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Emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Doha tomorrow

Preparatory meeting of FMs today to draft statement on Israeli attack on QatarQNA
Doha

Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majid bin Mohammed al-Ansari announced that Doha will host the emergency Arab-Islamic summit tomorrow, which is being held in light of recent developments in the region.

Dr al-Ansari told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the summit will discuss a draft statement on the Israeli attack on Qatar, submitted by the preparatory meeting of Arab and Islamic foreign ministers, which will be held today.

The Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised that the convening of the Arab-Islamic Summit at this time has its significance, as it reflects the broad Arab and Islamic solidarity with Qatar in confronting the cowardly Israeli aggression that targeted the residential headquarters of several Hamas leaders, and these countries' categorical

rejection of the state terrorism practiced by Israel.

Spokesman for the Secretary-General of the Arab League Jamal Rushdi affirmed yesterday that the emergency Arab-Islamic summit to be hosted by Doha tomorrow, carries a message of full solidarity with Qatar in the face of the brutal attack by the Israeli occupation forces targeting the residential compounds of members of the Hamas Political Bureau in Doha last Tuesday.

In remarks to QNA, Rushdi said that the convening of this summit aims primarily to discuss the con-

sequences of the unprecedented, dangerous and cowardly Israeli aggression on Qatari sovereignty, by targeting Hamas leaders on Qatari territory.

"The emergency Arab-Islamic summit to be hosted by Doha on Monday, carries a message of full solidarity with Qatar in the face of the brutal attack by the Israeli occupation forces"

Egyptian experts and analysts emphasised the importance of Qatar hosting an emergency Arab and Islamic summit to reaffirm the support of the Arab and Islamic worlds for Doha's actions in international and regional forums in response to the Israeli aggression.

The experts and analysts told QNA that the Doha summit convenes at a highly sensitive moment requiring a unified Arab stance that goes beyond traditional condemnation statements

to practical steps to confront the ongoing Israeli aggression, stand with Qatar in solidarity, and endorse all measures it takes to protect and defend its sovereignty against Israeli threats.

Lebanese officials and analysts emphasised the necessity for the emergency summit in Doha to produce decisions and measures commensurate with the Israeli aggression.

They highlighted the importance of Qatar hosting the summit, noting that the Israeli attack marked a dangerous turning point with repercussions extending beyond the Palestinian issue to the broader political developments in the region.

They pointed out that Qatar serves as a mediator for halting the aggression in Gaza and is a leading country globally in promoting peace and stability.

Iraqi officials and analysts affirmed Iraq's full support for Qatar in facing the Israeli aggression, stressing that the attack represents a blatant violation of Qatari sovereignty and a breach of international law and the UN Charter.

PM, US commander discuss defence co-operation



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Commander of the United States Central Command, Admiral Charles Bradford Cooper, who is visiting the country. During the meeting, they discussed the close strategic relations between Qatar and the United States of America and ways to support and strengthen them, particularly in the areas of military and defence co-operation, in addition to a number of topics of common interest. (QNA)

UAE, Indonesian presidents review Israeli attack

President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who is on a visit to the UAE, discussed ways to strengthen bilateral co-operation. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern, including the Israeli attack on Qatar. Both sides reiterated their countries' condemnation of the attack and expressed their solidarity with Qatar, emphasising that such acts undermine regional security, stability, and prospects for peace. (QNA)

Qatar slams attack on military convoy

Qatar has expressed its vehement condemnation of the attack that targeted a military convoy in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, northwest of Pakistan, which led to deaths. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's position, rejecting violence, terrorism, and criminal acts, regardless of the motives or reasons. (QNA)

Netanyahu 'obstacle' to ending Gaza war

The main Israeli group campaigning for the release of hostages held in Gaza said yesterday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was the chief obstacle to freeing the captives, shortly after he accused Hamas' leaders of prolonging the war. "The targeted operation in Qatar proved beyond any doubt that there is one obstacle to returning the... hostages and ending the war: Prime Minister Netanyahu."

Jordan, Turkiye call for joint efforts to hinder Israeli aggression

QNA
Aman

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman al-Safadi and his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, discussed yesterday via phone the Israeli aggression against Qatar, which they condemned as a violation of international law and an escalation that will only increase tensions and conflict in the region. The two ministers stressed their full solidarity with Qatar, affirming its security, stability, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety of its citizens.

Al-Safadi and Fidan also emphasised the importance of the

emergency Arab-Islamic summit to be hosted by Qatar tomorrow, which aims to create a unified Arab and Islamic stance against the ongoing Israeli aggression that threatens regional security and stability.

During the call, the ministers also discussed the latest developments in the region.

They reaffirmed the need for co-ordinated efforts to halt the Israeli aggression on Gaza immediately, to reach a prisoner exchange agreement, and to ensure the immediate and sufficient delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, which is suffering from an unprecedented humanitarian disaster exacerbated by the ongoing aggression.

US, Trump unhappy with Israeli strike on Doha, reiterates Rubio

Reuters
Washington

US President Donald Trump's top diplomat, Marco Rubio reiterated yesterday that the US and President Donald Trump were not happy about Israel's strike on Hamas leaders in Qatar.

"There are still 48 hostages that deserve to be released immediately, all at once. And there is still the hard work ahead once this ends, of rebuilding Gaza in a way that provides people the quality of life that they all want," Rubio told reporters.

Israel's nearly two-year-long campaign has killed more than 64,000 people in the Palestinian enclave, according to local au-



Rubio: unhappy

thorities. It has sparked a hunger crisis and led to allegations that Israel is committing genocide, including this month by the world's biggest group of genocide scholars.

Qatar has been one of the mediators, along with the US, trying to

secure a ceasefire deal that would include the captives' release from Gaza.

On Tuesday, Israel attempted to kill the political leaders of Hamas with an air strike on Doha. US officials described it as a unilateral escalation that did not serve American or Israeli interests.

The strike on the territory of a close US ally sparked broad condemnation from other Arab states and derailed ceasefire and hostage talks brokered by Qatar.

On Friday, Rubio met with Qatar's Prime Minister HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani at the White House.

Later this month, countries including France and Britain are expected to recognise Palestinian statehood, a move opposed by Israel.

World rallies behind Qatar after blatant Israeli attack

QNA
Doha

The international community shown unprecedented solidarity with Qatar in response to the brazen Israeli aggression that recently targeted residential compounds housing several Hamas leaders in Doha. The attack marked a dangerous precedent and a major turning point, not only for the Palestinian issue but also for political developments across the region.

Global support for Qatar reflects the stature it enjoys among the nations and peoples of the world, in recognition of its ongoing efforts and multiple mediation initiatives aimed at promoting security, peace, stability, and devel-

opment at both regional and international levels. The widespread international condemnation of this brutal attack is also a clear denunciation of Israel's repeated violations of international law and its undermining of peace efforts in the region.

Leaders and senior officials from Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries, through official visits, statements, and communications with Qatar following the attack, strongly condemned the cowardly assault, emphasising that it constitutes a blatant violation of Qatar's sovereignty and a total disregard for international law and norms, as well as a dangerous escalation by Israel's war machine.

Global reactions described the attack as a deliberate attempt to



HE the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani shakes hands with delegates as he attends an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council at UN headquarters in New York City, on Thursday. (Reuters)

undermine Qatar's mediation efforts and a clear rejection of any peaceful solutions to end Israeli aggression in Gaza. The assault has made it unmistakably clear to the international community which party is obstructing peace and threatening regional security without regard for international laws or obligations.

Despite this audacious attack, the unprecedented support and exceptional solidarity shown by countries worldwide – through high-level phone calls and visits expressing support for Qatar and the Qatari people – have reinforced Doha's symbolic status as a capital of peace, mediation, and dialogue.

Since the first hours of the Israeli aggression, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Ha-

mad al-Thani received continuous phone calls from world leaders expressing solidarity and condemning the criminal attack.

In this context, His Highness received a call from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who affirmed his country's solidarity with Qatar and strongly condemned the Israeli strike on the residential compounds of Hamas leaders, describing it as a criminal act and a flagrant violation of international laws and norms, threatening the security of Qatar and the region.

The Crown Prince emphasised Saudi Arabia's rejection of any aggression that threatens Qatar's security and reaffirmed the Kingdom's support for measures taken by Qatar to protect its sovereignty. **To Page 2**



Call for unified Arab response to Israeli aggression

Arab world officials, political analysts and experts agreed that the upcoming emergency Arab-Islamic summit, scheduled to be held in Doha on Monday, represents a crucial opportunity to co-ordinate Arab and Islamic response to Israel's arrogance and blatant violations of international law and state sovereignty. The most recent example is the Israeli aggression targeting residential compounds housing several Hamas leaders in Doha.

In interviews with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Palestinian speakers noted that the summit is expected to formulate a unified stance to confront Israeli encroachments on Arab sovereignty and to reach a decision supporting Arab, international, and UN efforts to halt the ongoing genocide perpetrated by Israel in Gaza Strip over the past two years, as well as to oppose the Judaisation, annexation, and expropriation projects Israel has begun implementing in the West Bank.

Political analyst and academic at Al-Azhar University in Gaza, Dr Samir Abu Madlala, stated that the Arab and Islamic countries are called upon to stand with Qatar in defending its national sovereignty. He emphasised the need for these countries to reassess their relationship with Israeli occupying entity, considering it a colonial expansionist state that poses a threat to the interests of Arab nations and peoples – a stance that Israel's far-right government continues to flaunt.

Abu Madlala stressed that the expected Arab and Islamic political support for Qatar must translate into concrete practical steps, including halting co-operation and co-ordination with Israel, suspending trade relations, and taking measures to prevent Israeli flights from crossing the airspace of these countries.

He added that Palestinian and Arab interests must be prioritised, separate from relations with Israel. Lebanese officials and analysts highlighted the importance

of Qatar hosting the summit, noting that the Israeli attack on Doha marked a dangerous turning point with repercussions extending beyond the Palestinian issue to the broader political developments in the region.

They pointed out that Qatar serves as a mediator for halting the aggression in Gaza and is a lead-



ing country globally in promoting peace and stability.

Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs Haneen Sayed condemned the Israeli attack on a residential compound in Qatar, calling it a breach of all international laws and principles, occurring while Qatar exerted tremendous efforts to establish peace and halt aggression in Gaza.

Former Lebanese Minister Wadi' Al Khazen emphasised Qatar's pivotal role since the outbreak of the Gaza war, noting that Doha has proven itself as a capital of effective mediation through open channels with international and regional parties, resulting in hostage releases, humanitarian aid delivery, and groundwork for cease-fire initiatives.

He noted that this mediation has become indispensable for restoring regional stability.

Adviser to Iraqi Prime Minister, Dr Hussein Alawi, said that the Iraqi government's position on the aggression in Doha, as chair of the 34th Arab Summit, was manifested in Prime Minister Mohammad Shia' al-Sudani's call for an urgent meeting of Arab leaders and foreign ministers, in addition to efforts to organise an Arab-Islamic meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly sessions in New York this month.

Irqi MP Yasser al-Husseini described the Arab Summit as facing

a historic test to take bold decisions and called on the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) to exert greater pressure on the international community to curb the arrogance of the Israeli entity, affirming his solidarity with Qatar in confronting the heinous attack.

Syrian researchers and academics affirmed that the Doha summit highlights the importance of reshaping a unified Arab and Islamic position toward the Israeli aggression on Doha, to confront Israeli policies, support the Palestinian people and their rights, and underscore Qatar's pivotal role in mediation efforts since the outbreak of the war.

Dean of the Faculty of Media at Damascus University Dr Khaled Za'rour said that holding the summit at this time carries significant implications, noting that it follows directly after the Israeli attack on a residential compound for Hamas members in Doha, marking the importance of both timing and content. (QNA)

'Doha summit a message of full solidarity with Qatar'

QNA
Cairo

The summit is expected to support Qatar in any measures it takes to preserve and defend its sovereignty

Spokesman for the secretary-general of the Arab League, Jamal Rushdi, affirmed yesterday that the emergency Arab-Islamic summit – to be hosted by Doha on Monday – carries a message of full solidarity with Qatar in the face of the brutal Israeli attack targeting the residential compounds of members of the Hamas Political Bureau in Doha last Tuesday.

In remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Rushdi said that the convening of this summit aims primarily to discuss the consequences of the unprecedented, dangerous and cowardly Israeli ag-

gression on Qatari sovereignty, by targeting Hamas leaders on Qatari territory. He pointed out that this summit is expected to express a message of full solidarity from Arab and Islamic countries with Qatar and to stand by it in its position that defends international law and international norms, which have long stipulated that mediators or negotiators should not be targeted.

He added that the upcoming summit will discuss the repercussions of the situation and the steps that must be taken to halt the slide in the region due to the aggressive

behaviour of the Israeli entity. The summit is also expected to support Qatar in any measures it takes to preserve and defend its sovereignty, he said, noting that the summit also represents a message to the world rejecting Israeli arrogance and refusing to accept the logic of the law of the jungle in the region.

Rushdi stressed the need for the international community to shoulder its responsibility in curbing this reckless Israeli behaviour, which is igniting fires in the region, one country after another.

In this regard, he emphasised the need to put an end to these Israeli attacks, which have targeted more than one country in the Middle East.

Summit seeks unified stance to protect Arab national security

QNA
Cairo

Egyptian experts and analysts emphasised the importance of Qatar hosting an emergency Arab and Islamic summit this week to reaffirm the support of the Arab and Islamic worlds for Doha's actions in response to the Israeli aggression that targeted residential compounds of several Hamas leaders in the Qatari capital last Tuesday.

They told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the Doha summit convenes at a highly sensitive moment requiring a unified Arab stance that goes beyond traditional condemnation statements to practical steps to confront the ongoing Israeli aggression, stand with Qatar in solidarity, and endorse all measures it takes to protect and defend its sovereignty against Israeli threats.

They stressed that the summit should emphasise the importance of safeguarding Arab national security as a whole, in addition to defending Palestine as a central cause in confronting Israeli crimes. In

this context, Egyptian thinker and strategic expert Dr Samir Farag said that the Doha summit aims to send important deterrence messages, while establishing an Arab strategy to secure Arab and Islamic states against threats, both direct, represented by Israel, and indirect threats to Arab national security.

Farag emphasised that adopting a strategy of unity in Arab action politically, economically, in media, and militarily is crucial under the current delicate regional circumstances.

Meanwhile, former Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt ambassador Hussein Hardiy said that Arab states must stand with Qatar in solidarity and support all measures it takes to protect and defend its sovereignty against Israeli threats.

He expressed hope that the summit would take practical steps to support Qatar and confront Israeli threats to Gulf and Arab states, while strongly supporting the Palestinian people's right to resist Israeli occupation and adopting comprehensive boycott measures against Israel until it halts its aggression on Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

For his part, Editor-in-Chief of *Al Ahram* weekly Ezzat Ibrahim commented that the Doha summit convenes at a critical time requiring a unified Arab stance that goes beyond traditional condemnation statements to practical steps to confront the ongoing Israeli aggression, which has extended to the attack on Qatar.

He noted that the summit's goal is not only to defend Palestine as a central cause, but also to protect Arab national security as a whole, as continued aggression without deterrence could lead to greater chaos and provide cover for ethnic cleansing policies and the dismantling of national identities.

He stressed that the Doha summit must adopt a clear political stance rejecting forced displacement of Palestinians and set red lines against any Israeli military expansion toward neighbouring countries.

He underscored that the summit should create a unified Arab platform to document violations, support field journalists, and ensure unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid, holding the world accountable for its legal and moral responsibilities.

World rallies behind Qatar after blatant Israeli attack

From Page 1

His Highness the Amir also received a call from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who conveyed Egypt's solidarity with Qatar and condemned the Israeli attack, describing it as a criminal act and a clear violation of international laws, threatening Qatar's security and regional stability. President al-Sisi reaffirmed Egypt's support for Qatar's actions to safeguard its sovereignty and security.

Furthermore, the Amir received a call from US President Donald Trump, who expressed solidarity with Qatar and strongly condemned the violation of its sovereignty. The president highlighted that diplomatic solutions remain key to resolving regional issues and praised the tireless mediation efforts of His Highness and Qatar, recognising their essential role in promoting peace. He also reaffirmed that Qatar is a trusted strategic ally of the US and encouraged the Amir to continue Qatar's mediation efforts to end the war in Gaza.

In a display of Arab, Islamic, and international solidarity, His Highness the Amir received phone calls from leaders of Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Somalia, Mauritania, and Sudan's Transitional Sovereignty Council, as well as leaders from France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Bulgaria, Greece, Ethiopia, India, Venezuela, Colombia, and the UN secretary-general.

Doha also hosted visits from numerous leaders and senior officials from sisterly and friendly countries to affirm their support for Qatar against the cowardly aggression.

Among them were UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan; Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah; and Crown Prince of Jordan Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II.

Additionally, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban visited Qatar, all affirming solidarity with Qatar and its people, emphasising that the Israeli attack constitutes a breach of Qatar's sovereignty and international law, threatening regional security and stability.

In continued international sup-

port, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received multiple calls from Arab, Islamic, and global officials expressing solidarity and strong condemnation of the Israeli attack.

In Washington, HE Sheikh Mohammed met with US Vice-President J. Biden and Secretary of State Marco Rubio to discuss strategic relations and regional developments. Biden reiterated US support for Qatar, emphasising diplomatic solutions and Qatar's pivotal role in peace mediation.

Regionally, the Gulf Co-operation Council condemned the attack in the strongest terms. Secretary-General Jasem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi stressed full solidarity with Qatar and called for immediate international accountability for Israeli actions undermining regional security and stability. The Arab League Council, at the ministerial level, also strongly condemned the Israeli bombing in Doha, affirming full solidarity with Qatar.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the attack, emphasising that it aimed to undermine Qatar's security and stability. He reaffirmed Turkey's full support for both the Palestinian people and Qatar as a strategic and friendly partner.

Bahrain, Palestine, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and the Kurdish Region of Iraq also issued statements condemning the brazen Israeli attack against Qatar.

In Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron denounced the Israeli strike as unacceptable under any circumstances, while UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer criticised the attacks, warning that they could escalate tensions in the region.

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry condemned the Israeli aggression as a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter, stressing that it threatened the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent state and could further destabilise the Middle East.

Foreign ministers from France, Germany, and the United Kingdom

jointly condemned the attack, affirming that it violated Qatar's sovereignty and posed a serious regional risk. They expressed full support for Qatar's vital role in mediation efforts alongside Egypt and the US, calling on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and seize opportunities for peace.

The European Union also denounced the attack, stressing that it violated international law and Qatar's territorial integrity, while warning that it could escalate violence in the region. EU affirmed its full solidarity with Qatar, an important strategic partner, and urged all sides to avoid further escalation in Gaza.

In Ottawa, Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand said that Canada was reassessing its relations with Israel following the attack on Qatar. She described the strike as unacceptable, particularly given Qatar's mediation efforts for peace in the Middle East. China strongly condemned the Israeli attack, expressing concern that the strike could further escalate regional tensions and criticising actions that undermine ceasefire negotiations in Gaza.

Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, Australia, Sweden, Belarus, Slovenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Austria, South Korea, and the Republic of Congo also issued separate condemnations, describing the attack as an obstacle to diplomatic efforts to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages, as well as a violation of Qatar's territorial integrity and international law.

Organisation of Islamic Co-operation and Muslim World League likewise condemned the Israeli aggression, warning that it posed a serious threat to regional security and stability. Both organisations called on the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to hold Israel accountable and ensure compliance with international law and UN resolutions.

International Union of Muslim Scholars, African Union, and Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Iseco) also strongly denounced the attack, warning that it could further destabilise an already fragile Middle East.

These widespread reactions from Arab, Islamic, and international actors underscore the strength and resilience of Qatar's strategic relationships, built on mutual respect, and highlight the country's prominent and respected role in key regional and international affairs.

QALAM SERIES



Isabella Hammad
Award-winning Novelist and Essayist
Palestine Book Award Winner
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Isabella Hammad is the author of *Recognizing the Stranger*, an essay on the Palestine struggle narrative and the novels *The Parisian* and *Enter Ghost*. She has received the Aspen Prize, the Clark Prize, and the Encore Award from the Royal Society of Literature and her work has been supported by the Lannan Foundation and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination. She was the 2024-2025 Mary Ellen von Der Hayden Fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, and she has taught literature and creative writing at NYU, Brown University, and Al Quds Bard College.



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AlRayan Bank launches Al Tijori savings account

AlRayan Bank has unveiled the Al Tijori Account, a prize-linked savings account that turns every riyal saved into a chance to win life-changing rewards, all while keeping one's savings in line with Islamic banking principles.

Inspired by the Qatari heritage word, Al Tijori, meaning "treasure chest", the account offers customers the thrill of unlocking valuable prizes while steadily building their savings.

More savings mean more entries earned and a step closer to achieving financial goals.

The initiative will award QR10,000 to 10 winners per draw, held twice a month, totalling 20 winners monthly.

Meanwhile, one lucky winner will receive QR100,000 in each monthly draw, and a grand prize of QR1mn will be awarded to one winner every quarter, allowing 256 lucky winners the chance to receive a total of QR7.6mn in prizes annually.

Al Tijori is designed to suit every type of saver, from young millennials taking their first steps toward financial independence and enjoying the thrill of frequent draws, to ambitious professionals and entrepreneurs eager to grow their wealth while embracing luxury lifestyle opportunities.

It appeals to established families committed to long-term savings and building a lasting legacy, as well as retirees who seek safe savings with the added excitement of ongoing prizes.

"With Al Tijori, we've created more than just a savings account; we've created a gateway to opportunities for every customer, no matter their goals or stage in life," said AlRayan Bank acting chief executive Omar al-Emadi.

"It's a chance to grow your savings, dream bigger, and feel the excitement of every draw," he said. "Whether it's QR10,000 or a life-changing QR1mn, each prize brings our customers one step closer to turning their aspirations into reality."

"All it takes is the first step: start saving."

Opening an Al Tijori Savings Account is quick and simple through the AlRayan Go Mobile App or by visiting AlRayan Bank branches.

AlRayan Bank is inviting all its customers to experience Al Tijori, a savings account that combines savings, growth, and the excitement of frequent prize draws.

MoT strategy focus on sustainability, accessibility, digital transformation

By Shafeeq Alingal
Staff Reporter

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) Strategy 2025-30 focuses on environmental sustainability and digital transformation to ensure modern and inclusive transportation, a senior official has said.

While talking to Qatar TV, Sheikha Dana bint Abdullah al-Thani, the head of the MoT's Strategic Planning Department, said that the ministry's strategy takes into account elements of environmental sustainability and digital transformation to ensure modern transportation that serves everyone.

The MoT recently launched the strat-

egy under the slogan *Reaching Beyond Horizons*.

It features an ambitious roadmap focused on developing the transportation and mobility industry in Qatar and enhancing its role in economic growth, sustainability and innovation.

The strategy is based on the ministry's vision of "an integrated, secure, resilient, and sustainable transport ecosystem" and mission of "driving the development of the transport ecosystem towards high logistic efficiency while supporting the pillars of Qatar National Vision".

"The strategy is not limited to infrastructure, but rather focuses on people first and makes daily transportation a smoother and safer experience," Sheikha Dana said.

"The strategy takes into account elements

of accessibility to serve everyone with high quality and sustainable efficiency."

One of the most prominent expected impacts of the strategy is reducing traffic congestion and travel time, which are hindrances to traffic safety, through developing roads and activating integrated public transportation while providing multiple flexible transportation options.

These include public and smart transportation and bicycles in addition to improving air quality by reducing emissions and encouraging clean transportation methods.

The MoT official said that the new strategy includes 42 initiatives and 152 projects.

Sheikha Dana added that it represents a comprehensive roadmap for developing the country's transportation sector, ena-

bling economic growth through supporting logistics services and strengthening the mobility of people and goods as well as customer-centric services in addition to enhancing the utilisation of existing services and infrastructure.

The projects and initiatives also ensure sustainability and resilience through policies and technologies that support reducing emissions and developing human capital.

Sheikha Dana said that the strategy covers various transportation sectors including land and maritime transport.

"There are supporting projects in the areas of digital transformation, sustainability and capacity development," she stressed. "In its first phase, a group of vital projects and initiatives will be launched."



Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co, Al Sulaiman Rent-A-Car sign pact for Nissan Magnite

Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co has announced the delivery of the all-new Nissan Magnite 2025 to Al Sulaiman Rent-A-Car.

This strategic fleet partnership sets a new standard for vehicle rental services in the country, further reinforcing Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana's commitment to supporting enterprise clients and advancing innovative transportation solutions in the market.

Nassim Mourani, the general manager of the Automotive Group at Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co, said: "We are proud to deliver a fleet of brand-new 2025 Nissan Magnite vehicles to Al Sulaiman Car Rental, a partnership that further strengthens our collaboration and enhances the reputation of the Magnite as a leading crossover in Qatar."

"The Nissan Magnite has been designed to exceed expectations

with its bold styling, advanced safety systems, and smart connectivity features, making it the perfect choice to meet the needs of today's new generation of renters," he said.

Prabin Balan, the head of Sales and Marketing at Al Sulaiman Rent-A-Car, stated: "At Al Sulaiman Rent-A-Car, our mission is to set new benchmarks in mobility excellence and customer satisfaction."

"The strategic addition of Nissan Magnite 2025 vehicles to our fleet enhances our ability to deliver unmatched value with vehicles that meet the evolving expectations of our corporate and individual clients," he said. "We look forward to providing seamless experiences with vehicles that blend efficiency, style, and safety – qualities our customers trust."

Launched in Qatar in March

2025, the Nissan Magnite 2025 is designed to offer renters next-generation safety, digital convenience, and robust performance.

The Magnite's exceptional fuel economy from the advanced HRA0 1.0-litre turbocharged engine delivering 100PS and 152Nm of torque significantly reduces fleet operational costs and extends service intervals, maximising profitability for rental companies.

The comprehensive safety suite, including Around-View Monitor for enhanced parking assistance, ABS with Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC) for superior road handling, six strategically positioned airbags, and ISOFIX child seat mounts, provides fleet managers with complete confidence in customer safety while minimising liability risks and insurance costs.

DICID chairman affirms Qatar's belief in peace as a rational, moral option

Qatar, with its prudent leadership, believes in peace as the rational and moral option and in constructive dialogue as the path toward ensuring a more cooperative and safe future among peoples, Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) chairman Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Naimi (pictured) has said.

He was addressing the two-day International Conference on Peace Among Followers of Religions 2025, hosted by Malaysia's Penang state government, under the theme of *Cultural and Religious Plurality: A Pathway to Peace and Harmony in a Turbulent World*.

Dr al-Naimi touched on the brazen Israeli aggression against Qatar, the nation that has been diligently energising efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region through mediation and dialogue.

He stressed that Qatar would continue these efforts despite all challenges and hurdles.

This conference is an essential gathering and represents the product of multi-institutional and multicultural partnerships, stemming from the consultations of the 15th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue 2024 and the Second International Conference on Peace Making 2025.

Interfaith encounters, Dr al-Naimi said, are not limited to the exchange of knowledge, they spark transformations in thought and behaviour and build practical commitments to advance peace.

He also spoke on the tragic situation that the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are facing, stressing that brothers in Palestine have been entrapped in a years-long methodical siege, war, displacement, and starvation.

Dr al-Naimi added that the DICID has launched an awareness campaign on deliberate starvation in Gaza to highlight this crime, with hopes remaining substantial with human voices around the globe that demand an end to this calamity.

Peace is a joint moral and human responsibility, he stressed, and this conference should go far beyond merely a dialogue to be a springboard to real transformations, practical partnerships, and global efforts that build a future that underpins co-existence, tolerance, and harmony.

Organised by the Coalition of Islamic Non-Governmental Organisations in Malaysia, in collaboration with the Penang state government, and in partnership and under the auspices of the DICID, the conference convenes more than 200 dignitaries, including high-ranking officials, religious leaders, academics, and civil society representatives from a host of countries around the world.

Regarding the partnership forged with the DICID in organising this event, Dr al-Naimi highlighted that this collaboration, in terms of organisation and sponsorship, embodies the centre's objectives and efforts to promote dialogue and understanding among followers of religions.

He said that the centre has a substantial presence in numerous countries worldwide, including Western and Arab nations.

Convening in Malaysia and other southeast Asian countries, Dr al-Naimi stated, is a natural extension of Qatar's efforts in the field of dialogue and peace-building, which broadens horizons to handle novel challenges.

He noted that Malaysia's experience in unity and peace is a perfect opportunity, as it is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious state, making it a fertile ground for the experience of interfaith dialogue. - QNA

Doha Design District partners on purpose-driven upcycling project supporting global education



Doha Design District (DDD), in collaboration with Chaumet, M7, Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, and The Cutting Studio, has launched a purpose-driven upcycling initiative that reinforces its commitment to sustainability, design innovation and meaningful community engagement.

Inspired by the poetic narrative of the Chaumet & Nature exhibition, a sensory journey celebrating the beauty of the natural world, this project transforms the exhibition's flags into a limited collection of bespoke tote bags.

Proceeds from the sale of these pieces will directly support EAA programmes to expand access to quality education for children and

youth in the most marginalised communities worldwide.

Msheireb Properties chief executive Ali al-Kuwari said that this upcycling initiative by the DDD is a clear reflection of our commitment to sustainability, innovation and community empowerment.

"By transforming elements from the Chaumet & Nature exhibition into limited-edition pieces that support global education, we are demonstrating how design can serve a dual purpose: honouring the natural world while addressing critical social challenges," he said.

"Through the DDD, we aim to lead projects that inspire innovation and align with Qatar's sustainable development goals."

"This collaboration between

Chaumet and the DDD for Education Above All Foundation represents another commitment of the Maison for responsible innovation and sustainability," said Chaumet chief executive Charles Leung. "It also extends the local social impact of the Chaumet & Nature exhibition, resulting in a concrete contribution to the work done by the Foundation for education."

Mohammed al-Kubaisi, the acting chief executive of the EAA Foundation, said that the foundation is pleased to collaborate on this initiative, which reflects the intersection of creativity and social responsibility.

"Our partnership with the DDD and Chaumet underscores a shared commitment to empow-

ering children and youth through education, opening new pathways to create lasting, positive impact in their lives and communities," he noted.

Curated by the DDD, the creative process was made possible through the support of M7, Qatar's hub for design and fashion entrepreneurship, and brought to life by The Cutting Studio, a local workshop

known for its artisanal craftsmanship and sustainable ethos. This collaboration reflects a shared dedication to thoughtful design, responsible craftsmanship, and social impact.

The limited-edition tote bags will be available to purchase at the TEC Café at Doha Design District, The Cutting Studio at M7, and Msheireb Museums.

World Wellness Weekend at Hilton Salwa

Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas is hosting a World Wellness Weekend on September 19-20, from 12 noon to 9pm.

"The immersive experience is designed to help participants recharge, relax, and rejuvenate while enjoying activities by the pool and beach," a statement said.

The itinerary includes high intensity

interval training, power pilates, ice plunge with beat gym, a yoga relaxation session, water aerobics and pool access, smoothie demo with chef Burak, eforea Spa pop-up and detox food stations, and herbal tea and mocktail pairing class.

The ticket charge of QR150 per person is redeemable in food and beverages, with full access to all activities by the pool and beach, the statement added.





Qatar underlines its policies focused on empowering women

QNA
Geneva

Qatar affirmed that through its various sectoral policies and strategies, it has worked to empower women and provide them with full opportunities in all fields through an integrated approach that works to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, with an equal focus on social and economic aspects.

This came in the statement of Qatar, delivered by First Secretary at the Office of the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Khalid Saeed al-Muqbil, during his participation in the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, item 3, within the framework of the 60th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

He considered that the full and effective participation of women in all aspects of life, on an equal footing, is a fundamental and effective element



First Secretary at the Office of the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Khalid Saeed al-Muqbil.

for achieving development, and explained that while the UN Declaration on the Right to Development prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, Sustainable Development Goal 5 specifically emphasises gender equality and the empowerment of women as a

fundamental global goal for achieving sustainable development.

He pointed out that Qatari women, at the national level, play a pivotal role in comprehensive development, and enjoy government support that focuses on empowering them in various economic, social, and political sectors, within the framework of Qatar National Vision 2030, which aims to build a sustainable society capable of achieving economic growth and social well-being.

He highlighted Qatar's hosting of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha in November 2025, expressing hope that this important global event will constitute an opportunity to enhance the full and equal participation of women in efforts to achieve and sustain development.

The First Secretary at the Office of the Minister of State thanked the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development Surya Deva, for his valuable efforts in carrying out his mandate.

NHRC delegation meets UN human rights official in Geneva

A delegation from the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) met yesterday with Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights at the UN Nada al-Nashif, at the UN headquarters in Geneva. During the meeting, the delegation called for a clear and explicit position from the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism condemning the Israeli attack on a residential compound in Qatar and the resulting violations, including the intimidation of civilians and the destruction of homes. The delegation also stressed the importance of preventing impunity arising from this attack, urging UN bodies, agencies, and mechanisms to take serious

and effective action to document these violations and adopt concrete measures to hold the Israeli occupation accountable and prevent further breaches of international conventions and norms, including violations of the sovereignty of independent states. The NHRC delegation reiterated the Committee's call for the UN Security Council to assume its legal responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security by ending all cases of impunity and lack of accountability, considering this the fundamental guarantee to prevent the recurrence of the most serious crimes. The delegation further called for strengthening the role of human rights mechanisms in addressing violations suffered by civilians as a result of these attacks. (QNA)

Nomas Center organises course on traditional fishing



A youngster at the fishing course.

Nomas Center continues to offer training courses dedicated to teaching the art of sea fishing, one of the most important traditional professions linked to Qatar's history and rich maritime heritage.

This is part of its programmes aimed at instilling authentic values in the hearts of young people and introducing them to the heritage of their forefathers.

The course aims to introduce young participants to the basics of marine fishing, starting with knowledge of traditional fishing tools and how to use them, moving on to the art of sailing and safety at sea, and finally to sound environmental practices that ensure the sustainability of marine resources.

Trainees also learn the art of casting nets, how to select fishing spots, and how to deal with ocean currents and weather changes.

The course pays special attention to practical aspects, with trainees spending time at sea under the supervision of experienced instructors, providing a realistic experience resembling that of fishermen of the past. Theoretical activities are combined with folk stories and narratives that reflect the suffering, patience, and co-operation of ancient fishermen in facing the challenges of the sea.

This course is organised in line with Nomas Center's mission to promote authentic Qatari identity, connect new generations to their national heritage, and instil in them life skills and values such as patience and teamwork.

The course witnessed a growing turnout from participants, who emphasised the importance of these programmes in deepening children's connection to their roots.

Rwandan president ends Doha visit



Rwandan President Paul Kagame left Doha yesterday, after a working visit to the country. He and the accompanying delegation were seen off at Doha International Airport by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi and Rwanda's ambassador Igor Marara Kayinamura. (QNA)

HMC spotlights dementia care services during World Alzheimer's Month



Dr Hanadi al-Hamad.

2020, RAHA (4026 2222) has offered confidential and direct access to professional advice on dementia and Alzheimer's disease to thousands of people.

"The RAHA helpline is staffed by a skilled team with multilingual skills who provide support to callers. It is the only service of its kind in Qatar and through the helpline, we have seen an increasing number of families accessing dementia care support at our Geriatric Memory Clinic," says Dr al-Hamad.

Throughout September, HMC has planned a range of activities to promote active dialogue about dementia and educate the public about the condition. These include an information booth at Grand Mall in Asian Town on September 26, from 1pm to 10pm, where members of HMC's geriatrics care team, speaking both Arabic and English, will be available to answer public questions about the symptoms and care of Alzheimer's patients.

The programme also features school competitions and a Leaders and Health-care symposium where hospital leads and healthcare experts in Qatar will come together to learn about the latest developments in dementia treatment and management. This year, HMC will once again collaborate with the Ministry of Interior to host dementia awareness sessions for first responders including police and traffic department personnel.

GTA set to showcase careers to QU students

The General Tax Authority (GTA) is organising an informational booth at the College of Business and Economics at Qatar University, taking place from September 15-17 between 9am and 2pm.

This initiative is part of GTA's ongoing efforts to promote tax culture among the youth.

The booth targets students enrolled in government scholarship programmes and field training programmes, as well as those interested in pursuing career opportunities in tax-related fields. The GTA team will showcase available career paths within this growing sector and will engage directly with students to encourage them to consider taxation as a promising career track for their future.

The initiative aims to introduce students to the Authority's scope of work and responsibilities, while also highlighting its critical role in supporting the national economy and enhancing the business environment.

The booth also emphasises the importance of tax specialisations in the labour market and seeks to motivate students to explore the many professional opportunities available in this field.

This event is part of a broader series of outreach sessions the GTA is conducting at various universities. These engagements aim to raise awareness of taxation rights and responsibilities.



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

| No. | TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION | TENDER ISSUE PERIOD | TENDER FEE (QAR) | TENDER BOND (QAR) | TENDER CLOSING DATE |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | LTC/P/OOS/7288/25, B55 SUPPLY OF HEAT EXCHANGERS | 10/09/2025 to 17/09/2025 | 0 | 1,310,000 | 07/10/2025 |

Scope of Work: SUPPLY OF HEAT EXCHANGERS

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.

Tens of thousands join pro-Palestinian march in New Zealand's biggest city

Reuters
Auckland

Thousands took part in a pro-Palestinian march in Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city, yesterday, in what organisers said was the largest rally of its kind since the war in Gaza began between Israel and Palestinian Hamas group.

Some 50,000 attended the March for Humanity rally in central Auckland yesterday morning, the Aotearoa for Palestine group said. New Zealand police estimated the attendance at 20,000.

Aotearoa for Palestine spokesman Arama Rata said it was New Zealand's largest march in support of Palestinians since conflict broke out in Gaza, when Israel started an offensive in retaliation for a Hamas-led cross-border attack. Many in yesterday's protest

crowd carried Palestinian flags and banners with slogans including "Don't normalise genocide" and "Grow a spine stand with Palestine", public broadcaster Radio New Zealand reported.

Organisers, motivated by a march that shut down Sydney's iconic Harbour Bridge in August, wanted to close a major city bridge with yesterday's rally, Rata said, but were forced to abandon those plans on Friday due to strong winds.

Police said there were no arrests at the march and that roads along the route were being reopened.

Aotearoa for Palestine said it wanted New Zealand's centre-right coalition government to impose sanctions on Israel.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon in August described recent Israeli actions in Gaza, including a lack of humanitarian assistance, as "utterly appalling".

AFP
Berlin

Thousands of people gathered in front of Berlin's landmark Brandenburg Gate yesterday, demanding an end to "the genocide in Gaza" as well as a halt to arms deliveries to Ukraine.

Around 12,000 people joined the rally in the centre of the German capital condemning Israel's offensive in the besieged Palestinian territory, according to police figures.

But the far-left BSW party, which had called the demonstration, estimated turnout at 20,000 people, making it one of the largest pro-Palestinian rallies in Germany in recent months.

Marie Atwan, a 20-year-old student, told AFP that she had come from Hamburg to join the rally to demand "a complete halt



Sahra Wagenknecht, co-founder and co-leader of the left-wing populist party Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW), is seen behind a Palestinian flag as she speaks on a stage during a rally titled "Stop the genocide in Gaza! No weapons in war zones! Peace instead of arms race!" at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, yesterday.

to German arms deliveries" to Israel.

Not banning those weapons sales amounted to supporting "the genocide in Gaza", she said.

German Chancellor Friedrich

Elit Hadilovic, 22, who was at the demonstration, told AFP that he was shocked by the situation in Gaza, where "innocent children (are) dying and suffering from hunger". During the rally, BSW founder Sahra Wagenknecht also touched on the war in Ukraine, demanding that Berlin commits "to peace negotiations – both in the Middle East and in Ukraine".

In light of its historical responsibility for the Holocaust, Germany has made support for the State of Israel a cornerstone of its foreign policy.

But Berlin has grown increasingly critical of the Israeli campaign in Gaza and its impact on Palestinian civilians in recent months as the humanitarian situation has worsened, with the UN declaring famine in parts of the coastal territory.

The Gaza war erupted in October 2023 triggered by a Hamas storming of Israel.

Miss Palestine vows to give her people voice on global stage

AFP
Dubai

Nadeen Ayoub, the first Palestinian to compete in Miss Universe, will step onto the stage at the height of one of the most harrowing periods in her people's history, determined to show they are more than headlines of war.

"We're more than our struggle and pain," she told AFP in Dubai, where she is preparing to raise the Palestinian flag at the pageant in November.

"Right now, our people need a voice and we don't want our identity to be erased," she said, nearly two years into the Israel-Hamas war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza.

As Israel intensifies its onslaught, causing what the United Nations has called a famine in Gaza City and widespread destruction in the territory, Ayoub said she wanted to showcase her homeland's rich heritage and beauty, to humanise a people long reduced to just their suffering.

Palestinians are also "children who want to live, women who have dreams and aspirations," said the beauty queen, her fair face framed by long dark brown hair.

Ayoub lives between Ramallah, Amman, and Dubai – where she founded an organisation that trains content creators on sustainability and artificial intelligence.

She grew up in the occupied West Bank, the United States and Canada. After earning degrees in English literature



Nadeen Ayoub will compete as the first ever Miss Palestine in the Miss Universe pageant in November.

and psychology, she went on to teach and work for NGOs in the occupied territories.

"My parents are both academics and they always told me to focus on my university (studies)," she said.

But after modelling at a fashion show in Italy, people working in the industry encouraged her to look into competing in beauty pageants, so she launched a Miss Palestine franchise.

"Something as simple as having a (Miss Palestine) organisation is difficult," even though it is given in other countries, she said.

Part of the difficulty is that Palestinians are divided between the occupied West Bank, besieged Gaza and annexed East Jerusalem, while many are refugees in neighbouring countries, living abroad or in Israel.

Though recognised by the vast majority of countries, some nations do not

recognise a Palestinian state, making representation on a world stage an act of defiance for people like Ayoub.

"(Palestine) is a country, it is a nation, I will be representing an actual country," Ayoub insisted.

Western frustration with Israel's conduct in Gaza has pushed several countries, including Britain and France, to say they will recognise Palestinian statehood later this month.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted this week "there will be no Palestinian state", and last month Israel approved a major West Bank settlement that the international community has warned threatens the viability of a future such state.

In 2022, the first Miss Palestine pageant was held online to allow for Palestinians scattered abroad, in Israel and in the territories to participate.

As the first winner of the title, Ayoub has worked on the organisation's philanthropic activities and competed in Miss Earth, an environmentally minded pageant, in 2022. But since the Gaza war erupted in October 2023 – triggered by a Hamas storming of Israel – she has not participated in any beauty pageants.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 64,756 Palestinians, also mostly civilians, according to figures from the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza that the United Nations considers reliable.

Ayoub said she would take any opportunity to speak out for her people.

"We must be present on every single international stage. Every single opportunity that we have to talk about Palestine, to show Palestine, we must take it," she said.

ARPM Tender Committee announces the following Tender

| Tender No. | (Tender Title) Scope of work | Tender Fee | Tender Bond | Opening Date | Closing Date |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| ARPM/229/2025/TEN/DOH | Provision of Emergency Lighting Systems: Supply, Installation, Cabling, Testing, and Commissioning at AL Biida Park Car Parks | 500 | 5,000 | 14-Sept-25 | 06-Oct-25 |
| ARPM/230/2025/TEN/DOH | Tender for Replacement of Network Switches at Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels | 500 | 5,000 | 14-Sept-25 | 06-Oct-25 |

1. Interested parties can collect copies of the tender documents from ARPM Purchasing Department, via email to m.aseef@arpm.com.qa and j.castillo@arpm.com.qa during working hours 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Fri & Sat Closed)

2. A payment of a non-refundable document's fees should be deposited in cash to:

- Beneficiary Name: Al-Rayyan Projects Management (ARPM)
- Account No. 0013-022375-004 (Qatar National Bank)
- IBAN No. QA86QNBA000000000013022375004

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

3. A tender bond (as stated above), issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 180 days from the closing date should accompany tenders. The executed tender bond should be included with the technical offer.

4. All tenderers MUST collect their original bonds from ARPM – Purchasing department upon expiry of the Tender Bond, unless alternative instructions are issued by ARPM.

5. Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP requirements in both HARD COPY & SOFT COPY on CD or USB.

6. Copies of valid Company Commercial Registration, Computer Card & Authorization Letter must be submitted in order to collect the tender documents.

7. The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the total contract sum and shall be valid for a period expiring 180 days after contract expiry.

8. Offers should be valid for 180 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).

9. ARPM has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms and conditions.

10. ARPM is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show any reasons thereof.

11. Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Box, provided in the ARPM Purchasing office, located at the 9th Floor, ARPM, Head office and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman - Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject.

12. Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

CHAIRMAN – TENDER COMMITTEE
TEL: 40341804

The Transport Company MOWASALAT (KARWA)

Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:

| Tender Ref. No. | Tender Title | Tender Fee | Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates | Tender Bond | Bid Closing Date |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| TC-058-EGS-2025 | Provision of Underground Leakage Detection, Excavation & Reinstatement Works on Call-off Basis | QAR 800 | 14 to 21 September 2025 | QAR 20,000 | 13 October 2025 |

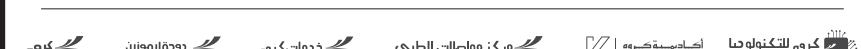
CONDITIONS:

- Interested bidder shall pay the tender fee to Mowasalat Bank Account details as shown:
- Bidder must submit proof of tender fee payment (Bank Deposit Slip + a Signed & Stamped Expression of Interest (indicating Tender Ref. No. and Title / Company Name and details of nominated contact person i.e., Tel. No., Fax No., and Email address)) + Copy of valid Commercial Registration to Mowasalat Secretary - Tender Committee at email: tenders@mowasalat.com
- Tender documents will be released via email on the next working day after the tender fee payment date to all bidders who have submitted the bank deposit slip and other documents requested (i.e., 22 September 2025)
- **Bonds: Tender Bond & Performance Bond:** Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the tender documents. **Bids without Tender Bond shall not be considered.**
- Tender validity: Bid validity period shall be 180 days from the bid closing date.
- Tender documents submission: Bids must be submitted in 3 separate sealed (IN RED WAX) envelopes addressed to Secretary - Tender Committee clearly highlighting the Tender Ref. No. & Tender Title:
 - Envelope 1# must include the Technical Bid submission (1 Original + 1 non-Editable copy in a USB)
 - Envelope 2# must include Commercial Bid submission (1 Original + 1 Editable MS Excel spreadsheet copied in a USB)
 - Envelope 3# must include the Tender Bond (1 Original).
- **Bid Closing Date:** Bid submission deadline is 12.00 noon Doha Local Time as on the Bid closing date shown above. The 3 envelopes must be handed over to the Office of The Secretary - Tender Committee, located at Mowasalat Head Office, Industrial Area, Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be considered.



Tel.: 4458 8724 Fax: 4458 8850

Supplier Registration Mowasalat Location



Limited Tender Committee announces the following tender:

| S. No. | Tender Ref. No. | Description | Tender Bond (QAR) | Tender Fee Non-Refundable (QAR) | Bid Closing Date & Time |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | LTC072 -2025 | Sale of Used Electrical & Electronic Items | 15,000/- | No Fee | 05Oct2025 (01:00PM) |

Tender documents can be collected from Al Jazeera Media Network, Procurement & Contracts Directorate, Warehouse Building, 1st Floor, behind Al Jazeera Media Institute Building, TV Intersection Area, Doha by submitting an authorization letter showing the tender number and ID number of collecting person under the company letterhead.

Tender documents are to be collected from 14Sep2025 to 22Sep2025, between 07:00AM to 01:00PM (excluding public holidays)

The Bid must be submitted with a Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee) issued by a Qatari Bank or by a bank operating in Qatar and should be valid for a period of 180 days from Bid Closing Date.

The bid must be valid for a period of 180 days from the Bid Closing Date

Bids should be submitted as per the instructions in the tender documents which shall bear the tender number and bid closing date.

The last date for accepting the bids shall be 01:00PM of the bid closing date.

For more information, please call 44897624.



Malawi wraps up campaigning ahead of tight election battle

AFP
Lilongwe

Two presidents vying for a second term at Malawi's elections next week drew hundreds of supporters to their final rallies yesterday ahead of what is expected to be a tight race to govern one of the world's poorest countries.

Tuesday's presidential and parliamentary elections come with the southern African country in economic crisis, marked by fuel and foreign currency shortages and the after-effects of drought and cyclones.

"There have been complaints about the cost of living, the lack of resources, food scarcity," incumbent President Lazarus Chakwera told a crowd packed into a stadium in the capital Lilongwe, the heartland of his Malawi Congress Party.

"I have heard all of them and I have taken your words to heart. We will fix things," the 70-year-old evangelical pastor said.

Chakwera was elected with nearly 59% of ballots in a 2020 rerun of a vote the previous year that was nullified after the courts upheld the opposition's claims of fraud. He defeated the previous president, Peter Mutharika, who had been narrowly ahead in the cancelled first take and is now

his main challenger in a field of 17 presidential candidates.

"The change starts on inauguration day," Chakwera said to cheers, blaming others in his administration for some of the problems facing the country of nearly 21mn people.

In the second city of Blantyre, Mutharika, 85, said he wanted re-election because "I want to rescue this country." "The country is in trouble, it is suffocating," the lawyer said, pledging to economic reforms and job creation.

"On Tuesday, you will decide whether Malawi should go forward or will go backwards," he said, accusing Chakwera of concentrating his flagship infrastructure projects around Lilongwe. Around 7.2mn

"People are hungry in the villages, there are fuel supply problems, electricity problems, prices are high," the businessman said.

voters are registered to cast their ballots Tuesday, with results expected before the week is over.

An outright victory will require more than 50% of votes and analysts say a second round is all but inevitable. With familiar faces heading the presidential race, some voters were despondent.

"There have been so many troubles over the past five years," said Mundi Gama, 47, in a long line of vehicles snaking around a Lilongwe petrol station.

"People are hungry in the villages, there are fuel supply problems, electricity problems, prices are high," the businessman said.

The election "will bring no difference really... but people want change," he said.



Incumbent Malawi President and Malawi Congress Party (MCP) presidential candidate Lazarus Chakwera (second right), First Lady Monica Chakwera and MCP Secretary-General Chimwendo Banda (left) sing the national anthem during MCP's final campaign rally at Civo Stadium in Lilongwe, yesterday.

Five missing after coastal boat collision in Mauritania

AFP
Dakar

Five Mauritanians have disappeared after two fishing boats rammed into each other off the coast of the west African country, the Spanish maritime rescue service told AFP yesterday.

Twenty-one people, including three Spaniards, were saved from the Atlantic waves after Friday's crash between the "Right Whale" and "Taifa 3" ships, a spokesman for the Spanish rescue agency said.

After the "Taifa 3" sank in the wake of the collision, five of its 26-strong crew went missing, the spokesman said, citing the Mauritanian authorities. "There are five disappeared people of Mauritanian nationality; three Spanish citizens have been saved," the spokesman added.

According to Galicia region's government, two of the three Spaniards were captains on board the ship.

PROTEST Nigerian public doctors strike over pay and welfare issues

Frontline doctors in Nigeria's public hospitals began a five-day strike on Friday over unpaid allowances and unresolved welfare concerns, their union said, Reuters reported from Lagos. Kazeem Odumbaku, secretary-general of the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD), told Reuters the government had failed to meet their demands include disbursing the 2025 medical residency training fund and payment of salary arrears. The association said repeated negotiations with government officials had failed.

Reuters
Johannesburg

A South African court has reopened an inquest into the death of anti-apartheid leader Steve Biko exactly 48 years after he died of brain injuries in police custody, in a case that shocked the world and heightened pressure for an end to white minority rule.

The move was supported by legal representatives of the Biko family, and aims to determine if Biko's death involved any criminal act, the country's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) said on Friday.

Biko was the founder of the Black Consciousness Movement who died in police custody on Sept 12, 1977, allegedly due to torture by members of

the apartheid regime's Special Branch — a police entity responsible for intelligence gathering. They were never prosecuted. A 1977 inquest concluded that Biko died from injuries sustained during a supposed scuffle with officers, with no criminal responsibility assigned. South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission decided in 1999 not to grant amnesty to the officers involved, two of whom the NPA said were still alive.

"The NPA and its partners will continue their efforts to address the atrocities of the past and assist in providing closure to the Biko family and society at large," the statement said.

Three decades after the end of white minority rule, South Africa is still grappling with unresolved crimes that took place under apartheid.

SA reopens inquest into 1977 death of anti-apartheid leader

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Omar Abu Kuwaik, six-year-old Gazan child who lost an arm, gestures as six Gazan families with wounded children arrive at Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport for medical treatment, in Beirut, Lebanon.

Missing limbs and loved ones, Gazan children begin treatment journey abroad

Reuters
Beirut

Six-year-old Omar Abu Kuwaik still believes that by his next birthday, his missing hand will have grown back.

He is one of thousands of Palestinian children who have lost limbs and loved ones in Israel's bombing campaign of the Gaza Strip.

"It'll be big again when I turn seven," he tells his aunt, softly rubbing his left arm, which ends just below his elbow.

Omar was the lone survivor of an Israeli airstrike that flattened his grandparents' home in Gaza in December 2023, killing his parents, sister and extended family.

He is among a small group of Gazan families transferred from Cairo to Beirut earlier this month for medical treatment.

His aunt Maha Abu Kuwaik says he now calls her "mama".

"He's scared of everything now - sleep, doctors, any loud sound. He asks me not to be sad. 'Smile, Mama,' he says. 'I don't like it when people cry,'" she told Reuters, her voice cracking.

Omar was pulled from the rubble with severe burns, a shattered leg, and his left hand already severed by the blast.

With Gaza's hospitals in ruins, Maha sought help from the World Health Organisation. They helped evacuate Omar to Egypt for basic treatment, before his transfer to Lebanon under a programme sponsored by the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund and a fund set up by Ghassan Abu Sittah, a British-Palestinian surgeon.

Maha had to leave her own children in Gaza to accompany Omar.

"It was the hardest decision of my life - to leave my sons in a war zone," she said. "But Omar had no one else. I couldn't leave him."

Doctors in Beirut are now considering a prosthetic hand and reconstructive surgery for Omar.

Fourteen-year-old Amit Hajaj only remembers snapshots of the night his world changed: a red flash, an explosion, then silence.



Olfat Abdulkarim Abdallah, Gazan mother of three, poses with her baby boy and her two wounded daughters, Mays, with three fractures and a torn nerve in her leg, and Aya, who lost her right leg, in the apartment where they reside during her daughters' medical treatment in Beirut, Lebanon.

"I was just sitting on a chair," he said softly, "then everything turned red, and I was on the ground. I didn't even know what happened."

An Israeli strike hit his family's home in northern Gaza in late 2023. Shrapnel pierced both his shoulders, his leg, and his hand. He bled for hours as Israeli tanks shelled their street during their escape, Alaa's older sister Alaa said. "He kept saying, 'Leave me, save yourselves,'" Alaa recalled.

"But how could I leave him behind?"

Amir bled for four days in an overcrowded hospital. By the time doctors got to him, it was too late to save the fingers of his right hand. He was evacuated to Cairo, where the Palestine Children's Relief Fund later arranged for his transfer to Beirut. He is now awaiting nerve treatment and physiotherapy.

"He tries to hide his hand in photos. I tell him, 'You're a hero,'" Alaa told Reuters.

At least 45,000 children have been wounded in Gaza, many of them suffering life-changing injuries, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). Over 18,000 children have been killed in the war, among a total death toll of 64,000, it said.

Israel began its offensive in Gaza after Palestinian Hamas group launched a cross-border storming of Israel. It controls all entry and exit from the enclave and is pursuing an offensive in Gaza City despite mounting international pressure. More re-

cent efforts to evacuate civilians have repeatedly stalled due to relentless airstrikes, decimated infrastructure and shifting Israeli evacuation routes.

Olfat Abdulkarim Abdallah, a mother of three, arrived in Lebanon with her two wounded daughters: Mays, 5, who has three fractures and a torn nerve in her leg, and Aya, 7, who lost her right leg.

An Israeli strike tore through their home in Gaza on November 8, 2023. "I didn't even hear the explosion," Olfat said, her voice barely above a whisper.

"I only heard Aya scream. Mays didn't make a sound. She just looked down at the blood pouring out of her."

Olfat clings to the hope that her daughters' pain might finally give way to healing. Doctors at the American University of Beirut Medical Center and the Ghassan Abu Sittah Children's Fund said Mays will need a new limb, while Mays might walk again with physiotherapy alone. "I'm holding onto the possibility that this treatment will give them a better life than the horrors they've lived," their mother said.

Mohammed Ziara, a Gaza-born plastic surgeon working on the cases in Beirut, said treatment plans were in place and progressing as expected. Organisers are hoping to bring 30 more wounded Gazan children to Lebanon for treatment. "The children are happy and comfortable," he told Reuters. "We're also providing all the psychological support needed for their recovery."

Coastal surges sweep away Nigerian community

Reuters
Lagos

One morning in June, an ocean surge swept through the village of Apakin, one of Lagos' last indigenous coastal communities, washing away fishing boats, nets and graves.

It was only the latest event in the settlement of roughly 3,000 people that is losing homes and livelihoods to rising seas.

Despite pledges of support from Commonwealth leaders, worsening ocean surges have left the centuries-old community feeling powerless, with residents fearing their ancestral land could soon be lost to the sea, according to local chief Abimbola Iyowun.

"We only have two graves left from my father's lineage."

"We've been trying to move them, but we haven't found the place to move them to," Iyowun said, pointing into the ocean where his house and that of his father once stood.

About 80% of the Lagos shoreline has been washed away in the



A drone view shows the Apakin community and neighbouring villages affected by ocean surge on the coastal line of Ibeju-Lekki, Nigeria.

past five decades, according to a 2022 report in the Journal of African Earth Sciences. The study blamed deepwater ports along the Bight of Benin as the main reason for erosion. Lagos has more than a dozen coastal communities battling ocean surges, but Apakin's residents say they're among the

worst hit. On land once known for coconut farming, a final 50-metre stretch of trees vanished four years ago.

Iyowun said the building he used as a palace when he was appointed the village head three years ago had also gone.

Lagos State says rising seas

pose the biggest long-term climate threat, but environmentalist Philip Jakpor argues that government-backed projects like the massive Dangote oil refinery and deep sea ports are equally damaging to coastal communities.

"A lot of dredging is happening, which is pushing water in the di-



People stand on the spot where their home once stood before it was swept away by ocean surges, in Okelegu, Nigeria.

rection of communities, swallowing communities," said Jakpor.

Meanwhile Nigerian activist Akinbode Oluwafemi pointed out that the 'Living Lands Charter' adopted by leaders at the 2022 Commonwealth summit in Kigali, Rwanda, was non-binding, unenforced and failing to deliver

a concrete plan to protect coastal communities.

"The Kigali Declaration acknowledges human factors that will worsen climate change. However, it did not expressly adopt any clear resolution in terms of bringing corporations that are causing climate change into accountability," he said.

Americans uneasy at Trump's moves to expand presidential power: Reuters/Ipsos poll

By Jason Lange and James O'Leary
Reuters

President Donald Trump's expansion of executive power, including his unprecedented push to send troops into US cities to combat crime and his attempt to seize control of aspects of the economy, has left Americans uneasy, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found.

The findings suggest that a substantial majority of the public favours limits on presidential power and does not approve of Trump's efforts to shatter longstanding norms.

"President Trump has not convinced most Americans that there is an emergency in this country that requires greatly expanded presidential power to address," said David Hopkins, a political scientist at Boston College.

Over the last few weeks, Trump's administration has taken control of the Washington, DC, police department and deployed National Guard troops to the city,

claiming that crime there is out of control. He has discussed sending troops to Chicago and New Orleans as well.

On crime, only 32% of Americans said they would feel safer with armed soldiers deployed to large cities in their state, the poll found.

Some 62% of Trump's fellow Republicans were warm to military patrols in big cities, but only one in four independents felt the same way, as did just one in 10 Democrats.

Only one in five respondents said they often feel unsafe because of high crime in their area, and just a third of people overall said they avoid big cities because of crime, suggesting that a majority of voters view crime as a remote phenomenon that does not affect them personally.

About half of Republicans said they steer clear of large cities for fear of becoming victims.

"People agree that crime and safety are an issue, but they think Trump's abuse of power doesn't fix the problem, he makes it worse," said Jesse Ferguson, a veteran

Democratic strategist.

Trump has also taken a strong hand in attempting to regulate the US economy by pushing for the government to take a 10% stake in chipmaker Intel while demanding a cut of profits from Nvidia, another chipmaker, from its sales in China.

He has tried to pressure the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates and tried to fire a member of its board of governors following allegations the central banker committed mortgage fraud, a charge the official has denied.

The president has faced legal challenges to his tariffs across a range of nations, claiming trade imbalances constitute a national emergency.

He has also threatened to retaliate against US companies such as Apple if they don't expand their domestic operations.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll found just 16% of Americans overall – including 2% of Democrats and 34% of Republicans – thought it would be good for the president to have power to set interest rates and tell companies where to manufacture products.

Trump's overall approval rating remains stable at 42%, according to the poll, with nine in 10 Republicans supporting him.

"Even if citizens have concerns about urban crime or economic performance, they don't view either issue as currently in a state of unprecedented crisis requiring unprecedented measures to resolve," Boston College's Hopkins said. "And while Trump certainly has a set of personal admirers who would happily grant him whatever powers he might seek, there are also many Republican voters who supported Trump in the last three elections but who don't agree that he should be allowed to operate without limits."

US voters overwhelmingly want their president to respect the authority of federal courts, with nine in 10 Democrats and seven in 10 Republicans saying that the president should abide by judicial rulings even if he disagrees with them.

Still, Republicans are more inclined to give Trump a free hand.

Asked if they were willing to give up

some checks and balances in the US democratic system to have a government that can take action faster, 39% of Republicans said they would take that offer, compared to 45% who rejected it.

Only 17% of independents – and the same share of Democrats – liked the idea.

At the same time, voters of both parties are increasingly less likely to view the US as exceptional.

Some 29% of people in the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll agreed with a statement that "America is the greatest country in the world", down from 38% in a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in November 2017, during Trump's first term in office.

The share of Democrats who agreed fell to 12% from 26% and among Republicans the share dropped to 55% from 59%.

The poll, which was conducted online and nationwide, gathered responses from 1,084 US adults. It had a margin of error of three percentage points for all respondents, and between 5-6 points for Republicans, Democrats and independents.

TIFF spotlights record number of Indigenous films made in Canada

The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) featured a record number of films made by Indigenous people in Canada this year, a milestone celebrated by Indigenous artists who say the industry has long sidelined their voices.

Several premieres featuring Indigenous talent were sold out, according to the TIFF.

Bretton Hannam, a L'nu filmmaker living in Nova Scotia, hopes the audience appetite will continue.

"Our voices have always been there, and people just haven't been listening. And now there is space for that," he said.

"It's been a long journey, a long struggle," Hannam added.

Their film, *Sk+te'kmuijue'katik* (*At the Place of Ghosts*), follows two brothers' journey to avenge spirits that haunt them from their childhood, while exploring Mi'kmaq culture and the colonial history of Canada's east coast.

The TIFF's International Programmer of Canadian features, Kelly Boutsalis, said the record lineup that includes two shorts and eight feature films spotlights directors who identify as Indigenous and sets a precedent.

"It feels really good for the state of Indigenous film, that it can be this robust," said Boutsalis, who is Mohawk from the Six Nations of the Grand River reserve. "We tried to take the best, but there's so many more."

The Indigenous Screen Office, the main advocacy and funding body for Indigenous screen content in Canada, supported the eight films in the festival.

Val Vint, a Métis artist based in Manitoba who is known in her community as "Deadly Auntie", features in experimental film *Levers* by Rhayne Vermette.

"I'm so tired of these films that are all about crying and sadness. Like, we have joy. And I think this expresses more of that," Vint said.

Vint, 74, said the interest at the TIFF finally offered some recognition for Indigenous land and culture.

"I think it's long overdue," she said. – Reuters

UC Berkeley shares information on students, staff with govt

Reuters
Washington

The University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) said on Friday that it has provided information on 160 faculty members and students to President Donald Trump's administration as part of a federal investigation into "alleged incidents of antisemitism", amid a broader government crackdown against educational institutions.

The office of the president of the University of California said the institution is subject to oversight by federal and state agencies and that its campuses like UC Berkeley

"routinely receive document requests in connection with government audits, compliance reviews, or investigations".

Trump has threatened federal funding cuts for universities over pro-Palestinian student protests.

The government alleges universities allowed antisemitism during the protests.

Pro-Palestinian protesters, including some Jewish groups, say that the government wrongly equates their criticism of Israel's assault on Gaza and its occupation of Palestinian territories with antisemitism and their advocacy for Palestinian rights with support for extremism.

Experts have raised free speech, due process and academic freedom concerns

over the Republican president's threats.

Trump has also attempted to deport foreign pro-Palestinian student protesters but has faced legal hurdles.

"UC is committed to protecting the privacy of our students, faculty, and staff to the greatest extent possible, while fulfilling its legal obligations," a spokesperson of the UC president added.

UC Berkeley said the names of the 160 students, faculty and staff were sent to the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and affected members of the campus were notified by the institution last week.

It added the Education Department launched an investigation several months

ago into its handling of complaints related to "alleged incidents of antisemitism" and demanded documentation.

"Numerous documents were provided over recent months to OCR, including the names of individuals in those reports," it added.

The government had no immediate comment.

The government in July settled its investigations with Columbia University, which agreed to pay more than \$220mn, and Brown University, which said it will pay \$50mn.

Both accepted certain government demands. Settlement talks with Harvard University are ongoing.

1,000 National Guard troops being planned for Louisiana policing'

Reuters
Washington

President Donald Trump's administration has drafted a proposal to deploy 1,000 Louisiana National Guard troops to conduct law enforcement operations in the state's urban centres, the *Washington Post* reported yesterday, citing Pentagon planning documents it obtained.

Trump has made crime a major focus of his administration even as violent crime rates have fallen in many US cities.

His crackdown on Democratic-led municipalities has fuelled legal concerns and spurred protests, including a demonstration by several thousand people in Washington DC last weekend.

Democratic leaders have said

that the massive deployments are more a show of power by Trump, rather than a serious effort to fight crime.

More than a dozen residents of Shreveport, Louisiana, told Reuters that they viewed any deployment as more of a political stunt than a serious crime-fighting solution, and a way for Trump to blunt criticism that he's only targeting Democratic-controlled cities and states.

A Pentagon spokesperson did not comment in detail on the documents but a spokesperson said that "leaked documents should not be interpreted as policy. We will not discuss these plans through leaked documents, pre-decisional or otherwise".

The planning documents, according to the *Post*, state that the plan would allow the military to supplement law enforcement in



This picture taken last week shows members of the National Guard patrolling in Washington, DC. – Reuters

cities such as New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

The Pentagon's plan outlines a mobilisation lasting until September 30, 2026, though no start date was specified in the documents.

Among the documents is an

unsigned, undated draft memo from Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth to Attorney-General Pam Bondi and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, which highlights the "unique advantage" of the Pentagon's proposed approach to law

enforcement in Louisiana, according to the *Post*.

The proposal, which hinges upon a request from Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry, who, like Trump, is a Republican, has not been confirmed as approved by federal or state officials, the *Post* reported.

The Pentagon's Louisiana plan suggests a robust operation is under consideration, with National Guard personnel "supplementing" the law enforcement presence in high-crime neighbourhoods.

They could also help with drug interdiction and by providing "logistical and communications support" to local authorities, according to the *Washington Post*.

On Friday, Trump said he would send National Guard troops to Memphis, Tennessee.

Colombia, Peru pledge to ensure Amazon river navigability

Peru and Colombia have committed to ensure navigability along the Amazon River, where a disputed island remains a point of contention between the two countries.

The South American nations have feuded for decades over the delineation of their border in the Amazon River, where its shifting course complicates demarcation.

"The delegations of Peru and Colombia emphasised their commitment to... preserve navigability conditions in the Atacuri-Leticia sector of the Amazon River, for the benefit of the riverine populations of both countries," said a joint statement released on Friday by their foreign ministries following a two-day meeting.

In early August, the two countries traded barbs and reiterated their competing claims to the remote Santa Rosa Island in the Amazon, which lies in the tri-border area between Colombia, Peru and Brazil.

Diplomatic delegations from both countries met on Thursday and Friday in Lima for the 14th Meeting of the Permanent Joint Border Inspection Commission (Comperif) to strengthen border integration and ensure the river's navigability.

The Comperif meeting focused on reviewing the Amazon River's fluvial dynamics and actions to ensure river access and navigability, promoting integration and opportunities for border communities. – AFP

Death toll in Mexico City gas truck explosion rises to 13

The death toll from the explosion of a gas truck in Mexico City at mid-week has risen to 13, the mayor's office said yesterday.

Several people suffered second- and third-degree burns when a truck carrying almost 50,000 litres of gas suddenly blew up on

Wednesday in the densely populated district of Iztapalapa.

Initial reports said three people were killed and dozens injured, but the death toll has ticked up since then.

Forty injured people were still being treated yesterday in hospitals around the city, according to the latest official figures.

Investigators say the accident likely occurred because the truck was driving too fast, and hit an object that punctured the tank.

Brugada said her government will seek to impose new regulations on fuel tank trucks.

– AFP

Charlie Kirk's allies issue warning: Mourn him properly or else

Reuters
Washington

After the fatal shooting of right-wing influencer Charlie Kirk, US Republicans have a warning for Americans: Mourn him respectfully or suffer the consequences.

Over the past several days, Democratic and Republican leaders have widely condemned the murder of Kirk, a 31-year-old activist and Trump world celebrity known for his hard-right views and pugnacious debating style.

A smattering of commentators – including ordinary people joking about and sometimes celebrating Kirk's death to lawmakers and pundits dwelling on his history of bigoted rhetoric – has also surfaced, only to be targeted in organised campaigns.

At least 15 people have been fired or suspended from their jobs after discussing the killing online, according to a Reuters tally based on interviews, public statements and local press reports.

The total includes journalists, academic workers and teachers.

On Friday, a junior Nasdaq employee was fired over her posts related to Kirk.

Others have been subjected to torrents of online abuse or seen their offices flooded over the head by a hammer-wielding conspiracy theorist during a break-in at their San Francisco home shortly before the 2022 midterm elections. Higgins posted a photo making fun of the attack.

Some Republicans want to go further still and have proposed deporting Kirk's critics from the United States, suing them into

penury or banning them from social media for life.

"Prepare to have your whole future professional aspirations ruined if you are sick enough to celebrate his death," said conspiracy theorist Laura Loomer, a prominent ally of President Donald Trump and one of several far-right figures who are organising digital campaigns on X, the social media site, to ferret out and publicly shame Kirk's critics.

US lawmaker Clay Higgins said in a post on X that anyone who "ran their mouth with their... hatred celebrating the heinous murder of that beautiful young man" needed to be "banned from ALL PLATFORMS FOREVER".

The US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said on the same site that he had been disgusted to "see some on social media praising, rationalising, or making light of the event, and have directed our consular officials to undertake appropriate action".

Republicans' anger at those disrespecting Kirk's legacy contrasts with the mockery some of the same figures – including Kirk – directed at past victims of political violence.

For example, when former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband Paul was clubbed over the head by a hammer-wielding conspiracy theorist during a break-in at their San Francisco home shortly before the 2022 midterm elections, Higgins posted a photo making fun of the attack.

He later deleted the post.

Loomer falsely suggested that Paul

Pelosi and his assailant were intimately involved.

Speaking to a television audience a few days after the attack, a grinning Kirk called for the intruder to be sprung from jail.

"If some amazing patriot out there in San Francisco or the Bay Area wants to really be a mid-term hero, someone should go and bail this guy out," he said.

Loomer and Higgins did not return messages seeking comment.

The campaign to fire Kirk's critics has not slowed.

Calls to run people out of jobs have flooded across X.

A newly registered site, "Expose Charlie's Murderers" has 41 names of people that it alleged were "supporting political violence online" and claims to be working on a backlog of more than 20,000 submissions.

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China launches discrimination and dumping probes into US chips ahead of talks

Reuters
Beijing

China's Ministry of Commerce initiated an anti-discrimination investigation into US trade policy over chips yesterday, as well as a separate investigation into dumping, a day ahead of a new round of US-China trade talks in Spain.

The first investigation would examine whether Washington had discriminated against Chinese companies in its policies on trade in chips. The second would look into suspected dumping of imports of some US analogue chips used in devices such as hearing aids, Wi-Fi routers and temperature sensors.

The ministry said in a statement

that the United States had imposed a series of restrictions on China over chips in recent years, including trade discrimination investigations and export controls.

Such "protectionist" practices are suspected of discriminating against China and are intended to curb and suppress China's development of high-tech industries such as advanced computing chips and artificial intelligence, it added.

A delegation to be led by Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng is due to kick off a new round of dialogue with the United States from September 14-17 in Madrid. The commerce ministry has said the two sides will discuss economic and trade issues such as US tariffs, the "abuse" of export controls and

■ China announces US discrimination probe after US added Chinese firms to chip curb list

■ China, US due for new rounds of trade talks on Sept 14

■ China's commerce ministry questions motives of latest US chip curbs

TikTok. In a separate statement on the talks yesterday it questioned Washington's policies.

"What is the US's intention in imposing sanctions on Chinese companies at this time?" the ministry said.

"China urges the US to immediately correct its erroneous practices and cease its unwarranted suppression of Chinese compa-

nies. China will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies."

On Friday, the United States added 32 entities, 23 of them in China, to a commerce department restricted trade list. They included two Chinese firms accused of acquiring US chipmaking equipment for China's top chipmaker SMIC.

The upcoming US-China talks in Spain will be the fourth major in-person meeting this year as the two countries seek to maintain a trade truce that reduced retaliatory tariffs on both sides and restored the flow of Chinese rare earth minerals to the United States.

After meetings in Geneva and London, the two sides largely agreed in late July in Stockholm to extend a tariff pause for another 90 days.

President Donald Trump approved the extension on August 12 until November 10.

ByteDance's short video app TikTok, which faces a potential ban in the US unless it moves to US ownership, will be on the agenda in the talks in Spain.

Trump has extended a deadline

for TikTok to divest its US assets until September 17. US lawmakers have said TikTok's US user data could fall into the hands of China's government.

"The Chinese government attaches great importance to data privacy and security and has never and will never require companies or individuals to collect or provide data located in foreign countries for the Chinese government in violation of local laws," China's official *People's Daily* said in an article yesterday.

If the United States insists on undermining the legitimate interests of Chinese companies, China will take necessary measures to safeguard national interests and the rights of Chinese companies, the Chinese newspaper wrote.

Nepal returns to calm as first woman PM takes charge, visits wounded

AFP
Kathmandu

Nepal's newly appointed interim prime minister began work yesterday by visiting young protesters wounded in the deadly anti-corruption rallies that ousted her predecessor. Sushila Karki, the 73-year-old former chief justice, was tasked a day earlier with restoring order and addressing protesters' demands for a corruption-free future ahead of elections in six months.

She has not spoken publicly since being appointed late on Friday, but started her work to restore government by meeting some of the scores wounded in hospital. Protests began on Monday and quickly escalated, with parliament and key government buildings set ablaze, as they fed into long-standing economic woes in Nepal.

At least 51 people were killed in the worst unrest since the end of a decade-long civil war and the abolition of the monarchy in 2008. The capital Kathmandu took a step back towards normality on Saturday as a curfew was eased and daily life returned, with markets opening, traffic returning and families visiting temples. Soldiers scaled back their presence on the streets, where they had been deployed in large numbers since the protests. "We don't know what will happen in the future now, but we are satisfied today," said Durga Magar, a 23-year-old Kathmandu shopworker.

A fifth of people in Nepal aged 15-24 are unemployed, according to the World Bank, with GDP per capita standing at just \$1,447. The appointment of Karki, known for her independence, came after intense negotiations by army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel and President Ram Chandra Paudel, including with representatives of "Gen Z", the loose umbrella title of the youth protest movement.

Thousands of young activists had used the Discord app to debate the next steps, and to name Karki



Newly sworn-in interim Prime Minister of Nepal, Sushila Karki, walks after meeting the victims of deadly anti-corruption protests at a hospital, in Kathmandu.



A traffic police personnel is seen standing next to an armoured vehicle on a street in Kathmandu.

as their choice of next leader.

Parliament was dissolved and elections set for March 5, 2026, shortly after she was appointed.

International rights groups issued a joint statement calling for the new administration to end the "impunity of the past". Nepal is

"at a turning point, where the hard work of securing human rights for all could be built upon or sent into reverse," Amnesty International's Isabelle Lassee said as part of the statement. For many Nepalis, Karki's appointment carried both symbolic weight and the promise of change. "Nepal has got its first woman prime minister," said Suraj Bhattarai, 51, a social worker, adding he hoped she would "take good governance forward". Magar, the young shopworker, said corruption was the main issue. "It doesn't matter whether it is Gen Z or anyone older in politics who tackles it," she said. "It just needs to stop."

Regional leaders congratulated Karki. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India supported "the peace, progress and prosperity" of Nepal. Bangladesh's Nobel-winning Muhammad Yunus, who is also an interim leader running the country since a 2024 revolution



People light candles beside posters reading 'shradhanjali' meaning 'condolences' during a silent tribute held for victims killed in the clashes against police personnel, at the Boudhanath Stupa in Kathmandu.



A woman holding a portrait of her relative, who died during clashes with security personnel, takes part in a protest march towards the prime minister's office in Kathmandu yesterday.

until elections next year, said Karki took over at a "critical" time but backed her "able leadership".

Rooting out endemic corruption will be no easy task, while more than 12,500 prisoners who escaped from jails during the chaos are on the run and present a daunting security headache. For many, Karki marks a break from the revolving door of prime ministers who fuelled public anger with end-

less political horse-trading. K P Sharma Oli, the 73-year-old leader of the Communist Party, quit as prime minister on Tuesday, ending his fourth term in the post. His whereabouts are not known.

"They were playing a game of musical chairs," said Kathmandu businessman Shikhar Bajracharya, 32. "There was no possibility for younger people to come into power."

N Korea to boost nuclear arsenal, conventional military: state media

AFP
Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said Pyongyang will unveil a policy to advance both its nuclear arsenal and conventional military power at an upcoming key ruling party meeting, state media said Saturday. Since a failed summit with the United States in 2019, North Korea has repeatedly said it will never give up its nuclear weapons and declared itself an "irreversible" nuclear state.

While visiting weapons research facilities this week, Kim said Pyongyang "would put forward the policy of simultaneously pushing forward the building of nuclear forces and conventional armed forces", according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Kim also emphasised the need to "modernise" the country's conventional armed forces, without specifying the date of the party meeting.

The North Korean leader has been emboldened by the war in



North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un directing the work of the Armoured Defence Weapons Research Institute and the Electronic Weapons Research Institute at the Academy of National Defence Science, at an unconfirmed location in North Korea.

Ukraine, securing critical support from Russia after sending thousands of North Korean troops to fight alongside Moscow. Moscow and Pyongyang signed a mutual defence pact last year when Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the reclusive state.

Seoul has repeatedly warned that Russia is stepping up support for Pyongyang, including the potential transfer of sensitive Russian military technology, in return for North Korea's assistance in fighting Ukraine. "In essence, it reflects (Kim's) view that nuclear forces

alone have limits as a deterrent, and that Pyongyang is seeking to boost its war-fighting capability by modernising its conventional arsenal," Hong Min, a senior analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification, told AFP.

"North Korea's military technology co-operation with Russia seems to be also expanding into the conventional arms sector, and modernisation plans tailored to 'modern warfare' are likely to be laid out as mid- to long-term agenda" at the upcoming meeting, he added. At the last party congress in January 2021, Kim unveiled an ambitious military agenda, pledging to develop advanced weapons such as military spy satellites and solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Analysts say they expect the upcoming meeting to be held early next year.

Kim and Putin flanked China's President Xi Jinping at a massive parade in Beijing this month, drawing an acidic response from US President Donald Trump, who accused the three leaders of plotting against the United States.

Philippines commission to probe widening flood project scandal

AFP
Manila

The Philippines yesterday named the first members of an independent commission tasked with investigating a spiralling scandal into bogus flood control projects that has already seen numerous lawmakers implicated.

Public scrutiny of so-called ghost infrastructure projects has been intensifying since President Ferdinand Marcos put them centre stage in a July state of the nation address that followed weeks of deadly flooding, pledging to name names. "None of them are connected to any agency or contractor that is under investigation," presidential press officer Claire Castro said of the fact-finding body's members, who will probe infrastructure projects launched within the past 10 years.

"As the president said multiple times, there will be no sacred cows here - even relatives, friends and allies," she added.

Former Department of Public Works and Highways secretary Rogelio Singson and certified public accountant Rossana Fajardo have been designated as two of the commission's three members.

Baguio City mayor Benjamin Magalang will serve as a special adviser and investigator. Marcos will name a commission chairman "in the coming days", Castro said. Last week, construction firm owners and a former DPWH engineer implicated at least 28 lawmakers and government officials in the flood control scandal, saying that they would routinely demand cuts ranging from 10-25% of earmarked funds. The new body has the power to "conduct hearings, take testimony, and receive, gather, review, and evaluate evidence, reports, and information", according to a Thursday executive order issued by the president.

It may also request that the funds and property of those believed connected to fraudulent flood control and infrastructure projects be seized or frozen, though it does not have the authority to take action on its own.

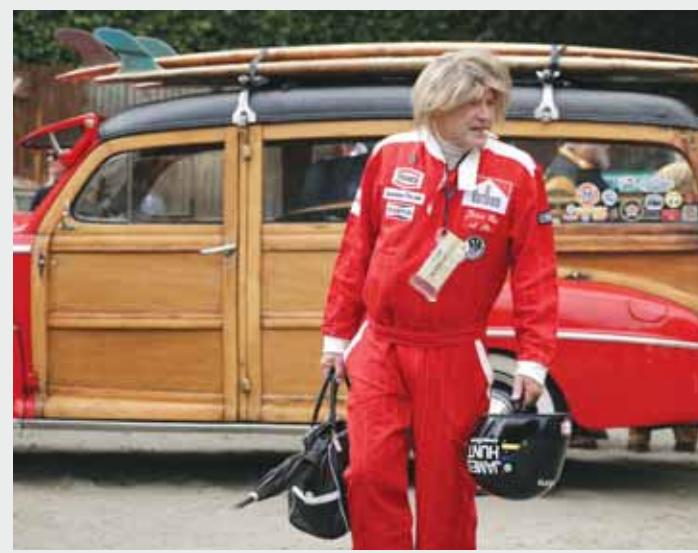
On Monday, former Philippine Senate president Francis Escudero was replaced by Vicente Sotto III amid ongoing investigations by both houses of Congress into the flood control scandal.

Escudero's name was linked to one of the country's top flood control project contractors, a revelation he called a "demolition job" aimed at removing him from the Senate's top post.

Goodwood Revival Fest



Motoring enthusiasts attend the Goodwood Revival, a three-day historic car racing festival in Goodwood, near Chichester, Britain, yesterday.



110,000 turn out for far-right rally in London

AFP
London

More than 100,000 people massed yesterday in central London for a march and rally organised by far-right activist Tommy Robinson (real name Stephen Yaxley-Lennon), as anti-racism campaigners held a smaller counter-protest.

Huge crowds, many draped in English and British flags, gathered through the morning just south of Westminster for what Robinson, a veteran of UK far-right organising, has branded the country's "biggest free speech festival".

His latest "Unite the Kingdom" event saw attendees march over Westminster Bridge before rallying near Downing Street for speeches by far-right figures from across Europe and North America.

"The silent majority will be silent no longer," Robinson told the crowd. "Today is the spark of a cultural revolution."

UK police said an estimated 110,000 people attended, noting it used a combination of CCTV and police helicopter footage for its estimate. Around 5,000 people attended a Stand Up to Racism march a mile or so to the north, as police deployed about 1,000 police to keep the rival groups apart. The duelling



People wearing Saint George's Cross make their way during the protest.

demonstrations come amid growing anti-immigration sentiment, as Brexit supporter Nigel Farage's hard-right Reform UK leads in polls and protesters target hotels used to house asylum seekers.

Robinson, 42, who has a string of criminal convictions and a big online following after years spearheading a fervent anti-Muslim and anti-migrant agenda, increasingly fuses those themes with claims that Britain is now hostile to free speech.

"Everyday in the papers you read things and you're being left stunned — arresting people be-

cause they dared to talk about immigration or gender issues," Philip Dodge, a retired baker from Sheffield, central England, told AFP.

He had travelled with his wife to the event, which was also being watched by hundreds of thousands of viewers on livestreams. "I'm very concerned."

"I never thought I'd see this in this country."

Other attendees, which included women and young people, said they were more worried about migration.

"It's an invasion," 28-year-old



Police officers confront the supporters of British anti-immigration activist Tommy Robinson.

Ritchie, who only gave his first name, said of the record levels of UK immigration in recent years, including tens of thousands of asylum seekers arriving annually on small boats across the Channel.

"They don't understand we want our country back," he said of the ruling centre-left Labour government and its Conservative predecessors, calling Robinson "a hero".

At the anti-racism event, veteran Labour lawmaker Diane Abbott accused Robinson and his allies of spreading "nonsense" and "dangerous" lies that asylum seekers were a threat.

"We need to be in solidarity with asylum seekers, and we need to show that we are united," she told Sky News. London police, who drafted in officers from other forces to manage the crowds, have placed conditions on the protest routes and timings, insisting they end at different times and that both conclude by evening.

Some at Robinson's event attached to their placards photos



of Charlie Kirk, the right-wing American activist and ally of Donald Trump who was shot to death this week. Other signs included slogans like "stop the boats" and derided Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Planned speakers include French politician Eric Zemmour, controversial Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson and Petr Bystron of

the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party. Reports said former White House strategist Steve Bannon would also address the crowds.

The event comes just over a year after anti-immigration riots swept several cities, which Robinson was accused of fuelling with incendiary online posts, and as free speech

concerns become more mainstream.

Modi calls for peace in Manipur, launches development projects

Reuters
Guwahati

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed for peace yesterday in Manipur state - the scene of two years of deadly ethnic violence - as he unveiled a package of development projects there worth nearly \$1bn.

Some 260 people have been killed and more than 60,000 displaced since clashes first broke out between Manipur's dominant, mostly Hindu Meitei community and the mainly Christian Kuki tribes in May 2023 over economic benefits and job quotas.

Modi, who met with displaced members of both communities during his first visit to the north-eastern state since the violence erupted, has faced criticism for his government's failure to ensure order and security in Manipur.

"The land of Manipur is a land of hope and aspiration. Unfortunately, violence has cast its shadow on this beautiful region," he said addressing residents in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur hills. "I appeal to all organisations to take the path of peace to fulfil their dreams and secure the future of their children," he said. Modi inaugurated women's hostels, indoor stadiums, and road infrastructure - projects worth a total of \$963mn - during his visit to the city of Imphal and town of Churachandpur. He said the government was making every possible effort to restore peace. Speaking in the Meitei-majority city of Imphal, Modi also announced that the government was supporting the construction of 7,000 new homes for families dis-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during an event held to celebrate the birth centenary anniversary of renowned folk singer and Bharat Ratna awardee Bhupen Hazarika in Guwahati.



Ethnic violence broke out two years ago; since May 2023, 260 have died, 60,000 displaced; 'Take the path to peace,' Modi says

placed by the conflict. He urged both communities to engage in dialogue. "We should strengthen the bridge of brotherhood between the hills and the valley," he said. Manipur is governed by Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

The state's leading official Biran Singh, however, resigned in

February over mounting pressure from the Kuki community, which had accused him of bias in favour of the Hindu Meitei population, as well as dissent among his own BJP allies. The state has since been governed directly by the federal government through a governor appointed by New Delhi.

Australia to invest \$8bn in nuclear submarine shipyard

Reuters
Sydney

Australia said yesterday it would spend A\$12bn (US\$8bn) to establish defence facilities in Western Australia to help deliver submarines under the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal.

The AUKUS pact, agreed upon by Australia, Britain and the US in 2021, aims to provide Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines from the next decade to counter China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. President Donald Trump's administration is undertaking a formal review of the pact.

Defence Minister Richard Marles said the planned precinct was "critical to Australia's ship-

building and sustainment industry while supporting continuous naval shipbuilding in Western Australia and Australia's nuclear-powered submarine pathway".

The centre-left Labour government continues "to increase defence spending to record levels to deliver the capabilities Australia needs", Marles said in a statement.

It made an initial investment of A\$127mn (US\$84mn) last year to upgrade facilities at the Henderson shipyard near Perth, saying billions of dollars would be spent over the next 20 years to transform it into the maintenance hub for its AUKUS submarine fleet. The precinct will also build the new landing craft for the Australian army and the new general-purpose frigates for the navy, supporting around 10,000 local

jobs, the government has said.

Under AUKUS - worth hundreds of billions of dollars - Washington will sell several Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, while Britain and Australia will later build a new AUKUS-class submarine.

The Republican and Democratic heads of a US congressional committee for strategic competition with China in July stressed their strong support for AUKUS, amid the review of the deal by Elbridge Colby, a top Pentagon policy official and public critic of the pact.

Australia, which the same month signed a treaty with Britain to bolster cooperation over the next 50 years on AUKUS, has maintained it is confident the pact will proceed.

Harvest time



A walnut grower spreads out walnuts on a tarpaulin for drying after harvesting the crop at a village in Shopian district, Indian-administered Kashmir.

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GULF TIMES

Fed has dual mandate to ensure maximum sustainable employment and price stability

Jobs slowdown in the United States is real as indicated by the latest official data, which will definitely influence the Federal Reserve decision on interest rate, when the Fed meets on September 16 and 17.

Federal Reserve officials, already expected to cut interest rates this week, may also be closer to settling a months-long debate over the risks of stagflation after recent data showed longstanding weakness in hiring and easing inflation concerns.

The shift in tone began this summer, led by dissenters in July from two Fed governors who wanted to cut rates at that time based on risks to the job market, and continuing as other officials began downplaying inflation and focusing more on an economy that was slowing and at risk of shedding jobs.

As the US central bank's September 16-17 meeting nears, latest data shows the unemployment rate rose in August to 4.3% and the economy actually lost jobs in June following a revision.

"Had that data been available in the initial June estimates, it could have influenced the Fed's decision on July 30 to hold its benchmark interest rate steady in the 4.25-4.50% range, where it has been since December," according to Reuters.

In addition, a benchmark revision of employment last week indicated nearly a million fewer jobs were added in the year through March than originally reported.

Consumer prices in August did rise faster than in the prior month, but initial jobless benefits claims jumped in the latest week, in another sign of labour market cooling.

The latest data shows the unemployment rate rose in August to 4.3% and the economy actually lost jobs in June following a revision

been rising more quickly than the... unemployment rate. Tariff-related pass-through has not been as large as anticipated. Inflation expectations look benign," noted Neil Dutta, head of economics at Renaissance Macro Research.

But Dutta added that he expected the central bank's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee to compromise on a 25-basis-point cut "with a stronger commitment to backstop the labour market."

That commitment may be seen in policymakers' updated economic projections for inflation, unemployment and the Fed's policy rate through the end of this year and into 2028.

Those quarterly projections, which will be released with the latest policy statement on Wednesday, are an important mark-to-market exercise at a time when President Donald Trump is demanding rate cuts and taking steps to gain influence over the US central bank, including attempting to fire Fed Governor Lisa Cook.

The last quarterly projections in June showed Fed officials anticipated two quarter-percentage-point rate cuts this year, but seven of the 19 anticipated no moves as they mulled how Trump's tariffs might complicate efforts to return inflation to the central bank's 2% target.

Analysts say it is very likely the Federal Reserve will take into account the weaker jobs-creation and labour market data in its upcoming decisions.

When the labour market weakens, it obviously reduces pressure on inflation. This is because wage and price pressures are likely to ease if demand for workers falls.

Analysts see this as a clear signal of economic growth cooling, relevant for deciding monetary policy easing – either to cut interest rates or keep policy tighter!

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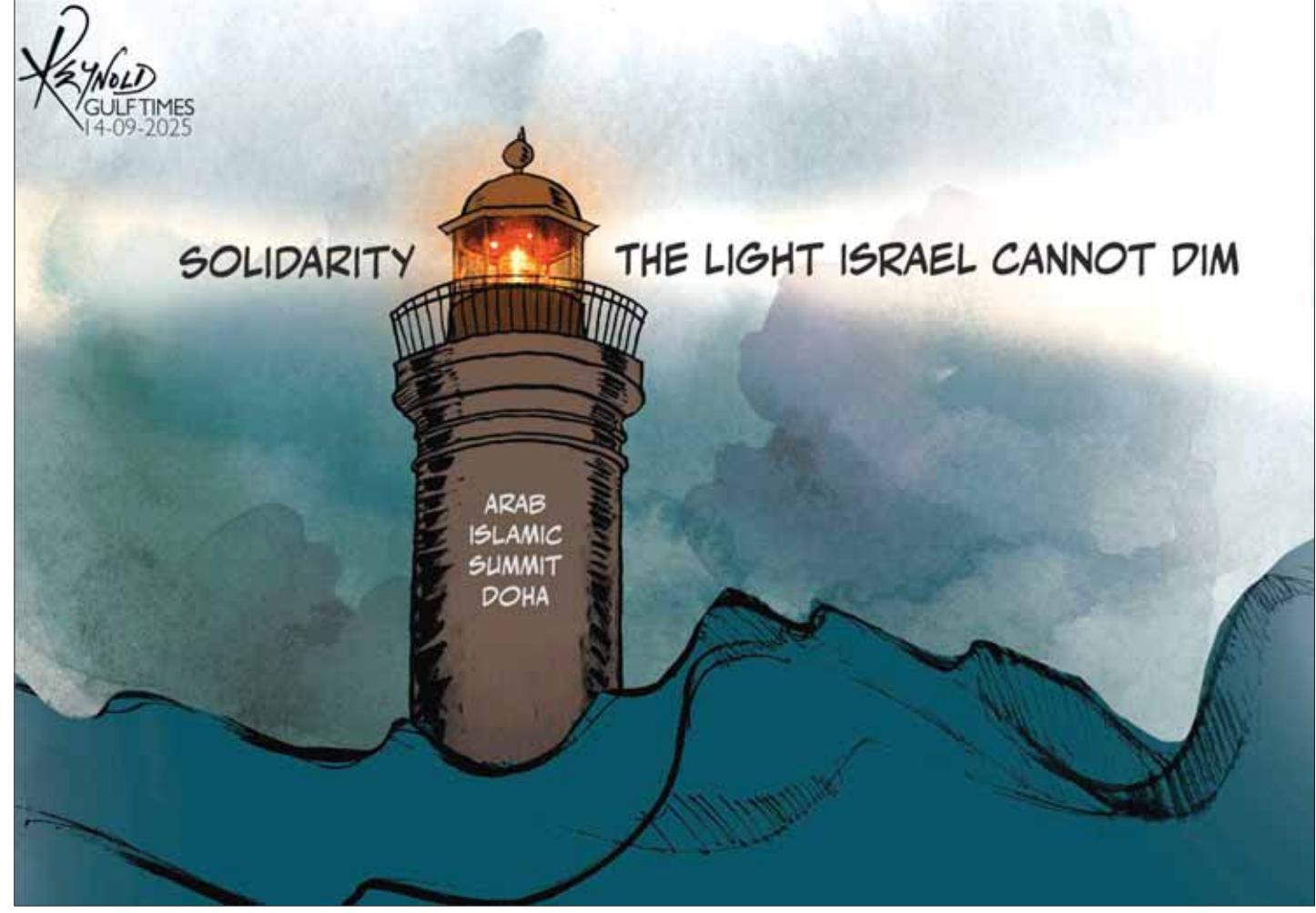
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Indonesia tells businesses to find a million cows



Scheme aims to more-than-quadruple dairy herd

By Dewi Kurniawati
Kuningan

The once-empty barns of the Laras Ati milk co-operative are filled with the recent arrival of more than 200 pregnant spotted Holstein-Friesian cows from Australia under Indonesia's ambitious plan to ratchet up milk production.

The centrepiece of a programme to provide free meals to 83mn children and expectant mothers, the plan calls for importing a million dairy cows over five years, at a cost of nearly \$3bn, to lift the size of the country's dairy herd more than four-fold from 220,000 now.

With limited fiscal space, Jakarta is pressing private companies to fund the imports – an unorthodox approach causing concern amongst the business community in Southeast Asia's largest economy, according to scheme participants and documents seen by Reuters.

The spokesperson for Indonesia's Presidential Communication Office and state secretariat minister did not respond to requests for comment.

Progress has been slow since its launch in December, with just 11,375 dairy cows imported by the end of July, all from Australia thus far, against a target of 200,000 for the year, government data shows.

The slow pace has cast doubt over the expanded rollout of the free meals plan, which was the biggest pledge made to voters by President Prabowo Subianto as he swept to power in last year's election, experts said.

A lack of cattle means the world's fourth-largest country by population relies mostly on milk powder imported from Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Prabowo's policy platform also pushes for greater self-sufficiency for the archipelago.

Helmed by the agricultural ministry, the plan called for businesses – many without direct dairy experience – to pay for and import cows that are brought into the care of cooperatives such as Laras Ati in West Java.

The idea, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Sudaryono said in June, is to import live cattle to decrease the need to import milk and meat.

"It's not the government that will allocate funds to import live cattle," he said in a statement.

"There is a significant demand for meat and milk, so we are opening the opportunity for many investors," he said.

Pressure to participate

Last November, shortly after Prabowo took office, the agriculture ministry sent a communiqué to over 200 private businesses asking them to commit voluntarily to import cattle to support the free meals programme, industry sources said. The commitment was for 20 cows per year from 2025 through 2029.

Reviewed by Reuters, the communiqué was also sent to more than a dozen multinational companies.

Ministry data said 196 businesses committed to bringing in cows as of May. Sources familiar with the matter have said that most of the companies have no prior

experience dealing with live cattle.

Four people involved in the programme, speaking on condition of anonymity due to concern they could face government backlash, said the companies felt compelled to participate fearing the consequences of not doing so, such as facing delays in securing import licences for their core meats and milk powder.

Documents and correspondence reviewed exclusively by Reuters illustrate such consequences for one company, whose import commitment earlier this year was below the expected 20 cow "minimum" that companies had been advised to fund.

The correspondence, via text messages, showed an official of the company inquiring with a government official about an inordinate delay in the approval of an import licence recommendation despite its commitment to import cattle.

The government official asks for the import commitment to be raised to 20 cows. The company official complies and resends the licence recommendation request, which is then approved in a matter of days.

The details of the company and ministry are being withheld to protect the company official from what they feared would be further backlash.

The Directorate General of Animal Husbandry and Animal Health at Indonesia's agriculture ministry did not reply to requests for comment.

Dairy neophytes

Arip Setiadi, who heads the

Cow imports key to school meals, self-sufficiency push



Laras Ati co-op about 250km southeast of Jakarta, said the agriculture ministry called investors as well as dairy cooperatives into a meeting in March.

"They told us, importers and cooperatives, to collaborate in increasing the dairy cow population and milk production," Setiadi, 42, said during a recent visit to his farm, located in a region where half the cattle population was wiped out by a foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2022.

Of the cows at Laras Ati, 160 were bought by 16 members of the Indonesian Association of Animal Protein Entrepreneurs (APPPI), with no cattle experience, which is why the herd is managed by the co-op. Another 160 bought by APPPI members were moved to the KAN Jabung co-operative in East Java.

Achmad Fachmi, head of APPPI, said that businesses are under obligation to adhere to government regulations and policies in their operations.

The association represents businesses in cold chain distribution, including meat and dairy products.

He added that close discussions were held with the ministry, expressing "our hopes that by running this programme, we will be supported in terms of the licensing process" for their core businesses.

Each cow costs the buyers around Rp45mn (\$2,800), which includes the import price as well as six months' worth of expenses for items including transport, feed, and vaccines.

Under the scheme, cattle purchasers and the cooperatives will share revenues, with the buyers expected to recoup their investment in about three-and-a-half years, APPPI figures.

Several industry experts expressed scepticism over the structure of the plan as well as the country's readiness to manage a massive influx of cattle.

"As an exporter we have responsibilities with animal welfare. The infrastructure there doesn't support all that," said Adam Petty, founder of Dairy Livestock Exports, an Australian exporter of dairy heifers that ships thousands of animals a year, including to Indonesia.

Rochadi Tawaf, an adviser with Indonesia's Cattle and Buffalo Breeders Association and a lecturer in animal husbandry at Padjadjaran University, questioned the reliance on inexperienced firms.

"If the programme is given to entrepreneurs with no track record of success in the dairy business, it won't produce results," he said. – Reuters



A worker feeds Holstein-Friesian cows from Australia at a dairy farm managed by Laras Ati milk co-operative in Kuningan, West Java province. (Reuters)

Ukraine and US to scout for minerals investment projects

Reuters
Kyiv

Ukrainian officials and a team from the US International Development Finance Corporation will carry out site visits to identify investment projects as part of Kyiv's minerals deal with Washington, Ukraine's economy minister said yesterday.

Ukraine and the US signed the deal, which had been heavily promoted by President Donald Trump, in April, giving the United States preferential access to new Ukrainian minerals projects in exchange for investment.

The agreement is seen by Kyiv as a way of securing US financial help to revive its economy and infrastructure – both battered by the war ignited by Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion – while ensuring continued US support for Ukraine's defence.

Ukraine's Economy Minister Oleksiy Sobolev said the government was committed to advancing quickly to carry out the agreement and wanted to identify three pilot investment projects within the next 18 months.

"Right now, there are site visits... from the US, and we are going to the regions tomorrow with them to look for an investment pipeline," Sobolev told a conference attended by Ukrainian, US and European officials in Kyiv.

The US has been Ukraine's single largest military donor as it battles Russian forces. But since his return to the White House this year, Trump has argued the US should get something back for its aid to Kyiv. Half the revenues the Ukrainian government earns from new mineral extraction under the deal would go to a joint investment fund with profits split between Kyiv and Washington.

Sobolev said that in addition to the minerals sector, where projects can be capital intensive with long implementation lead times, the US-Ukraine fund would also invest in the energy sector and infrastructure.

IMF to review Pak flood spending, budget agility

Reuters
Islamabad

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expressed deep condolences yesterday for the loss of life caused by Pakistan's devastating floods and said its upcoming Extended Fund Facility review mission will evaluate whether the country's fiscal policies and emergency provisions can effectively address the crisis, a senior IMF official said.

"The mission will assess whether the FY26 budget, its spending allocations and emergency provisions remain sufficiently agile to address the spending needs necessitated by the floods," said Mahir Binici, the IMF's resident representative in Pakistan.

The flash floods have killed 972 people so far, according to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority.

The floods have destroyed crops, livestock

and homes across Punjab province and are now pushing into Sindh, threatening fresh food inflation and deeper hardship in the cash-strapped South Asian nation.

Pakistan's central bank is expected to keep its key rate at 11% on Monday, a Reuters poll showed, as policymakers weigh inflation risks from crop losses against a slowing economy. An analyst estimated agricultural damage could shave up to 0.2 percentage points off growth this year, with reconstruction-led demand offering only partial offset.

IMF's board approved a fresh \$1.4bn loan in May to help Pakistan strengthen its economic resilience to climate vulnerabilities and natural disasters.

The disbursement of funds is contingent upon successful completion of reviews under the EFF, the official said.

The Global Climate Risk Index places Pakistan among the countries most vulnerable to climate change.



People, including government officials, travel in a boat with medical aid for the flood victims, following monsoon rains and rising water levels of the Chenab River, in Sialkot, Punjab province, yesterday. (Reuters)

Trump ready for sanctions if Nato nations halt Russia oil purchases

Reuters
Bedminster (New Jersey)

President Donald Trump said yesterday that the US is prepared to impose fresh energy sanctions on Russia, but only if all Nato nations cease purchasing Russian oil and implement similar measures.

"I am ready to do major sanctions on Russia when all Nato nations have agreed, and started, to do the same thing, and when all Nato nations stop buying oil from Russia," Trump said in a social media post. In recent weeks, the US has stepped up pressure on Nato countries to tighten energy sanctions on Russia in a bid to help end its war with Ukraine – a conflict Trump has struggled to bring to a close despite repeated threats of harsher penalties on Moscow and its partners.

Trump has also faced criticism at home for repeatedly setting two-week deadlines for Russia to de-escalate and allowing them to pass without concrete action. An August Reuters/Ipsos poll found that 54% of Americans, including one in five of Trump's Repub-

licans, believe the president is too closely aligned with Russia.

"The EU has engaged – and will continue to engage – with all relevant global partners in the context of its sanctions against Russia, and enforcement of same," a spokesperson for the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, said in a statement yesterday.

EU President Ursula von der Leyen said this week in her State of the Union address that any new sanctions package would be in line with EU rules, including "the long-held principle that our sanctions do not apply extra-territorially."

The Group of Seven nations' finance ministers in a Friday call discussed further sanctions on Russia and possible tariffs on countries they consider "enabling" its war in Ukraine. Energy revenues remain the Kremlin's single most important source of cash to finance the war effort, making oil and gas exports a central target of Western sanctions. But officials and analysts warn that aggressive curbs on Russian crude also carry risks of driving



US President Donald Trump aboard Marine One before departing from the Wall Street landing zone in New York before heading to his Bedminster golf resort in New Jersey to spend the weekend. (AFP)

up global oil prices, a prospect that could strain Western economies and weaken public support for the measures. Since 2023, Nato member Turkiye has been the third-largest buyer of Russian oil, after China and India, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. Other members of the 32-state alliance involved in purchasing Russian oil include Hungary and Slovakia. Trump, who is spending the weekend at his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club, said Nato, acting as a bloc, should impose tariffs of 50-100% on Chinese imports, a move he argued would weaken Beijing's economic grip on Moscow.

Trump has imposed an extra 25% tariff on imports from India to pressure New Delhi to halt its purchases of discounted Russian crude oil, bringing total punitive duties on Indian goods to 50% and souring trade negotiations between the two democracies.

But Trump has refrained from imposing additional tariffs on Chinese imports over China's purchases of Russian oil, as his administration navigates a delicate trade truce with Beijing.

YES meeting seeks no to war



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky (left) speaking at the annual Yalta European Strategy (YES) meeting, under the banner 'How to End the War'. (AFP)

Romania and Poland ready aircraft amid drone strike on Ukraine

AFP
Kyiv

Romania became the latest Nato member state to report a drone incursion into its airspace yesterday, as Poland scrambled aircraft in response to fresh Russian drone strikes just over the border in Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned that Russia was deliberately expanding its drone operations and that the West needed to respond with tougher sanctions and closer defence co-operation.

Romania's defence ministry said yesterday that the country's airspace had been breached by a drone during a Russian attack on infrastructure in neighbouring Ukraine.

The country scrambled two F-16 fighter jets late yesterday to monitor the situation following the strikes, said a defence ministry statement.

The jets "detected a drone in national airspace" and tracked it until "it disappeared from the radar" near the Romanian village of Chilia Veche, it added.

Also Saturday, Poland said it and its Nato allies had deployed helicopters and aircraft as Russian drones struck Ukraine not far from its border.

Because of the drone threat, "Polish and allied aircraft are operating in our airspace, and ground-based air defence and radar reconnaissance systems have reached their highest level of alert," the country's military command posted in a statement on X.

Later yesterday, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced that the high alert had been lifted, while cautioning: "We remain vigilant."

Poland and its fellow Nato countries have been on their guard since Warsaw said nearly 20 Russian drones entered its airspace overnight Tuesday to Wednesday.

While Russia denies targeting Poland, several European countries including France, Germany and Sweden have stepped up their support for defending Polish airspace in response.

"Today, Romania scrambled combat aircraft because of a Russian drone in its airspace," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"Also today, Poland responded militarily to the threat of Russian attack drones," which had also been active in different regions of Ukraine all day, he added. The Russian military knows exactly where their drones are headed and how long they can operate in the air," said Zelensky.

The latest drone incursions were "an obvious expansion of the war by Russia," he added.

What was required in response were fresh sanctions against Russia and a collective defence system, Zelensky argued.

"Do not wait for dozens of 'shaheds' and ballistic missiles before finally making decisions," he warned, referring to the Iranian-designed Shahed drones Russia is using.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio yesterday expressed concern at the Russian drone incursion into Polish airspace earlier in the week.

If it turned out to have been deliberate, "then obviously it will be... highly escalatory," he told reporters in Washington.



A video grab shows one of the three Rafale fighter jets deployed at an unspecified location in Poland after France announced a mobilisation as part of a Nato operation called "Eastern Sentry" to strengthen the defence of Polish airspace following an unprecedented intrusion by Russian drones into the country's airspace. (AFP)

19 Pakistani soldiers killed in clashes with militants

Reuters
Peshawar

Nineteen Pakistani soldiers were killed yesterday in two separate clashes with militants in the country's northwest, where they have ramped up attacks on security forces since the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, the army said.

In the first incident, soldiers moving in a vehicle convoy came under fire in the mountainous Badar area of South Waziristan near the border with Afghanistan.

Pakistan's military said in a statement that 12 soldiers and 13 militants were killed "after an intense exchange of fire".

At least four people were injured, security officials said.

The Pakistani Taliban, a jihadist group that Islamabad says is based in Afghanistan, claimed responsibility, saying it had also captured weapons and drones from the soldiers.

Residents said they saw helicopters in the air for hours after the early morning attack, taking the casualties to hospital and searching for the attackers.

In another clash in the Lower Dir area, seven soldiers and 10 insurgents were killed in a shootout after troops discovered a militant hideout, the army said in a separate statement.

Islamabad alleges that the Pakistani Taliban is being harboured by the Afghan Taliban administration with the support of India, a source of tension with Kabul and New Delhi, which both deny the charge. The group is inspired by the Afghan Taliban.

The Pakistani group has stepped up attacks, targeting Pakistani security forces since the Afghan Taliban swept to power in 2021.

"Pakistan expects the interim Afghan Government to uphold its responsibilities and deny use of its soil for terrorists' activities against Pakistan," Pakistan's military said.



Al Abdulghani Motors booth at S'hail 2025.



Al Abdulghani Motors celebrates success of S'hail 2025 as exclusive mobility partner

Al Abdulghani Motors, the authorised distributor of Toyota and Lexus in Qatar, marked the successful conclusion of the ninth edition of the Katara International Hunting and Falcon Exhibition – S'hail 2025 in its role as the event's exclusive mobility partner.

This marks Al Abdulghani Motors' first participation in S'hail, underscoring its long-standing commitment to supporting Qatar's cultural heritage and fostering

deeper engagement with the local community, particularly those passionate about hunting and falconry.

S'hail is one of the world's leading events dedicated to falconry, hunting, and camping.

It draws top local and international companies showcasing the latest technologies and specialised equipment tailored for hunting enthusiasts.

These include advanced off-road ve-

hicle outfitting, caravans designed for desert and safari adventures, as well as the newest falconry gear and camping innovations.

"We are delighted to have made our debut at S'hail, an exhibition that truly embodies Qatar's spirit and rich cultural legacy," said Al Abdulghani Motors chief executive Nasser Abdulghani. "This partnership reflects our commitment to supporting initiatives

that preserve and promote the cherished traditions of hunting and falconry on a global stage."

Blending innovation with cultural heritage, Al Abdulghani Motors unveiled a uniquely designed exhibition booth at S'hail 2025, inspired by Qatar's desert landscapes.

The booth featured a lineup of stand-out off-road models, including the Toyota Prado, the LX700h Overtrail, and a

Land Cruiser 300 Hybrid.

The booth also offered visitors a unique opportunity to explore the exceptional performance and advanced technologies of Toyota and Lexus vehicles.

Additionally, a specially modified Toyota Land Cruiser 300, equipped with advanced technologies and exclusive enhancements tailored for hunting and outdoor adventures, was showcased at the main entrance of the exhibition.



S'hail promotes local heritage and healthy lifestyle

The 9th Katara International Hunting and Falcons Exhibition (S'hail 2025) continues to establish itself as a comprehensive cultural and economic platform, attracting wide local and international participation while offering opportunities for knowledge exchange, trade, and innovation.

The exhibition receives daily visits from high-ranking officials, state guests, and a number of ambassadors, who toured specialised displays in hunting, falconry, and camping.

"S'hail is no longer just an exhibition specialising in hunting and falcons," said Malika Mohamed al-Shreim, a member of the Supreme Committee and Secretary of the Exhibition.

"It has become an integrated platform that embraces heritage while keeping pace with modern demands," the official said. "Since its inception, our aim has been to evolve year after year, offering visitors and participants a rich experience that combines authenticity with innovation, reflecting Qatar's prestigious position in hosting global events."

Al-Shreim noted that what distinguishes S'hail this year is the commitment of local and international companies to continue and expand their participation in future editions, which reflects their confidence in the exhibition's value as an economic and cultural platform attracting both enthusiasts and professionals worldwide.

Among the highlights of the exhibition are the gift and souvenir pavilions in Zone (B), which combine art, heritage, and innovation.

The Amber Stone pavilion showcases rare amber creations, including models of Imam Mohammed bin Abdulwahab Mosque, falcon and horse figures, traditional dhows, and the largest sambuk boat made entirely of amber.

The Doha Art for Arts and Trade pavilion presents works by visual artist Noura Tawar, along with an exclusive perfume featuring a falcon design created as a distinctive collectible.

This year, the exhibition features leading global safari companies.

Elite Safari, managed by Hassan al-Malki, offers integrated hunting and safari programmes in destinations across Africa, Europe, the Americas, and New Zealand, providing comprehensive services from reception and accommodation to transport, hunting trips, game meat processing, trophy shipping, and taxidermy.



Other participants include Royal Wings Ltd from Budapest and Infinite Safaris Africa, which provide luxury packages with limousine pickups, stays at 5-star hotels, full hunting programmes, celebratory ceremonies, and family-friendly tourism activities.

The bird market remains a major attraction for amateurs and professionals, offering a wide variety of high-quality falcons such as hur, gyrfalcon, and shaheen.

The birds undergo meticulous processes – from breeding and incubation to veterinary care and training – ensuring readiness for hunting.

The Tobacco Control Centre at Hamad Medical Corporation highlighted that S'hail 2025 is not merely a heritage hobby fair but also a space for community roles in promoting awareness and protecting public health.

Its pavilion reflects its mission to protect society from the dangers of traditional and electronic smoking and shisha, under a creative slogan inspired by the exhibition's theme: *Hunting is an art... Tobacco is a trap: Catch it before it catches you.*

The centre offers services including awareness campaigns on smoking's impact on the respiratory system and heart, as well as instant tests to measure carbon monoxide levels in the body, helping smokers realise the direct harm.

It also provides comprehensive treatment programmes for those wishing to quit, with continuous medical follow-ups and counselling.



good, or a piece of chocolate from a box, sweets are a way of showing hospitality, of spreading joy," she said.

For Chase Westfall, the director of Exhibitions and Programmes at VCUarts Qatar and co-curator of the show, Elawad's work resonates on multiple levels.

"Sarah Elawad's work is visually lush and emotionally resonant," he said. "She has a remarkable ability to trans-

late personal memory into collective meaning, inviting us to feel, remember, and reflect through the universal language of sweets and care."

In this spirit, YA 3ASAL transforms the gallery into a space of shared memory.

Shimmering textiles, brightly coloured walls, glowing television screens, and playful graphic forms nod to the liv-

ing rooms and parlours where rituals of hospitality unfold.

Curated by Dina Alkhateeb, the head of Gallery Chase Westfall and The Gallery's Associate Curator of Campus Projects, the exhibition is part of The Gallery at VCUarts Qatar's ongoing mission to present innovative, cross-cultural work that speaks to identity, place, and personal experience.

Gallery at VCUarts Qatar presents 'YA 3ASAL'

The Gallery at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar) is to present "YA 3ASAL", a new solo exhibition by British-Sudanese artist and designer Sarah Elawad, on view from August 28 to October 9.

In YA 3ASAL, Elawad draws on personal memories and shared cultural practices to explore the deep emotional and symbolic

meanings of sweets in Arab and Sudanese traditions of hospitality.

The title itself – YA 3ASAL, a common Arabic term of endearment meaning "Hey, honey!" – captures the exhibition's warm, affectionate tone and its celebration of connection through sensory experience.

The inspiration for the exhibition began with a small but powerful moment.

As Elawad recounts: "A few months ago, I was at Eid prayer in Washington Square Park in New York when a little girl tapped me on the shoulder and offered me a caramel.

"As I bit into it, I was immediately taken back to my childhood – to our family living room full of guests, the smell of bakhoor in the air."

This encounter sparked a deeper reflection on the way food, particularly sweets, can act as vessels of memory and emotion.

At the heart of the exhibition is a recognition of how sweetness operates as a cultural language of love, celebration, and care.

Elawad notes that in many Arab households, "it's almost disrespectful to not have something sweet to offer your guests".

"Whether it's a sugary drink, a baked

