres were selected to ensure comprehen-

sive geographic coverage.

The boys’ centres are Omar bin Al Khattab Secondary School, Khalifa Secondary School, Al Wakra Secondary School, and Abdullah bin Ali Al Misnad Preparatory School.

The girls’ centres are Umm Salama Primary School, Amna bint Wahab Secondary School, Sawda bint Zamaa Preparatory School, and Al Khor Preparatory School.

This year’s programme encompasses the launch of the “School Innovation Incubators” initiative, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and Youth and the Qatar Scientific Club.

This initiative provides an interactive learning environment equipped with advanced technologies, enabling students to transform their ideas into real-life projects, while offering training in robotics, 3D printing, and entrepreneurship.

The programme covers field visits to several national institutions and cultural landmarks, including the Qatar National Museum, the Qatar Media Corporation, the Equestrian Club, and the General Directorate of Coasts and Borders Security, with the aim of en-

hancing practical and applied learning and connecting learning to reality.

The programme concludes with a celebratory day at Lusail Hall, featuring an exhibition of student activities, the final matches of the football league, and a ceremony honouring the participants in the presence of senior officials and representatives of supporting entities.

A visual presentation documenting the educational impact of the programme is also featured.

In a statement, Aisha al-Kaabi, the head of programmes and activities at the MoEHE, emphasised that the summer programme aims to provide quality activities that meet students’ aspirations and contribute to developing their skills and discovering their talents within an integrated educational and recreational environment.

The ministry called on parents to register their children through the “Maaref” portal for public services to take advantage of this unique opportunity, affirming its commitment to providing a safe and inspiring environment that enables students to discover their potential and direct them toward excellence and creativity. – **QNA**

Amir’s directive to compensate those affected by Iranian missile interception debris

From Page 1

In a statement yesterday, the MoI noted that the affected individuals will be contacted by the Civil Defence Council to complete the compensation procedures in accordance with the approved laws and regulations.

The Ministry of Interior said that individuals who have not yet documented their cases may still submit a compensation request through the Metrash application within two days from the date of this announcement.

This can be done by accessing the “Request” icon located under the “Communicate with us” window of

the app, selecting the designated service, filling in the required information, providing a description and address, uploading any images or supporting documents (if available), and finally confirming the submission of the request.

The MoI stressed that no claims will be accepted after the expiration of the mentioned deadline.

Public consultation on updated Retail Tariff Instruction 2025 now open

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has opened a public consultation to seek feedback on the updated Retail Tariff Instruction (RTI) 2025, as part of measures to ensure that consumers continue to benefit from high-quality telecom services in line with global standards.

This consultation is part of the CRA’s ongoing efforts to develop regulatory frameworks and adapt to changes in the telecommunications sector, it said, adding inviting stakeholders and interested parties to submit their input by August 31.

The updated version builds on the original decision of the President of the CRA No 3 of 2018, issuing the RTI which laid the foundation for Qatar’s retail tariff regulatory framework and has been in force since January 1, 2019.

The RTI applies to all licensed service providers who offer telecom services to the public in Qatar.

It sets out rules, procedures, and requirements for retail offers for telecommunications services.

The 2025 revision introduces several important updates, drawing on the experience accumulated by the CRA in the process of retail tariff regulation since the RTI came into force, and aligning with international best practice.

These include enhanced tariff classification, stricter provisions on service periods and exit penalties, clearer guidance for promotional and bespoke tariffs, and expanded reporting requirements for loyalty programmes as well as expanding the flexibility in providing a variety of services, enhancing consumer value while ensuring regulatory compliance.

By allowing the CRA to review each service provider’s retail offers before they are introduced into the market, and instructing service providers on the extent and type of information that must be published for each offer, the RTI ensures consumers are equipped with the information they need to make informed purchasing decisions.

In 2024 alone, CRA reviewed more than 350 tariff submissions, covering pricing, service durations, promotional terms, and exit conditions.

Since 2008, service providers have also been required to publish approved tariffs on their websites, ensuring public transparency and access to accurate pricing information.

The public consultation forms part of the CRA’s ongoing strategy to promote connectivity, collaboration, and digital transformation within Qatar’s information and communications technology (ICT) sector, ensuring the public has an opportunity to comment on the rules and processes that govern the offering of telecommunications services in Qatar.

In line with Qatar National Vision 2030, the consultation supports the national objective of building a competitive, transparent, and consumer-focused telecom market.



Ashghal, QSC launch 4th edition of Future Engineer programme

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) and the Qatar Scientific Club (QSC) yesterday launched the fourth edition of the Future Engineer programme for high school students.

Held under the auspices of the Ministry of Sports and Youth until July 23 with the participation of 36 male and female students, the programme aims to enhance the awareness of engineering disciplines and motivate them to explore this vital field.

Ashghal offers the participants outstanding and comprehensive training content that provides students with the opportunity to explore various aspects of engineering in a practical and interactive manner.

Fatima al-Kubaisi, head of Ex-

ternal Relations at Ashghal, said the initiative comes as part of the Ashghal's commitment to strengthening community partnership initiatives.

"Ashghal continues to support the "Future Engineer" programmes believing in its role in empowering students and preparing them for a bright future by providing them with the opportunity to explore engineering work environments and gain firsthand insight into the tasks and fields of engineers," she noted.

Fatima al-Muhannadi, director of Administrative and Financial Affairs at QSC, said the club aims to achieve its core objective, which is training and empowering participants as future engineers while familiarising them with various engineering disciplines in line with labour market requirements. She expressed her gratitude to Ashghal for its support of the pro-



Ghanem al-Kaabi, head of Training and Development at Ashghal.

gramme, which she described as a testament to Ashghal's full commitment to its social responsibility towards the nation's youth.

Ghanem al-Kaabi, head of Training and Development at Ashghal, said the authority is committed to supporting and encouraging students across various academic levels especially high school students, to help them through choos-



Fatima al-Muhannadi, director of Administrative and Financial Affairs at QSC.

ing engineering disciplines as a future academic path that aligns with the evolving needs of the labour market in the country.

Khawla al-Maadid, head of Public Relations and Communication at QSC, said the impact of engineers extends for long. "They are the ones who lay the foundations for the advancement of nations, as seen in skyscrapers, magnificent

architectural masterpieces and intricate road networks all executed by engineers," she said.

The programme will conclude with a closing ceremony in the second week on July 23, featuring presentations of the final prototypes developed by the students before a specialised judging panel.

The ceremony will also include honouring the participants and awarding certificates and trophies to the students and teams that excelled in the engineering challenge.

The participants will receive wide-ranging information in engineering through specialised workshops and field visits to various departments in Ashghal as well as hands-on experiences in the laboratories at QSC.

The programme aims to refine students' engineering skills and equip them with practical knowledge that supports their future ca-

reer paths, all within an engaging and interactive learning environment.

During the first week, students will receive both practical and theoretical training through a series of visits and experiences.

The second week of the programme will cover the laboratories and workshops of QSC. They will also be trained on project planning and management principles, as well as presentation, communication and the use of advanced digital manufacturing tools and 3D technologies.

The activities include team formation and distribution, planning engineering projects and initiating prototype designs.

In addition to technical workshops on the latest construction methods, completing prototype implementation and establishing the engineering foundations of the projects.

QIB announces new millionaire of Misk Account

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has announced the latest millionaire as part of the eight edition of its Misk Savings Account, continuing its commitment to rewarding responsible saving and empowering customers across Qatar.

Sultan Ali al-Obaidli was named the newest 'Misk Millionaire', following a draw held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and QIB representatives.

To celebrate the milestone, the winner was welcomed at QIB's Al Sadd Branch, where he received the grand prize of QR1mn.

"We are pleased to recognise (al-Obaidli) as our newest Misk Millionaire. The Misk Account continues to encourage our customers to save by offering them unique and life-changing rewards. With this year's enhanced prize structure, we are reaching even more individuals and families, supporting a culture of saving and financial well-being in the country," said D Anand, QIB's general manager - Personal Banking Group.

The eight edition of QIB's Misk Account features the largest prize pool in Qatar, totalling QR174mn. This edition will reward 858



QIB names new Misk Millionaire.

customers with exciting prizes, offering more opportunities to win than ever before. The number of grand prize winners of QR1mn has increased from four to six, with the millionaire's draw now scheduled every two months. Additionally, the number of monthly winners of the QR50,000 prize has risen from four to six, while 15 customers will continue to win QR10,000 each on a weekly basis.

"The Misk Account has really motivated me to build saving habits. I'm grateful to QIB for

launching such an inspiring and rewarding product, and for this unforgettable moment today. I encourage everyone to open a Misk Account for an opportunity to win," said al-Obaidli.

Existing and new QIB customers can open a Misk Account easily through the QIB Mobile App. Customers will receive a free debit card, become eligible to request a free, for the first-year, credit card against their Misk Account balance, receive profits on their savings, and have the chance to frequently win cash prizes.

QNL honours emerging library leaders with QIMAM award

Qatar National Library (QNL), home of the IFLA Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Office, has honoured two emerging library professionals as the first recipients of the QIMAM: Qatar-IFLA Mena Award for Aspiring Minds.

Raghad Ghanem Alqahtani from Saudi Arabia and Salma Mohamed Ayoub from Egypt were recognised for their leadership potential and community impact. The award provides librarians with the opportunity to attend the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Kazakhstan from August 18-22.

Launched to foster the development of future industry leaders, the QIMAM Award attracted strong interest, with 40 applicants from across the Mena region. Following a rigorous selection process, eight candidates advanced to interviews held on June 21 and 22. The finalists represented Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

A panel of experts evaluated the candidates based on their contributions to the profession and



their commitment to advancing libraries. The panel included Prof Hassan Awad AlSerehi, president of the Special Libraries Association, Arabian Gulf Chapter; Dr Heba Ismail, vice-president of the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information; Anfel Toafek from Algeria, a member of the IFLA Mena Regional Division Committee; Mohammed Saif, director of Communication at QNL; and Maxim Nasra, head of the Preservation and Conservation Centre at QNL.

Prof AlSerehi praised the QIMAM Award as a "brilliant initiative", which was led by Eiman al-Shammari of the IFLA Regional Office and Qatar National Library. "I was pleased to participate in evaluating the applicants who met the criteria. Listening to their stories, ambitions and career paths

was both enlightening and encouraging," he said.

Dr Ismail said she was honoured to serve on the evaluation committee. "The experience was truly inspiring, offering me the opportunity to witness the passion and professionalism of the emerging generation of librarians in our region.

"The applicants' diverse backgrounds and experiences reflect the dynamic growth of the sector. This initiative not only provides valuable professional opportunities, but also helps foster a cohesive regional community that champions innovation and development."

Abeer S al-Kuwari, director of National Collections and Special Initiatives at QNL, noted: "This initiative aligns perfectly with QNL's mission to foster professional growth and regional collaboration. We are excited to see the lasting impact these emerging professionals will have on the community."

The awardees will gain access to global best practices and an international network of professionals, advancing their personal development and further strengthening libraries in the region.

Qatar Foundation organises special session for youth with Knowledge Society

One of the world's leading innovation programmes for young people has brought its expert mentoring insights and techniques for aspiring change-makers to the youth of Qatar - through a special session organised by Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education Gifted & Talented Programme.

The Knowledge Society is a 10-month programme for high school students that gives young people a grounding in key issues shaping the world - from climate change to AI - and develops their mindsets and real-world skills.

Applications to The Knowledge Society online programme are now open for those aged 13-17.

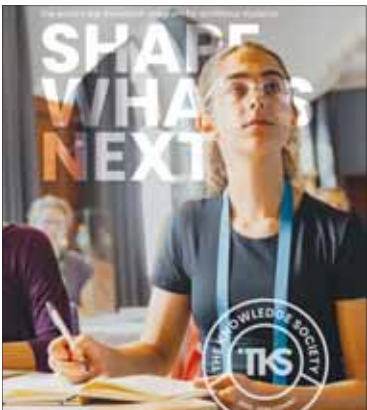
Hosted in Academyti - a progressive school under Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education (PUE) - and in collaboration with PUE's Gifted & Talented Programme, The Knowledge Society presented a session for students and parents across Qatar to open their minds to how they can cultivate the intellectual tools to solve big problems

and help to shape the future.

Sara al-Hajri, director of Student Affairs and Community Engagement within QF's PUE, said: "Introducing The Knowledge Society to our Gifted and Talented community and to students across Qatar is a natural extension of our belief that learning should be dynamic, relevant, and connected to the real world. It's a powerful example of how QF, and its Pre-University Education, continue to lead in reimagining education beyond traditional boundaries."

She added that opportunities such as The Knowledge Society session are a chance to engage students who are "curious, driven, and passionate" about STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics - topics in new ways.

The session reflects QF's commitment to developing and adopting customised approaches to education that prepare students for the challenges of today and tomorrow, including through Academyti, a QF school which com-



bines innovative teaching methods with values-based learning to foster personal growth and moral development as well as academic excellence.

"Sessions such as this are exactly what we mean when we talk about enriched learning," said Elizabeth Kennedy, director of Academyti. "It's a chance to go beyond the curriculum, spark interest, and plant seeds

that can grow into future pursuits. We're proud to be a space where these opportunities can happen.

"This session is another way that we demonstrate how learning doesn't pause at the end of the school day!"

"Hosting The Knowledge Society session is aligned with this - bringing the world closer to our students and making high-level mentorship accessible at an early age."

Pranav Menon, programme director with The Knowledge Society, who led the session, encouraged participants to think about "what you imagine yourself doing by 2035 - and not in the sense of what job you want to be doing", so they can gain a better understanding of how they envisage the future, and their own future.

"The Knowledge Society is about enabling every single person to ask themselves 'what do I want to make happen in the world?'" he said. "It was built because we believe more young people need the tools that allow them to do great things."

David Beckham highlights favourite destinations in Qatar

Visit Qatar has released a new promotional video starring David Beckham, showcasing the country's diverse tourism attractions and offerings.

The short film features a conversation between Beckham and a hotelier in Qatar, during which Beckham shares his knowledge of some of his favourite destinations across the country.

These include Souq Waqif, an iconic traditional market known for its vibrant alleyways; Katara Cultural Village, a hub of heritage, art, and entertainment; and the breathtaking Inland Sea, a natural wonder where desert dunes meet the sea.

Beyond the destinations featured in the film, visitors can experience Qatar's new and exceptional destinations that offer visitors unparalleled experiences.

The Pearl-Qatar offers stunning marina views, luxury retail, and fine dining experiences. Adjacent to it, Gwanan Island features Qatar's longest outdoor air-conditioned pedestrian walkway and holds two Guinness World Records.

Meanwhile, the colourful Mina District enchants visitors with its pastel-hued buildings, boutique stores, and waterfront cafés.

Visitors can also explore Qatar's modern urban offerings, including West Walk in Al Waab, which seamlessly integrates retail and dining within an outdoor climate-controlled pedestrian promenade. Cities such as Lusail is known for its family entertainment and waterfront attractions, and Msheireb Downtown Doha, which offers a unique blend of innovation, tradition, and cultural storytelling through museums, retail spaces, and world-class restaurants.

With its blend of tradition and modernity, Qatar continues to position itself as a must-visit destination for travellers worldwide.



Amir congratulates Montenegro president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of Montenegro Jakov Milatovic on the anniversary of the country's Statehood Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister Milojko Spajic. (QNA)

QFFD explores support for humanitarian work in Lebanon



A delegation from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) held meetings with Lebanese government officials and ministers to discuss development priorities and ways to enhance co-ordination as part of Qatar's commitment to supporting humanitarian and development efforts.

The high-level meetings took place during an official visit led by QFFD Director General Fahad bin Hamad al-Sulaiti, alongside Qatar's ambassador to Lebanon Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani.

The visit included meetings with senior representatives from the Ministries of Energy, Public Health, and Social Affairs. It reaffirmed QFFD's enduring commitment to supporting the brotherly people of Lebanon and its dedication

to enhancing co-operation with national and international partners to ensure the provision of effective and sustainable humanitarian and development services.

It reflects Qatar's mission to foster humanitarian co-operation and promote sustainable global development for prosperity and stability.

The delegation met with officials from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in line with efforts to support regional stability and to address the needs of displaced populations. The meeting was followed by a field visit to the Masnaa border crossing on the Lebanese side, with the aim of enhancing co-ordination for the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of Syrian refugees, and reviewing the operational

procedures in place.

The delegation also reviewed the progress of the Emergency Response Project implemented by QFFD in partnership with Qatar Red Crescent (QRC), which aims to provide vital support to host communities, internally displaced persons, and Syrian refugees across Beirut, Nabatieh, South Lebanon, Beqaa, and Baalbek-Hermel.

By distributing 10,400 food baskets and 10,400 hygiene kits, the project seeks to alleviate the burden on overstretched local services and enhance the health and living conditions of more than 10,000 vulnerable individuals.

The visit also included a field tour of Karantina Governmental Hospital to review the ongoing reconstruction efforts supported by QFFD. (QNA)

Chad National Assembly president meets Qatar's envoy



President of the National Assembly of Chad, Ali Kolotou Tchaimi, met in N'Djamena with Qatar's ambassador, Talib bin Mohammed al-Mankhas. The meeting discussed co-operation between the countries. (QNA)

Safari selects fourth 'Win 25 Toyota Raize Cars' draw winners



Safari Hypermarket conducted the fourth lucky draw of its grand promotion "Win 25 Toyota Raize Cars."

The draw was held yesterday at Safari Hypermarket in the Industrial Area, in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, Qatar, and the Safari management team.

The winners selected in the draw are Farhana Hamza Abdulsamad (Coupon No: STR400582396), Anvar (Coupon No: STR401107525), AK Das (Coupon No: STR400064473), and Regi (Coupon No: STR401096031).

The winners were chosen through raffle coupons received on a purchase of QR50 from any Safari outlet, as part of the ongoing "Win 25

Toyota Raize Cars" mega promotion, which runs until September 30.

A total of 25 cars will be given away – four winners each will be selected in the first five draws, and five winners in the final draw.

The fifth lucky draw of this campaign will take place on August 21 at Safari Hypermarket, Birkat Al Awamer.

QRCS, Palestinian counterpart sign deals for emergency services in West Bank

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has signed two co-operation agreements with Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), to support the latter's ambulance and emergency medical services in the West Bank with medications, medical equipment and consumables, and four ambulance vehicles.

In a press release yesterday, QRCS said that the agreements aim to improve EMS preparedness and response across Palestinian governorates and make them better able to rescue the patients and injured people.

Worth \$490,299 and \$170,999 respectively, the agreements were signed by Secretary-General of QRCS Faisal Mohamed al-Emadi and Director-General of PRCS Khaled Abu Ghoush.

Commenting on the agreements, al-Emadi said that they are inspired by Qatar's unwavering commitment to standing by the brotherly Palestinian people and meeting their basic daily and healthcare needs.

Alleviating their daily suffering is a top priority of QRCS's international work, he added.

Abu Ghoush said: "We value the vital backing given by QRCS to PRCS's Am-



Secretary-General of QRCS Faisal Mohamed al-Emadi.



Director-General of PRCS Khaled Abu Ghoush.

bulance and EMS Department, with the ambulance vehicles, medications, and medical supplies provided to improve our preparedness and responsiveness, which would enable us to save lives, especially in times of emergency."

He added: "This partnership serves as a laudable model of humanitarian

integration and solidarity, particularly amid the current difficult and worsening humanitarian conditions in Palestine, which have had a direct impact on the health system. This makes it more imperative to upgrade ambulance and emergency services, in order to meet the growing needs and challenges." (QNA)

Qatar Diabetes Association holds workshop for volunteers



Qatar Diabetes Association (QDA) organised an extensive training workshop for 121 registered volunteers.

This training programme came as part of the Association's ongoing efforts to equip its volunteers with the skills needed to support people living with diabetes and to empower them to take part in awareness and community initiatives held throughout the year.

The workshop featured a series of educational lectures on diabetes and healthy nutrition, along with a comprehensive overview of the services provided by the Association.

It also included a session titled "Art of Engaging with the Public at Events and Gatherings," delivered by trainer Mohammed Hassan Bahloul for English-speaking participants, and

trainer Saeed al-Aidah for Arabic speakers. The session aimed to enhance volunteers' communication skills and their ability to interact effectively with visitors during events.

In addition, Qatar Red Crescent conducted a training workshop on basic first aid principles, equipping volunteers with the knowledge and confidence to respond professionally to emergency situations.

In a related effort, the Association launched a series of summer activities in collaboration with Qatar Sports for All Federation. These included participation in a summer camp programme, as part of its commitment to integrating health and diabetes awareness into recreational and community-based events.

The Association also organised its annual summer gathering for "Al Bawasil" – young

diabetes champions – who had taken part in Al Bawasil Camp. The event offered an opportunity for children and their families to come together in a joyful, interactive setting that fostered social bonds.

QDA continues its commitment to community engagement, supporting both volunteers and children with diabetes. (QNA)



Announcement Voluntary Liquidation Ended


I, Mr. Naresh Dasari,
a liquidator for

**NEWPARK MIDDLE EAST TRADING,
SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE L.L.C.**
Commercial Registration No. 136783

announce the end of Liquidation process in accordance with Qatar Commercial Companies Law No. 11 Of 2015 as amended by Law No. 8 of 2021.

The company's commercial registration was duly canceled after the completion of liquidation process.

**Email: naresh@aksaa.qa,
M: +974 6603 9427 / T: +974 4417 2674**



QAPCO
شركة قطر البتروكيماويات
QATAR PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY

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

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

For further details, please visit ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>).

Sl No.	Tender Reference and Description	(i) Deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding	(ii) Tender fee (non-refundable)	(iii) Tender Publication on ARIBA	(iv) Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	Tender No. P07-01-228 Three (3) Agreement for the supply of VCI wrapping material, Zip Bags, Shrink Film & other Packaging Material.	17th July 2025	QAR 750. 00	20th July 2025	QAR 100.000	4th Aug 2025 12:00 Doha LT

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official E-mail..etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.

ii. Non-refundable tender fee as indicated above is payable to QAPCO through **QNB account # 0013-001688-060** only at any QNB branch latest by 17 July 2025. (Tender Number, Subject and bidder name are to be stated in the payment receipt)

iii. Tender link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders. Tender Document will be accessible only after attaching the evidence of the tender fee payment in ARIBA by the bidder followed by Qapco approval.

iv. QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.

v. **Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):** Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to the following address latest by the Bid closing date & time:

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

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

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

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

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

Israeli missile hits Gaza children collecting water

Reuters
Jerusalem

At least eight Palestinians, most of them children, were killed and more than a dozen others were wounded in central Gaza yesterday, local officials said, in an Israeli missile strike which the military said missed its intended target.

The Israeli military said it had intended to hit an Islamic Jihad fighter in the area but that a malfunction had caused the missile to fall “dozens of metres from the target”.

“The IDF regrets any harm to uninvolved civilians,” it said in a statement, adding that the incident was under review.

The strike hit a water distribution point in Nuseirat refugee camp, killing six children and injuring 17 others, said Ahmed Abu Saifan, an emergency physician at Al-Awda Hospital.

Water shortages in Gaza have worsened sharply in recent weeks, with fuel shortages causing desalination and sanitation facilities to close, making people dependent on collection centres where they can fill up their plastic containers.

In another attack, Palestinian media reported that a prominent hospital consultant was among 12 people killed by an Israeli strike mid-morning on a busy market



A Palestinian boy inspects the site of an Israeli strike that killed Palestinians, gathered to collect water from a distribution point, according to medics, in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

in Gaza City. Gaza's health ministry said yesterday that more than 58,000 people had been killed since the start of the war between Israel and Hamas in October 2023, with 139 people added to the death toll over the past 24 hours.

The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and fighters in its tally, but says over half of those killed are women and children. Talks aimed at securing a ceasefire appeared to be deadlocked, with the two sides divided over the extent of an eventual Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian enclave, Palestinian and Israeli sources said at the weekend.

The war began in October 2023, when Hamas-led fighters stormed

Israel. Israel's campaign against Hamas has displaced almost the entire population of more than 2mn people, but Gazans say nowhere is safe in the coastal enclave. Early yesterday morning, a missile hit a house in Gaza City where a family had moved to after receiving an evacuation order from their home in the southern outskirts.

“My aunt, her husband and the children, are gone. What is the fault of the children who died in an ugly bloody massacre at dawn?” said Anas Matar, standing in the rubble of the building. “They came here, and they were hit. There is no safe place in Gaza,” he said.

Entire Gaza population ‘facing food insecurity’

QNA
New York

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) warned that the humanitarian situation in Gaza reached an unprecedented level of deterioration, with the entire population facing food insecurity and nearly 500,000 people on the brink of famine.

WFP Deputy Executive Director, Karl Skau, said in a press briefing in New York following a visit to Gaza that the situation is worse than anything he has ever seen, with humanitarian needs at record highs while the capacity to respond is more restricted than ever.

Malnutrition is worsening rapidly, he noted, with nearly 90,000 children in urgent need of treatment, and one-third of Gaza's population going days without food, and stated that he met many families in Gaza, and that mothers told him how they try to keep their children from playing to prevent them from burning more energy than the food can replenish.

Skau confirmed that the UN has enough food supplies at the border to feed the entire population for almost two months, but stressed that delivering the aid requires a ceasefire, full access through all crossings, and safety for humanitarian workers.

He also described the killing of civilians while searching for food as the clearest indication of just how desperate the situation has become.

Since Oct 7, 2023, Israel has



Government Media Office in Gaza warns of imminent humanitarian catastrophe due to the Israeli blockade.

been waging a full-scale offensive on the Gaza Strip, leaving at least 57,823 Palestinians dead and 137,887 injured in an ongoing tally. The assault has devastated every part of the Strip, making life nearly unliveable.

The Government Media Office in Gaza has highlighted the ongoing Israeli blockade, which entered its 133rd consecutive day, amid growing warnings of an imminent humanitarian disaster threatening the lives of hundreds of thousands in the Gaza Strip.

In an official statement issued, the office estimated that over 650,000 children are at direct risk due to worsening living conditions.

It affirmed that the Israeli occupation continues to completely block the entry of food, medicine, and fuel for over three months, exacerbating famine risk and increasing death rates due to hunger and lack of medical supplements. The statement revealed that the blockade ex-

tends to vital items such as flour, infant formula, and medical supplies, describing it as part of a systematic starvation policy.

Currently, around 1.25mn people are living under catastrophic hunger levels, with 96% of Gaza's population experiencing food insecurity.

The office strongly condemned the organised crimes, holding the Israeli occupation fully responsible for acts of genocide and systematic starvation. It also laid moral and legal responsibility on associated states, as well as those complicit through silence and international partners who deliberately obstruct efforts to halt the genocide.

The statement urged the international community, Arab and Islamic countries, and all free voices around the world to act immediately to break the blockade, deliver urgent food, medical, and humanitarian aid, and save the Palestinian people in Gaza from starvation.

STRIFE Clashes in mostly Druze Syrian city kill 18

Clashes between tribes and local fighters in the predominantly Druze city of Sweida in southern Syria have killed 18 people, a war monitor said yesterday, as authorities sent forces to de-escalate the situation, AFP reported from Damascus. The clashes are the first outbreak of deadly violence in the area since fighting between members of the Druze community and the security forces killed dozens of people in April and May.

New Gaza-bound aid boat leaves Italy

A Gaza-bound boat carrying pro-Palestinian activists and humanitarian aid left Sicily yesterday, over a month after Israel detained and deported people aboard a previous vessel,

AFP reported from Syracuse. The Handala, operated by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, left the port of Syracuse shortly after 12:00pm (1000 GMT), an AFP journalist saw,

carrying about fifteen activists. Several dozen people, some holding Palestinian flags and others wearing keffiyeh scarves, gathered at the port to cheer the boat's departure.

MWANI QATAR موانى قطر TENDERS AND AUCTIONS COMMITTEE AUCTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

SL No.	AUCTION FOR	AUCTION NO.	BOND	DOC FEES	CLOSING DATE
1	LEASING OF THE SEAMEN CLUB AT HAMAD PORT (CAFTERIA WITH COMPLETE KITCHEN EQUIPMENT , MONEY EXCHANGE, BARBER SHOP, TELECOMUNICATION MOBILE SHOP ,PHARMACY)	MQ\TAC/AUCT /31/2024	QRS. 50,000	QRS. 500	29.07.2025
2	ARMOR ROCKS AT HAMAD PORT	MQ\TAC/AUCT \45/2024	QRS. 35,000	QRS. 300	30.07.2025
3	LEASING OF CAFTERIA SERVICES IN MQ BUILDING AT HAMAD PORT	MQ\TAC/AUCT \23/2024	QRS. 5,000	QRS. 200	19.08.2025
4	LEASING OF OURDOOR CAFTERIA AT VISITOR CENTRE BUILDING AT HAMAD PORT	MQ\TAC/AUCT \25/2024	QRS. 10,000	QRS. 300	20.08.2025
5	LEASING OF THE BUSINESS CENTER, AT HAMAD PORT (6 SHOPS)	MQ\TAC/AUCT \32/2024	QRS. 25,000	QRS. 500	21.08.2025
6	LEASING OF COMMERCIAL SPACE IN AL YEZWA PARKING AREA AT AL RUWAIS PORT FOR MOBILE CAFE AND CONVENIENCE STORE	MQ\TAC/AUCT \40/2024	QRS. 5,000	QRS. 200	24.08.2025
7	LEASING OF CAFTERIA SERVICES IN SHIPPING AGENTS BUILDING AT HAMAD PORT	MQ\TAC/AUCT \41/2024	QRS. 10,000	QRS. 300	25.08.2025
8	LEASING OF BANK SPACE IN SHIPPING AGENTS BUILDING AT HAMAD PORT	MQ\TAC/AUCT \42/2024	QRS. 25,000	QRS. 500	26.08.2025
9	LEASING OF COMMERCIAL ATM SPACE IN SHIPPING AGENTS BUILDING AT HAMAD PORT	MQ\TAC/AUCT \43/2024	QRS. 5,000	QRS. 200	27.08.2025
10	LEASING OF SPACE FOR CAFTERIAS/COFFEE SHOPS AT DOHA PORT CITY GALLERY	MQ\TAC/AUCT \44/2024	QRS. 25,000	QRS. 500	28.08.2025

The Tenders and Auctions Committee of Mwani Qatar hereby announces the above auctions with the following terms and conditions:

- 1 - Auction documents can be obtained (via Email) from the Finance and Accounting Department Tel No. (40453724/568) , after depositing the non-refundable amount mentioned above at MQ A/C No. (0850 - 102030 - 060) at QNB and submitting the bank depositing receipt and copy of the Commercial Registration/ ID to : (tender.secretary@mwani.com.qa) Tel. (40453724/568 - 31265655 / 30121037) .
- 2 - Offer should be accompanied with a Bond / issued by one of the Banks operating in Qatar for the amount shown in the above table and valid for 120 days from the closing date. The offer which is not accompanied by the Bond will not be considered. The successful bidder should pay the total awarding amount within five working days from the awarding date.
- 3 - Offers should be valid for ninety (90) days commencing from the closing date.
- 4 - The deadline for submitting offers will be 02:00 pm of the date shown above. Any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.
- 5 - The offers should be deposited in the Tenders and Auctions Committee Box of MQ as per the address given above. The auction submitting party should confirm that he has received the receipt for delivering the offer. It should be in closed envelopes, sealed with red wax and addressed to the Chairman, Tenders and Auctions Committee of MQ , writing the number and subject of the auction.
- 6 - The offers must be submitted in the One envelope system, (Original and Copy) The envelopes should not bear any mark denoting the name of the Company. The original bond must be attached with the Original offer.
- 7 - Mwani Qatar has the right to divide the auction among more than one bidder.
- 8 - For Technical clarification please contact Finance and Procurement Dept. Tel. (40453404) Email, (mqprocurement@mwani.com.qa) .

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Nigeria’s former president Buhari passes away

AFP
Abuja

Former Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari – who led his country first as a junta strongman and later as an elected democrat – died yesterday at the age of 82, his aide and the presidency said.

Current President Bola Tinubu said in a statement that his predecessor died in London at about 4:30pm (1530 GMT) “following a prolonged illness”. He did not disclose the nature of the illness.

Buhari governed Nigeria with a strong hand as a military ruler in the 1980s before reinventing himself as a “converted democrat”, serving two terms from 2015-2023.

“The family of the former president has announced the passing on of the former president, Muhammadu Buhari, this afternoon in a clinic in London,” Garba Shehu, who served as Buhari’s spokesman during his presidency, said in a post on social media.

Tinubu said he had spoken with Buhari’s widow and ordered Vice President Kashim Shettima to go to England to accompany Buhari’s body back to Nigeria.

He also ordered flags to fly at half-staff in honour of Buhari, whose tenure was dogged by health rumours.

His frequent visits for medical treatment during his presidency attracted criticism about the government’s transparency over his illness and worries about leadership during some of his longer absences.

Although the nature of his ailment has never been made public, Buhari confessed in one of the



File photo of Muhammadu Buhari.

trips that he had “never been so ill” and that he had received several blood transfusions.

Critics also said the visits highlighted the country’s weak health system.

Last week his aide Shehu launched a book, titled “According to the President: Lessons from a Presidential Spokesperson’s Experience”, in which according to local media he confessed to fabricating a 2017 story about rats’ invasions at the presidential office, to shift Nigerians focus away from concerns over the leader’s health.

Buhari had spent nearly three months away receiving treatment in Britain.

“When the surge in calls for explanation of why the president would be working from home, if truly he had recovered his health and fit for the office came, I said to the reporters that the office, which had been in disuse, needed renovation because rats may have eaten and damaged some cables,” he wrote in the book, according to local media.

The rake-thin 82-year-old man from Nigeria’s far north made history as the first opposition candidate to defeat an incumbent leader at the ballot box in 2015.

His election victory in a country where re-election for the incumbent had been taken for granted was seen as a rare opportunity for Nigeria to change course.

But his time at the helm failed to halt the country’s long-standing issues of graft and insecurity, while the oil giant was further dogged by economic woes.

Despite concerns about his fragile health, his economic policies, the extent of his claims about better security, as well as the targets of his campaign against graft, he secured a second term in 2019.

In a 2020 opinion piece for The New York Times, Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie charged that his tenure in office had shown “a failure of leadership”, writing that the “government of President Muhammadu Buhari has long been ineffectual, with a kind of wilful indifference.”

Buhari: Nigeria’s ex-military ruler-turned ‘democrat’

AFP
Lagos

Muhammadu Buhari, who left office in 2023 after serving two terms, made Nigerian political history as the first opposition candidate to defeat a sitting president at the ballot box.

Buhari died at a clinic in London at the age of 82, his former spokesman, Garba Shehu, said in a post on social media.

Buhari’s tenure was dogged by health rumours. He governed Nigeria with a strong hand as a military ruler in the 1980s before reinventing himself as a “converted democrat” to be elected as president decades later.

The rake-thin 82-year-old from the far north of Africa’s most populous nation made political history as the first opposition candidate to defeat a sitting leader at the ballot box in 2015.

He unseated then-incumbent Goodluck Jonathan on a vow to crack down on Nigeria’s rampant corruption and end an insurgency by Boko Haram militants, going on to claim re-election in 2019. Buhari’s initial win – after three failed attempts in a country where re-election for the incumbent had been taken for granted – was seen as a rare opportunity for Nigeria to change course.

But his time at the helm failed to halt graft and insecurity, and was further dogged by economic woes, ill-health and the heavy-handed treatment of protesters.

Critics accused him of nepotism, appointing his northern kinsmen to sensitive government posts which heightened suspicion and rancour in a country where regional rivalry between the north and the south is high.

‘WAR AGAINST INDISCIPLINE’

Buhari’s first taste of power came in 1983 when he spearheaded a coup that overthrew the democratically elected president Shehu Shagari.

His government then launched a “War Against Indiscipline” as it cracked down hard on dissent and jailed what it said were corrupt politicians and businessmen.

But after just 20 months in power Buhari himself was ousted by another of the military takeovers that repeatedly plagued Nigeria until its return to democratic rule in 1999.

Unusually for a Nigerian leader, Buhari did not accumulate much wealth during his first time in charge, earning a reputation for a modest lifestyle.

While in power as a democratically elected leader, opponents dubbed him “Baba go slow” as he delayed naming a government, and he faced criticism for relying on a small group of advisors.

There was widespread speculation over his health when he spent months being treated for

an unspecified ailment in London in 2017.

Nigeria, until recently Africa’s largest economy and currently its largest oil producer, went through a recession in 2016-17 and was struggling to improve on flagging growth.

Despite what many regarded as poor performance in his first term, Buhari won re-election in 2019, thanks to massive support from his northern turf. But his tenure in office saw little changes to Nigeria’s huge – and long-standing – problems of corruption, poverty and armed violence.

In 2020 the country was hit in a double-whammy by the coronavirus pandemic and falling crude prices that hammered government finances. Living conditions for many remained dire through time in office, with tens of millions living in extreme poverty and young people facing crushing unemployment.

Buhari’s anti-corruption posture suffered a dent as a number of ministers who served in his government came under investigation by Nigeria’s anti-graft agency for embezzlement.

On the security front, Buhari declared in December 2015 that Boko Haram’s militants – who once tried to blow him up – were “technically” defeated. But the group and an Islamic State affiliated offshoot still stage deadly attacks on both military targets and civilians to this day, some 2mn of who remain displaced.

In the northwest, clashes between rival ethnic groups and attacks by armed gangs saw villages torched and communities forced from their homes.

And Nigeria’s notorious security forces kept up their reputation for abuses during Buhari’s tenure, culminating in the shooting of peaceful protesters in Lagos, the economic capital.

The Nigerian army killed 350 people from an opposition movement in December 2015, with many gunned down and burned alive according to rights groups.

In October 2020, Buhari faced the largest show of public anger in years as ire over police brutality erupted into widespread street protests known as “End Sars”, initially directed against the Special Anti-Robbery Squad.

The president scrapped the notorious police unit and pledged reforms, but this failed to appease the young crowds and their demands for more sweeping change grew.

As violence flared in a string of cities, officials claimed the protests had been hijacked by criminals. After a curfew was declared in Lagos, security forces on October 20 opened fire on peaceful demonstrators, sparking further unrest at home and condemnation abroad.

Since leaving office in 2023, Buhari moved to his native Daura. He carried out occasional visits to the city of Kaduna, where he owns a house, and continued taking trips to London for medical checks.

The activist who fought for Sierra Leone’s first World Heritage site

AFP
Freetown

Activist Tommy Garnett’s decades of work paid off when Sierra Leone’s Tiwai island – a lush forest home to one of the world’s highest concentrations of primates – landed a spot yesterday on the UN cultural agency’s World Heritage list.

The 66-year-old and the conservation group he founded are the reason Tiwai, which was nearly destroyed during Sierra Leone’s 1991-2002 civil war, still exists.

“I feel very happy, relieved, hopeful,” the environmentalist said from the verdant island, ahead of the announcement.

The Gola-Tiwai complex, which also includes the nearby Gola Rainforest National Park, will be Sierra Leone’s first Unesco site.

Unesco director general Audrey Azoulay called Gola-Tiwai “a jewel of biodiversity, a sanctuary for rare species and a model of community management.” The wildlife and fauna in the two areas have been imperilled for years by threats such as deforestation. Tiwai island, located in the Moa river, measures just 12 square kilometres and has 11 species of primates – including the endangered western chimpanzee, the king colobus monkey and the Diana monkey.

In 1992, Garnett, who has dedicated his life to environmental projects in west Af-



Executive Director of the Environmental Foundation for Africa, Tommy Garnett, poses for a portrait on Tiwai Island.

rica, created the Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA).

In the early 2000s, he started working to save Tiwai. Today, the wildlife sanctuary is a gleaming success story for Sierra Leone.

Even as the country descended into civil war or was ravaged by Ebola in 2014, Garnett was able to stave off deforestation, poaching and other threats.

RAISING THE ALARM

As well its primates, Tiwai has animals such as the pygmy hippopotamus and the critically endangered African forest elephant.

While Gola is the largest expanse of



An aerial view of Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary on Tiwai Island.

tropical rainforest in Sierra Leone, Tiwai, located to the south, serves as a centre for biodiversity research and a destination for ecotourism.

In order to achieve this for Tiwai, EFA had to convince local communities to abandon certain activities to protect the forest.

The tourism revenue in turn helps provide jobs, training and technical agricultural assistance.

During the civil war, the island’s wildlife was almost decimated, but Garnett, his NGO and donors brought it back from the brink.

The centre’s structures had become dilapidated, the ground covered in empty rifle cartridges and people began logging trees, Garnett said. “We raised the alarm that this place was going,” he said.

The environmentalist quickly found funding for reconstruction and raising awareness among local communities.

‘COUNTRY IS GRATEFUL’

Since then, Garnett and his group have safeguarded the haven despite an onslaught of Ebola, Covid-19 and disastrous weather.

“Our lives and livelihoods and cultures and traditions are so inextricably linked to

the forest that if the forest dies, a big part of us dies with it,” he said.

An avid cyclist and yoga enthusiast, Garnett’s warm, welcoming approach has easily won him allies.

“One of my first experiences in life was having a forest as backyard and recognising the richness of it,” he said.

Garnett was born in 1959 in the rural district of Kono in the country’s east, and lived there until age 18.

After studying agriculture and development economics abroad, he returned home in the 1990s to reconnect with his family and help Sierra Leone during the war.

He began working in environmental protection after witnessing the conflict’s destruction and its reliance on mineral resources and mining, particularly diamonds. For 30 years, he and foundation colleagues have travelled the country confronting traffickers and conducting community meetings.

Over the past 20 years, EFA has planted more than 2mn trees in deforested areas across Sierra Leone, Garnett said, including 500,000 between 2020 and 2023.

The country’s environment minister, Jiwoh Abdulai, told AFP he was “really excited and thrilled” about Unesco’s decision, adding that Garnett gave him a lot of “hope and optimism”.

His contributions preserving nature are something “that the entire country is grateful for”, he said.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, SHAHJAD AHMAD JAMAL AHMAD
holder of

Indian Passport No. S9838031
QID No. 29235629468

hereby change my name
from
SHAHJAD AHMAD JAMAL AHMAD
to
SHAHZAD AHMED

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

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Bangladesh Passport No. A17938370
QID No. 28405005161

hereby change my name
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BIPLAB CHANDRA DAS MAKHON
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BIPLOB CHANDRA DAS MAKHON DAS

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I, ABDALLA KHALID ISMAIL
holder of

Egypt Passport No. 25876589
QID No. 30281800101

hereby change my name
from
ABDALLA KHALID ISMAIL
to
ABDALLA KHALID ISMAIL
ABDELGAWWAD SHAFEI

Any objection, please contact
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Guinea Bissau’s Bijagos archipelago added to Unesco World Heritage list

The Bijagos Archipelago off the coast of west Africa was declared a World Heritage site by the UN’s cultural agency yesterday, in recognition of its exceptional biodiversity and rich local traditions, AFP reported from Bissau. The string of islands in Guinea-Bissau and surrounding turquoise waters are home to endangered green and leatherback sea turtles, manatees, dolphins and more than 870,000 migratory birds, a Unesco spokesperson said. The archipelago’s small island of Polilao is an extensive nesting ground for green sea turtles. The continuous network of coastal and marine ecosystems in the west African archipelago includes mangroves, mudflats and intertidal zones which are fundamental to aquatic life.

“This moment marks the culmination of more than 10 years of collective effort, commitment, dialogue and a shared conviction that this extraordinary and unique place deserves to be recognised, protected and celebrated by all of humanity,” environment minister Viriato Luis Cassama said after the announcement. Unesco chief Audrey Azoulay hailed the region as a “rare coastal and marine ecosystem, where local communities have kept their traditions alive” as she congratulated the country on its first World Heritage site.

US Senate report faults Secret Service discipline following Trump shooting

Reuters/AFP
Washington

A US Senate report released yesterday said that a “cascade” of failures allowed a gunman to shoot at Donald Trump during a campaign rally last year and faulted Secret Service discipline including the lack of firings in the wake of the attack.

The report, released a year after a 20-year-old gunman opened fire on Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, grazing his ear, accused the Secret Service of a pattern of negligence and communications breakdowns in planning and execution of the rally.

“This was not a single error. It was a cascade of preventable failures that nearly cost President Trump his life,” the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee report said.

The Secret Service is charged with protecting current and former presidents and their families, as well as visiting foreign leaders and some other senior officials.

One attendee of the July 13, 2024, rally was killed and two others were injured in the shooting.

The dramatic incident energised Trump’s bid to return to the White House, with his campaign using a photo of him bloodied and pumping his fist as he was hurried offstage to woo voters.

The gunman, Thomas Matthew Crooks, was subsequently shot to death by Secret Service agents.

“This was not a single lapse in judgement. It was a complete breakdown of security at every level – fuelled by bureaucratic indifference, a lack of clear protocols, and a shocking refusal to act on direct

threats,” the committee’s Republican chairman, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, said in a statement.

Kimberly Cheatle resigned as the director of the Secret Service 10 days after the shooting, amid harsh scrutiny of the agency’s role, and six Secret Service agents on duty during the attempt received suspensions ranging from 10 to 42 days, the agency said on Thursday.

The committee said more than six officials should have been punished, and that two of those who were disciplined received lighter punishments than it had recommended.

It highlighted the fact that no one was fired.

Current Secret Service Director Sean Curran said in a statement that the agency has received the report and will continue to co-operate with the committee.

“Following the events of July 13, the Secret Service took a serious look at our operations and implemented substantive reforms to address the failures that occurred that day,” Curran said.

Reflecting on the assassination attempt, Trump said earlier this week that “mistakes were made” but that he was satisfied with the investigation.

In an interview with his daughter-in-law on Fox News’ *My View with Lara Trump*, Trump said the sniper “was able to get him from a long distance with one shot. If he didn’t do that, you would have had an even worse situation”.

“It was unforgettable,” Trump said of the events.

“I didn’t know exactly what was going on. I got whacked. There’s no question about that. And fortunately, I got down quickly. People were screaming.”

Faced with US heatwaves, the Navajo push for power... and air-conditioning

By Romain Fongesgrives
AFP

Workmen plant electricity poles in the rust-orange earth of the Navajo Nation and run cables to Christine Shorty’s house – finally giving her power against the searing Arizona desert heat.

It will be a luxury in the vast Native American reservation, the largest in the United States, where more than 10,000 families are still without electricity and therefore air conditioning.

“It’s climate change. It’s getting hotter,” Shorty tells AFP. “This would be easier for us with the fan and maybe air conditioning. And we look forward to that.”

In her 70 years, Shorty has seen her isolated, tiny hamlet of Tonaalea, a dot in the enormous area of the reservation, change dramatically.

Summer monsoon rains are rarer, and temperatures can touch 104° Fahrenheit (40° Celsius) in July and August – previously unthinkable in the hamlet, located on a plateau at an altitude of 5,700’ (1,730m).

The area’s seasonal lakes are drying up, and in some years the livestock are dying of thirst.

Like many others, Shorty has a generator and small solar panels that allow her to power a gas fridge, cook and watch television.

However, their power is limited, and she often has to choose which appliance to plug in.

Being hooked up to the electrical grid is “a big change. It’s going to make my life a lot easier,” she tells AFP.

Most of the United States was electrified in the 1930s under president Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal initiatives.

However, in the Navajo Nation, which stretches across Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, the first efforts only began in the 1960s, and there are still not enough power lines.

“This area was looked over,” says Deenise Becenti of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), the agency that manages the reservation’s infrastructure.

“That surprises many people,” she said. “They’re saying, you know, why are there third world conditions that exist here in the United States, the greatest country in the world?”

To catch up, the semi-autonomous government of the reservation launched the “Light Up Navajo” project in 2019.

The humanitarian initiative sees electricity companies from all over the country send their employees to work in the reservation for around a dozen weeks a year.

Since 2019, electricity has



Cole Garcia from Mojave Electric works on a utility pole to connect the grid for electricity to Navajo Nation residents in Tonaalea, Arizona.

- AFP

been supplied to 5,000 families in the reservation, including 1,000 thanks to “Light Up Navajo”, Becenti said.

However, as climate change drives temperatures higher, families still without power in the reservation – where many live below the poverty rate and unemployment is high – are in “survival mode”, she said.

Elbert Yazzie’s mobile home turns into a furnace in the summer, and he has already lost one member of his extended family to heat stroke.

“I used to like the heat,” the 54-year-old, who lives in nearby Tuba City, tells AFP. “But when you get older I guess your body can’t take it no more.”

His home was finally connected to electricity just weeks ago.

Since then, he has rigged up an evaporative air cooler, also known as a “swamp cooler”, by salvaging three broken appliances from a garbage dump.

“Now we can turn on the A/C anytime we want, so we don’t have to worry about the heat, and the generator and the gas, and all that stuff,” he says. “Now we don’t have to go to (other) people’s houses to cool down, we can just stay home, relax, watch TV, things like that.”

He and Shorty are the fortunate ones.

Without more funding, connecting the remaining 10,000 Navajo families without electricity could take another two decades, Becenti says.

That is far too long for Gilberta Cortes, who no longer dares let her children play outside in the summer, for fear of getting heat-exacerbated nosebleeds.

An electricity pole has just been erected in front of the 42-year-old’s house and a line is due to be extended to her in a few months’ time.

However, she has endured too much false hope to be serene.

“My mom and dad were in their 20s, they were promised power,” but it never materialised, she says. “I’m still angry.”

Noem defends FEMA response to Texas floods amid scrutiny

Reuters
Washington

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has defended FEMA’s response to deadly floods in Texas last week, saying that her agency acted swiftly and that Texas officials had praised the administration’s actions.

During an interview on NBC News’ *Meet the Press*, Noem denied that a memo she issued in June requiring her to approve FEMA expenditures over \$100,000 had caused the agency to move more slowly.

“Those claims are absolutely false,” Noem said. “Within just an hour or two after the flooding, we had resources from the Department of Homeland Security there.”

President Donald Trump suggested after taking office in January that his administration would abolish FEMA, formally called the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Republican president said the agency had bungled past disasters and that federal aid could go directly to states.

However, in the midst of US hurricane season and the aftermath of the Texas floods, Trump and his top officials have taken a softer tone, indicating the agency could be rebranded.

“I think he wants it to be re-made,” Noem said yesterday.

Flash floods swept through parts of Texas Hill Country on July 4, killing at least 120 people and leaving another 160 still missing.

The disaster put a renewed focus on Trump administration moves to de-emphasise FEMA.

As of mid-May, the agency had lost 2,000 full-time employees – one-third of its staff – due to terminations and buyouts.

Noem issued a memo on June 11



This picture taken on Friday shows US Senator Ted Cruz and US Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem waiting for US President Donald Trump to arrive for a roundtable meeting with local officials and first responders at the Happy State Bank Expo Hall in Kerrville, Texas.

- AFP

that called for US Department of Homeland Security agencies, including FEMA, to submit for her review any contract for more than \$100,000.

The memo, reviewed by Reuters, said agencies should allow at least five days for her office to review the funding requests.

Reuters spoke with several current and former FEMA officials who worried the spending cap could slow down the agency’s response to disasters.

The deployment of national search and rescue teams managed by FEMA did not appear in the agency’s daily briefing until July 8 and four current and former officials said the spending cap had slowed it down.

Following the Texas floods, one former FEMA official said Noem needed to approve resources that previously would have been deployed more quickly, including law enforcement officers used for security and crews with saws to clear debris from roads.

“FEMA’s never been quick,” the

former official said. “This is slowing down the speed which they had before.”

Yesterday Noem denied a *New York Times* report that thousands of calls to FEMA from victims of the Texas floods went unanswered because Noem had not renewed the contracts.

“Those contracts were in place, no employees were off of work,” she said. “Every one of them was answering calls.”

An internal FEMA briefing document reviewed by Reuters said that Noem had approved contracts for call centre support as of July 10, but did not provide further details.

New flash flood warnings were in place yesterday across central Texas, including in Texas Hill Country, a FEMA bulletin said.

US Representative Tony Gonzalez, a Republican whose district included flood-hit areas, warned on CNN’s *State of the Union* that the region could face a lengthy recovery.

“We’re not out of the woods yet,” he said.

US ends case against doctor over alleged vaccine scheme

US Attorney-General Pam Bondi said on Saturday that she had ordered charges to be dropped against a doctor accused of destroying coronavirus (Covid-19) jabs and issuing fake vaccination certificates.

The abrupt halt to proceedings comes just days after the trial commenced, and is the latest boost to the vaccine-sceptic movement from President Donald Trump’s administration.

Michael Kirk Moore, a plastic surgeon in the western state of Utah, was charged by the Department of Justice in 2023 alongside his clinic and three others for “running a scheme” to defraud the government.

He was accused of destroying or disposing of over \$28,000 worth of government-provided Covid-19 vaccines and handing out 1,937 false vaccine record cards in exchange for payment.

Moore, who faced decades behind bars, was also accused of administering a saline solution to children – at the behest of their parents – so that they would think they had been vaccinated against Covid-19.

Moore’s trial began this week at a federal court in Salt Lake City.

However, on Tuesday, Republican lawmaker Marjorie Taylor Greene, one of Trump’s most vocal hard-right supporters, said she had written to Bondi calling for charges against Moore to be dropped.

Greene called Moore a hero in a statement on Saturday.

“We can never again allow our government to turn tyrannical under our watch,” she said in a post on X.

“Dr Moore gave his patients a choice when the federal government refused to do so. He did not deserve the years in prison he was facing. It ends today,” Bondi wrote on X.

Bondi’s decision also notably comes as she faces fire from right-wing activists over her handling of a probe into the late financier Jeffrey Epstein.

She thanked Greene and Utah Senator Mike Lee, another hard-right lawmaker, for their advocacy for dropping charges against Moore.



Aerial view of the citadel of Penico, located in the province of Huaura, Lima Department, Peru. A 3,800-year-old citadel from the Caral civilisation, one of the oldest in the world and located in northern Peru, has opened its doors to the public after eight years of scientific studies and restoration work. - AFP

3,800-year-old citadel opens doors to tourists

By Carlos Mandujano
AFP

To the music of conch shell trumpets, a 3,800-year-old citadel of the Caral civilisation – one of the oldest in the world – opened its doors to visitors in Peru on Saturday, 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 stated.

Located in the Supe valley, some 110 miles (180km) north of the Peruvian capital Lima and around 12 miles from the Pacific ocean, Penico was a hilly landscape before exploration work began in 2017.

Archaeologists believe it could hold insights into why the Caral civilisation – which flourished between 3,000 and 1,800 BCE (Before Common Era) – faded.

At the opening ceremony, artists from the region played *pututus* – the traditional shell trumpets – during an ancestral ritual offering to the Pachamama, Mother Earth, consisting of agricultural products, coca

leaves and local drinks.

Penico was an “organised urban centre devoted to agriculture and trade between the coast, the mountains and the forest”, archaeologist Ruth Shady, who leads research on the site, told AFP.

The site itself dates back to between 1,800 and 1,500 BCE, she added.

It was built on a geological terrace 2,000’ (600m) above sea level, parallel to a river to avoid flooding.

Research carried out by the Peruvian ministry of culture has identified 18 constructions, including buildings and residential complexes.

Researchers believe that it was built at the same time as the first civilisations in the Middle East and Asia.

Shady said that researchers are hoping the site can shed light on the crisis they think helped hasten the end of the Caral civilisation.

This crisis, she said, was linked to climatic changes that led to droughts and affected agricultural activities in the region.

“We want to understand how the Caral civilisation formed and developed over time, and how it came to be in crisis as a result of climate change,” the archaeologist added.

Suspect dead, multiple people hurt in Kentucky shootings

Multiple people, including a Kentucky police trooper, were injured in shootings around Lexington, the state’s governor and Kentucky State Police said on X.

The state police said the sole suspect in the incident is dead and the police trooper is receiving treatment.

One of the shootings took place at Richmond Road Baptist Church and emergency responders were at the scene treating multiple victims, state police said.

The *Lexington Herald-Leader* reported that a Kentucky State Police Trooper was shot yesterday morning at Blue Grass Airport in Fayette County.

The suspect fled to Richmond Road Baptist Church, 27km away, where multiple people were shot, the *Herald-Leader* added.

Kentucky State Police and the Lexington Police Department apprehended the suspect at the church, the state police said on X.

“Please pray for everyone affected by these

senseless acts of violence,” Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear said.

The Lexington Police Department and Kentucky State Police did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Calls to Richmond Road Baptist Church were not answered.

The Blue Grass Airport posted on X at 1pm ET (1700 GMT) that there was a law enforcement investigation impacting a portion of an airport road, but that all flights and operations were now proceeding normally. - Reuters



ACCIDENT

Small plane crashes at London Southend Airport

A small plane has crashed at London Southend Airport on England's south east coast, police said yesterday. "We remain on the scene of a serious incident at Southend Airport," the local Essex Police said, adding that they were alerted just before 4pm to reports of a collision involving a 12-metre plane. It was unclear how many people were on the plane. Images from British newspaper websites, not verified by Reuters, showed a fireball rising into the air above Southend Airport, around 56km east of London. The East of England Ambulance Service said it had sent four ambulances and other response vehicles.

PEOPLE

British premier 'to visit Trump during his trip to Scotland'

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has accepted an invitation to visit US President Donald Trump during his expected trip to Scotland this month, a source familiar with the plans said. Details, including a specific date, were still being finalised, said the source, who was not authorised to speak publicly. Scottish police said they were preparing for a possible visit by Trump to Scotland later this month, which would mark his first visit to Britain since the US election last year. The White House had no immediate comment on the report. The British embassy declined to comment.

OFFICIAL

Philippine President Marcos to visit US from July 20-22

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos will visit the US from July 20 to 22, Manila's department of foreign affairs said. "We are working with the US state department to finalise the details of the visit," the department of foreign affairs said in a statement. Jose Manuel Romualdez, the Philippine ambassador to the US, said Marcos is set to meet with US President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth to discuss "defence and economic ties". It will be the first official visit of Marcos to the United States since Trump took office.

CRIME

Indonesia foils bid to smuggle 1,200 endangered birds

Indonesian authorities have foiled a smuggling attempt of more than 1,200 endangered Javan white-eye birds after discovering them stuffed into cages, they said yesterday. The popular cage-bird is listed as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a protected species by the Indonesian environment and forestry ministry. Officials found the huge cache of birds in eight cages on Friday, including 140 that died, at a port on Flores island in eastern Indonesia. Joko Waluyo, an official at a provincial conservation agency, told reporters Sunday. The birds were due to be taken by ferry to Surabaya.

Australia will not commit troops in advance to any conflict: minister

Reuters
Sydney

Australia will not commit troops in advance to any conflict, Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy said yesterday, responding to a report that the Pentagon has pressed its ally to clarify what role it would play if the US and China went to war over Taiwan. Australia prioritises its sovereignty and "we don't discuss hypotheticals", Conroy said in an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"The decision to commit Australian troops to a conflict will be made by the government of the day, not in advance but by the government of the day," he said. The Financial Times reported on Saturday that Elbridge Colby, the US under-secretary of defence for policy, has been pressing Australian and Japanese officials on what they would do in a Taiwan conflict, although the US does not offer a blank cheque guarantee to defend Taiwan. Colby posted on X that the department of defence is implementing President Donald Trump's "America First" agenda of restoring deterrence, which includes "urging allies to step up their defence spending and other efforts related to

our collective defence". China claims Taiwan as its own and has not ruled out the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control. Taiwan President Lai Ching-te rejects China's sovereignty claims, saying only Taiwan's people can decide their future. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, speaking in Shanghai at the start of a six-day visit to China that is likely to focus on security and trade, said Canberra did not want any change to the status quo on Taiwan. Conroy said Australia was concerned about China's military buildup of nuclear and conventional forces, and wants a balanced Indo-Pacific region where no country dominates. He said China was seeking a military base in the Pacific, which was not in Australia's interest. Talisman Sabre, Australia's largest war-fighting exercise with the US, opened yesterday on Sydney Harbour and involves 40,000 troops from 19 countries, including Japan, South Korea, India, Britain, France and Canada. Conroy said China's navy might be watching the exercise to collect information, as it had done in the past. The war games will span thousands of kilometres from Australia's Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island to the Coral Sea on Australia's east coast, in a rehearsal of joint war

fighting, said vice-admiral Justin Jones, chief of joint operations for the Australian Defence Force. The air, sea, land and space exercises over two weeks will "test our ability to move our forces into the north of Australia and operate from Australia", Jones told reporters. "I will leave it to China to interpret what 19 friends, allies and partners wanting to operate together in the region means to them. But for me... it is nations that are in search of a common aspiration for peace, stability, a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said. US army lieutenant general Joel Vowell, deputy commanding general for the Pacific, said Talisman Sabre would improve the readiness of militaries to respond together and was "a deterrent mechanism because our ultimate goal is no war". "If we could do all this alone and we could go fast, but because we want to go far, we have to do it together and that is important because of the instability that is resident in the region," Vowell said. The US is Australia's major security ally. Although Australia does not permit foreign bases, the US military is expanding its rotational presence and fuel stores on Australian bases, which from 2027 will have US Virginia submarines at port in Western Australia.



Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his fiancée Jodie Haydon walk along the Bund with Shanghai Port FC Manager Kevin Muscat, in Shanghai, China, yesterday.

Australia defence ties repaired after submarine row: France

AFP
Sydney

France's defence relations with Australia have recovered after their 2021 bust-up over a major submarine contract, the country's ambassador said yesterday. Paris expressed its "strong regrets" when Australia tore up a multibillion-dollar deal to buy a fleet of diesel-powered submarines from France, ambassador Pierre-Andre Imbert said. Since the 2022 election of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, however, the defence relationship had been "restarted", he said. "Now, the first pillar of our co-operation is defence and security, so we have a very good level of co-

operation," the ambassador said as French forces joined major military drills around Australia. When Australia ditched the French deal, it opted instead to acquire nuclear-powered vessels in a new three-way AUKUS pact with the US and Britain. But a US defence official last month revealed that a review of AUKUS was underway to ensure it "aligned with the President's America First agenda" and that the US defence industrial base was "meeting our needs". Under the AUKUS deal, Australia would acquire at least three Virginia class submarines from the US within 15 years, eventually manufacturing its own subs. The US Navy has 24 Virginia-class vessels but American shipyards are struggling to meet pro-

duction targets set at two new boats each year. Asked if France would ever consider discussing a new submarine deal with Australia if the AUKUS agreement was torpedoed by the review, the French ambassador said he was reluctant to speculate. "I would say it's more an issue for Australia for the moment. And of course, we are always discussing with our friends of Australia," he said. "But for the moment, they have chosen AUKUS," he said. "If this changes (and) they ask, we'll see." More than 30,000 military personnel from 19 nations are taking part in the three-week, annual Talisman Sabre military exercises, which started yesterday across Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Malaysia's former PM Mahathir, 100, leaves hospital

Malaysian former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad has been discharged from hospital, his office said yesterday, after being admitted for fatigue following a picnic celebration for his 100th birthday. Mahathir, leader of the southeast Asian nation for more than two decades, has a history of heart problems and has undergone bypass surgeries. He has been hospitalised repeatedly in recent years, most recently in October for a respiratory infection. He was under observation at the National Heart Institute in Kuala Lumpur for fatigue-related issues yesterday, his office said. "Mahathir has been allowed home as of 4.45pm (0845GMT)," it said in a statement. A physician who was a member of parliament until 2022, Mahathir drove himself yesterday to the celebration, which also marked the 99th birthday of his wife, Hasmah Mohd Ali, a day earlier, local media reported. The reports said he cycled for an hour before appearing tired.

Beating the heat with a cool dip



Teenagers cool off by leaping from the Wey footbridge into the River Wey, near Guildford, south of London, yesterday as the heatwave in England continues.

No more 'sir' for women officials in Bangladesh

Reuters
Dhaka

Bangladesh's caretaker government has overturned a long-standing protocol requiring women officials to be addressed as "sir", calling it an "odd" relic of ousted leader Sheikh Hasina's regime. The interim administration, headed by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, took office last year after former prime minister Hasina was overthrown by a student-led uprising, forcing her to flee to neighbouring India. A statement issued by the press wing of the caretaker government said the directive mandating the use of "sir" for women in official roles had been "annulled". "During Sheikh Hasina's nearly 16-year-long autocratic rule, a directive was reportedly issued requiring public officials to address her as 'sir'," it said. "This practice extended to oth-

er high-ranking women officials, who were - and still are - being called 'sir,' which is clearly odd." A new committee has been formed to revise other protocol-related directives, the statement added. A woman bureaucrat said the caretaker government took the call without consulting women officials. "The tradition began during Sheikh Hasina's tenure, but many women officers supported it, finding the address gender-neutral," said the official. Hasina, 77, who has defied orders to return to Dhaka, faces several charges at Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal for alleged crimes committed during a crackdown on the protests that led to her toppling. Up to 1,400 people were killed between July and August 2024, according to the United Nations. Prosecutors say that Hasina held overall command responsibility for the violence.

Tourist coins pose problem at N Ireland's causeway site

AFP
Bushmills, United Kingdom

Northern Ireland's Giant Causeway draws close to 1mn visitors a year but their habit of wedging tiny coins in cracks between the rocks - to bring love or luck - is damaging the world-famous wonder. Now authorities are urging tourists to keep their coins in their pockets to preserve the spectacular landscape. Some 40,000 columns mark the

causeway, Northern Ireland's first Unesco World Heritage Site. Geologists say the natural phenomenon was created by an outpouring of basalt lava 60mn years ago. Legend has it that the causeway was formed by Irish giant Finn McCool. In recent decades, visitors have pushed thousands of coins into fissures in the rocks. The gesture is "a token of love or luck", according to Cliff Henry, the causeway's nature engagement officer.

But the coins rapidly corrode and expand, causing the basalt to flake and leaving "unsightly" rust-coloured streaks, Henry said. He pointed to streaks on a rock and gingerly prised out a US cent with a set of keys. "We get a lot of euros and dollar cents. But coins from literally all over the world - any currency you can think of, pretty much - we have had it here," he said. A report by the British Geological Survey in 2021 revealed that the coins were "doing some serious damage" and something had to be

done about it, he noted. Signs are now in place around the site appealing to tourists to "leave no trace". "Once some visitors see other people have done it, they feel that they need to add to it," causeway tour guide Joan Kennedy said. She and her colleagues now gently but firmly tell tourists to desist. At the exit from the causeway, a US couple said they were "distressed" to hear of the damage the metal caused. "Our guide mentioned as we came up that people had been

putting coins into the stones. It's really terrible to hear that," said Robert Lewis, a 75-year-old from Florida. "It's kind of like damaging any kind of nature when you are doing something like that, putting something foreign into nature. It's not good," said his wife, Geri, 70. As part of a £30,000 (\$40,000) conservation project, stone masons recently removed as many coins as they could - without causing further damage - from 10 test sites around the causeway. Henry said the trial was success-

ful and is to be expanded across the causeway. "If we can get all those coins removed to start with that will help the situation and hopefully no more coins will be put in," he said. "If visitors see fewer coins in the stones and hear appeals to stop the damaging practice, the problem can maybe be solved." "We know that visitors love and cherish the Giant's Causeway, and many form deep personal connections to it, so we want this natural wonder to remain special for future generations."

Indian army kills militant leaders in Myanmar strikes

AFP
New Delhi

Separatist militants in north-eastern India said the Indian army carried out cross-border drone strikes on the

group's camps in neighbouring Myanmar yesterday, killing three of its leaders. Some militant groups in north-eastern India have ethnic, linguistic and cultural ties with minorities across the border in Myanmar and maintain a presence there.

A top commander of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) was killed and 19 others wounded in a drone attack in Myanmar near the border, the separatist group said in a series of statements. "Two more senior commanders were killed" in subsequent strikes,

the ULFA said, adding: "Several other members and civilians were also wounded." Indian authorities have yet to confirm the strikes. Camps belonging to another militant group, the People's Liberation Army, were also targeted,

the ULFA added. The ULFA is one of several insurgent groups in India, and wants independence for the northeastern state of Assam, while the PLA advocates for the secession of Manipur state. One faction of the ULFA laid

down arms and signed a peace deal with the Indian government in 2023. Militant attacks have drastically reduced in recent years but the insurgent violence has killed thousands of people, mostly civilians, over the last three decades.

Dalai Lama issue a 'thorn' in relations with India: China

Reuters
New Delhi

The succession of Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, is a thorn in China-India relations, the Chinese embassy in New Delhi said yesterday, as India's foreign minister prepares to visit China for the first time since deadly border clashes in 2020. Ahead of celebrations this month for his 90th birthday that were attended by senior Indian ministers, the head of Tibetan Buddhists ruled China again by saying it had no role in his succession. China says the Dalai Lama's succession will also have to be approved by its leaders.

The Dalai Lama has been living in exile in India since 1959 following a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, and Indian foreign relations experts say his presence gives New Delhi leverage against China. India is also home to about 70,000 Tibetans and a Tibetan government-in-exile. Yu Jing, a Chinese embassy spokesperson, said on social media app X that some people from strategic and academic communities in India had made "improper remarks" on the Dalai Lama. Yu did not name anyone but in recent days, Indian strategic affairs analysts and a government minister backed the Dalai Lama's remarks on his succession. "As professionals in foreign affairs, they should be fully cognisant of the sensitivity of issues related to

Xizang," Yu said, using the Chinese name for Tibet. "The succession of the Dalai Lama is inherently an internal affair of China," she said. "(The) Xizang-related issue is a thorn in China-India relations and has become a burden for India. Playing the 'Xizang card' will definitely end up shooting oneself in the foot." Indian Parliamentary and Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who sat next to the Dalai Lama during the birthday festivities a week ago, has said that as a practising Buddhist, he believes only the spiritual guru and his office have the authority to decide on his successor. India's foreign ministry said on July 4, two days before the Dalai Lama's birthday, that New Delhi does not take any position or speak on matters concerning beliefs and practices of faith and religion. Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will be attending a regional security meeting under the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation in Tianjin in northern China on July 15 and hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines. This will be one of the highest-level visits between India and China since their relations nosedived after a deadly border clash in 2020 that killed at least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers. Late last month, India's defence minister held talks with his Chinese counterpart in China on the sidelines of a defence ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation.



A man passes by damaged buildings, where an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane crashed during takeoff from a nearby airport, in Ahmedabad, India.

US FAA, Boeing notify 'fuel switch locks on planes safe'

Reuters
Washington/New Delhi

The US Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing have privately issued notifications that the fuel switch locks on Boeing planes are safe, a document seen by Reuters showed and four sources with knowledge of the matter said. The FAA's Continued Airworthiness Notification on July 11 came after a preliminary report on Friday into last month's Boeing 787-8 crash, which killed 260 people, raised questions over engine fuel cutoff switches. The FAA's notification to Civil Aviation Authorities, said: "Although the fuel control switch design, including the locking feature, is similar on various Boeing airplane models, the FAA does not consider this issue to be an unsafe condition that would warrant an Airworthiness Directive on any Boeing airplane models, including the Model 787." When asked for comment, the FAA said it did

not have anything to add beyond the notification. Boeing also referred to FAA's notification in a Multi-Operator-Message sent to the airlines in the past few days, which said the planemaker is not recommending any action, two of the sources with direct knowledge said. When asked for comment, Boeing referred Reuters' questions to the FAA. The preliminary investigation report into the crash by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), referred to a 2018 FAA advisory, which recommended, but did not mandate, operators of several Boeing models, including the 787, to inspect the locking feature of the fuel cutoff switches to ensure it could not be moved accidentally. The report said Air India had said it had not carried out the FAA's suggested inspections as the FAA 2018 advisory was not a mandate. The report noted "all applicable airworthiness directives and alert service bulletins were complied on the aircraft as well as engines." ALPA India, which represents Indian pilots at the Montreal-based International Fed-

eration of Air Line Pilots' Associations, in a statement rejected the presumption of pilot error and called for on a "fair, fact-based inquiry." "The pilots body must now be made part of the probe, at least as observers," ALPA India president Sam Thomas said yesterday. ALPA India, in a letter posted on X, said the preliminary investigation report referred to the 2018 FAA advisory "concerning the fuel control switch gates, which indicates a potential equipment malfunction." In the flight's final moments, one pilot was heard on the cockpit voice recorder asking the other why he cut off the fuel. "The other pilot responded that he did not do so," the report said. It said fuel switches had almost simultaneously flipped from run to cutoff just after take-off. The report did not say how the switches could have flipped during the flight. Two US safety experts said they backed ALPA India's request to be observers in the probe, but said the investigation report did not suggest a bias toward pilot error.

India inflation likely eased to six-year low in June: poll

An easing of food price rises and a high base likely helped Indian inflation slow to a more than six-year low in June, according to a poll. Food inflation probably continued to ease from last year's elevated levels as supplies from a robust spring harvest reached markets, helping to offset the impact of an uneven monsoon that pushed up prices of a few key vegetables. Consumer inflation, as measured by the annual change in the Consumer Price Index, eased to 2.50% in June from 2.82% in May, the July 7-10 survey showed. The predicted drop marks the longest stretch in nearly six years that inflation has stayed below the Reserve Bank of India's medium-term target of 4%. Forecasts ranged from 1.80% to 3.50% The expected moderation, marking the longest disinflationary streak in India in at least a decade, was largely due to a high base as vegetable prices had surged nearly 30% during the same period last year.

Chennai cultural festival



A Kathakali classical dancer watches artists rehearse the traditional folk dance Pulikkali (Tiger Dance) as they wait backstage before their performance at a cultural festival in Chennai, India.

India eases sulphur emission rules for coal power plants

Reuters
New Delhi

India has reversed a decade-old mandate to install \$30bn worth of clean-air equipment, easing sulphur emission rules for most coal-fired power plants, a government order said. It was reported last year that the government was reviewing 2015 norms that required nearly 540 coal-based power units to install flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD) systems that remove sulphur from the plants' exhaust gases in phases starting in 2027. The federal environment ministry has now issued a gazette notification that exempted 79% of the coal-fired power plants, outside a 10km radius of populated and polluted cities, from the 2015 mandate.

The mandate to install FGD for another 11% of the plants near populated cities would be taken on a "case-to-case basis," the notification said. The balance of 10% of the coal-fired power plants closer to New Delhi and other cities with a million-plus population will be required to install the desulphurisation equipment by December 2027, according to the new mandate. The notification comes after state-run NTPC, India's top electricity producer, spent about \$4bn on installing the equipment at about 11% of the power plants, and about 50% of the units either placed orders for the desulphurisation systems or are installing them. The notification did not mention the impact on the competitiveness or recovery of costs by these power plants.

Reliance Jio 'delays India IPO beyond this year'

Reuters
New Delhi/Sydney

Indian telecoms and digital giant Reliance Jio Platforms, led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, has decided not to launch its planned IPO this year, delaying one of the country's most anticipated stock offerings, two people familiar with the matter said. Valued by analysts at more than \$100bn, Jio wants to achieve higher revenue and a bigger subscriber base for its telecoms business while expanding its other digital offerings to boost its valuation before an initial public of-

fering, one of the sources said. Shares of parent conglomerate Reliance Industries fell sharply in Mumbai after the Reuters report, losing as much as 1.8%, or \$6bn in market value. Reliance closed 1.2% down, with its significant weighting in other indexes dragging the broader Indian market into negative territory. Nearly 80% of Jio Platforms' latest annual revenue of \$17.6bn came from its telecoms business - Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's biggest player. But Ambani is also accelerating expansion of his other niche digital businesses focused on developing apps, connected devices and AI business solutions.

Reliance Jio is also set to lock horns with Elon Musk, who is expected to launch the Starlink Internet service in India in the coming months. Jio, which counts Google and Meta among investors, has also partnered Nvidia to develop AI infrastructure. Ambani said in 2019 that Jio and Reliance Retail will move towards listings within five years. And last year Reuters reported that Reliance was targeting a 2025 Mumbai listing for Jio Platforms, aiming for it to be India's biggest IPO. "Jio (IPO) is not going to happen this year, it's just not possible. The company wants the business to be more mature," the first source said.

Both the sources, who declined to be identified because the strategy is confidential, said Reliance had yet to appoint bankers to discuss a potential stock market offering. Reliance did not respond to queries on the matter. Jio Infocomm has faced some churn in its subscriber base after price increases but has returned to growth this year and has more than 488mn subscribers. Indian brokerage IIFL Capital said in April that it was cutting its 2025-26 core profit estimate for Jio by 3%, citing higher costs and the expected increase in prices, probably in late 2025. It also cut its valuation estimate from \$117 billion to

\$111 billion, though Jefferies values the business at \$136bn. The first source declined to share the valuation that Jio had been targeting for the proposed IPO but said it was "easily above \$100bn". India's IPO market had its best year in 2024, with \$20.5bn raised, second only to the US. Trade wars and Middle East tension have turned market sentiment jittery, but it is recovering. India is the world's second-biggest IPO market with \$5.86bn raised by June this year, accounting for the 12% of total proceeds globally, LSEG data shows. Reuters has previously reported that the Reliance Retail IPO was be-

ing delayed for the company to address operational challenges at the company that runs India's biggest grocery store network of 3,000 supermarkets. The Reliance Retail IPO is unlikely before 2027 or 2028, the first source added without elaborating. Reliance Retail and Jio have powered the parent's earnings in the six months to March while its energy segment has been hit by lower margins and weaker demand. Ambani, Asia's richest man, has raised \$25bn collectively for digital, telecoms and retail businesses from the likes of KKR, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, General Atlantic and Silver Lake in recent years.

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GULF TIMES

Judges keep blocking Trump policies despite injunction curbs

President Donald Trump called the US Supreme Court's June 27 decision limiting the ability of federal judges to use nationwide injunctions to block his policies "a monumental victory", but his legal win may be less definitive than it first appeared.

The Supreme Court's decision curtailed the ability of judges to issue so-called universal injunctions that can stop the government from enforcing a policy against anyone, anywhere in the entire country.

The Trump administration said it would move quickly to challenge such injunctions. However, the ruling by the court's 6-3 conservative majority contained exceptions, allowing federal judges to continue to issue sweeping rulings blocking key parts of the Republican president's agenda.

In the short time since the ruling, lower-court judges have already blocked Trump's asylum ban at the US-Mexico border, prevented his administration from ending temporary deportation protections for Haitian migrants and forced the government to restore health websites deemed to run afoul of Trump's efforts to squash "gender ideology."

One of the biggest tests of the impact of the Supreme Court's ruling in Trump v CASA will come on Thursday, when a federal judge in New Hampshire will consider whether to prevent Trump's executive order curtailing birthright citizenship from taking effect nationally on July 27.

Judges have used other legal tools to block these policies on a nationwide basis

That executive order was at the heart of the Supreme Court's ruling, which did not address the legality of the policy, but held that judges likely lack authority to issue universal injunctions and ordered three judges to reconsider rulings blocking the policy nationwide. Issued on his first day back in office in January, the order directs federal agencies to refuse to recognise the citizenship of children born in the United States who do not have at least one parent who is an American citizen or lawful permanent resident.

The plaintiffs in the New Hampshire birthright citizenship case are looking to seize upon one of the major exceptions to the Supreme Court's ruling. They argue it allows judges to continue to block Trump policies on a nationwide basis in class action lawsuits.

The lawsuit, which was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and others hours after the Supreme Court ruled, seeks class action status on behalf of babies who would be subject to Trump's executive order and their parents.

The plaintiffs are asking US District Judge Joseph Laplante, who previously issued a more narrow injunction blocking Trump's order, to go further this time by allowing the plaintiffs to sue as a nationwide class and issuing an order blocking Trump's ban from being enforced against members of the class. At least one other judge has already followed this formula. On July 2, US District Judge Randolph Moss in Washington determined that Trump's denial of asylum to migrants on the southern border exceeded the president's authority. He then certified a class that covered all individuals subject to the presidential proclamation on asylum and issued an injunction to protect the class — effectively a nationwide injunction.

The administration appealed the ruling, which White House aide Stephen Miller called a judge's attempt to "circumvent" the Supreme Court's ruling by recognising "a protected global 'class' entitled to admission into the United States."

"I think there's going to be a lot more class actions," said Lee Gelemt, an attorney with the ACLU, which brought the asylum case. Class actions must follow what is known as Rule 23, which requires the plaintiffs to meet several elements including proving that the proposed class members suffered the same injury. Conservative Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito warned lower courts against certifying nationwide classes without "scrupulous adherence to the rigours of Rule 23."

The process to certify a class can often take months. A senior White House official told Reuters the administration will be watching class certification decisions closely and plans to aggressively challenge them to prevent abuse of the process.

The government says the named class plaintiffs in the New Hampshire case are too different from one another to be able to proceed as a class action. They include an asylum seeker and someone on a student visa.

Judges have used other legal tools to block Trump administration policies on a nationwide basis, including by finding the government failed to comply with administrative law, another exception in the Supreme Court's ban on injunctions. — Reuters

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July 15: Turkiye's determination, empowerment against all odds



By Dr Mustafa Goksu, Ambassador of Turkiye

The night of July 15, 2016, began like any other evening — but ended as a turning point in Turkiye's modern history. It was a night of betrayal and defiance, fear and courage, but above all, a night when the will of the people determined the course of a nation.

The night of July 15 is etched in our nation's collective memory as one of the longest nights but also as one of the greatest epics in Turkiye's glorious history.

It has been nine years since the nefarious coup attempt of July 15, 2016 carried out by Fetullah Terrorist Organisation (FETO), which was foiled by our beloved nation's and security forces' honourable, courageous and heroic stance.

Far from faltering, Turkiye emerged from that not weakened, but emboldened — ushering in a new era marked by strategic empowerment.

The Turkish nation and government turned an existential threat into a victory. The steadfastness of its institutions and the collective will of its people transformed the darkest night into a defining moment of national resilience.

July 15 was another resolute chapter in the proud history of Turkiye.

In the aftermath of FETO-led failed coup, Turkiye emerged even stronger, by embarking on a new era powered by its strong past that is marked by strategic autonomy and global engagement.

Rather than retreating inward, Turkiye channelled this momentum into a period of visionary transformation.

In the education field, Turkiye undertook a major domestic reform by transferring institutions that had previously been controlled by FETO to the Ministry of National Education. This initiative reinforced national sovereignty in education.

On the international front, the Turkish Maarif Foundation has become a prominent global player in education. The foundation assumed responsibility for schools that FETO had operated for years in various countries and expanded its global footprint. Today, it runs 586 educational institutions across 55 countries, maintains formal relations with 108 states, and serves over 70,000 students worldwide.

Turkish foreign policy prioritises strengthening regional peace and security through combating terrorism and extremism, conflict prevention, peaceful resolution and mediation, and regional ownership.

Turkiye has significantly expanded its diplomatic footprint, global reach and influence since July 15. As a result of its deepening and widening comprehensive policies, Turkiye has spawned the 3rd largest diplomatic network globally with 262 missions.

This expansion is not merely a statistic, but a reflection of Turkiye's determination to shape, not just observe, global events.

Today Turkiye conducts a diplomacy that thinks globally but acts locally in every corner of the world by availing from several complementary political, economic, humanitarian, and cultural tools.

Despite the negative repercussions of the July 15, Turkiye strove through Covid-19 and the earthquake disaster in 2023 successfully. The nation's economy has defied global trends,

growing steadily and retaining its place among the world's 20 largest economies. Exports reached a record \$262bn in 2024. This figure is expected to be over 270bn in 2025. With its population of 85mn, Turkiye's GDP per capita has exceeded \$15,000.

Turkiye has witnessed an increase of tourists from all parts of the world, as it was and will remain one of the favourite destinations. Turkiye hosted nearly 62mn tourists in 2024.

Turkiye has also become a leading humanitarian power. It ranked 1st globally in humanitarian aid as a percentage of GDP, and is recognised as the world's most generous nation based on per capita spending.

Together with its diplomatic activism and economic dynamism, Turkiye has strengthened its national defence capabilities with unprecedented speed and success.

Only one and a half months after the abhorrent coup attempt of July 15, Turkish army successfully conducted "Operation Euphrates Shield" on August 24, 2016 against DEASH as well as "Operation Olive Branch" on January 20, 2018 and "Operation Peace Spring" on October 9, 2019 against PKK elements in Syria.

These military operations contributed significantly to the supporting efforts for a peaceful resolution and paved the way for the current political ground today in Syria. In collaboration with Qatar, Turkiye paid immense efforts for maintaining the stability of Syria by backing the new government and lifting the sanctions.

Turkiye's defence industry has become a global leader with an R&D budget nearing \$3bn, over 80% domestic production, and a project portfolio exceeding \$100bn.

Iconic platforms such as the Akıncı and Bayraktar TB2 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), the amphibious assault ship TCG Anadolu, the 5th-generation fighter jet KAAN, and the supersonic trainer Hürjet are no longer just national milestones — they are strategic assets reshaping regional dynamics.

Turkish UAVs have not only demonstrated their efficacy in various Turkish military operations but have also attracted international attention, leading to exports to several countries.

Turkiye accounts for 65% of the global UAV market and is home to the world's biggest drone manufacturer. As President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recently stated, out of every 3 UAV that are sold globally, 2 of them are manufactured by Turkish companies.

In the technology sector, Turkiye has made impressive advancements, particularly with the launch of Turksat 5A and Turksat 5B satellites in 2021.

Turkiye has not only continued its ongoing major infrastructure projects (Eurasia Tunnel), also has added them the new ones (1915 Çanakkale Strait).

In times of struggle, real brothers stand tall. In times of adversity, Turkiye and Qatar have consistently demonstrated a genuine brotherhood that is measured not by convenience, but by

solidarity in hardship.

Throughout the critical juncture and uncertainty of July 15, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, was the first leader to express solidarity with Turkish people and government by holding phone call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

It was a bold and principled stance as nobody could have guessed how the events would unfold.

Furthermore, HE the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani was among the first foreign officials to visit Turkiye in the aftermath of this night.

Turkish nation will always remember brotherly Qatar's firm stance, its unequivocal support for Turkiye's elected government, and Qatari people's deep empathy with the Turkish people.

In fact, this spirit of fraternity continued and continues to shape the brotherly bilateral relations. In the wake of the earthquakes struck Turkiye in 2023, Qatar was among the first nations to mobilise emergency aid and humanitarian relief. Likewise, as recently shown, President Erdogan, expressed our country's condemnation of any kind of attack that violates Qatar's sovereignty, and reiterated that Turkiye stands by brotherly Qatar.

Today, Turkiye-Qatar relations are stronger than ever. There is a strategic partnership which was institutionalised through the establishment of Supreme Strategic Committee (SSC) mechanism in 2014. So far 10 SSC meetings have been convened. In the 10th SSC meeting held in Ankara in 2024, the total number of agreements signed since the first SSC reached to 117 ranging across defence, energy, trade, education, and humanitarian sectors. The 11th SSC is envisaged to be met in the second half of 2025.

The bond between Turkiye and Qatar is deeply rooted and the two countries collaborate to realise a shared vision for a more stable, peaceful and prosperous world particularly in the regions experiencing humanitarian crises and political instability such as Gaza, Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan and Libya.

In that vein, our countries pursue complementary diplomatic, humanitarian, and development initiatives aimed at promoting peace and conflict resolution, fostering regional stability, supporting legitimate governance structures, and addressing urgent humanitarian needs from Gaza to the Horn of Africa.

Toward the Century of Turkiye

The spirit that resisted on the night of July 15, 2016 continues to guide Turkiye's trajectory. It is the spirit of a nation that refuses to be subdued — by coup plotters, natural disasters, or global headwinds.

Turkiye today is not defined by the threats it has faced, but by how it has responded to them: with vision, with solidarity, and with resolve.

This is not only a story of survival. It is the story of victory. It is the victory of resilience and empowerment. And that victory, forged in struggle and unity, bears the name of Turkiye.



A serene view of Turkish capital Ankara.

EU holds off on US tariff countermeasures

Reuters
Brussels

The European Union said yesterday it would extend its suspension of countermeasures to US tariffs until early August and continue to press for a negotiated settlement as US President Donald Trump's administration demanded more concessions from trading partners.

Trump said on Saturday he would impose a 30% tariff on most imports from the EU and Mexico from August 1, adding to similar warnings for other countries and leaving them less than three weeks to hammer out framework deals that could lower the threatened tariff rate.

White House Economic Adviser Kevin Hassett said yesterday that countries' trade deal offers so far have not satisfied Trump and "the tariffs are real" without improvements.

"The president thinks that deals need to be better," Hassett told ABC's *This Week* programme. "And to basically put a line in the sand, he sent these letters out to folks, and we'll see how it works out."

Ursula von der Leyen, head of the EU's executive Commission which handles trade policy for the 27 member states, said the bloc would maintain its two-track approach: keep talking and prepare retaliatory measures.

"We have always been very clear that we prefer a negotiated solution. This remains the case, and we will use the time that we have

- Trump has threatened 30% tariffs on EU from Aug 1
- Merz to work with Von der Leyen, Macron on solution



US President Donald Trump with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during the 50th World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in this file photo. (Reuters)

now," Von der Leyen told a press conference, adding that the bloc would extend its halt on countermeasures until August.

Von der Leyen's decision to resist immediate retaliatory measures points to the European Commission's desire to avoid a spiralling tit-for-tat escalation in the trade war while there remains a chance of negotiating an improved outcome.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz yesterday said he was "really committed" to finding a trade so-

lution with the US, telling German public broadcaster ARD that he will work intensively on this with Von der Leyen and French President Emmanuel Macron over the next two and a half weeks.

Asked about the impact of a 30% US tariff on Germany, Merz said: "If that were to happen, we would have to postpone large parts of our economic policy efforts because it would interfere with everything and hit the German export industry to the core."

The latest salvo from Trump

and the question of how to respond may test the unity of member states, with France appearing to take a tougher line than Germany, the bloc's industrial powerhouse whose economy leans heavily on exports.

Macron said the Commission needed more than ever to "assert the Union's determination to defend European interests resolutely", and that retaliation might need to include so-called anti-coercion instruments.

German Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil said yesterday the EU should be ready to take firm action if talks failed. "If a fair negotiated solution does not succeed, then we must take decisive countermeasures to protect jobs and companies in Europe," Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil, also vice-chancellor in the ruling coalition, told *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper.

While the EU has held back from retaliating against the US in the months since Trump hit the bloc with tariffs, it has readied two packages that could hit a combined €93bn of US goods.

A first package, in response to US levies of 50% on imported steel and aluminium that would hit €21bn in US goods, was suspended in April for 90 days to allow time for negotiations. The suspension had been due to expire today before the extension was announced.

A second package in retalia-

Meloni warns against 'trade war within the West'

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni warned yesterday against the perception of a "trade war within the West", following US President Donald Trump's announcements of 30% tariffs on EU products.

"A trade war within the West would weaken us all in the face of the global challenges we are confronting together," Meloni said in a statement released by her office.

"Europe has the economic and financial strength to assert its position and reach a fair and sensible agreement," she said.

"Italy will do its part. As always," she added, as the EU holds off on a response in the hopes of reaching an agreement.

Trump announced Saturday that products imported into the United States from the European Union and Mexico would be subject to 30% tariffs starting August 1.

Since then, Italian opposition parties have criticised Meloni and her far-right party Brothers of Italy, while opposition Five Star Movement leader Giuseppe Conte accusing her of "bowing her head" to Washington's threats.

tion against Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs has been in the works since May and was set to target €72bn of US goods. These measures have not been made public and the final list requires approval by member states.

Von der Leyen said yesterday that the use of the EU's Anti-Coercion Instrument was not yet on the table. The instrument allows the bloc to retaliate against third countries that put economic pressure on EU members to change their policies.

"The (anti-coercion) instrument is created for extraordinary situations, we are not there yet," she said.

Possible retaliatory steps could include restricting EU market access to goods and services, and

other economic measures related to areas including foreign direct investment, financial markets and export controls.

In a sign of the EU's desire to strike deals with more trading partners at a time of deepening uncertainty in trans-Atlantic relations, von der Leyen said a political agreement had been reached to advance an EU-Indonesia trade deal. France's cheese producers warned of the damaging consequences of a 30% tariff for the local dairy industry, which exports nearly half its produce, including to the United States.

"It's a new environment we will have to get used to — I don't think this is temporary," Francois Xavier Huard, CEO of dairy association FNIL, told Reuters.



Indonesia president Joko Widodo (left) is welcomed by King Philippe of Belgium during an audience at the Royal Palace in Brussels. (AFP)

EU and Indonesia in 'political agreement' on trade deal

AFP
Brussels

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto yesterday announced a "political agreement" to conclude a long-awaited free trade deal, as US leader Donald Trump upends global commerce.

"We're living in turbulent times and when economic uncertainty meets geopolitical volatility, partners like us must come closer together. So today we're taking a big step forward in this partnership," Von der Leyen told journalists in Brussels.

"I am very pleased to report that we have just reached a political agreement on an ambitious Free Trade Agreement."

The 27-nation European bloc and Southeast Asia's largest economy have been negotiating since 2016 to agree a deal that is expected to increase trade and investment.

A European Commission statement called yesterday's agreement a "decisive milestone" towards striking the deal — which is to be concluded in September by EU trade chief Maros Sefcovic and Indonesia's chief economic minister Airlangga Hartarto.

"There's a lot of untapped potential in our trade relationship. And therefore this agreement comes at the right time, because the new agreement will open new markets," Von der Leyen said.

"It will create more opportunities in key industries, in business activity and agriculture, in automotive and in services."

Brussels has stepped up efforts to improve ties with key potential partners around the world as Trump threatens a trade war with sweeping tariffs.

"This big and important political agreement on the free trade agreement with Indonesia is today a huge milestone forward, and shows that we're looking for new markets, open markets," Von der Leyen said.

Prabowo called the announcement in Brussels a "breakthrough".

"After 10 years of negotiations, we have concluded the agreement to have a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which basically is a free trade agreement," he said.

The president said "we consider Europe still a very important factor, and we would like to see a very strong Europe."

But he insisted that "the United States will be always a very important leader in the world"

Macron to raise defence targets citing Russia threat

AFP
Paris

President Emmanuel Macron yesterday called for a massive boost to France's defence spending, saying freedom in Europe was facing a greater threat than at any time since the end of World War II.

"We are living a pivotal moment," Macron said in a speech to the armed forces on the eve of the national Bastille Day holiday, denouncing "imperialist policies", "annexing powers" and the notion that "might is right", all a reference to Russia.

"Never has peace on our continent depended to such an extent on the decisions that we take now," said Macron.

France faced the challenge "of remaining free and masters of our destiny", he added.

Macron said France's defence budget should rise by €3.5bn (\$4.1bn) in 2026, and then by a further €3bn in 2027.

"If you want to be feared, you must be powerful," he said, calling for "mobilisation" for national defence by all government departments.

"Everyone must be present at their battle stations," Macron said.

"We are still ahead, but if we remain at the same speed we will be overtaken tomorrow," he added.

French military and security officials have been warning of global threats weighing on France, with Defence Chief of Staff Chief Thierry Burkhard saying on Friday that Russia posed a "durable" threat to Europe and that the "rank of European countries in tomorrow's world" was being decided in Ukraine, invaded by Russia in 2022.

Russia currently views France as its "main adversary in Europe", Burkhard said.

He also warned of the consequences of a diminished US commitment to Europe, along with cyber threats, disinformation



French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou (left) and President Emmanuel Macron share a laugh at the end of an address by the latter to army leaders on the eve of the annual Bastille Day Parade in the French capital, at l'Hotel de Brienne in Paris yesterday. (Reuters)

campaigns and the risk of terror attacks.

"We have to take account of the fact that there has been a change in strategic parameters," he said.

On Sunday, Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu weighed in, telling the *La Tribune* weekly newspaper that "it's our job to provide answers".

France needed to make "a new effort" if it wanted to "depend on nobody" in the future, the minister said.

France's defence budget has already increased sharply since Macron took power, rising from €32.2bn (\$37.6bn at current rates) in 2017 to €50.5bn currently, and is projected to reach €67bn in 2030.

If confirmed, the major defence spending boost could, however, threaten French efforts to cut deficits and reduce its debt mountain, amid pressure from the EU Commission on Paris to impose

more fiscal discipline.

The servicing of France's debt alone will cost the Treasury €62bn this year.

But Prime Minister Francois Bayrou, who tomorrow is to outline his budget plan for 2026, has declared the defence budget to be "sacrosanct" and exempt from budgetary cuts.

In yesterday's speech, Macron rejected any financing of the additional defence spending through additional debt.

Several Nato countries are boosting their military spending, after the alliance's members agreed last month to spend 5% of their gross domestic product (GDP) on security.

Britain aims to increase its defence budget to 2.5% of GDP by 2027, and to 3.0% after 2029. Germany plans to reach a defence budget of €162bn by 2029, equivalent to 3.5% of its GDP, while Poland already dedicates 4.7% of

GDP to defence. "Very clearly, we need to revise our programming and strategy today, in light of the changing nature of risks," Macron said on Thursday.

Lecornu this month detailed the most urgent needs for the French armed forces, including ground-to-air defences, ammunition, electronic warfare and space capabilities.

In yesterday's interview, he said France was mostly worried about falling behind in "disruptive technologies" including artificial intelligence and quantum technology.

Beyond budget increases, the French government is also seeking to boost "national cohesion" in the face of global crises, Elysee officials said.

Macron is expected to outline a potential mobilisation drive for young people who should be given "an opportunity to serve", Elysee officials said.

Global press freedom groups back jailed Georgian journalist

The world's top press freedom groups yesterday threw their support behind a jailed Georgian journalist, warning that her prosecution signalled deepening repression as Tbilisi cracks down on dissenting voices.

Mzia Amaghlobeli, head of the independent *Batumelebi* and *Netgazeti* news outlets, has been in pre-trial detention since her arrest on January 12 for slapping a police officer during a protest in the Black Sea city of Batumi. She faces up to seven years in prison

if convicted. She says her detention is politically motivated and rights groups have denounced it as disproportionate. Her lawyers have warned that she is rapidly losing her sight.

Yesterday, representatives of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the International Press Institute (IPI) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF) held a solidarity action outside the prison in Georgia's eastern city of Rustavi where Amaghlobeli is being held.

"Mzia Amaghlobeli's continued

detention is based on absurd charges and reflects a clear intention to silence a journalist who is critical of the ruling party, in a climate of growing authoritarianism in Georgia," RSF's Jeanne Cavalier said in a statement.

Shortly after her arrest, Amaghlobeli went on a 38-day hunger strike to protest her detention. Her lawyers say the Batumi police chief she is accused of slapping, Irakli Dgebuadze, had verbally abused her, attempted to physically assault her at the police station, and spat

in her face. They also say she has been mistreated in custody.

Amaghlobeli's prosecution comes amid a wave of arrests targeting nearly all of opposition leaders, as well as several activists, and journalists critical of the ruling Georgian Dream party.

The former Soviet republic and EU candidate nation has been gripped by political unrest since the disputed parliamentary vote last October, when Georgian Dream declared victory, sparking mass protests over alleged

electoral fraud. Demonstrators accuse the ruling party, which shelved EU membership talks, of veering toward authoritarian rule and steering the country closer to Moscow — accusations the government rejects.

On Friday, foreign ministers of 17 European countries, including France, Germany and the UK, as well as EU foreign policy chief issued a joint statement condemning the "dismantling of democracy in Georgia and rapid transformation towards an authoritarian system."

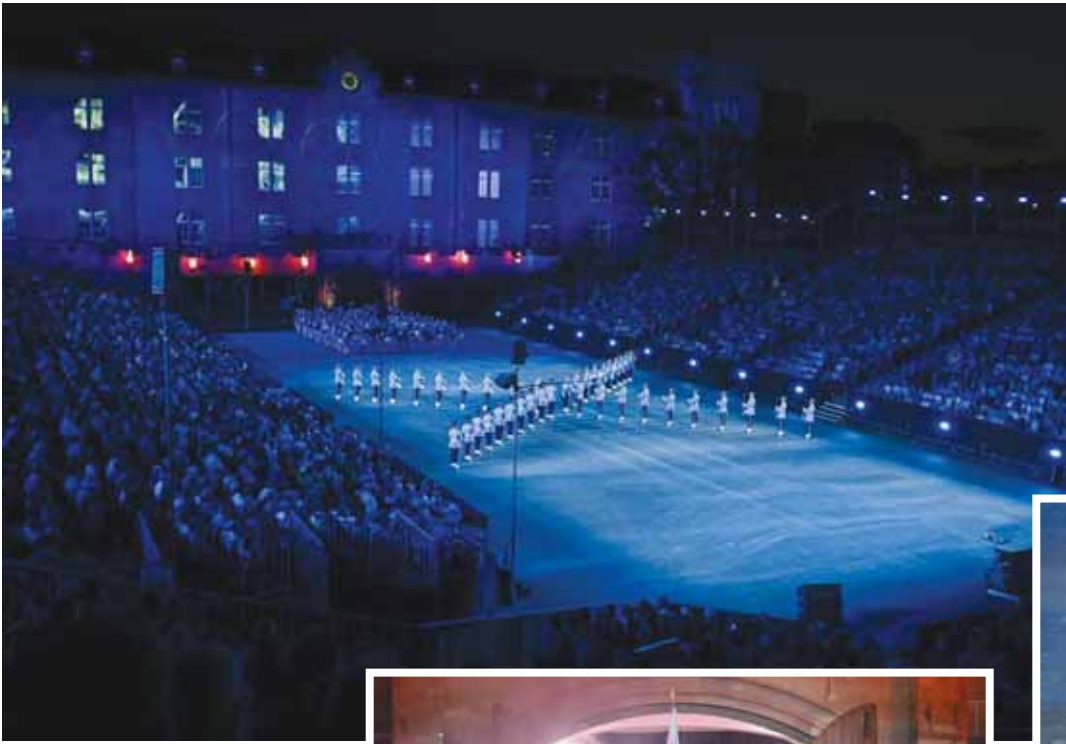
Police Academy takes part in ‘Basel Tattoo’ festival

The Qatar Police Academy took part at the opening of the “Basel Tattoo” military music festival, which continues until July 19 in the Swiss city of Basel, with the participation of bands from around the world.

The opening ceremony featured a distinguished military musical performance by the Academy’s team, showcasing professional military execution that combined high discipline with silent infantry movements to the rhythms of military music, reflecting the level of training and competence of the Academy’s members.

The opening ceremony was attended by HE the Legal Adviser to the Minister of Interior and Police Academy general supervisor Major-General Dr Abdullah Yousef al-Mal, along with Academy vice-president and Police College director Colonel Fahad Saeed al-Subaie.

This is the Police Academy’s



first participation in the Basel Tattoo, one of the most prominent military cultural events in Europe, watched by more than 1mn viewers annually.

The participation comes within the framework of the Ministry of Interior’s commitment to strengthening Qatar’s representation in international forums and highlighting institutional values based on discipline, training, and professional excellence.



Qatar Skydive wins three medals at international competition

The Qatar Skydive team, part of the Qatar Air Sports Committee (QASC) of the Joint Special Forces, claimed three medals at the Skydive World Cup Series held in Klatovy, Czech Republic.

The event featured 44 teams from around the world, marking another milestone in Qatar’s growing success on the international stage.

In the team category, Qatar Skydive secured the bronze medal after a strong performance amid fierce competition from some of the world’s most experienced squads.

Qatar’s athletes also shone in the individual categories, where Meshaal al-Qaoud claimed silver and Mohammed al-Buraiddi

claimed bronze.

Al-Qaoud said that the win is the result of a collective effort and credited it to the great support that athletes in Qatar receive from the country’s sports leadership.

Al-Buraiddi said that an achievement like this one in a big event gives them the motivation to keep improving.

He added that it was not an easy feat, but they pulled through like always.

This successful participation reflects the status of the Qatar Skydive team as one of the world’s leading teams in the sport, thanks to the strong support for air sports in Qatar and the country’s ongoing commitment to excellence and proud representation in international arenas. – QNA



Field visit organised to monitor turtle hatchling release season

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has organised a field event at Fuwairit Beach to monitor the hawksbill turtle hatchling release season.

The event attended by South African ambassador Ghulam Hoosein Asmal saw the participation of 110 visitors from Qatar Museums.



The MoECC’s specialised team provided visitors with an overview of the project and its objectives, which focus on protecting endangered marine turtles.

They highlighted the efforts made to preserve this species, which finds a safe nesting and breeding environment along the northern coasts of the country.

The release of the turtle hatchlings was carried out under the supervision of the MoECC’s environmental team, following a beach cleanup campaign aimed at raising environmental awareness among visitors and preparing the natural environment for the turtles as they make their way to the sea.

This event is part of the Ma-

rine Turtle Protection Project and the National Programme for Biodiversity Protection implemented by the ministry.

It also forms part of its broader efforts to raise environmental awareness and promote the engagement of the community and national institutions in supporting environmental initiatives and projects.

Aspire Summer Camp 2025 kicks off



The Aspire Summer Camp 2025 kicked off yesterday, offering fun educational experiences for children aged 6-12.

The camp, which will be held at the Ladies Sports Hall and will continue until August 7, aims to provide an exceptional summer experience for children that combines learning and entertainment through an integrated programme of sports, educational, and recreational activities.

The programme, which will see 130 participants, includes a wide range of sports



activities, including football, basketball, volleyball, handball, martial arts, gymnastics, and rhythmic gymnastics, in addition to swimming lessons and recreational games.

It also features educational workshops on reading and drawing skills, along with field visits to prominent cultural and recreational landmarks in Doha.

The Aspire Zone Foundation has achieved great success in organising this camp annually, with previous editions witnessing the participation of over 500 children in various activities.

Since its first launch in 2017, the camp has become a fixture on the Foundation’s calendar, underscoring Aspire’s commitment to providing quality programs that help develop children’s skills and make the most of their summer vacation. – QNA



Fire Station to unveil ‘Printed Nostalgia’ exhibition

Doha’s vibrant art scene is set to welcome “Printed Nostalgia” exhibition on July 16 at Gallery 4, Fire Station: Artists in Residence, featuring artworks that collectively highlight a diversity of voices and interpretations of nostalgia.

Running until September 1, Qatar Museums (QM) noted that this exhibition invites visitors on an introspective journey through personal and collective memories, as interpreted by 98 artists from around the world.

Each print is conceived as a “fragment of time” – preserved, shared, and reimagined, offering a space where emotions, identities, and histories profoundly intersect.

Curated by Saida Alkhulaifi and Fatima AlZaini, “Printed Nostalgia” explores the multifaceted dimensions of human experience, featuring printed works that reflect architecture, culture, migration, and everyday life.

According to the QM, the exhibition showcases a fascinating fusion of artistic mediums, including digital illustration, photography, painting, collage, and written word.

It uniquely transforms contemporary digital expressions into tangible, physical forms, as it underlines the lasting impact of printed materials in preserving stories.

A highlight of the experience is a specially designed “cozy, reflective room” at the exhibition’s conclusion, presenting a quiet invitation for visitors to pause and reconnect with their own memories, celebrating the tangible power of remembering.

The QM added that the featured artworks were meticulously selected from an extensive international open call that drew 322 submissions globally.

“Printed Nostalgia” also provides a unique artistic experience for all who wish to explore the deep connections between art, memory, and the human condition.

Visitors seeking more artistic exploration throughout August can also experience several other exhibitions by Qatar Museums, including “LatinoAmericano | Modern and Contemporary Art from the Malba and Eduardo F Costantini Collections” (until July 19 at the National Museum of Qatar), “Your Ghosts Are Mine: Expanded Cinemas, Amplified Voices” Exhibition (until August 9 at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art), “Qatar: Close to My Soul” Exhibition (until August 9 at Mathaf), and “Wafa al-Hamad: Sites of Imagination” Exhibition (until August 9 at Mathaf).

