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THURSDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13453

July 31, 2025

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BUSINESS | Page 2

Estithmar Holding reports record half year results for 2025

Family Summer Deals

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Amir congratulates king of Morocco

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 King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco on the occasion of Throne Day. (QNA)

QCB maintains current rates

The Qatar Central Bank (QCB) decided yesterday to maintain the current interest rates for deposits, lending, and repo rates, following an assessment of the current monetary policy of Qatar. In a post on its official account on the X platform, the QCB confirmed that the deposit rate (QCBDR) would be maintained at 4.60% and the lending rate (QCBLR) at 5.10%. The QCB Repo Rate was also maintained at 4.85%. (QNA)

LIC to host 2026 MotoGP Grand Prix

The international federation of motorcycling (FIM) announced yesterday the calendar for the 2026 FIM MotoGP World Championship, which will feature 22 rounds across five continents in its 78th edition. The FIM has decided that the fourth round of the championship will be held at the Lusail International Circuit (LIC) in Doha from Apr 10-12. (Sport Page 4)

UK flights disrupted by tech glitch

UK flights were disrupted yesterday by a technical glitch that was quickly resolved, according to the air traffic control service. The number of aircraft in London's air space was limited by the service, known as NATS, as a result of a technical issue, causing airports including Gatwick and Edinburgh to stop departures. (Page 9)

22 killed in Angola fuel hike unrest

Two days of unrest and looting in Angola during a protest against a fuel price hike claimed the lives of 22 people, the government said yesterday, as a tense calm returned to the capital. Violence erupted on Monday, the first day of a strike called by taxi drivers to protest the July 1 increase in fuel costs in the oil-rich nation where millions live in poverty. Sporadic gunfire was heard across Luanda. (Page 8)

Al Shaqab's Al Ghadeer clinches third consecutive victory



HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, and HE Sheikh Hamad bin Joaan al-Thani received the Qatar International Stakes trophy from HE Saad bin Ali bin Saad al-Kharji, Chairman of Qatar Tourism, after Al Shaqab Racing's Al Ghadeer clinched a historic third consecutive victory in the Group 1 Purebred Arabian contest on day two of Qatar Goodwood Festival in United Kingdom yesterday. (Sport Page 1)

Qatar hails UK PM's intention to recognise Palestine state

QNA Doha

Qatar welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Keir Starmer, regarding his country's intention to recognise the sisterly State of Palestine and its support for the two-state solution.

Qatar considered this announcement a significant development that aligns with international legitimacy and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and contributes to fostering prospects for realising a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that this announcement aligns with the consensus reached by countries participating in the High-Level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, which supports a roadmap aimed at expanding international recognition of the State of Palestine.

The announcement also represents a meaningful affirmation of the legitimate rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, enabling them to exercise their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The ministry reiterated Qatar's call on all countries that have not yet recognised the State of Palestine to take similar steps, reflecting their commitment to international law and support for the historical and inalienable rights of the brotherly Palestinian people on their national land. (QNA)

30 killed by Israeli fire while waiting for aid

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli forces opened fire yesterday on Palestinians waiting to collect humanitarian aid in the northern Gaza Strip, giving a preliminary death toll of 30. "At least 30 martyrs were killed... waiting for aid north of Gaza City," civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said, adding that more than 300 were wounded. Mohammed Abu Salmiya, director of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, said his facility received 35 bodies of people killed in the shooting, which reportedly happened near the Zikim crossing point for aid trucks entering the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army said it was reviewing the incident. (AFP)

New York Declaration reiterates support for two-state solution

QNA New York

The UN High-Level International Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution concluded with the issuance of the New York Declaration, outlining concrete, time-bound steps toward a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue and the realisation of the two-state solution.

Held in New York City under the co-chairmanship of Saudi Arabia and France, the conference brought together international stakeholders who emphasised the need for collective action to end the war in Gaza, ensure Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and transfer control to the Palestinian Authority based on the principle of "one government, one law, and one gun."

The declaration reaffirmed that war, occupation, and forced displacement cannot deliver peace or security, and that only a political solution grounded in international law can fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. It stressed that resolving the conflict and implementing the two-state solution is the only path to long-term stability and justice.

The declaration underscored that Gaza is an integral part of the Palestinian state and must be unified with the West Bank. It rejected any continuation of occupation, blockade, territorial fragmentation, or forced displacement. Following a ceasefire, a transitional administrative committee is to be immediately established in Gaza under the umbrella of the Palestinian National Authority. The declaration also reaffirmed support for the Palestinian government and security forces through regional and international funding programmes.

The declaration called on Israel to issue a clear and public commitment to the two-state solution, including the establishment of a sovereign and viable Palestinian state. It urged Israel to immediately end violence and incitement against Palestinians; cease all settlement activity, land seizures, and annexation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem; publicly abandon annexation plans and settlement policies; and end settler violence.

The declaration pledged to mobilise political and financial support for the Palestinian Authority to strengthen institutional capacity, implement reform programmes, and assume full responsibility throughout the occupied territories. It called for the removal of restrictions on movement and access, the immediate release of withheld Palestinian tax revenues, a new revenue transfer framework that leads to full Palestinian control over the tax system, as well as full integration of Palestine into the international monetary and financial system, including secure and sustainable banking relationships.

The declaration stressed the importance of preserving the legal and historical status quo at Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. It called for adopting restrictive measures against violent extremist settlers and against entities or individuals supporting illegal settlements, in accordance with international law.



Palestinians carry a person wounded by Israeli fire, as others carry aid supplies, in Beit Lahia, northern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

Huge quake rocks Russia's Far East

A very powerful magnitude 8.8 earthquake off Russia's Far Eastern Kamchatka coast yesterday triggered tsunami warnings as far away as French Polynesia and Chile, and was followed by an eruption of the most active volcano on the peninsula.

The shallow quake damaged buildings and injured several people in the remote Russian region, while much of Japan's eastern seaboard — devastated by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami in 2011 — was ordered to evacuate, as were parts of Hawaii. By the evening, Japan, Hawaii and Russia had downgraded most tsunami warnings. But authorities in French Polynesia warned residents of several of the remote Marquesas Islands to move to higher ground and expect waves as high as 8 feet.

Russian scientists said the quake in Kamchatka was the most powerful to hit the region since 1952. The US Geological Survey



This video grab shows the tsunami-hit Severo-Kurilsk on Paramushir island of Russia's northern Kuril islands.

said it was shallow, at a depth of 19.3km. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said there had been no casualties in Russia.

The Klyuchevskoy volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula began erupting later, a geological monitoring service said.

Hawaii recorded waves of up to 1.7 metres while in Japan the largest recorded came to 1.3 metres, officials said.

Waves of nearly half a metre were observed as far away as California, with smaller ones reaching Canada's province of British Columbia. (Reuters) (Page 11)

WWRC receives Planetree Gold certification

The Women's Wellness and Research Center (WWRC) at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has been awarded the Gold Certification for Excellence in Person Centred Care by Planetree International. With this, WWRC has become the first organisation in the world to receive this certification based on Planetree's new 2024 criteria and accreditation process and is now among an elite group of only 115 healthcare institutions worldwide to hold this recognition. As Qatar's largest tertiary hospital dedicated to women's health, WWRC provides comprehensive care covering every stage of a woman's reproductive life from preconception to childbirth, postnatal care, and overall wellness — while addressing physical, emotional, and social needs in an integrated, holistic manner. The Gold Certification is granted to healthcare institutions that demonstrate a genuine and measurable commitment to person centred care. This includes active patient and family engagement in decision making, as well as embedding the values of compassion, transparency, and respect across all levels of service, ensuring a healthcare experience that is both human-centred and high quality. Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Suwaidi, managing director of HMC, expressed his pride in this global recognition: "This achievement is more than a certificate, it is a true reflection of our unwavering humanitarian mission that every patient



Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Suwaidi



Nasser al-Naimi

is a person first. We believe exceptional healthcare begins with listening, understanding the patient's needs, acknowledging their emotions, and empowering them as partners in their treatment journey." "Our goal is not just to provide medical treatment, but to ensure every individual feels cared for and supported at every step. This is what drives us to continuously innovate and raise the standards of care to meet and exceed patient expectations." (To Page 4)

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Asstd 32gm X 5pcs



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QAR 10.00
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QAR 35.00
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Qatar supports dialogue, peaceful conflict resolution

HE the Shura Council Speaker, Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, has affirmed Qatar's continued pioneering role in supporting and establishing the principle of dialogue and conflict resolution through mediation and peaceful means, stating that this approach is a consistent choice enshrined in the State's constitution and is based on international laws and conventions.

Speaking at the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held in Geneva under the title "A world in turmoil: Parliamentary co-operation and multilateralism for peace, justice, and prosperity for all," HE al-Ghanem expressed Qatar's commitment to international partnership and co-operation.

Qatar is ready to host the second World Summit for Social Development in November and is keen to strengthen social cohesion, achieve comprehensive and sustainable development, and support the most vulnerable groups, especially in light of escalating economic and climate crises.

He pointed out the increasing challenges facing the world, especially as the expansion of conflicts and security threats highlights the failure of the international system and raises doubts about the effectiveness of its institu-



HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem

tions in enforcing compliance with international law and halting violations, particularly in conflict zones, foremost among them Gaza and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories.

HE the Shura Council Speaker emphasised the responsibility of parliamentarians to confront the escalating humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, which has been subjected to genocide crimes by the Israeli occupation forces for more than 22 months amid the international community's inability to stop them or protect civilians.

He condemned the ongoing killings,

the comprehensive blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, and the systematic starvation policy used by Israel against civilians, stressing that the world's silence on the cries of children and the suffering of mothers undermines the values of justice and humanity.

He called for restructuring international organisations that have failed to fulfil their role in achieving international peace and security and restoring the ethical and humanitarian dimension in international positions and championing justice.

He pointed out that the responsibility of parliaments requires a clear stance on the wars and tragedies the world is witnessing, especially famine and the deliberate targeting of women and children in Gaza, saying in this regard that the death of children from hunger is a disgrace on the forehead of the international community and humanity, and let parliamentarians around the world have a word of truth in stopping the crimes and killings in Gaza.

On the sidelines of the conference, HE al-Ghanem met with Speaker of Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, where parliamentary co-operation relations and ways to enhance them in various fields were discussed. (QNA)

Qatar Charity awarded prestigious ISO certification

As part of its continuous efforts to strengthen institutional governance and adhere to international best practices, Qatar Charity has been awarded the ISO 37000:2021 certification for organisational governance becoming one of the first humanitarian organisations in the region to earn this prestigious accreditation.

In a press release yesterday, Qatar Charity said this achievement adds to an impressive list of international certifications previously obtained by the organisation, including ISO 9001 for Quality Management, ISO 27001 for Information Security, ISO 31000 for Risk Management, ISO 37301 for Compliance Management, and ISO 18295-1 for Customer Contact Centres. These recognitions reflect Qatar Charity's commitment to applying global best practices across its administrative and operational systems.

The certificate was officially received by Chief Governance and External Affairs Officer at Qatar Charity Mohammed al-Ghamdi from Director of Bureau Veritas – Qatar branch Hossam al-Rifai.

In a statement on this occasion, al-Ghamdi noted that receiving the ISO 37000:2021 certification is the culmina-



tion of extensive efforts and a strategic direction undertaken by the organisation to establish and implement an integrated governance framework. He emphasised that the certification is not merely a goal, but a reflection of Qatar Charity's ongoing institutional maturity and its commitment to continuous improvement in the service of humanitarian work.

Notably, ISO 37000:2021 is the world's first international benchmark for governance of organisations. It serves as a guiding standard for institutions that uphold the values of integrity, transparency, and social responsibility, while achieving a balance between stakeholder interests and sound administrative systems. (QNA)



أسفير كاتارا للتبذية
ASPIRE KATARAH HOSPITALITY

Announces the following tender

Tender No.	Tender Title	Tender Bond	Tender Fees	Closing Date	Tender Offer
AKH/SS-00563/25	Supply & Delivery of Fresh Fish & Seafood on Call-Off Basis For AKH Managed Restaurants	QR 10,000	QR 850	August 21st, 2025	One Envelopes (Technical & Financial)

•Company may register and obtain the Electronic Tender Documents (e-TD) upon submission of Company's copy of the following:
» Valid Commercial Registration (CR)
» Computer Card
» Trade License
» Stamped receipt as proof of payment for the non-refundable tender fee (QR 850.00) which should be paid to » Dukhan Bank, Account No. 100000107777, IBAN: QA56BRWA000000000100000107777 (Aspire Katara Hospitality).
» Interested Company may send the scanned copy of these four (4) essential documents to AKH E-mail: info@akh.com.qa
» These four (4) documents shall be the prerequisite to register as a Tenderer and to obtain the e-TD.
» **Imperative: Please put the Tender No. and Tender Title as subject in your email**
•AKH shall only accept and send the Electronic Tender Documents (e-TD) via email to interested Companies who are in full compliance with the above prerequisites.
•The period for tender registration and obtaining the e-TD shall be **July 31st, 2025 up to August 7th, 2025 (working days)**.
•All enquiries and requests related to this tender shall be officially in writing to be addressed and delivered to: **Attn: Tender Committee Chairman, Aspire Katara Hospitality, P.O. Box 10737, Doha, Qatar, Fax No. +974 4449 3901**. Tenderer(s) may also send the scanned copy of its inquiry to AKH E-mails: **info@akh.com.qa and tenders@akh.com.qa**
•The last day for the Tenderer's to raise queries shall be on **August 14th, 2025**, any queries after this date will be disregarded.
•Tenders are to be submitted in **duplicate (1 Original + 1 Copy) and 1 Soft Copy (scanned copy of the "Original" in PDF format) along with the Tender Bond of QR 10,000 obtained from a Bank registered in Doha, Qatar**, to be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Tenders Committee Chairman of Aspire Katara Hospitality, endorsed in Arabic and English and to be deposited in the tender box of Aspire Katara Hospitality, 29th Floor, Al-Asmakh Tower, Majlis Al Taawon Street, Dafna, West Bay. (Location: <https://tinyurl.com/x3d8db5s>)
•The closing time will be on or before **12:00 PM**, on the closing date mentioned above, any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.
•Offer must be valid for 180 days from the Tender Closing Date.
•The successful tenderer shall submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the Contract Sum from approved bank with a registered office in Qatar and valid until thirty (30) calendar days after the expiration of contract period.

Amir congratulates Vanuatu president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cable of congratulations to President of Vanuatu Nikenike Vurobaravu, on the anniversary of his country's Independence 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 Jotham Napat. (QNA)

Qatar to take part in Malaysia Qur'an contest

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, is to participate in the 65th International Qur'an Recital and Memorisation Assembly (MTHQA), which will take place from Aug 2 to 9 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, alongside 70-plus countries from around the world. Full Qur'an memorisation contestant Fahad Saeed Saleh al-Quraisi will represent Qatar, who will be accompanied by Sheikh Nabil Ali Qanweil to oversee the revision process and ensure the contestant is pretty prepared. Head of the Scholarship Section at Awqaf's Department of Da'wah and Religious Guidance, Ibrahim Mohammed al-Darwish, will lead the Qatari delegation to this assembly. Head of Awqaf's Department of the Holy Qur'an and Its Sciences, Fahd Ahmed al-Muhammad, affirmed that this participation underscores Awqaf's commitment to maintaining an enduring presence in the international forums related to the Holy Qur'an, especially since this competition is one of the most deep-rooted religious competitions in the Islamic world. (QNA)

WWRC receives certification

From Page 1

Nasser al-Naimi, HMC's chief of Patient Experience and director of the Hamad Healthcare Quality Institute, emphasised the importance of this achievement by stating: "Receiving the Gold Certification from Planetree is a testament to our commitment to building strong partnerships between healthcare providers, patients, and families throughout the care journey. Person centred care is a fundamental pillar in delivering high-quality healthcare that meets the highest international standards." Michael Giuliano, president of Planetree International, stated: "Planetree Certification is the only accreditation that honours excellence in person-centredness across the entire continuum of care. The Women's Wellness and Research Center earning this recognition is proof of its deep commitment to patients and the broader community. The centre prioritises partnership with patients and families, while ensuring their comfort, dignity, empowerment, and well-being which are the foundation of world-class healthcare."



QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/FMD/7254/25 PROVISION OF LANDSCAPING & IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE AND SERVICES FOR COMPANY's FACILITIES	31/07/2025 to 05/08/2025	0	200,000	25/08/2025

Scope of Work:
The purpose of this Tender is to award Contract for Provision of Landscaping, Irrigation system maintenance and minor projects which includes, Inspections, Surveillance, Periodic Maintenance and Upkeeps tasks, Minor upgrades, Refurbishment, Replacement, Retrofit Modifications, new extended Landscape area development, receiving the new landscape areas from the Company future projects and Engineering support based on need to ascertain the healthiness of Landscape and irrigation system. The CONTRACTOR shall provide the services on a call-off basis. The services provided shall include the supply of required manpower, materials, tools, equipment and plant. The Tentative Contract award date is 01st of March 2026.

Bid Validity: Bid Offer should be valid for **180** calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:
ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) are advised to refer to the tender documentation and In-Country Value (ICV) Digital Portal: - <https://icv.qa/en-US/> for details of ICV compliance that may be applicable.



QFFD announces the following Public Tender:

SN	TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	TENDER FEE (USD)	TENDER BOND (USD)	CLOSING DATE
1	QFFD/PPF-O/PDS/0079/06-2025	EXTENSION OF NUR SULTAN MOSQUE AND NEW CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIFUNCTION BUILDING OF NUR SULTAN MOSQUE	\$ 1,500	\$ 180,000	14-September-2025

❖ Tender Document of the above Tender is available for collection via email from **date of Advertisement until Bid closing date**.

❖ Interested parties shall first deposit the appropriate Tender Fee (non-refundable) as mentioned above; payable to:

Bank Name: Al-Rayan Bank
Account Name: Qatar Fund for Development
Account Number: 0003-102031-202
IBAN: QA14MAFR000000000003102031202

(Company Name, Tender Name & Tender Number must be mentioned in the deposit slip)

❖ The Tender document will be issued upon receiving a copy of the Commercial Registration, Classification Certificate (if any) and proof of payment via email: overseas.tender@qatarfund.org.qa.

❖ Tender document submitted should be accompanied with a Tender Bond in accordance with the tender document shall be issued by a local Qatari Bank or by an international Bank confirmed and endorsed by any local Qatari Banks valid for 180 days from date of closing date.

❖ The Closing time will be no later than 12:00 noon, on the closing date mentioned above; any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.

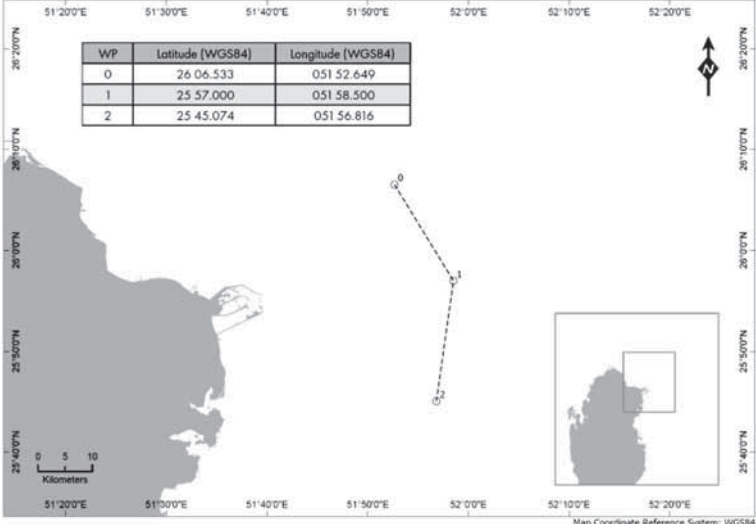
❖ Tender document to be submitted at:
SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE
Qatar Fund for Development
L9 Floor, Laffan Tower
P.O. Box 23366
Doha, Qatar



Qatar Shell Service Company W.L.L.
Public Announcement to Fishermen and Mariners Rig Move and Drilling Operations Qatar Waters.

In pursuant and under directives from the Ministry Of Transport, Seafarers and registration department, Doha, Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Fishermen and Mariners that Qatar Shell Service Company W.L.L intends to carry out a Rig Move of the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit, "Les Hat" in Qatari waters.

"Mobile Drilling Unit Les Hat" will be towed from Location 0 to Location 2. Towing will commence between **25th July and 10th August** inclusive. On completion of the Towing Operation, "Les Hat" will be stationary at Location 2 until a further announcement.



Map Coordinate Reference System: WGS84

Qatar Shell requests that vessels keep well clear of the Rig and its Towing Vessels while on Tow and Fishermen are requested to remove their equipment and keep away from the area.

Vessels ignoring this announcement will be responsible for all liabilities arising out of their actions (including any damage to equipment and delay time).

Qatar Shell Service Company assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of equipment following this advertisement.

For more details contact
Tel: 44957777, Fax: 44957778

Damaan Islamic Insurance Company

Q.P.S.C

بيما

Beema

شركة الضمان للتأمين الإسلامي

(شركة مساهمة عامة قطرية)

CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REVIEW REPORT

FOR THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REVIEW REPORT

To the Shareholders

Damaan Islamic Insurance Company “BEEMA” (Q.P.S.C.), Lusail – Qatar

Introduction

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed interim statement of financial position of Damaan Islamic Insurance Company “BEEMA” (Q.P.S.C.) (the “Company”) as at 30 June 2025 and the related condensed interim statements of policyholders’ revenues, expenses and other comprehensive income, policyholders’ surplus, shareholders’ income statement and other comprehensive income, changes in shareholders’ equity and cash flows for the six-month period then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of this interim financial information in accordance with the FAS 41 Interim Financial Reporting issued by the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (“AAOIFI”) (“FAS 41”). Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on this condensed interim financial information based on our review.

Scope of review

We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements 2410, “Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity”. A review of interim financial information consists of making inquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying condensed interim financial information is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the FAS 41, “Interim Financial Reporting”.

Doha – Qatar

30/7/ 2025

For Deloitte & Touche

Qatar Branch

Joseph Khalife

Partner, License No. 433

QFMA Audit Registration 120156

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2025

	Notes	30 June 2025 QR (Reviewed)	31 December 2024 QR (Audited) (Restated)	1 January 2024 QR (Audited) (Restated)
Policyholders’ assets				
Cash and bank balances	3	253,886,053	182,050,916	76,890,544
Investments at fair value through equity	4 (a)	494,021,745	452,306,628	427,481,383
Investments at fair value through income statement	4 (b)	6,281,034	6,254,312	11,475,535
Re-takaful arrangement assets	2.1/5	66,386,726	97,755,863	78,931,884
Takaful arrangement assets	2.1/5	503,550	315,637	1,004,936
Property and equipment		3,083,300	4,147,513	6,214,446
Other receivables	2.1	8,343,200	11,673,827	6,412,912
Total policyholders’ assets		832,505,608	754,504,696	608,411,640
Shareholders’ assets				
Cash and bank balances	3	43,610,216	61,638,159	50,685,709
Investments at fair value through equity	4 (a)	382,779,460	369,813,340	335,822,659
Investments at fair value through income statement	4 (b)	8,987,674	8,928,697	19,497,979
Prepayments and other receivables		4,478,472	6,309,666	4,885,837
Due from policyholders		120,325,351	87,576,000	51,591,014
Right-of-use assets		2,659,490	2,721,339	2,845,037
Property and equipment		109,883,712	111,987,297	114,979,955
Total shareholders’ assets		672,724,375	648,974,498	580,308,190
TOTAL ASSETS		1,505,229,983	1,403,479,194	1,188,719,830
Policyholders’ liabilities				
Takaful arrangement liabilities	2.1/5	474,311,055	437,189,209	353,404,518
Re-takaful arrangement liabilities	2.1/5	1,353,110	482,336	2,461,245
Other payables	2.1	21,556,765	24,451,474	13,655,301
Murabaha finance		-	-	1,006,116
Due to shareholders		120,325,351	87,576,000	51,591,014
Distributable surplus payable		69,231,250	63,033,707	61,115,196
Total policyholders’ liabilities		686,777,531	612,732,726	483,233,390
Policyholders’ surplus				
Fair value reserve		(8,535,442)	(13,847,169)	(19,934,682)
Equalization reserve		90,000,000	90,000,000	90,000,000
Retained surplus	2.1	64,263,519	65,619,139	55,112,932
Total policyholders’ surplus		145,728,077	141,771,970	125,178,250
Total policyholders’ liabilities and surplus		832,505,608	754,504,696	608,411,640
Shareholders’ liabilities				
Provisions and other payables		83,993,882	77,642,367	61,897,092
Due to related parties	6 (b)	6,093,342	5,998,418	6,174,565
Net Ijarah liability		2,864,600	2,932,037	2,973,442
Employees’ end of service benefits		5,398,677	4,808,023	4,291,220
Total shareholders’ liabilities		98,350,501	91,380,845	75,336,319
Shareholders’ equity				
Share capital		200,000,000	200,000,000	200,000,000
Legal reserve		200,000,000	200,000,000	200,000,000
Fair value reserve		(1,628,484)	(5,448,602)	(11,557,398)
Retained earnings		176,002,358	163,042,255	116,529,269
Total shareholders’ equity		574,373,874	557,593,653	504,971,871
Total shareholders’ liabilities and equity		672,724,375	648,974,498	580,308,190
TOTAL LIABILITIES, POLICYHOLDERS’ SURPLUS AND SHAREHOLDERS’ EQUITY		1,505,229,983	1,403,479,194	1,188,719,830
Sheikh. Jassim Bin Hamad Bin Jassim J. Al Thani Chairman		Nasser Rashid Al Misnad Chief Executive Officer		

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF POLICYHOLDERS' REVENUES, EXPENSES AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	For the three-month period ended 30 June 2025 QR (Reviewed)		For the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 QR (Reviewed)	
Recognised takaful contributions	2.1/7	141,144,030	111,644,487	256,500,745	200,303,186
Recognised takaful costs	2.1/7	(98,708,685)	(73,671,950)	(187,165,807)	(142,110,231)
Re-takaful net results	2.1/7	(27,086,431)	(34,733,195)	(48,981,016)	(53,479,590)
Takaful gross margin	7	15,348,914	3,239,342	20,353,922	4,713,365
Amortisation of deferred cost (related to provision of takaful arrangements)	2.1/7	(8,420,752)	(6,743,984)	(14,881,493)	(11,866,628)
Amortisation of deferred income (related to retakaful arrangements held)	2.1/7	1,451,454	1,614,569	3,248,021	3,214,574
Net amortisation of deferred cost		(6,969,298)	(5,129,415)	(11,633,472)	(8,652,054)
Net takaful result	7	8,379,616	(1,890,073)	8,720,450	(3,938,689)
Depreciation of property and equipment		(572,559)	(557,228)	(1,064,213)	(1,041,773)
Fair value (loss)/gain on investment at fair value through income statement		(67,331)	34,235	26,722	109,751
Reversal for impairment of investment at fair value through equity	4	27,037	32,664	78,818	187,454
Investment income		7,684,940	5,770,610	14,719,560	9,393,226
Investment expenses		(393,414)	(365,464)	(781,228)	(728,215)
Mudarib share		(4,755,444)	(3,829,907)	(9,327,183)	(6,273,006)
Other income		12,915	(28)	1,945,096	2,099,720
Other expenses		(3,007,743)	(1,559,570)	(6,110,825)	(3,133,119)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	2.1	7,308,017	(2,364,761)	8,207,197	(3,324,651)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME Items that may be subsequently reclassified to statement of Policyholders’ revenue and expenses					
Net change in fair value of debt-type instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income		1,436,795	286,649	5,311,727	2,261,921
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD		8,744,812	(2,078,112)	13,518,924	(1,062,730)

CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF POLICYHOLDERS' SURPLUS

For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025

		Retained surplus QR	Fair value reserve QR	Equalization reserve QR	Total QR
Balance at 1 January 2024 (Audited)		79,424,085	(19,934,682)	90,000,000	149,489,403
Effect of FAS 43 adoption – Note 2.1		(24,311,153)	-	-	(24,311,153)
Balance at 1 January 2024 (Restated)		55,112,932	(19,934,682)	90,000,000	125,178,250
Net surplus for the year (as restated)		19,329,697	-	-	19,329,697
Net change in fair value of investment at fair value through equity		-	6,087,513	-	6,087,513
Total comprehensive income for the period		19,329,697	6,087,513	-	25,417,210
Surplus distribution to policyholders during the period		(8,823,490)	-	-	(8,823,490)
Balance at 31 December 2024 (Restated)		65,619,139	(13,847,169)	90,000,000	141,771,970
Balance at 1 January 2024 (Audited)		79,424,085	(19,934,682)	90,000,000	149,489,403
Effect of FAS 43 adoption – Note 2.1		(24,311,153)	-	-	(24,311,153)
Balance at 1 January 2024 (Restated)		55,112,932	(19,934,682)	90,000,000	125,178,250
Net deficit for the period (as restated)		(3,324,651)	-	-	(3,324,651)
Net change in fair value of investment at fair value through equity		-	2,261,921	-	2,261,921
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the period		(3,324,651)	2,261,921	-	(1,062,730)
Surplus distribution to policyholders during the period		(8,823,490)	-	-	(8,823,490)
Balance at 30 June 2024 (Restated)		42,964,791	(17,672,761)	90,000,000	115,292,030
Balance at 1 January 2025 (Restated)		65,619,139	(13,847,169)	90,000,000	141,771,970
Net surplus for the period		8,207,197	-	-	8,207,197
Net change in fair value of investment at fair value through equity		-	5,311,727	-	5,311,727
Total comprehensive income for the period		8,207,197	5,311,727	-	13,518,924
Surplus distribution to policyholders during the period		(9,562,817)	-	-	(9,562,817)
Balance at 30 June 2025 (Reviewed)		64,263,519	(8,535,442)	90,000,000	145,728,077

CONDENSED INTERIM SHAREHOLDERS' INCOME STATEMENT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six-month period ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	For the three-month period ended 30 June 2025 QR (Reviewed)		For the six-month period ended 30 June 2024 QR (Reviewed)	
Income		4,874,808	3,346,923	9,872,348	6,708,317
Income from shareholders’ investments		39,644,640	31,983,933	69,535,720	57,197,017
Wakala fee		4,755,444	3,829,907	9,327,183	6,273,006
Mudarib share		315,000	362,926	726,397	677,983
Other income		49,589,892	39,523,689	89,461,648	70,856,323
Total income		(11,184,968)	(8,673,830)	(21,540,529)	(19,389,014)
Staff cost		(1,748,593)	(1,733,937)	(3,282,077)	(3,122,031)
Depreciation of property and equipment		(73,728)	64,210	58,977	169,033
Fair value (loss)/gain on investment at fair value through income statement		11,018	180	63,1	



Jumbo Electronics launches Nothing Phone (3)

Jumbo Electronics, the exclusive distributor of Nothing in Qatar, has launched Nothing Phone (3), marking the arrival of the London-based technology company's first true flagship smartphone and design-forward smartphone to date. Known for its distinctive transparent hardware and minimalist software philosophy, Nothing continues to disrupt the smartphone market with a device that combines cutting-edge performance with striking aesthetics. The Phone (3) reinforces the brand's commitment to offering innovation that's both functional and bold.

Rishi Kishor Gupta, regional director of Nothing Middle East and Africa, shared: "We wanted to bring something different

to Qatar — devices that don't just look good but feel personal and exciting to use. The Nothing Phone (3) and Headphone (1) reflect who we are as a brand: bold, innovative, and playful. We're proud to offer technology that breaks away from the ordinary and invites people to express themselves in new ways."

Nothing Phone (3) builds on Nothing's iconic design language with a refined tri-column layout inspired by modern architecture. Its ergonomic R-angle shape improves comfort, while uniform 1.87mm bezels frame a 6.67" AMOLED display for an immersive edge-to-edge experience. Designed for creators, Nothing Phone (3)'s pro-grade camera system includes a



class-leading 1/1.3" main sensor, lossless optical zoom, and full optical image stabilisation. Built on Android 15, Nothing OS 3.5 offers a fast, fluid experience rooted in utility and intentional design. Features like Essential Search (a universal smart searchbar), Flip to Record (for instant transcription of conversations), and Essential Space (an AI-powered hub for notes and ideas) bring simplicity and focus to everyday interactions. Nothing guarantees five years of major Android updates and seven years of security updates, ensuring longevity. C V Rappai - Director & CEO of Jumbo Electronics - Qatar, said: "We're proud to bring Nothing's bold innovation to Qatar.

The Phone (3) is unlike anything else in the market — designed to stand out and perform. As exclusive distributors, we're excited to offer our customers a flagship that truly redefines what a smartphone can be"

Nothing Phone (3): Available in black and white in two variants: 12GB + 256GB - QR2999 and 16GB + 512GB - QR3299. As a limited-time launch offer, the 16GB+ 512GB variant is available for just QR2,999 — the same price as the 12GB + 256GB model. Nothing Phone (3) is available in all Jumbo stores, Jumbosouq.com/js.qa, Lulu Hypermarket, Jarir Bookstore, Al Anees stores, Aalaneesqatar.qa and all other major hypermarkets & Electronics stores across Qatar.

Back-to-School theme at Qatar Toy Festival 2025

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The Qatar Toy Festival 2025 unveiled a vibrant new back-to-school programme yesterday, aiming to ease the transition into the academic year with a week of engaging, themed learning experiences.

Running until August 4 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre, the festival's final week promises an exciting blend of entertainment and educational opportunities for children and parents.

The theme features a lineup of stage shows, school promotions, and prize-filled competitions designed to ignite a passion for learning before the school bells ring.

PUBG mobile game offers attendees the thrilling chance to win a Jetour vehicle, adding a significant dose of adrenaline to the festivities.

Dedicated kiosks placed throughout the venue allow retailers to showcase carefully curated back-to-school product ranges, providing families with a convenient one-stop shop for essential school supplies and accessories.

The festival continuously draws a significant influx of families and children not only from Qatar but also from neighbouring GCC countries.

"A huge number of families and children... have been enjoying the offerings," one of the festival's staff members told the *Gulf Times*, adding that the event, since its commencement on July 6, has seen a keen interest from children who are actively participating in playing, as well as engaging with educational stage shows and various art workshops.

She expressed optimism for the festival's concluding week, anticipating an even greater turnout due to its diverse, engaging, and fun-filled activations and offerings.

The positive sentiment was echoed by attendees such as Jennifer from Scotland, who recently relocated to Doha just four days prior, saying: "It's been very good, the kids (a son and a daughter) are loving it and it is huge and there's loads and loads for them to do.

"I've never seen anything like this to be honest, there's a lot more detail, attention to detail and yeah it is good here," she said.



Jennifer with her son at the Qatar Toy Festival. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



Back-to-School themed shows at the festival.

Qatar Airways unveils winter schedule, enhanced flights to over 15 destinations

Qatar Airways yesterday unveiled its winter schedule, which will see increased flights to over 15 global destinations.

The airline is facilitating demand for its services for travellers from all around the globe and continues to offer greater choice and connectivity through its Doha hub, Hamad International Airport.

The national carrier has announced its landmark frequency to London. Qatar Airways marks up to 10 daily flights to London as its highest-ever frequency, which is complemented by British Airways' double daily flights.

"Qatar Airways is consistently witnessing a steady rise in demand for our 5-star services to some of the most prominent destinations in the world, most notably for London, Dublin, Cape Town, and Sao Paulo," said Qatar Airways chief commercial officer, Thierry Antinori.

This winter, in partnership with Qatar Airways, Virgin Australia



will launch flights from Melbourne to Doha, increasing capacity to three daily flights between the two cities, according to him.

Qatar Airways will also restart services to Canberra, reinforcing its commitment to enhance connectivity between Australia and the world, he added.

Passengers will have greater choice when travelling with Qatar Airways this winter as it is increasing the daily flights to Abu Dhabi from five to up to six.

In the case of Berlin, the frequency will be increased from 18 weekly flights to up to 21; Cape Town (10 weekly to up to 12), Casablanca (from four to five), Dublin (14 weekly to 17), Frankfurt (18 to up to 21), Johannesburg (14 to 18),

London Heathrow (eight to up to 10) and Madrid (14 to 17).

In the case of Maldives, the frequency will be enhanced from three daily flights to up to four, Manchester (21 to up to 24), Phuket (three to up to four), Sao Paulo (14 to 18), Sharjah (three to up to seven), Tokyo Narita (11 to up to 14) and Toronto (five to seven).

The airline's global connectivity is supported by its diverse fleet of young aircraft that includes 54 Boeing 777s equipped with ultra-high-speed Starlink on-board Wi-Fi that is free for all passengers.

Qatar Airways is the first airline in the world to fully equip and operate over 50 widebody aircraft with Starlink, and the only carrier in the Mena region offering the service.

The airline is now equipping its Airbus A350 fleet, aiming to complete Starlink installation within the next year.

Passengers in both premium and economy cabins enjoy free, gate-to-gate Wi-Fi speeds of up to 500Mbps per aircraft.

Qatar Insurance Group concludes '2025 Summer Internship Programme'

Qatar Insurance Group concluded its '2025 Summer Internship Programme' with a celebratory closing ceremony yesterday.

The programme ran from June-July and welcomed a select group of high-achieving high school students from across Qatar, chosen for their academic excellence and interest in exploring future careers in the insurance and financial services sectors.

Designed to offer students meaningful insight into the professional world, the structured internship provided participants with hands-on experience in a real business environment.

Under the guidance of QIC's seasoned professionals, interns were mentored throughout their learning journey, with support continuing even after the programme's conclusion.

Throughout the summer, the interns participated in a wide range of activities across the insurance value chain, including underwriting, claims management, customer experience, and risk analysis.

They also gained exposure to the group's supporting departments, such as information technology, human resources, and legal affairs.

In addition to on-the-job training, the students participated in interactive workshops and collaborative group projects, allowing them to apply newly acquired skills in realistic business scenarios.



Throughout the summer, the interns participated in a wide range of activities across the insurance value chain, including underwriting, claims management, customer experience, and risk analysis.

The programme's core objective was to spark student interest in the insurance industry while cultivating essential soft skills such as teamwork, effective communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Rashid al-Buainain, chief administrative officer at QIC Group, praised the interns for their dedication and enthusiasm: "Our summer internship programme is a key pillar of QIC's commitment to empowering young talent and preparing the future workforce.

"Each year, we are inspired by the curiosity, drive, and fresh ideas these students bring. It's a privilege to create an environment where they can learn, grow, and envision their future careers. As a national institution, we see investing in youth as a direct in-

vestment in Qatar's future, and we remain steadfast in that mission."

Salem Ahmad al-Mansoori, one of the interns, said: "I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to intern at QIC this summer. It was my first exposure to a real work environment, and I got to see how things operate behind the scenes. Everyone was incredibly supportive, and I gained valuable knowledge about the insurance industry and its importance."

Ahmed Mohamed Mahmood added: "This experience gave me a clearer picture of how companies function and how teams work together across departments. I've also learned the value of strong communication and organisational skills. I now feel more confident and prepared for my future studies and career."

MoI cautions not to respond to messages, links sans verification

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has urged the public not to respond to messages or open links without first verifying their source to protect themselves from cybercrime.

"To be safe from the risks of cybercrimes, we advise not opening the links and not responding to messages from unknown choices. Follow essential security measures," MoI said in an advisory on X.

MoI has asked the public to be cautious and not fall victim to phishing attacks that use e-mails or messaging services to trick or fool them into clicking on a link or opening an attachment that contains malicious files.

Phishing is a form of fraud used to obtain sensitive information where scammers disguise themselves as a reputable entity or person through e-mail or other communication channels. They often directs users to enter personal information on a fake website, the look and feel of which are identical to a legitimate site.

Phishing mostly steals banking information and data related to e-shopping accounts and social media accounts. By falling victim to such an attack, the users risk having their highly sensitive information



stolen and/or their computers infected. Scammers make their e-mail appear as if it has come from someone or something you know, such as a friend or a trusted company you frequently use.

MoI said the public can alert the authorities by a direct visit or through Metrash 2 if such suspected fraudulent activities are noted. They can contact on 2347444 or hotline 66815757, as well as by e-mailing to cccc@moi.gov.qa

The ministry also urged the public not to share personal data online while stressing the importance of data privacy.

"Your name, date of birth and address are information linked specifically to you. Your ID, passport and driver's licence are also considered sensitive personal information. Your account information such as e-mail addresses and passwords forms your digital identity. Your credit card information gives access to your money," the ministry said earlier in an advisory.

"Avoid responding to messages from unknown sources. Verify the identities of your friends on social media and only interact with people you know. Ensure age restrictions and content controls are enabled for young users," MoI said in its advisory against phishing and financial fraud.

MoPH trains 250 health and safety officers on heat stress prevention

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has concluded a training workshop on heat stress during the summer season, attended by approximately 250 occupational health and safety officers from companies operating in Qatar. The workshop forms part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to raise awareness of occupational health and safety in workplace environments. The workshop complements the field awareness campaigns carried out by the Ministry of Public Health in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour. These campaigns include the



production of educational materials in multiple languages to ensure they reach the widest possible segment of the workforce. Through the organisation of workshops and awareness campaigns, the Ministry of Public

Health seeks to implement the Workplace Wellness Support and Follow-up Project, one of the projects under the "Occupational Health and Safety" initiative within the National Health Strategy 2024-2030. The aim is to create workplaces free

from occupational diseases and injuries. The two-day workshop aimed to raise awareness among occupational health and safety officers in companies about the importance of taking necessary preventive measures to avoid

heat stress injuries, and to enable them to pass this knowledge on to workers within their companies. The workshop covered several important topics, including definitions and types of heat stress, methods of prevention,

first aid to be administered at work sites, the impact of sunlight on the eyes, and laws related to working in open spaces during the summer.

Dr Salah Abdulla Alyafei, director of the Health Promotion Department at MoPH, stated: "Heat stress remains one of the most significant risks to workers' health and safety. Rising temperatures and humidity during the summer pose an increasing challenge. Given the diversity of the workforce, many workers may be unaware of the dangers or unfamiliar with proper protective measures."

Al-Khulaifi meets International Fellowship Programme members



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi met yesterday with members of the International Fellowship Programme at Qatar Leadership Centre's Young Leaders Programme. During the meeting, HE Dr al-Khulaifi outlined the key features of the State's foreign policy, highlighting its recent achievements in international mediation. He also encouraged the members of the programme to benefit from the experience of working at the UN, which will significantly enrich their practical expertise. He wished them all the best and continued success. **(QNA)**

Local fruits, date delights offer sweet treat for visitors at Souq Waqif

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

Date products and locally grown fruits are drawing crowds while sweetening their tastes in the ongoing Local Dates Festival at Souq Waqif. Spread across a tent, over half a dozen stalls sell a diverse range of date products and sweets, to grab the attention of visitors at the 10th edition of the festival.

Among the highlights is the date ice cream that is delighting many visitors. The date ice cream at Gelati Dino stall comes in different flavours and all of them have been well accepted by the visitors. "We get an overwhelming response from the visitors. We sell date ice creams of pistachio, mango, chocolate, vanilla, cinnamon and saffron flavours," said Rana Hussnain. At the stall, date ice creams, mixed with kunafa and cheese cake, also enthrall the buyers.

Date juice at the stall has turned out to be the favourite of several visitors. The juice is prepared with milk without adding sugar.

Cake Al Taybeen, which has been a participant for five years at the festival, sells cakes, rangina, cheese cake, mabrousheh, cookies, pickles, jam and basbousa to delight the visitors. The prices of the sweets start at QR10 for one box.

The stalls also sell date syrup, which is amongst the most sought after items at the festival. Also, locally grown figs and papaya are available at the festival at moderate prices. The price for one box of farm fresh figs starts at QR15 while the price for papaya starts at QR8.

Meanwhile, the festival is evok-



PICTURES: Thajudheen

ing a good response from the visitors. The festival that started on July 24 has so far recorded sale of more than 79 tonnes of dates with the participation of 114 local date farms. Figures, released by the Ministry of Municipality on X, said it received a total of 36,000 visitors.

Held under the auspices of the Ministry of Municipality and Souq Waqif Management, the festival features date farms from across Qatar and offers a variety of local dates. Running until August 7, the festival is open from 4pm to 9pm, except on Fridays and Saturdays when it remains open until 10pm.

Local Dates Festival sees record sales in first week

The 10th Local Dates Festival, organised by the Ministry of Municipality Agricultural Affairs Department and Souq Waqif Management, saw record sales and public turnout during its first week. Since its launch on Thursday (July 24) until Tuesday (July 29), total sale of dates amounted to 79,421kgs, distributed as follows: Ikhlis: 33,181kgs, Shishi: 17,139kgs, Khenizi: 16,645kgs, Barhi: 7,036kgs, with sales of other varieties at 5,420kgs. Besides, fruit sales during the same period totalled 978kgs. This edition of the festival features participation from 114 local farms. The festival also witnessed a remarkable public turnout, with around 36,300 footfalls recorded from its opening until the sixth day. The Local Dates Festival will continue until August 7, taking place daily from 4pm to 9pm (Sunday to Thursday), and until 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays, at the eastern square of Souq Waqif.



Culture ministry organises personal protection workshop

The Ministry of Culture organised yesterday an awareness workshop titled "How to Protect Myself."

The workshop, held in collaboration with the Al Khor Cultural Centre and the Protection and Social Rehabilitation Centre (Aman), took place at the Al Khor Residents Council.

The workshop aimed to raise community awareness of personal protection and prevention of various forms of violence and abuse, and introduced the services provided by the Aman Centre in the field of protection, psychological and social support. The workshop targeted families,



parents and young people, as part of the Ministry of Culture's efforts to promote a culture of community safety. It also aims to instil the concepts of protection and self-empowerment through educational and awareness programmes that contribute to building a society aware of its rights and responsibilities.

Closure on Al Amir Street service road



The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a temporary full traffic closure on Al Amir Street service road, for those heading towards Nasser bin Salimeen Al Suwaidi Interchange from 2am on Aug 1 until 5am on Aug 3. The closure that will be implemented in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic has been announced to carry out road maintenance work. During the closure, the traffic will be diverted from Al Amir Service Road to Al Mirqab Al Jadeed street as indicated. Ashghal has urged road users to reroute to nearby streets to reach their destinations. Ashghal will install road signs advising motorists of the temporary closure and has requested all to abide by the speed limit to ensure safety.

Graduation ceremony held for Qatari students in UK, Ireland

Qatar's cultural attache in London organised a graduation ceremony for 156 Qatari Students studying in the United Kingdom and Ireland for the 2024/2025 academic year.

The event, which was attended by a large number of outstanding students and their parents, was organised as part of the cultural attache's commitment to supporting scholarship students and strengthening academic and cultural relations between Qatar and leading higher education institutions.

The ceremony was attended by a number of representatives of

the diplomatic corps at the Qatari embassy in London, along with cultural attaches from the GCC countries.

Speaking at the ceremony, Cultural Attache Fahad al-Kuwari affirmed his commitment to providing the Qatari students with continuous support throughout their academic journey.

Director of the Scholarships Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Noora Mohammed al-Ansari delivered a speech congratulating the graduates and their families, appreciating their efforts and determination to excel throughout



their years of scholarship.

The ceremony also honoured representatives of British and Irish universities in recognition of their pivotal role in supporting scholarship students and their fruitful co-operation with

the cultural attache.

The ceremony also included a photography exhibition, during which graduating students presented works that embodied their educational and cultural experiences during their studies abroad.

'World Day Against Trafficking in Persons' observed in Qatar



Qatar yesterday observed the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2025.

The event, themed "Human Trafficking is Organised Crime – End the Exploitation", was organised by the Ministry of Labour and the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, with wide participation from government, security, and judicial bodies, international organisations, diplomatic missions, and civil society.

The commemoration reflects Qatar's ongoing commitment, through the Ministry of Labour, to combat human trafficking in accordance with Islamic values that uphold human dignity, as well as its obligations under international law and support for global anti-trafficking efforts.

Qatar has established a comprehensive legal and institutional framework that supports prevention, protection, and prosecution, aligned with the UN Global Plan of Action. The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, established by Cabinet Decision No 15 of 2017, co-ordinates efforts across local and international partners, runs specialised training programmes for enforcement officers, and works to raise awareness of the crime's patterns and response methods.

Assistant Undersecretary for Migrant Labour Affairs Hamad Faraj Dalmouk opened the event by highlighting Qatar's integrated and progressive approach to combating human trafficking, notably the launch of the 2024-2026 National Plan. The plan focuses on four pillars: prevention, protection, prosecution, and co-operation, both national and international, led by the National Committee to ensure an effective and sustainable response.

He outlined legislative, institutional, and procedural reforms taken as part of Qatar's broader labour market transformation. Internationally, Qatar continues to strengthen co-operation with labour-sending countries via agree-



ments and MoUs, joint worker protection committees, and recruitment oversight. He noted Qatar's recent agreement with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to establish an international centre for training and research in combating human trafficking.

He affirmed that the Ministry of Labour places top priority on addressing human trafficking and forced labour, in alignment with Qatar's Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030). With Qatar a major destination for migrant workers, the ministry has adopted a range of proactive measures to prevent exploitation and uphold a fair and lawful working environment.

Among these efforts is ensuring that migrant workers arrive in Qatar without incurring exploitative recruitment debts, an essential step in eliminating forms of forced labour and empowering workers to perform with dignity. Qatar has also enacted a comprehensive set of laws and safeguards to protect workers' rights before and after arrival.

Head of the ILO Office in Qatar Max Tunon emphasised the day's global significance as a reminder of the international community's responsibility to combat exploitation and forced labour. He noted that around 50mn people worldwide continue to suffer under such conditions, calling it a gross violation of human rights and decent work standards. He reaffirmed the ILO's commitment to partnering with governments and private stakeholders to address root causes, support victims, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Tunon praised Qatar's progress, including legal reforms to the sponsorship system, enhanced complaint mechanisms, and expanded services for victim support. He described the 2024-2026 National Plan as "a comprehensive document grounded in local realities and a deep understanding of the structural risks facing

some workers." He stressed the importance of a victim-centred approach that respects victims' choices and rights while maintaining strong accountability.

He also noted that trafficking prevention is a shared responsibility requiring sustained, co-ordinated action. Qatar's experience, he added, illustrates what can be achieved through political will, institutional collaboration, and openness to international partnerships. As the new national plan is implemented, the ILO reaffirmed its full support for Qatar's human rights-based approach and its efforts to create a safe and fair working environment for all.

In turn, Acting Chief of the IOM Mission in Qatar Roula Hamati praised the Ministry of Labour for its firm commitment to combating trafficking, particularly among vulnerable worker groups. She acknowledged the challenge of properly identifying victims, who are sometimes misclassified as offenders, and highlighted Qatar's advanced policy approach focused on dignity and protection.

Hamati commended Qatar's model of unified action between government entities, international organisations, embassies, civil society, and the private sector, calling it unique in the region. She confirmed IOM's continued support for this collaborative approach and praised the tangible achievements in labour market reform and worker protection mechanisms, viewing them as a strong basis for further regional and international cooperation. During the event, several entities were honoured for their contributions to Qatar's national anti-trafficking efforts, including the Supreme Judiciary Council, Ministry of Interior, Public Prosecution, Ministries of Justice and Public Health, Qatar News Agency, Aman Centre, and the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund, in recognition of their efforts to raise awareness and promote worker protection. **(QNA)**

MCIT wraps up 11th edition of Creative Ideas Camp

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), represented by the Digital Incubation Centre, concluded the 11th edition of the Creative Ideas Camp programme, which aims to support entrepreneurs in developing scalable technology startups.

This edition featured extensive participation from local and international startups, aiming to empower entrepreneurs in their early stages by providing them with the tools to transform their ideas into a fundable and implementable business model. This edition marked the culmination of a series of successes, both in terms of the wide turnout, the quality of the projects incubated, and the program's positive impact in supporting digital innovation and strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem. The 11th edition received 374 applications, of which 79 startup



projects were approved. These projects included 44 promising ideas from outside Qatar. Participants underwent eight intensive training workshops, in addition to more than 78 hours of individual mentorship by a select group of experts. This enabled them to develop their business models, test the feasibility of their ideas, and prepare to present them to investors. In this context, Director of the Digital Innovation Department at the Ministry of Information and

Communications Technology Eman al-Kuwari emphasised the importance of the Creative Ideas Camp programme in empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs. The accepted projects varied across various fields, such as educational technology, human resources technology, and health technology, with a focus on advanced and transformative technologies, primarily artificial intelligence. Following a final round of judging, 15 startups

were selected to join the Digital Business Incubator's programme, divided into two main tracks: the Growth Track and the Idea Track. These companies will begin a two-year incubation journey, during which they will benefit from free workspaces, specialised training, direct mentorship, and networking opportunities with partners and investors within Qatar's digital innovation ecosystem. At a closing ceremony, the programme awarded financial grants totalling QR550,000 to five outstanding startups in both tracks. In the Growth Track, Cloudlic, the first-place winner, received a grant of QR150,000, while JerboLab, the second-place winner, received QR100,000. In the Idea Track, Nashati, the first-place winner, received a grant of QR150,000, while Bionic_Soul, the second-place winner, received QR100,000, and ElafMart, the third-place winner, received a grant of QR50,000. **(QNA)**



Palestinians in West Bank village face new crisis as settlers cut off water

Reuters
Susiya, West Bank

Palestinians in the village of Susiya in the Israeli-occupied West Bank thought life could not get worse as Jewish settlers were attacking them repeatedly and ripping apart their precious olive groves.

Then settlers armed with knives set upon their water sources, villagers said.

“They want us to live without water, and here they also cut the electrical wires,” said Mousa Mughnem, 67, who lives with his

60-year-old wife Najah in the village near the town of Hebron.

Palestinians in the West Bank have reported growing Israeli settler violence since war erupted between Israel and Palestinian Hamas group in Gaza in October 2023.

Palestinian authorities who exercise limited self-rule in parts of the West Bank say the settlers are trying to force Palestinians off their lands in order to seize them.

Emboldened by some far-right Israeli government ministers who seek to annex the West Bank, settlers have assaulted Palestinian farmers, cut down trees and set

fire to precious olive groves.

Jihad al-Nawajaa, the head of the Susiya village council, said the water shortages have become unbearable.

“If we do not have water here, we will not survive. They make us thirsty in order to expel us, and their aim is to expel people,” he said.

Residents of Susiya accuse Israeli settlers of severing water pipes and electricity wires, chopping down their olive trees and preventing them from herding their sheep.

In response to a Reuters request for a comment on settler attacks

in Susiya, the Israeli military said soldiers have been dispatched to deal with any troubles and have removed Israeli citizens involved.

“As for the most recent incident that occurred on Monday (July 28), same protocol was used, and no injuries were reported,” the army said.

OLIVE TREES PART OF PALESTINIAN IDENTITY
Palestinians have cultivated olive trees for generations and regard them as an enduring symbol of their national identity.

Some villagers, like Najah Mughnem, are defiant and say

they will remain attached to their land and their olives no matter what the settlers do.

“Even if they burn down or cut down the trees or inflict damage, we will not leave,” she said.

B’Tselem, an Israeli human rights organisation, has reported around 54 settler attacks on the village since October 2023, when Hamas-led fighters stormed Israel from Gaza.

Israel’s military response has killed more than 60,000 people in Gaza, according to the enclave’s health authorities.

“We are afraid... We spend the days and nights nervous, we

hardly sleep,” said Fawziyeh al-Nawajaa, 58, a Susiya villager.

Susiya residents have faced threats of demolition for decades. Palestinians there were so attached to their lands that they once lived in caves until they were expelled in 1986 after an archaeological site was discovered.

The caves were later destroyed and they now live in tents and prefabricated buildings. The village is spread across several rocky hillsides between a Jewish settlement to the south and a Jewish archaeological site to the north – land Israel has occupied since the 1967 Middle East war.

Child’s arm is as wide as mother’s thumb in Gaza malnutrition ward

Reuters
Khan Younis

On the pink walls of Nasser hospital’s child malnutrition ward, cartoon drawings show children running, smiling, and playing with flowers and balloons.

Beneath the pictures, a handful of Gazan mothers watch over their babies who lie still and largely silent, mostly too exhausted by severe hunger to cry.

The quiet is common in places treating the most acutely malnourished, doctors told Reuters, a sign of bodies shutting down.

“She is always lethargic, lying down, like this... you do not find her responsive,” said Zeina Radwan, mother of 10-month-old Maria Suhaib Radwan. She has not been able to find milk or enough food for her baby, and cannot breastfeed as she herself is underfed, surviving on one meal a day.

“My children and I cannot live without nutrition.”

Over the last week, Reuters journalists spent five days in Nasser Medical Complex, one of only four centres left in Gaza able to treat the most dangerously hungry children. While Reuters was there, 53 cases of acutely malnourished children were admitted, according to the head of the ward.

Gaza’s food stocks have been running out since Israel, at war with Palestinian Hamas group since October 2023, cut off all supplies to the territory in March.

That blockade was lifted in May but with restrictions that Israel says are needed to prevent aid being diverted to fighter groups.

In response to a request for comment, Cogat, the Israeli military aid co-ordination agency, said Israel does not restrict aid trucks entering Gaza, but that international organisations face challenges collecting aid inside Gaza.

As food stocks ran out, the situation escalated in June and July, with the World Health Organisation warning of mass starvation and images of emaciated children shocking the world. The Gaza Health Ministry says 154 people, including 89 children, have died of malnutrition, most in recent weeks. A global hunger monitor said on Tuesday that a famine scenario is unfolding.

Israel says it has no aim to starve Gaza. This week it announced steps to allow more aid in, including pausing fighting in some locations, air dropping food and offering more secure routes.

The United Nations said the scale of what is needed is vast in order to stave off famine and avert a health crisis.

“We need milk for babies. We need medical supplies. We need some food, special food for nutritional department,” said Dr Ahmed al-Farra, head of the paediatric and maternity department in Nasser Medical Complex. “We need everything for the hospitals.”

Israeli officials say many of those who died while malnourished in Gaza were suffering from pre-existing illnesses. Famine experts say this is typical in the early stages of a hunger crisis.

“Children with underlying conditions are more vulnerable. They get affected earlier,”



A nurse examines a malnourished child, according to medics, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip.



Dr Ahmed al-Farra, head of the paediatric and maternity department, checks on patients inside the intensive care unit at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip.

said Marko Kerac, clinical associate professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who helped draw up the WHO’s treatment guidelines for severe acute malnutrition.

Farra said his hospital was now dealing with malnourished children with no previous health problems, like baby Wateen Abu Amounah, born healthy nearly three months ago and now weighing 100 grams less than she weighed at birth.

“During the past three months she did not gain one gram. On the contrary the child’s weight decreased,” the doctor said.

“There is total loss of muscles. It’s only skin on top of bones, which is an indication that the child has entered a severe malnutrition phase,” said Farra.

“Even the face of the child: she has lost fat tissues from her cheeks.”

The baby’s mother, Yasmin Abu Sultan, gestures at the child’s limbs, her arms about as wide as her mother’s thumb.

“Can you see? These are her legs... Look at her arms,” she said.

SUPPLIES RUNNING OUT, FEW SPACES IN HOSPITAL

The youngest babies in particular need special therapeutic formulas made with clean

water, and supplies are running low, Farra and the WHO told Reuters.

“All the key supplies for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition, including medical complications, are really running out,” said Marina Adrianopoli, WHO nutrition lead for the Gaza response. “It’s really a critical situation.”

The treatment centres are also operating beyond capacity, she said. In the first two weeks of July, more than 5,000 children under five received outpatient treatment for malnutrition, with 18% suffering from the severest form. That was a surge from 6,500 in the whole of June, already the highest of the war and almost certainly an underestimate, said the WHO.

Baby Wateen’s mother said she tried to get the girl admitted last month, but the centre was full. After ten days with no milk available and barely a meal a day for the rest of the family, she returned last week because her daughter’s condition was deteriorating.

Like several of the infants at Nasser, Wateen also has a recurring fever and diarrhoea, illnesses that malnourished children are more vulnerable to and which make their condition more dangerous.

“If she stays like this, I’m going to lose her,” her mother said.

Wateen remains in hospital getting treatment, where her mother encourages her to take tiny sips from a bottle of formula milk. A side-effect of severe malnutrition is, counter-intuitively, loss of appetite, doctors told Reuters. Yasmin herself lives on the one meal a day provided by the hospital.

Some of the other babies Reuters met, like 10-month-old Maria, were discharged over the weekend after gaining weight, and given formula milk to take home with them.

But others, like five-month-old Zainab Abu Haleeb, did not make it. Vulnerable to infection because of her severely malnourished state, she died on Saturday of sepsis. Her parents carried her tiny body out of the hospital for burial, wrapped in a white shroud.

Hezbollah chief rejects disarmament as pressure on Lebanon grows

Reuters
Beirut

Lebanon’s Hezbollah leader Sheikh Naim Qassem said yesterday that calls for the group’s disarmament served only Israel, as the United States ramps up pressure for steps to remove its arsenal.

“Those who call for submitting arms practically demand submitting them to Israel ... We will not submit to Israel,” Qassem said in a televised address.

Hezbollah emerged badly damaged from a war with Israel last year that eliminated most of the group’s leadership, killed thousands of its fighters and left tens of thousands of its supporters displaced from their destroyed homes.

The US is now pushing Lebanon to issue a formal cabinet decision committing to disarm Hezbollah before talks can resume on a halt to Israeli military operations in the country, five sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Hezbollah has publicly refused

to hand over its arsenal in full, but has privately weighed scaling it back.

“Those who call for disarmament on a domestic, global or Arab level serve the Israeli project,” Qassem said.

He also said the US was demanding a removal of Hezbollah’s missiles and drones because they “scare” Israel, accusing US special envoy Thomas Barrack of calling for disarmament for the sake of Israel and not Lebanon’s own security.

“Israel will not be able to defeat us and it will not be able to take Lebanon hostage,” he added.

In early July, Barrack met Lebanese officials in Beirut to discuss the disarmament proposal. It would see Hezbollah fully disarmed within four months in exchange for the withdrawal of Israeli troops occupying several posts in south Lebanon and a halt to Israeli air strikes.

Hezbollah has been under pressure in recent months both within Lebanon and from Washington to completely relinquish its weaponry.

Transport strike in Tunisia adds to pressure on president

Reuters
Tunis

A strike halted transport services across Tunisia yesterday, as workers demanded higher wages, improved working conditions and urgent reforms, adding to pressure on President Kais Saied to deal with a deepening economic crisis.

Tunisians have for years endured poor public services, especially in the health, transportation, and education sectors, due to weak funding and public investment, along with frequent interruptions in drinking water and

electricity supply. Saied, who has tightened his grip on power since 2021, blames what he calls conspirators seeking to undermine the state and fuel social tensions. The UGTT union’s three-day strike disrupted daily life in both major cities and rural areas. Metro stations in Tunis were deserted and buses at a standstill forcing commuters to use private cars, taxis and unlicensed motorcycle taxis.

“We are suffering. There is no transportation, no jobs for us, and everything is getting more expensive and worse,” said a young man named Ayman Amiri, in the capital, as he waited in vain at a bus stop.

Clashes between Uganda, South Sudan forces ‘killed six’

AFP
Juba

Clashes between South Sudanese and Ugandan forces near the countries’ shared border this week killed at least six security force members, mostly from South Sudan, officials said yesterday.

Uganda has a history of involvement in impoverished South Sudan and has long provided military support to President Salva Kiir, including a deployment

of special forces since March. It was not clear what triggered the clashes on Monday between the Ugandan People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) and government troops in Central Equatoria State that were confirmed by the army, the South Sudanese People’s Defence Force (SSPDF).

Police in Kajo Keji county, where the clashes took place, said “two SSPDF officers, two prison officers and a police officer” were killed, according to a statement from local authorities yesterday.

Nurses in Nigerian capital strike over wages

AFP
Abuja

Nurses in the Nigerian capital Abuja walked out of hospitals yesterday in a strike over wages and working conditions, their union said.

The strike is the latest upheaval facing the capital’s healthcare system and comes as the west African nation grapples with a massive cost-of-living crisis. Talks between the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives and the government to avert the strike collapsed, leading union members to walk off the job for a

seven-day “warning strike”.

Tashikalma Halls, a media adviser to Nigeria’s health minister, said that the government would meet with the nurses later, though he declined to say what would be discussed.

A union spokesperson confirmed the strike but not the meeting. Nigerian media described hobbled hospitals and delayed care after nurses walked off the job to press their demands. The strike comes after health clinic workers and teachers went on strike in the capital earlier this year as local government councils slow-walked federally mandated minimum wage increases.

22 killed in Angola fuel hike unrest

AFP
Luanda

Unrest in Angola following protests against a fuel price hike has killed 22 people since Monday, the interior minister said, as calm returned to the capital.

Sporadic gunfire was heard across Luanda and several other cities on Monday and Tuesday as people looted shops and clashed with police when violence erupted during a taxi strike.

The strike was the latest in a series of protests after the price



Residents walk past a looted supermarket in the Kalembe 2 district of Luanda during a general strike in the taxi sector, to protest against the rising prices of fuel.

of fuel was hiked from 300 to 400 kwanzas (\$0.33 to \$0.43) a litre on July 1, squeezing living costs for

the millions of poor in one of Africa’s top oil producers.

“We regret 22 deaths, including

one police officer,” Interior Minister Manuel Homem told reporters in a press conference yesterday.

Nearly 200 people were injured in the violence, he said, and more than 1,200 people had been arrested. Shops and businesses remained closed in Luanda yesterday as security forces patrolled the city. The streets were largely empty as people stayed home, although there were some queues outside petrol stations and shops, AFP reporters said. Police in the southern city of Lubango confirmed separately that a police officer had shot and killed a 16-year-old on Tuesday.

India launches Nasa-ISRO satellite to track climate threats

Reuters
Bengaluru

India yesterday launched a \$1.5bn, first-of-its-kind radar imaging satellite built in collaboration with Nasa, deploying it to help enhance global monitoring of climate change and natural disasters.

The Nasa-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, or NISAR satellite, is the first such collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation and US space agency Nasa. It took off from India's Satish Dhawan Space Centre at 1210GMT atop a medium-lift rocket, marking a milestone in space co-operation and bolstering India's profile

in low-cost, high-impact satellite missions. NISAR is the world's first radar imaging satellite to use two radar frequencies – the L-band provided by Nasa and the S-band developed by ISRO – to track minute changes in the Earth's surface, including movements as small as a centimetre, the space agencies have said.

The satellite, roughly the size and weight of a fully loaded pickup truck – was placed into a near-polar Sun-synchronous orbit approximately 747km above Earth. It will map the planet every 12 days using a 240km-wide radar swathe, offering data to scientists and disaster response agencies to monitor everything from glacier re-

treat in the Himalayas to potential landslide zones in South America. "The potential applications from the satellite are huge, and the global scientific community is eagerly awaiting the satellite data for their respective research and usage," ISRO chairman V Narayanan said after the launch. "It is not going to be used by one

or two countries. The entire globe is going to benefit from this great accomplishment," he said, adding that the mission had brought the two space agencies much closer than ever before. Casey Swails, Nasa's deputy associate administrator, called the mission a "pathfinder".

'Committed to fair trade,' says India after US tariff decision

AFP
New Delhi

India yesterday said it was committed to negotiating a "fair, balanced" trade deal with Washington, after US President Donald Trump said Indian goods would face steep tariffs and New Delhi would be penalised for purchases of Russian weapons and energy. Months of trade negotiations between India and the US have failed to seal a deal, with sticking points including Trump's sweeping demands and New Delhi's reluctance to fully open its agricultural and dairy sectors.

Two days before Trump's August 1 tariffs deadline, the US president announced that imports from India would be hit with a 25% tariff.

The Indian government said it had "taken note" of Trump's announcement and was "studying its implications". "India and the US have been engaged in negotiations on concluding a fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement over the last few months. We remain committed to that objective," it said in a statement, also noting that it was determined to protect the welfare of Indian farmers and entrepreneurs. "The government will take all steps necessary to secure our national interest, as has been the case with other trade agreements including the latest Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the UK." "While India is our friend, we

have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers of any country," Trump wrote in a Truth Social post. "They have always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from Russia, and are Russia's largest buyer of energy, along with China, at a time when everyone wants Russia to stop the killing in Ukraine – all things not good!"

The White House had previously warned India about its high average applied tariffs – nearly 39% on agricultural products – with rates climbing to 45% on vegetable oils and around 50% on apples and corn. Russia continued to be the top oil supplier to India during the first six months of 2025, making up 35% of overall supplies.

The US, the world's largest economy, currently has a \$45.7bn trade deficit with India, the fifth largest. White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett said Trump has been frustrated with the progress of trade talks with India and believed the 25% tariff announcement would help the situation. Hassett said more information on the additional penalty would be made "shortly". The new US tax on imports from India would be higher than many other countries that struck a deal with the Trump administration recently. Vietnam's tariff is set at 20% and Indonesia's at 19%, while the levy for Japan and the European Union is 15%.

Thousands honour Ozzy Osbourne at funeral procession



Ozzy Osbourne's widow Sharon Osbourne (centre) reacts at the Black Sabbath Bridge bench on Broad Street during a funeral procession for Ozzy Osbourne, the late lead singer of Black Sabbath, in Birmingham, central England yesterday. Thousands lined the streets in Ozzy Osbourne's UK hometown of Birmingham yesterday to honour the singer as he is laid to rest.

Thailand and Cambodia trade allegations of truce breaking

AFP
Bangkok

Thailand and Cambodia yesterday exchanged allegations of breaching a ceasefire deal which has largely halted the open combat that engulfed their frontier. The nations agreed a truce starting Tuesday after five days of clashes killed at least 43 people on both sides, as a long-standing dispute over contested border temples boiled over into fighting on their 800km boundary. But Thailand's foreign ministry said its troops in Sisaket province "came under attack by small arms fire and grenade assaults

launched by Cambodian forces" in an offensive which continued until yesterday morning. "This represents a flagrant violation of the ceasefire agreement," said a foreign ministry statement. Thai government spokesman Jirayu Huangsab also reported overnight clashes but said "the Thai side maintained control of the situation" and conditions along the border were "reported to be normal" from 8am (0100 GMT). A Cambodian defence ministry official yesterday accused Thailand of twice breaching the ceasefire, intended to end fighting which has seen the two countries evacuate a total of

more than 300,000 people from the border region. UN rights chief Volker Turk urged the neighbouring nations to implement their ceasefire deal in full, and take rapid steps to build confidence and peace. "This crucial agreement must be fully respected, in good faith, by both sides, as diplomatic efforts continue, in a bid to resolve the root causes of the conflict," Turk said. At a temple in Thailand's Surin city serving as a shelter and field kitchen 50kms away from the frontier, volunteer Thanin Kittiworranun said evacuees remain in limbo. "We don't believe Cambodia will hold the ceasefire," the 65-year-old said.

UK flights disrupted by tech glitch

Britain's air traffic controllers yesterday reported a technical issue that disrupted flights at major airports in London and elsewhere in the country, though later said the issue had been resolved. "Our engineers have now restored the system. We are in the process of resuming normal operations in the London area," NATS, the country's air traffic control provider, said in a post on X yesterday. Heathrow Airport earlier said all departures had been paused, and Gatwick Airport said the issue had affected all outbound flights across the UK. London City Airport also posted on X that flights there were affected by the same issue. In August 2023, flights across Britain were disrupted after the automatic processing of flight plans malfunctioned. Britain's aviation regulator last year said NATS needed to review its contingency plans for outages after the meltdown, after airline bosses said it cost them over £100mn in payouts.

Shanghai evacuates 283,000 people as typhoon hits



People evacuated from areas near the coast, rest in a shelter in Fengxian district in Shanghai yesterday.

Shanghai evacuated almost 283,000 people from vulnerable coastal and low-lying areas as Typhoon Co-May made landfall in the Chinese financial hub yesterday evening, bringing lashing rains and winds. The city's meteorological observatory issued an orange rainstorm alert, the second-highest warning level, yesterday afternoon as sheets of water inundated the city. Almost a third of flights from Shanghai's two international airports were cancelled, the city's news service said, totalling around 640, with ferries and some train services also disrupted. Authorities had evacuated 282,800 people to more than 1,900 temporary shelters across the city from Tuesday, state media said. "I hope to return home only after the danger passes and the typhoon is gone... After all, it's much safer here," 57-year-old watermelon farmer

Yang Xiaoping said at a shelter in southern Fengxian district. She was sitting in a large hall that normally functions as a community activity centre, about 4kms from the coastline. Around 20 mostly elderly people were sitting on iron beds or gathered around tables to eat dinner, along with local community staff. "Basically, we conduct an evacuation every year, sometimes even two or three times," said staff member Gong Huiyan. "We also conduct annual drills, especially for typhoon and flood prevention, so the procedures are well-practised and guaranteed to run smoothly from top to bottom." Yang said she had been in Zhejiang for almost two decades and had experienced typhoons every year. "I haven't thought about leaving (this part of Shanghai) because I feel it's really good here. At the very least, the government... prioritises our safety," she said.

Australia widens teen social media ban to YouTube

Since the government said last year it would exempt YouTube due to its popularity with teachers, platforms covered by the ban have complained

Reuters
Sydney,

Australia yesterday said it will add YouTube to sites covered by its world-first ban on social media for teenagers, reversing an earlier decision to exempt the Alphabet-owned video-sharing site and potentially setting up a legal challenge. The decision came after the

Internet regulator urged the government last month to overturn the YouTube carve-out, citing a survey that found 37% of minors reported harmful content on the site, the worst showing for a social media platform. "I'm calling time on it," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in a statement highlighting that Australian children were being negatively affected by online platforms, and reminding social media of their social responsibility. "I want Australian parents to know that we have their backs." The decision broadens the ban set to take effect in December. YouTube says it is used by nearly

three-quarters of Australians aged 13 to 15, and should not be classified as social media because its main activity is hosting videos. "Our position remains clear: YouTube is a video sharing platform with a library of free, high-quality content, increasingly viewed on TV screens. It's not social media," a YouTube spokesperson said. Since the government said last year it would exempt YouTube due to its popularity with teachers, platforms covered by the ban, such as Meta's Facebook and Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok, have complained. They say YouTube has key simi-

larities to their products, including letting users interact and recommending content through an algorithm based on activity. The ban outlaws YouTube accounts for those younger than 16, allowing parents and teachers to show videos on it to minors. "Teachers are always curators of any resource for appropriateness (and) will be judicious," said Angela Falkenberg, president of the Australian Primary Principals Association, which supports the ban. Artificial intelligence has supercharged the spread of misinformation on social media platforms such as YouTube, said Adam Marre,

chief information security officer at cyber security firm Arctic Wolf. "The Australian government's move to regulate YouTube is an important step in pushing back against the unchecked power of big tech and protecting kids," he added. The reversal sets up a fresh dispute with Alphabet, which threatened to withdraw some Google services from Australia in 2021 to avoid a law forcing it to pay news outlets for content appearing in searches. Last week, YouTube said it had written to the government urging it "to uphold the integrity of the legislative process". Australian

media said YouTube threatened a court challenge, but YouTube did not confirm that. "I will not be intimidated by legal threats when this is a genuine fight for the well-being of Australian kids," Communications Minister Anika Wells told parliament yesterday. The law passed in November only requires "reasonable steps" by social media platforms to keep out Australians younger than 16, or face a fine of up to A\$49.5mn. The government, which is due to receive a report this month on tests of age-checking products, has said those results will influence enforcement of the ban.

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GULF TIMES

How US-EU aerospace rivals united to preserve tariff-free aircraft trade

A provisional deal between the United States and European Union to exempt aircraft from tariffs avoids a potential threat to jet production and deliveries in both regions and caps months of uncharacteristic unity among plane-making rivals. The framework deal, announced on Sunday, will see the US impose a 15% import tariff on most EU goods but offer protection for industries including aerospace, with zero-for-zero tariffs on aircraft and parts, European officials said. Following intense lobbying, it spares an industry that is often a lightning rod for trade tensions, with the World Trade Organisation tested to its limits by a 17-year dispute over Airbus and Boeing subsidies before a truce in 2021.

Aircraft, engines, spare parts, and components from landing gear to seats had faced potentially higher costs and some jet deliveries looked set to be disrupted by the threatened US tariffs that would have compounded supply chain problems.

Still, questions remain over detailed implementation of the deal and whether it will extend to other components like space.

"We are just waiting until we see these things written down," one European industry official told Reuters.

Airbus said it had taken note of the deal.

"A stable and predictable trade environment is essential for our highly integrated global aerospace industry," it said.

Boeing had no immediate comment.

Sunday's agreement follows a discreet and unusually united campaign to revert to a landmark 1979 agreement between over 30 nations that mandated duty-free trading in civil aircraft.

An industry that only a few years earlier had torn itself apart over trade disputes on subsidies involving Airbus and Boeing found itself in lockstep on both sides of the Atlantic.

But two terms from the industry's previous trade handbook were quietly dropped, sources said: multilateral and WTO.

The 1979 Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft that eliminated tariffs on aircraft and parts is one of a handful of industry-specific deals that survived from an earlier round of trade talks when the World Trade Organisation opened in 1995.

US President Donald Trump, who once called the WTO "the single worst trade deal ever made," appears to prefer bilateral deals over broad alliances from trade to security, and "multilateralism" is one of the biggest bugbears of his America First philosophy.

Lobbying was intense from all quarters but industry sources highlighted a discreet but influential role played by GE Aerospace CEO Larry Culp.

Culp told Reuters in April he had advocated re-establishing the tariff-free regime for the aerospace industry during a meeting with Trump at the White House.

He said the position was "understood" by the administration, stressing that the zero-duty regime had helped the US aerospace industry reach a \$75bn annual trade surplus.

Industry officials also argued aerospace was interconnected and that US tariffs would not favour Boeing at the expense of its European rival Airbus, but merely hurt everyone.

In May, Trump reached a trade accord with Britain that tested the ground by restoring duty-free trading in jet engines.

After the US-UK trade deal, aerospace industry officials urged the White House to use it as a template for future trade negotiations. GE's Culp and Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian mentioned the deal as a template to follow.

The agreement stops short of restoring the whole 1979 agreement and focuses on the single largest aerospace markets.

Boeing typically delivers 17% of its jets to Europe while Airbus delivers some 12% to the United States, some of which are assembled locally, according to Boeing and Cirium data.

But Europe and the US are each other's largest market for aircraft components, according to French industry lobby Gifas.

Although the agreement relieves one significant source of pressure, there are concerns that Boeing, Airbus and their suppliers could still be caught up indirectly in trade tensions between Washington and China, as they seek to do business there.

Aerospace companies are also awaiting findings from an ongoing US trade investigation into aerospace.

In May, the US Commerce Department launched a "Section 232" national security investigation into imports of commercial aircraft, jet engines and parts that could form the basis for tariffs or quotas.

US airlines who met the department say much of the focus has been on China and concerns over potential further disruption to key supplies, on top of rare earths and magnets. US carriers currently face 50% tariffs on imports of the jets, which Embraer says could add \$9mn per plane. Alaska Air said last week it could defer some deliveries. — Reuters

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Medical groups and the US states work to circumvent Kennedy vaccine decisions

By Julie Steenhuyesen
Chicago

US health secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr's changes to federal vaccine policy are prompting medical organisations and several states to formulate their own vaccine recommendations for the fall respiratory illness season, concerned many healthy children and pregnant women could lose access to preventive shots.

This push for an alternative standard to the one set by the federal government runs the risk of increasing confusion among providers and patients, according to health experts.

It also runs up against hundreds of laws at the state level that rely on a federal vaccine advisory panel, the experts said. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or ACIP, advises the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on which people should receive vaccines and at what intervals after they are approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Kennedy has spent decades sowing doubts about vaccines even when contradicted by scientific evidence. Since being appointed by Republican President Donald Trump to head the US Department of Health and Human Services, or HHS, Kennedy has upended the federal government's process for recommending vaccines for the American public. Kennedy last month fired all 17 ACIP members, replacing them with hand-picked advisers including

anti-vaccine activists. Prior to that, Kennedy in May withdrew a federal recommendation for Covid shots for pregnant women and healthy children without ACIP's input, saying there was not enough evidence to support offering these boosters to healthy children.

Leading US medical organisations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, known as AAP, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, called IDSA, have sued Kennedy over the Covid decision.

AAP said it will promote its own evidence-based vaccine guidelines starting with the fall respiratory season for Covid, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV.

"We simply cannot and will not stay silent as the system we rely on is being intentionally dismantled," Dr Sue Kressly, the academy's president, told Reuters.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, called ACOG, is also developing guidelines for the upcoming respiratory illness season, to be issued in August or September. An ACOG spokesperson said the organisation continues to recommend Covid vaccines for pregnant women, a group at increased risk for severe Covid and pregnancy complications.

The spokesperson also said the organisation rejects a recommendation by Kennedy's vaccine panel against flu shots containing thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative that vaccine sceptics long have sought to link to autism despite evidence that these vaccines are safe.

Both organisations and several

others including the IDSA are collaborating with the Vaccine Integrity Project, a group of public health and infectious disease experts formed amid concerns about changes to vaccine policy, to review the latest scientific evidence on licensed vaccines for use in their guidelines.

"What we're trying to do is add a piece of non-biased, authoritative review of the data for use by the (medical) societies," said Dr Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, who served as an adviser to Democratic former President Joe Biden on Covid.

An HHS spokesperson defended Kennedy's actions, saying the newly configured panel brings "fresh, independent scientific judgement" and that ACIP "will continue to be the statutory authority guiding immunisation policy in this country."

Jen Kates, a senior analyst at the nonprofit health policy organisation KFF, said US states have always maintained a patchwork of health policies. But having multiple entities issuing vaccine recommendations at the state and federal levels could make it hard for parents to know who to trust, according to Kates.

"This patchwork could become even more pronounced with significant implications for health. State laws and requirements may vary, but pathogens don't abide by borders," Kates said.

Recommendations issued by ACIP since its founding in 1964 have become embedded

in laws across the United States governing health insurance coverage, access to vaccines for children in low-income families, school immunisations, the ability of pharmacists to administer vaccines, and, in some states, vaccine purchasing.

"It is mind-numbing when you compare how many things are impacted by ACIP," said Rebecca Coyle, who serves as executive director of the American Immunization Registry Association, an organisation that develops and updates vaccination information systems used by physicians, and as an adviser to ACIP.

An analysis by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials found that nearly 600 statutes and regulations across 49 of the 50 US states, three US territories and Washington, DC, reference ACIP recommendations.

Several states have already taken action.

Wisconsin said it continues to recommend the current Covid vaccine during pregnancy and for everyone age 6 months and older, and noted that the state's Medicaid health programme for low-income people will continue to cover the shot for eligible people. The Democratic governors of California, Washington state and Oregon condemned Kennedy's dismissal of the ACIP panel members, citing their "grave concerns" about the integrity and transparency of upcoming federal vaccine recommendations.

These states said they will continue to recommend Covid vaccines for children 6 months and older and pregnant women in accord with leading US medical associations.

Some states have started rewriting statutes to no longer defer exclusively to ACIP. Colorado, for instance, has amended laws to include vaccine recommendations from major medical societies in addition to ACIP when setting the state's policies for immunising schoolchildren.

Massachusetts lawmakers are considering legislation proposed by Democratic Governor Maura Healey to empower the state's public health commissioner to determine routine childhood immunisations in lieu of ACIP's recommendations. Legislators in Maine have removed references to ACIP from a state vaccine access law.

Osterholm said health insurers have told the Vaccine Integrity Project that they would be more likely to cover uniform vaccine recommendations, increasing pressure for alignment among various groups.

"We need to come together the best we can," Osterholm said, but "we can't leave the ACIP or HHS recommendations as the only other source out there." — Reuters



SPOTLIGHT: US Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr testifies before a House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing on President Donald Trump's budget request for the Department of Health and Human Services, on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, last month. (Reuters)

Facing Pacific tsunamis millions evacuate

AFP
Puerto Ayora (Ecuador)

One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck Russia's sparsely populated Far East yesterday, causing tsunamis that forced millions to evacuate homes across the Pacific rim, from Japan to Ecuador.

The magnitude 8.8 quake struck off Russia's Kamchatka peninsula, rattling the earth and generating waves of up to four metres (12 feet) in height.

The initial quake caused limited damage and only light injuries, despite being the strongest since 2011, when 15,000 people were killed in Japan.

But tsunami warnings were issued for more than a dozen countries, with millions of residents put on high alert.

In Russia, a tsunami crashed through the port of Severo-Kurilsk submerging the local fishing plant, officials said.

Russian state television footage showed buildings and debris swept into the sea.

The surge of water reached as far as the town's World War II monument about 400 metres from the shoreline, said Mayor Alexander Ovsyannikov.

In Japan, almost two million people were told to head to higher



People evacuate the coastal area due to a tsunami warning in the Viento Libre neighbourhood, Tumaco, Narino Department, Colombia. (AFP)

ground, before the warnings were downgraded or rescinded.

The Fukushima nuclear plant in northeast Japan — destroyed by a huge quake and tsunami in 2011 — was evacuated, its operator said.

One woman was killed as she drove her car off a cliff as she tried to escape, local media reported.

A swathe of South America's Pacific coast remained under a tsunami warning by 1800 GMT yesterday.

In the Galapagos Islands, national parks were closed, schools were shuttered, loudspeakers blared warnings and tourists were spirited off sightseeing boats and

onto the safety of land.

"As residents here, we really do feel scared: there's this sense of uncertainty, we truly don't know what's going to happen" said Patricia Espinosa of Isabela Island, where inhabitants were taken higher to ground in requisitioned buses and dump trucks.

"Once the wave train arrived... maximum heights of up to 1.3m were observed" according to the Ecuadoran navy's oceanographic institute. "Disturbances are currently being recorded, which will continue for the next few hours."

Peru closed 65 of its 121 Pacific ports as the Navy warned that



A view of the sea during an evacuation of the coast following a tsunami warning issued by local authorities in Dichato near Concepcion, Chile. (Reuters)

fishing should be suspended and people should stay away from the coast.

Earlier, tsunami sirens blared near Hawaii's popular Waikiki beach where an AFP photographer saw gridlocked traffic as Hawaiians escaped to higher ground.

Hawaii governor Josh Green said flights in and out of the island of Maui had been cancelled as a precaution. US President Donald Trump said on social media.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center later downgraded the alert for Hawaii to an advisory and local authorities cancelled a coastal evacuation order.

Russian scientists reported that the Klyuchevskoy volcano erupted shortly after the earthquake.

"Red-hot lava is observed flowing down the western slope. There is a powerful glow above the volcano and explosions," said Russia's Geophysical Survey.

Yesterday's quake was the strongest in the Kamchatka region since 1952, the regional seismic monitoring service said, warning of aftershocks of up to 7.5 magnitude.

The USGS said the quake was one of the 10 strongest tremors ever recorded. The quake was fol-

lowed by at least six aftershocks that further rattled the Russian far east, including one of 6.9 magnitude.

In Taitung in Taiwan, hotel resort worker Wilson Wang, 31, told AFP: "We've advised guests to stay safe and not go out, and to avoid going to the coast."

Pacific nation Palau, about 800km east of the Philippines, ordered the evacuation of "all areas along the coastline".

Waves of up to four metres are expected overnight in the Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia, authorities said in a press statement.

German biathlete dies after Pakistan mountaineering accident

German double Olympic biathlon champion Laura Dahlmeier has died after a mountaineering accident in Pakistan, her management and local authorities confirmed yesterday. The accident occurred around noon on Monday, at an altitude of approximately 5,700 metres at Laila Peak, the Alpine Club of Pakistan said on Tuesday. Dahlmeier was climbing with her mountaineering partner when she was struck by a sudden rockfall in the Hushe Valley, part of the northern Gilgit-Baltistan region. Poor weather conditions prevented a rescue helicopter from reaching the site.

Two teams of expert climbers from Germany and the United States deployed to search her confirmed that she had died, regional government spokesperson Faizullah Faraq said.

"Laura Dahlmeier died on 28 July in a mountain accident on Laila Peak (6,069 metres) in Pakistan's Karakoram range," her management said in a statement. "A recovery operation was launched but ultimately called off

on the evening of 29 July." Her representatives added that Dahlmeier most likely died instantly, while her mountaineering partner was unharmed.

"It was Laura Dahlmeier's express and written will that in a case like this, no-one should risk their life to recover her," they said.

"It was her wish to leave her body behind on the mountain in this case. This is also in line with the wishes of her relatives."

Faraq said the regional authorities would respect any decision by her family.

The provincial government spokesperson also identified the climbing partner as Marina Eva Krauss. Krauss successfully descended to base camp and is reported to be in good health, he added.

The 31-year-old Dahlmeier retired from biathlon in 2019, aged 25, a year after becoming the first female biathlete to achieve a sprint and pursuit double at the same Olympics.

"Laura made history at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter

Olympics as the first female biathlete to win sprint and pursuit gold at the same Games edition. She will be remembered forever," the President of the International Olympic Committee Kirsty Coventry said.

The German Olympic Sports Confederation expressed deep sorrow at the news.

"She was more than an Olympic champion - she was someone with heart, attitude and vision," it said in a statement on X.

Dahlmeier, who was born in the Bavarian ski town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, was also honoured by the premier of her home state, Markus Soeder, who said "she was ambitious and successful, yet always remained humble and close to her homeland". The International Biathlon Union also expressed its condolences. "Laura's energy and passion for life touched so many around the world. Her legacy, both within biathlon and beyond, will never be forgotten and will continue to inspire countless athletes and adventurers for generations to come," it said.



TRAGEDY: Laura Dahmeier

Sheinbaum says US holding 30 Mexicans in 'Alligator Alcatraz'

The United States is holding 30 Mexicans in a migrant detention centre dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz," despite Mexico's request for their repatriation, President Claudia Sheinbaum said yesterday. The camp, surrounded by alligator-filled swamps in the Florida Everglades, is a new feature of the harsh anti-immigration policies introduced by US President Donald Trump that have fanned diplomatic tensions with Mexico. Sheinbaum said that consular assistance was being provided to migrants at the centre, which a Mexican diplomat has visited several times. "A note was sent... asking that any Mexicans who might enter this detention centre be repatriated immediately," she said at her morning news conference. Trump campaigned for the White House on a pledge to deport millions of undocumented migrants. When touring "Alligator Alcatraz" in July, he boasted about the harsh conditions and joked that the reptilian predators would serve as guards.

Pakistan surprises by holding key rate steady to stabilise inflation

Reuters
Karachi

Pakistan's central bank left its key interest rate unchanged at 11% yesterday, saying the outlook for inflation had deteriorated due to energy prices, surprising analysts who had expected another cut.

The Monetary Policy Committee of the State Bank of Pakistan said in a statement that energy prices, particularly for gas, had risen more than expected.

The panel also noted that the trade deficit was expected to widen further in the fiscal year ending June 2026, amid a pickup in economic activity and a slowdown in global trade.

"The inflation outlook has somewhat worsened," it said. "Given this macroeconomic outlook and the emerging risks, the MPC considered today's decision as necessary to ensure price stability."

In a Reuters poll this week, all 15 analysts said they expected the SBP to ease, with nine forecasting a 50 basis-point cut, four predicting a deeper 100 basis-point reduction and two projecting a smaller 25 basis-point cut.

"You have to be cautious," State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmad, told a news conference in Karachi, after announcing the policy rate, saying it is better to wait than to take action and then have to reverse it.

Pakistan is pushing through a se-

ries of economic reforms under a \$7bn International Monetary Fund Program, including a contractionary government budget passed in June that slashes spending to curb its fiscal deficit.

In its Economic Outlook Update on Tuesday, the IMF cut its growth forecast for Pakistan for the fiscal year ending June 2026 to 3.6%, well below the government's 4.2% target.

The Committee assessed that the real policy rate should be adequately positive to stabilise inflation in the target range of 5%-7%, the statement said. Headline inflation slowed to 3.2% in June and is projected at 3.5%-4.5% in July, within the SBP's 5.5%-7.5% target range for the fiscal year ending June 2026.

Pakistan says India's statement on attackers 'replete with fabrications'

Reuters
Islamabad

The Indian home minister's account of forces killing who he said were three Pakistanis involved in the April attack on tourists in the Jammu and Kashmir federal territory was "replete with fabrications", Pakistan's foreign ministry said yesterday.

Indian Home Minister Amit Shah told parliament on Tuesday that the three militants killed in a gun battle in a Kashmir forest this week were the perpetrators of the April 22 attack and that New Delhi had found evidence to back it.

Pakistan has denied involvement in the attack in which 26 men were shot dead — the worst assault on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks — and sought an independent investigation.

"The account given by the Indian home minister is replete with fabrications, leading to serious questions about its credibility," Pakistan's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The attackers, who India said were Pakistani nationals backed by Islamabad, had opened fire in a valley popular with tourists in Kashmir's scenic, mountainous region of Pahalgam, before fleeing into the surrounding pine forests.

It led New Delhi to target what it called "terrorist infrastructure" in Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir, leading to a retaliation from Islamabad amid four days of intense fighting in May before they agreed to a ceasefire declared by US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly claimed credit for it although India has denied it.

The Himalayan region of Kashmir is at the heart of the hostility between India and Pakistan, who have fought two of their three wars over the region, which they both claim in full but rule in part.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of helping separatists battling security forces in its part of Kashmir, but Pakistan says it only provides diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris seeking self determination.

Physicists still divided about quantum world, 100 years on

The theory of quantum mechanics has transformed daily life since being proposed a century ago, yet how it works remains a mystery — and physicists are deeply divided about what is actually going on, a survey in the journal *Nature* said yesterday. "Shut up and calculate!" is a famous quote in quantum physics that illustrates the frustration of scientists struggling to unravel one of the world's great paradoxes. For the last century, equations based on quantum mechanics have consistently and accurately described the behaviour of extremely small objects. However, no one knows what is happening in the physical reality behind the mathematics. The problem started at the turn of the 20th century, when scientists realised that the classical principles of physics did not apply to things on the level on atoms. Bafflingly, photons and electrons appear to behave like both particles and waves. They can also be in different positions simultaneously — and have different speeds

or levels of energy. In 1925, Austrian physicist Erwin Schrodinger and Germany's Werner Heisenberg developed a set of complex mathematical tools that describe quantum mechanics using probabilities.

This "wave function" made it possible to predict the results of measurements of a particle. These equations led to the development of a huge amount of modern technology, including lasers, LED lights, MRI scanners and the transistors used in computers and phones.

But the question remained: what exactly is happening in the world beyond the maths? To mark the 100th year of quantum mechanics, many of the world's leading physicists gathered last month on the German island of Heligoland, where Heisenberg wrote his famous equation. More than 1,100 of them responded to a survey conducted by the leading scientific journal *Nature*. The results showed there is a "striking lack of consensus among physicists about what quantum theory says about



reality", *Nature* said in a statement. More than a third — 36% — of the respondents favoured the mostly widely accepted theory, known as the Copenhagen interpretation. In the classical world, everything has defined properties — such as position or speed — whether we observe them or not. But this is not the case in the quantum realm, according to the Copenhagen interpretation developed by Heisenberg and Danish physicist Niels Bohr in the 1920s. It is only when an observer measures a

quantum object that it settles on a specific state from the possible options, goes the theory. This is described as its wave function "collapsing" into a single possibility. The most famous depiction of this idea is Schrodinger's cat, which remains simultaneously alive and dead in a box — until someone peeks inside. The Copenhagen interpretation "is the simplest we have", Brazilian physics philosopher Decio Krause told *Nature* after responding to the survey. Despite the theory's problems — such as not explaining why measurement has this effect — the alternatives "present other problems which, to me, are worse," he said. But the majority of the physicists supported other ideas. Fifteen percent of the respondents opted for the "many worlds" interpretation, one of several theories in physics that propose we live in a multiverse. It asserts that the wave function does not collapse, but instead branches off into as many universes as there are possible

outcomes. So when an observer measures a particle, they get the position for their world — but it is in all other possible positions across many parallel universes. "It requires a dramatic readjustment of our intuitions about the world, but to me that's just what we should expect from a fundamental theory of reality," US theoretical physicist Sean Carroll said in the survey. The quantum experts were split on other big questions facing the field. Is there some kind of boundary between the quantum and classical worlds, where the laws of physics suddenly change? Forty-five percent of the physicists responded yes to this question — and the exact same percentage responded no. Just 24% said they were confident the quantum interpretation they chose was correct. And three quarters believed that it will be replaced by a more comprehensive theory one day.



Visit Qatar awards the trophy to the winner.



Saad bin Ali al-Kharji at the event.

Qatar Goodwood Festival gets underway

The Qatar Goodwood Festival by Visit Qatar kicked off with the Al Shaqab Goodwood Cup Stakes (Group 1), featuring eight elite runners from leading international stables in the two-mile race.

The event marked the first of several Visit Qatar-sponsored races, delivering an exhilarating showdown on the Goodwood Racecourse.

Scandinavia claimed victory in a hard-fought finish and was awarded by Qatar Tourism chairman Saad bin Ali al-Kharji, also the chair of

the Board of Directors of Visit Qatar.

Beyond the track, Visit Qatar is bringing the spirit of Qatar to West Sussex through an interactive experience designed to showcase Qatar's hospitality, unique culture, and tourism offerings to international festival goers.

Guests visiting the Visit Qatar activation are welcomed with traditional refreshments including Arabic coffee and dates. Immersive visual elements throughout the space highlight Qatar's diverse tourism offerings, using striking imagery and compelling storytelling to inspire travel and bring the destination to life.

The Qatar Goodwood Festival continues throughout the week with more headline races, including the Qatar International Stakes, the highly anticipated Visit Qatar Sussex Stakes, the Qatar Nassau Stakes, and the King George Qatar Stakes, and the Qatar Lillie Langtry Stakes on the final day.

Visit Qatar said it will continue supporting world-class equestrian sport while spotlighting the country's growing global appeal as a leading travel destination.



QF fetes Ability Friendly Programme participants

Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education Ability Friendly Programme hosted its annual recognition awards ceremony to honour the achievements of its participants and acknowledge the vital role their families play in providing continuous support throughout the year.

Nigel D'Souza, events co-ordinator at Qatar Foundation's (QF) Pre-University Education (PUE) Ability Friendly Programme, emphasised that the event goes beyond simply presenting awards. It seeks to foster a sense of belonging, enhance self-confidence, and strengthen the bonds between participants and their families – reflecting the programme's deeply rooted social and human-centred values.

"The annual recognition awards serve as an opportunity to celebrate the dedication, hard work, and achievements of our participants and their families throughout the year.

"More than just a formal recognition, the event highlights the essential role parents play in supporting and accompanying their children across various activities," D'Souza explained.

"Through this recognition, we aim to ensure that every participant feels valued and understands the importance of their role within our community."

"Beyond the awards, the ceremony helps foster a sense of belonging and offers a valuable opportunity for social interaction and connection among participants, especially those who may not regularly experience such inclusive gatherings. For many, this event is one of the most anticipated and meaningful moments of the year."

D'Souza noted that in recent years, many participants have shown remarkable positive growth. "One inspiring example is a group of students who took part in our winter camp for the first time last year," he said.

According to the families, just one week of participation led to noticeable improvements in their energy levels, social engagement, and involvement in other after-school activities.

"Stories like these highlight that the programme's impact goes far beyond sports or learning – it reaches into participants' self-confidence, social behaviour, and overall quality of life."

He added that the programme also fosters a strong sense of community, with participants developing meaningful friendships that extend beyond the sessions, while families build closer relationships through shared experiences and continued engagement.

He concluded by emphasising the role of families: "Families play a fundamental role in the development of their children's abilities – whether through direct participation or moral support.

"Their consistent presence helps reinforce the behaviours and values our coaches strive to instil, ensuring the programme's impact extends beyond the sessions and into the home," he added.

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Per Customer 3 pcs Only*



4 QR.75

سبارا دجاج شواوية ٧٠٠ جم
Seara Whole Chicken 700 gm
Per Customer 2 pcs Only*



8 QR.75

ديك رومي مجمد لكل كجم
Frozen Whole Turkey (Per kg)



QR 1899

أبل ماك بوك
Apple MGN63AB/A Macbook Air M1
13" Display, 256GB SSD 8GB Ram



QR 999

أبل إيباد
Apple Ipad 11, Wi-Fi 128GB



8 QR.75

زين زيت دوار الشمس ١.٥ لتر، ١ حبة
Zain Sunflower Oil 1.5 Ltr x 1 pc
Per Customer 2 pcs Only*



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