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Glowing praise for Amir's pivotal role in ending war



PEACE 2025

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and other world leaders who attended the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit yesterday.

- Trump thanks Amir as "an exceptional man, who is greatly respected"
- End of war heralds era of peace in Middle East, affirms Trump

QNA
Sharm El-Sheikh

US President Donald Trump affirmed yesterday that the signing of the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Agreement has ended the war in the Gaza Strip, and that this heralds the beginning of a strong Middle East living in peace.

He extended thanks to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and to the Arab and Muslim nations that assisted in reaching the deal.

Speaking at the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, President Trump thanked Arab and Muslim states for making the breakthrough possible. He offered particular thanks for His Highness the Amir, describing him as "an exceptional man who is greatly respected". Trump declared that the nations had collectively achieved peace in the Middle East, something widely considered impossible. He called the signed document "historic" and "the greatest deal ever", confirming that the fighting in Gaza was finished and

Amir hopes summit results will lead to just solution for Palestinian cause

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani expressed his hope that the positive results from the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit will meet the aspirations of the people in the Gaza Strip and contribute to a comprehensive and just solution for the Palestinian cause.

In a post on his official X account, His Highness the Amir voiced happiness with the positive outcomes of the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit. He expressed hope that these results would serve as a starting point for more future agreements that fulfill the hopes of the people in Gaza and lead to a comprehensive, just, and sustainable resolution of the Palestinian cause, looking forward to all parties committing to the common understanding that has been reached, for the good of everyone. (QNA)

that aid deliveries had started. He promised to lead the Middle East toward a better future.

The US president assured the attendees that a Third World War would be avoided in the Middle East.

While acknowledging the difficulty of the initial steps towards peace, he stated that the momentum was now moving towards achieving lasting peace in the region and that this was a unique opportunity. He urged all parties to maintain the collaborative spirit to ensure the continuation of this historic success.

Trump reiterated the historical significance of the achievement, calling for a demilitarised Gaza and a safe Middle East. He also confirmed an agreement on the necessity of supporting the reconstruction of Gaza.

Acknowledging the challenges ahead, the president suggested that the rebuilding of Gaza might be the most difficult phase. He noted that wealthy nations had already informed him of their willingness to assist in the reconstruction efforts. Furthermore, he mentioned that many wish to

join the "Peace Council on Gaza", which may require expansion.

Finally, President Trump extended his condolences to Qatar for the recent tragic incident in Sharm El-Sheikh that resulted in the deaths of several Amiri Diwan employees.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani arrived earlier yesterday in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, to head Qatar's delegation participating in the summit for peace.

His Highness the Amir was welcomed upon arrival at Sharm El-Sheikh International Airport by Egyptian Minister of Culture Dr Ahmed Fouad Hano, and Qatar's ambassador to Egypt Tariq bin Ali al-Ansari.

His Highness is accompanied by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and an official delegation.

- Wide acclaim for Amir's contributions
- Amir meets several heads of state → Page 16

Amir attends agreement signing ceremony



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani participated in the signing ceremony of the agreement ending the war in Gaza, alongside President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and President of the United States of America Donald Trump.

The ceremony took place in the presence of Their Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies heads of states, governments, and delegations taking part in the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit, held at the Sharm El-Sheikh International Convention

Center, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi attended the signing ceremony, alongside a lineup of members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir, members of the accompanying official delegations, representatives of regional and international organisations, and guests of the summit. (QNA)

Sheikha Moza, Nigeria First Lady discuss youth empowerment



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation met yesterday with Nigeria's First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu. During the meeting, the two parties discussed ways to enhance existing partnerships between EAA and Nigeria, to reduce the number of out-of-school children, and empower the youth through employment and training opportunities. (QNA) PICTURE: AR al-Baker

Peace dawns in region as Gaza war ends

Trump signs ceasefire document with mediators Qatar, Egypt, Turkiye

AFP/Reuters
Cairo/Jerusalem

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas freed the last living Israeli hostages from Gaza yesterday under a ceasefire deal and Israel sent home hundreds of Palestinian detainees, as US President Donald Trump told Israel's parliament that peace had arrived in the Middle East.

The Israeli military said it had received all 20 hostages confirmed to be alive, after their transfer from Gaza by the Red Cross. The announcement prompted cheering, hugging and weeping among thousands waiting at "Hostage Square" in Tel Aviv.



Freed Palestinian prisoners released by Israel gesture, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

In Gaza, thousands of relatives, many weeping with joy, gathered at a hospital where buses brought home some of the nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees to be freed by Israel as part of the accord.

"The skies are calm, the guns

are silent, the sirens are still and the sun rises on a Holy Land that is finally at peace," Trump told the Knesset, Israel's parliament, saying a "long nightmare" for both Israelis and Palestinians was over.

He later left for a summit in Egypt

intended to cement the truce.

The US, along with Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye, mediated what has been described as a first phase agreement between Israel and Hamas for a ceasefire and the release of hostages by Hamas and prisoners and detainees by Israel.

Trump chaired the meeting alongside President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

At the opening of the summit, Trump signed a document on the ceasefire deal with Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye.

The ceasefire and partial Israeli withdrawal agreed last week halted one of Israel's biggest offensives of the war, an all-out assault on Gaza City that was killing scores of people per day.

Since then, huge numbers of Palestinians have been able to return to the ruins of homes in the Gaza Strip, swathes of which were reduced to a wasteland by Israeli bombardment that killed 68,000 people.

Aid supplies must be rushed into the enclave, where hundreds of thousands of people face famine. Page 12



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Qatar, Sweden review labour ties

QNA
Stockholm

HE THE Minister of Labour, Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri, met in Stockholm yesterday with Swedish Minister of Employment Johan Britz. A delegation from the Ministry of Labour is on an official visit to Sweden. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations between Qatar and Sweden and discussed ways to further enhance co-operation in the labour sector. The two ministers exchanged views on promoting social dialogue, strengthening occupational safety and health, and fostering collaboration in the fields of technology, digital transformation, and the green economy. They also explored opportunities to advance training and capacity-building programmes for national workforces. HE Dr al-Marri reaffirmed that the visit reflects Qatar's keenness to deepening international partnerships and exchanging expertise with leading countries in labour market regulation and governance. He emphasised that such engagements further consolidate the strong and longstanding relations between the two friendly nations and contribute to achieving common goals in sustainable development and decent work.



Qatar to host global satellite search, rescue council meeting

Qatar, represented by the Doha Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre under the Qatar Armed Forces, will host the 73rd session of the Council of the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue (Cospas-Sarsat) from Oct 20-23.

The session will bring together about 150-170 representatives from around 45 member states, along with global organisations involved in search and rescue operations. These include the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The agenda will cover key issues such as the development of the satellite system (LEO, GEO, MEO), upgrades to the ground infrastructure, user-related matters, and various other topics.

Colonel (Air Force) Rashid Sultan Rashid al-Hetmi, representative of the Doha Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre Command, said: "The Cospas-Sarsat organisation is an international satellite-based search and rescue system established in 1979. Its pri-

mary mission is to receive distress signals from ships, aircraft, and individuals via specialised devices such as EPIRBs, ELTs, and PLBs, and to provide national rescue co-ordination centres with accurate location data for incidents."

Col al-Hetmi added that the system has so far helped save over 70,000 lives in more than 22,500 search and rescue operations worldwide. It is regarded as a fundamental component of the global maritime and aviation safety systems, operating under the auspices of both the IMO and ICAO.

Regarding Qatar's involvement in the organisation, he explained: "Qatar joined as a participating member of the organisation in 2017 as member number 44. Since then, the Doha Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre has played a vital role by establishing the Qatar Mission Control Centre (QAMCC), which receives and distributes distress signals to relevant national entities. Advanced ground stations (GEOLUT and LEOLUT) have been installed, and work is currently underway to set up a MEOLUT station using

phased array antenna technology. Additionally, the National Search and Rescue Training Centre has been established to train both local and international personnel."

He also highlighted the Qatar Armed Forces' contribution to search and rescue operations under the framework of the organisation, noting that through the Ministry of Defence and the Doha Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre, the Armed Forces are responsible for co-ordinating air and maritime rescue operations within Qatar's Search and Rescue Region. They provide all necessary resources and equipment to support these operations and actively participate in international co-operation through information exchange and collaboration with regional and international rescue centres on operations and training.

He emphasised that hosting the council's meeting in Doha clearly reflects the Qatar Armed Forces' commitment to humanitarian efforts and leadership in saving lives, while strengthening international co-operation in search and rescue operations. (QNA)

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Dimdex 2026 set to showcase latest innovations in military technologies

The Organising Committee of the Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (Dimdex 2026) held a diplomatic briefing yesterday, ahead of the convention of the 9th expo. The briefing took place at the Qatar Amiri Naval Forces Base – Umm Al Houli and was attended by HE the Commander of the Amiri Naval Forces Major General (Navy) Abdullah bin Hassan al-Sulaiti, ambassadors, diplomatic mission representatives, alongside military and commercial attaches accredited to Qatar.

Throughout this briefing, the committee presented the most important information and logistical arrangements pertaining to participation in this event, as well as the key developments that deepened Dimdex's standing as a leading global platform in the defence sector, highlighting the impact of its increasing commercial growth and capability of meeting the sector's needs.

Organised and hosted by Qatar Armed Forces, the event will be held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani from Jan 19-22, 2026, at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) under the theme 'A Global Hub for Defence Innovations: Invest in Possibilities to Shape a Secure Tomorrow'.

Chairman of the Dimdex Organising Committee, Staff Brigadier (Sea) Abdulbaqi Saleh al-Ansari, underscored the importance of this event, which positions itself as a



key platform showcasing commercial opportunities and strategic partnerships in the defence field. He emphasised that the committee is ready to present a broad new edition of this high-stakes event.

Dimdex 2026 has significantly contributed to encouraging collaboration and partnerships, fostering communication channels, and streamlining major commercial deals, Brig al-Ansari said during the briefing.

He added that this convention earns growing significance amid the accelerating challenges in today's world, which literally contributes to bolstering the essential defensive capabilities to protect national sovereignty and assets, in addition to ensuring the security and safety of peoples.

"Dimdex continues to grow in significance in light of the rapidly evolving challenges our world faces today, contributing to the

advancement of defence capabilities essential for safeguarding national sovereignty, protecting resources, and ensuring the security and safety of nations and peoples. Dimdex reflects the State of Qatar's steadfast commitment to supporting security and stability and reaffirms its position as a prominent international event that attracts the world's leading defence companies.

It continues to open new horizons for co-operation and business opportunities, which has been clearly demonstrated through the notable growth in the numbers of exhibitors, delegations, and visitors, as well as in the value of contracts and agreements signed during previous editions," Brig al-Ansari said.

"The exhibition will feature the participation of more than 200 national and international defence and related companies, in addi-



tion to 8 major national pavilions showcasing the latest innovations and military technologies. For the first time, Dimdex 2026 will be extended to four days, and will host a series of specialised workshops introduced in direct response to exhibitor demand, demonstrating Dimdex Organisers' commitment to understanding and addressing

the needs of the commercial industry. These workshops, delivered by exhibitors from Jan 20-22, will present their advanced solutions, innovative technologies, and strategic insights on the future of maritime defence and security," he added.

Staff Colonel (Air) Jarrah Sabah al-Abdallah, from the Joana Bin



Jassim Academy for Defence Studies, partners of the Middle East Naval Commanders Conference (MENC), said: "The Middle East Naval Commanders Conference will convene under the theme 'Defence Diplomacy and Maritime Security Challenges! The conference will serve as an academic platform to examine the intersection of defence diplomacy and maritime security, and to develop strategies aimed at enhancing stability at sea. It will also highlight the importance of multilateral frameworks in securing critical sea lanes and safeguarding nations' economic and strategic interests."

The conference will feature distinguished local and international speakers, naval commanders from across the globe, as well as leading academics, who will deliberate on the latest geopolitical trends and the evolving challenges to maritime security? (QNA)



Max Fashion inaugurates first all-women run store in Qatar

Max Fashion, the region's 'leading value fashion brand', has achieved a new milestone in its journey of inclusivity and empowerment with the launch of its first-ever all-women operated store at Doha Mall. Spanning an impressive 20,631sq ft on the ground floor, the new store is staffed entirely by women, 20 team members representing diverse nationalities and backgrounds, a statement said.

From store management to styling, customer service, and operations, every role in this space is powered by women.

Hani Weiss, CEO of Max at Landmark Group, said: "This launch reflects more than Max Fashion's growth. It represents our commitment to shaping a retail environment where women

lead with confidence and creativity. The Doha Mall store is a proud moment for us as it blends fashion-forward experiences with a workforce that truly reflects the diversity and empowerment we stand for."

The new Max store concept features a modern, welcoming design with warm wooden finishes, dynamic lighting, and natural textures that create an inviting ambiance.

The store houses Max Fashion's latest womenswear, menswear, kidswear, and accessories, presented in an environment crafted to inspire and engage shoppers.

Shumalan Naicker, senior vice-president and country head Qatar, Landmark Group, said: "Our all-women operated store at Doha Mall represents the best of what



retail can be, driven by empathy, attention to detail, and an understanding of what customers truly value. Each member of this team brings her own experience and

energy, creating a space where shoppers feel welcomed, heard, and inspired. It's a proud moment for us to see this vision come to life in Qatar."

Bird attracting devices seized



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Wildlife Protection Department in co-operation with the Environmental Security Unit of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) has carried out an extensive inspection campaign in the southern regions of the country aimed at reducing environmental violations regarding the use of bird-attracting devices.

The campaign resulted in the seizure of around 474 bird-attracting devices (sound lures), and the necessary legal measures were taken in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations in this regard. The ministry stressed the importance of adhering to environmental laws and regulations and refraining from using methods that harm wildlife and biodiversity. It also noted that the campaign is ongoing as part of its efforts to protect Qatar's environment and preserve its natural components.

Dukhan Bank announces 4th set of winners in Land Rover campaign



Dukhan Bank has announced the fourth set of winners of its ongoing promotional campaign, in collaboration with Visa, which offers customers the opportunity to win exceptional prizes, including two Land Rover Defender 110 vehicles and valuable cash rewards. The campaign is now drawing to a close, with everyone eagerly awaiting the final draw to reveal the winners of two 2025 Land Rover Defenders.

Following the fourth draw, held under the supervision of a representative from the Department of Quality Licensing and Market Monitoring at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, each of the following winners received a cash prize of QR20,000: Khalid Almansoori, Chitra Gireesh, Hamed Alhashmi, Hassan al-Sulaiti, and Babatunde Talabi.

Running until Oct 31, the campaign provides Dukhan Bank Visa credit cardholders with exclusive chances to win from a total of 27 prizes. The campaign includes five monthly draws where five winners will be selected, each awarded a cash prize of QR20,000. Culminating on Nov 12, the final draw will unveil two grand prize winners, with each receiving a 2025 Land Rover Defender 110.

The campaign is exclusively for Visa credit cardholders with retail banking services. To enter

the draws, customers need to spend a minimum of QR1,000 on international purchases (in foreign currency) during the campaign. Each QR1,000 spent internationally in foreign currency earns them two entries, while the same amount spent locally grants one entry. Customers can double their chances of winning the cars by spending QR200,000 or more, and double their chances for the monthly cash prizes by spending QR40,000 or more. Additionally, customers activating a new credit card during the campaign automatically receive 10 bonus entries.

The campaign reflects Dukhan Bank's ongoing commitment to enhancing the customer experience and rewarding their loyalty and trust as their preferred banking partner in Qatar through the launch of promotional initiatives. In line with its strategic vision, which emphasises integrating Shariah-compliant financial solutions and digital innovation, Dukhan Bank, together with Visa, reaffirms its dedication to customers by enhancing the added value offered in all their daily transactions.

For more information, customers can visit dukhanbank.com, call 800 8555, or contact 'Rashid', the bank's virtual assistant, through the website, mobile app, or via WhatsApp at 4410 0888.

Somali PM meets Qatar's envoy



Somalia's Prime Minister, Hamza Abdi Barre, met with Qatar's ambassador in Mogadishu Dr Abdullah bin Salem al-Nuaimi. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations. (QNA)

Doha to host 3rd edition of 'Match for Hope' on Jan 30

QNA
Doha

Doha gears up to host the highly anticipated third edition of the 'Match For Hope' initiative on January 30, 2026, at the iconic Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium. This inspiring event unites prominent content creators and football legends in a shared mission to support education worldwide.

Organised by Q Life, the cultural platform of the International Media Office, this year's edition will feature a thrilling final match between two teams composed of celebrities and former football stars—each team having secured a victory in one of the previous two editions. Fans can look forward to an exciting and fiercely competitive showdown as both teams vie for the coveted "Match For Hope" championship title. The 2024 and 2025 matches successfully raised over \$19.5mn in donations, thanks to generous contributions from donors, partners, and community members. These funds have been channelled directly to the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, supporting its vital projects aimed at providing quality education to out-of-school children across multiple countries. Building on this legacy of generosity,



the 2026 Match For Hope continues to harness the unifying power of sports and entertainment to drive meaningful, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged communities. By combining the passion of football with the reach of globally renowned content creators and legendary players, the Match For Hope initiative raises both funds and awareness, offering renewed hope for a brighter future to countless children around the world.

In its first two editions, the event featured exciting 11-a-side matches held at prestigious venues from the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 stadiums, captivating audiences and inspiring action worldwide. All proceeds from the event have been dedicated to EAA Foundation, underscoring the initiative's commitment to advancing quality education for vulnerable, out-of-school children around the globe.

Arab League official highlights Qatar, Egypt, and Turkiye's key role in ending Gaza conflict

QNA
Cairo

Assistant Secretary-General and Head of Political Affairs Sector at the Arab League, Dr Khaled bin Mohammed Manzalawi underscored importance of the efforts by Qatar, Egypt, and Turkiye in successfully facilitating the negotiations that led to the end of war in Gaza.

In remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Manzalawi stated that Gaza endured difficult times over the past two years, and this war ended thanks to the blessed efforts made by Qatar. Adding that they hope this marks the path toward a two-state solution, Middle East stability, and establishment of a Palestinian state where Palestinian people can enjoy a good and dignified life.

Manzalawi pointed out that there are expectations for continuity and sustainability of implementing all the steps and plans agreed upon to end war in Gaza and to strengthen efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region. Spokesman for the Secretary-General of the Arab



Jamal Rushdi

League Jamal Rushdi has lauded Qatar's role in the negotiations that were held to reach a decision to cease the warfare in the Gaza Strip. He pointed out that the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit, caps a long and arduous course of negotiations on this matter.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Rushdi said Qatar played a remarkable role in the mediation to bring the war in Gaza to a close, affirming that the mediation role was tough and encountered hitches throughout the negotiations between the two parties to

reach compromise solutions. However, mediators from Qatar and Egypt had demonstrated tremendous patience and perseverance to stop the bloodshed and halt the war in the Gaza Strip, helped by the US, Rushdi underlined.

Rushdi further indicated that the key objective of mediators in Qatar, Egypt, and the US is to put an end to the massacre, culminating in solutions that protect the Palestinians and formulate a pathway toward a political settlement to achieve the best situation for the Palestinians.

He pointed out that the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit is a very high-stakes event, a product of two years of arduous negotiations that ultimately led to achieving the primary goal, which is to stop this massacre and genocide against the Palestinian people.

Finally, Rushdi hoped that the Palestinian people will enjoy stability after ending the warfare in the Gaza enclave, stating that perseverance and determination to accomplish that objective brought this moment, which is not the end of the road but rather a new beginning for the Palestinian people.

OFFICE BUILDING RELOCATION

A leading company in Doha is looking for an office building in a prime location within Lusail City, West Bay or Msheireb to relocate its current Headquarters by mid-2027.

The building should have executive office space for senior management and should be able to accommodate support teams and departments.

The building should ideally have:

- An aggregate leasing area of 7500 sqm of open office space
- Pantries, common toilets/WC and other utility rooms
- Security control room and security desks
- Environment controls
- Telecommunications and internet facilities
- A minimum of 200 car parking lots for employees and guests
- Flat roof space with 400 sqm of useable area for dish antennae mounting with clear line of sight to Southwest. The roof should be able to withstand 1 ton per sqm.

The building should fulfil all requirements from relevant government departments/agencies and should be certified by the Civil Defense Department (QCD).

Please send your inquiries and proposals to office.relocation2025@gmail.com within one week from the date of this advertisement.

New batch of legal experts takes oath at justice ministry

QNA
Doha

A new batch of experts took the legal oath this morning at the Ministry of Justice to be registered in the Ministry of Justice's roster of experts accredited before the judicial authorities in the country, in accordance with the regulations stipulated in Law No 16 of 2017 regulating expert work.

The new batch includes (12) experts from national cadres, with expertise in various specialisations, including accounting, real estate, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, mining engineering, civil engineering, and human resources.

On this occasion, Director of the Experts Department at the Ministry of Justice, Abdullah Abu Shahab al-Marri, congratulated the new experts on their taking of the legal oath.

He emphasised the importance of the role of experts as assistants to judges and one of the pillars of achieving prompt justice, based on their legal responsibility to present evidence and



proof regarding the technical aspects related to various cases, and the role expert reports play in expediting the issuance of judgments and the adjudication of cases. The Director of the Experts Department at the Ministry of Justice noted that the Ministry of Justice, upon the directives of HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi,

is keen to strengthen the national cadre of experts and provide expertise that keeps pace with the comprehensive renaissance witnessed by the country in all fields, and to create the appropriate conditions for providing an integrated Qatari expertise system and adding new areas of expertise according to the needs of the judicial authorities and other entities.

Ford, Lincoln models recalled

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, has announced the recall of Ford F 150, Expedition, Explorer, Mustang, and Taurus 2020-2021, 2023 models, and Lincoln Aviator 2023 model. In the affected vehicles, the rear-view camera intermittently displays a blank image while in reverse, reducing the driver's view of what is behind the vehicle, increasing the risk of a crash. A rear-view camera that stays on after the reversing has ended can distract the driver, increasing the risk of a crash.

The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The ministry said it will coordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The ministry urges all consumers to report any violations or breaches by contacting the Consumer Protection and Combating Commercial Fraud Department, which receives complaints, suggestions, and inquiries through the following communication channels: Call Centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, ministry's accounts on social media: @mociqatar, ministry's Mobile App: MOCIQATAR (available on iOS and Android devices).



Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

Tenders Announcement: -

Sr. #	Tender No.	Description	Documents Fees (Non-Refundable)	Temporary Tender Bond	Closing Date
1	QRC/WHC/11-2025	Non-comprehensive annual maintenance contract for fire monitoring and fighting systems	500 Q.R	6,000 Q.R	28-10-2025
2	QRC/WHC/12-2025	Removal and replacement of existing flooring at Mesameer Health Center	500 Q.R	4,000 Q.R	28-10-2025

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

Required Documents:

- ◆ Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
- ◆ Company's Commercial registration copy.
- ◆ Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents not refunded & account details:
- ◆ Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
- ◆ Bank: Al Rayan.
- ◆ Account Number: 11199970200
- ◆ IBAN Number: QA83MAFR000000000011199970200

For more information: please call: (50044554), or Email whc.tenders@qrcs.org.qa



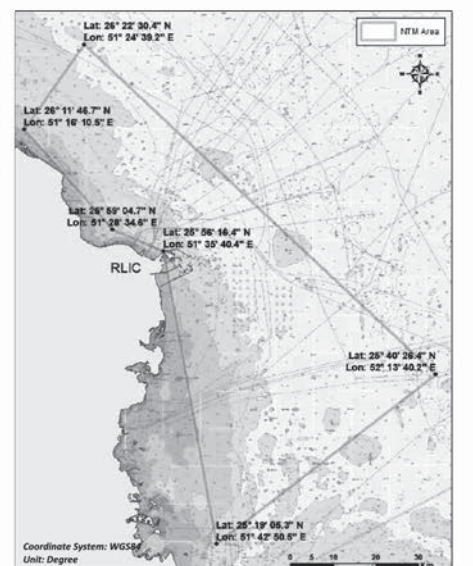
Public Announcement
To all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners
Seismic Survey Acquisition by Vessels AOS Glory, Stanford Hawk, GMS Apollo, Voyager Explorer, BGP Innovator and Safa Searcher
Seismic Survey Works Offshore Qatar from 27th November 2024 – 27th November 2025

Pursuant to and under directives from the Department of Seafarers Affairs & Registration, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen that QatarEnergy LNG intends to perform Ocean Bottom Node Seismic Survey Works with Vessels AOS Glory, Stanford Hawk, GMS Apollo, Voyager Explorer, BGP Innovator and Safa Searcher in the locations bound by the coordinates shown in the diagram below.

All Vessels, Mariners and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the survey locations during the operations.

QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation, following publication of this notice.

Point	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	26° 22' 30.4" N	51° 24' 39.2" E
2	25° 40' 26.4" N	52° 13' 40.2" E
3	25° 19' 05.3" N	51° 42' 50.5" E
4	25° 56' 16.4" N	51° 35' 40.4" E
5	25° 59' 04.7" N	51° 28' 34.6" E
6	26° 11' 46.7" N	51° 16' 10.5" E



Any further inquiries should be addressed to: Tel. +974 44531797

Spanish diplomacy drives culinary dominance as LuLu Group introduces new product lines

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Spain's culinary presence in Qatar is rapidly expanding, driven by a sophisticated mechanism for food promotion, according to LuLu Group international director Dr Mohamed Althaf. Speaking to the media at the recent opening of 'Festival of Spain 2025', he highlighted the growth of Spanish products available at LuLu outlets in Qatar, marking a shift from seasonal imports, and becoming a mainstream supplier such as the US, India, and the Philippines, among other countries.

The latest addition to the retail giant's Spanish portfolio includes premium items such as 100% Halal-certified Spanish lamb and Spanish mangoes.

"This year I believe the highlight is mostly, other than regular things, there are a lot of things that we bring from Spain," Dr Althaf said, detailing the new additions, which also include high-quality tuna, fresh vegetables, cheeses, and other dairy products.

He pointed out that the success of the Spanish food penetration into the Qatari market is attributed directly to the Spanish diplomatic presence.

"I must say that the Spanish embassy has a very, very strong mechanism here to promote their food," Dr Althaf noted. This mechanism,



Dr Mohamed Althaf

he added, involves introducing global initiatives such as the Spanish government's programme, "Eat

Spain Drink Spain," which LuLu is now bringing to the Qatari market.

He stressed that consumers must also be reassured about the sourcing process. LuLu, he said, maintains a high degree of traceability, employing teams stationed in Spain who oversee and test products to ensure they meet stringent health standards of Qatar, as well as regulatory and religious requirements, including proper Halal slaughter procedures.

Dr Althaf highlighted the cultural significance, noting that Spanish food, particularly its Mediterranean components like olive oil and saffron, is "very close to our region and our culture when it comes to food."

Addressing the challenge of importing premium Spanish goods

without high cost, Dr Althaf explained that affordability is achieved through optimal operational practices, not by sacrificing quality.

"We believe good food is never expensive, if you source it properly, if you have good logistics to work with, if you maintain your cold chain, you avoid your wastage," he said.

He pointed out that while Spain certainly produces gourmet products, the nation is fundamentally a massive "powerhouse of food production worldwide," known for high-quality fruits and vegetables, which allows for substantial volume and competitive pricing once logistical efficiency is maximised.

He noted that the volume of

goods arriving from Spain is now "substantial," having established itself as a regular feature in LuLu's supermarkets, rather than just a seasonal offering.

Dr Althaf also reiterated LuLu's commitment to the local market, describing Qatar as a "very steady market". As the country expands into new areas, he said LuLu plans to increase its local footprint.

"We will go logically wherever Qatar population is expanding. We will have outlets, and this year itself, we are planning some sign ups with the new communities," Dr Althaf added, underscoring the retailer's strategy to grow alongside the nation's developing infrastructure and population centres.

QRCS, ICRC mark World Mental Health Day 2025

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) yesterday held a roundtable discussion, marking World Mental Health Day.

During the roundtable, which addressed mental health in conflicts and emergencies, Secretary-General of QRCS, Faisal Mohamed al-Emadi, said: "Over the years, QRCS has gained extensive experience in mental health, as part of its humanitarian and relief efforts, supported by a skilled team of psychosocial specialists.

"Its deployable Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Emergency Response Unit – the first in the Mena region and the fourth globally – will be officially registered by the International Fed-



Secretary-General of QRCS, Faisal Mohamed al-Emadi

eration of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies this December.

"Currently, QRCS is implementing major projects to support disaster and war victims, including the psychosocial support (PSS) programme for Palestinian families in Doha, with the generous support of the embassies of the United Kingdom and Canada and the Canadian Red Cross."



Head of ICRC mission in Qatar, Basma Tabaja

emphasised the importance of taking care of the psychological impact of humanitarian crises and armed conflicts on individuals and communities, by paying attention to such a fundamental issue for the region and the world, as well as its negative implications for people's lives and social stability. (QNA)



Campaign held at Rawdat Al Khail Health Center

In celebration of the World Mental Health Day, Rawdat Al Khail Health Center organised a campaign in collaboration between the Wellness and Nursing Departments. Dr Sarah Rashid Musa, consultant community medicine and Wellness Center in-charge, emphasised the event reflected PHCC's commitment to promoting holistic well-being, combining physical health, mental stability, and emotional awareness through active community engagement.

Staff, adults, and children participated in a series of interactive activities that highlighted the connection between the body, mind, and emotion.

The campaign encouraged participants to adopt a healthy lifestyle that includes adequate sleep, regular physical activity, a balanced diet, and effective stress management. These habits, when practiced consistently, build not only physical strength but also mental clarity and emotional stability. Physical activity sessions focused on functional exercises that improve balance and coordination, demonstrating how movement enhances focus, decision-making, and the ability to perform tasks efficiently. Participants experienced firsthand how an active body supports a clear and calm mind.

The campaign also highlighted essential mental and emotional skills such as decision-making, goal setting, prioritising, emotional regulation, and broad thinking. These

skills empower individuals to manage daily stress, adapt to change, and maintain balance in challenging times. "When people learn to control emotions, set goals, and draw strength from within, they become more resilient, able to face life's changes with clarity and confidence," Dr Sarah said while explaining that the participants were encouraged to express their emotions through an emotional board activity, a reflective exercise that helped them recognise, label and process their emotions more clearly.

Participants, both children and adults, engaged in art and pattern-making activities, learning how creativity can transform emotions into calmness and focus. Messages of gratitude and joy were shared throughout the event, reminding everyone that acknowledging small blessings builds inner peace and emotional well-being.

"We wanted to send a clear message that mental health starts early in childhood, within a supportive family environment that helps children express their feelings, thoughts, and fear freely," Dr Sarah added.

Participants were also made aware of the supportive services available in PHCC and beyond, the National Mental Health Helpline (16000), healthy lifestyle clinic, wellness educator clinic, and support clinic. The campaign concluded with a shared understanding that true health is not just the absence of illness, but the presence of balance, gratitude, and resilience.

UDST observes World Mental Health Day



University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) marked World Mental Health Day with a campus-wide event emphasising the theme "Community Care: Supporting Mental Health in Challenging Times."

The event highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in supporting mental well-being.

This year's programme featured a variety of interactive booths, wellness activities, and educational sessions aimed at strengthening resilience and fostering inclusivity.

In his remarks, President of UDST Dr Salem bin Nasser Al-Naemi emphasised the university's commitment to wellbeing: "At UDST, we believe that mental health is a shared responsibility and a cornerstone of a healthy society." "By preserving a culture of care and compassion, we empower our community to face challenges with resilience, while reinforcing our mission as a Healthy Campus recognised by the International University Sports Federation," he said.

The event also featured student-led initiatives, including workshops and peer engagement activities, encouraging participants to reflect on how mental health can be supported through everyday interactions and proactive care.

World Mental Health Day is observed every year on October 10. It aims to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and promote global, encourage more open discussions about mental illness, and promote investment in both mental health services and prevention measures. (QNA)

QNL to hold workshop on Librarians for Libraries

Qatar National Library (QNL), as the IFLA MENA Regional Office, has opened invitations to the "Librarians for Libraries" programme, which aims to develop librarianship skills in the Mena region through virtual sessions covering a variety of topics.

This session, "School Library: A Platform for Empowering Learners in the Digital Age," will highlight the evolving role of the school library as an active platform for empowering learners in today's fast-paced digital environment. Participants will explore how to foster information literacy, strengthen digital knowledge navigation skills, and guide learners toward the safe and responsible use of information – reinforcing the principles of information security and digital citizenship. The workshop will also provide librarians with practical strategies to support digital transformation and position the school library as a flexible and inclusive learning hub. Whether you are looking to enhance your library's role in digital education or to develop innovative approaches to supporting students, this session offers valuable insights and actionable tools. QNL invites specialist to join the workshop to discover how school libraries can become active partners in advancing digital learning and empowering the next generation of learners. The event will be conducted online via Zoom, on October 15, 2025, from 10:00-11:00am. For more details, visit <https://events.qnl.qa/event/Po55J/EN>

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New insights into philosophy of Seyyed Hossein Nasr



Amira El Zein

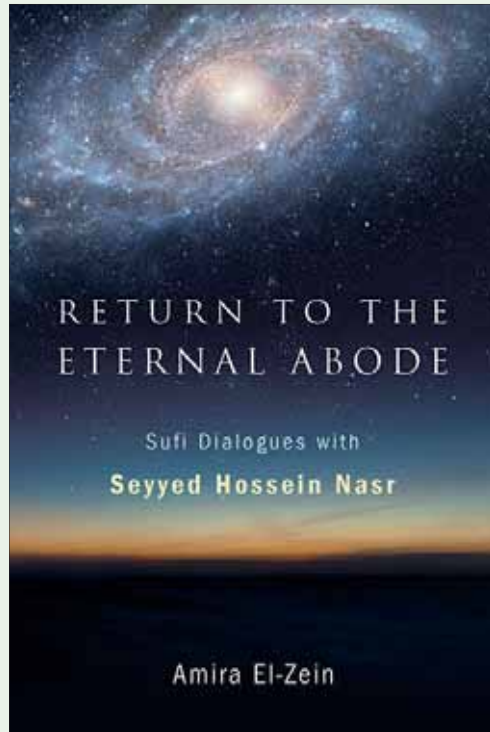
As a young scholar and poet at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, Dr Amira El-Zein found herself drawn to the work of Dr Seyyed Hossein Nasr, a philosopher now recognised as one of the most influential Islamic scholars of the century.

But it wasn't until she finished *Religion and the Order of Nature* that she felt compelled to meet the man. "It was a book that spoke to my soul and my understanding of the universe," she explained. "I walked the 20 minutes to his office at George Washington University, and I found his door open."

What began as an impromptu visit soon grew into an intellectual companionship that would span decades and continents, culminating in one of the most critical explications of Nasr's work to date: *Return to the Eternal Abode: Sufi Dialogues with Seyyed Hossein Nasr* (SUNY Press 2025).

Through a series of conversations inspired by questions Dr El-Zein had been pursuing as a poet, translator, and scholar of Arabic literature, she captured Nasr's views on the mystical dimensions of Islam (Tassawuf or Sufism) and its intersections with art, cosmology, the environment, and modernity. The volume not only elucidates Nasr's vast body of work but also contains new insights – his reflections on creativity and his views of twentieth-century philosophers of metaphysics and mysticism.

What emerges from the book is more than a summative look at the influential philosopher's works; it is a testament to what can happen when two seekers of knowledge meet and dare to challenge each other. "We didn't always agree," Dr El-Zein admitted, "but often he would say something, and I would take it further."



The key takeaways of *Return to the Eternal Abode* are both timeless and urgent: That creativity is inseparable from the sacred; that nature must be seen not as a resource to be consumed, but as a living text to be read with reverence; that Islamic philosophy, far from being insular, is conversant with centuries of philosophical and religious traditions from around the world.

Over the course of her career, Dr El-Zein has published extensively, including *Creativity and the Sacred* (2016), *Islam, Arabs, and the Intelligent World of the Jinn* (2009), and co-edited *Culture, Creativity, and Exile*, as well as several volumes of poetry in Arabic, French, and English. However, it is this book that remains close to her heart.

"Every book is unfinished business, and this one will continue for me in poetry, in fiction, in teaching, and in the ways we pass knowledge forward," she reflected. At Georgetown University in Qatar, she carries that spirit of dialogue into her classrooms, inviting students to experience literature as a living conversation – between traditions, ideas, past and present. "Each class is a creation," she said. "We discover the text together, and then we go beyond it."

NU-Q partners with Luxembourg centre to host panel on digital public history

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South at Northwestern University in Qatar (#IAS_NUQ), in collaboration with the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH), will host a public panel on October 22, to explore how digital technologies and artificial intelligence are reshaping historical inquiry and the practice of public history across global contexts.

Titled 'Digital Public History in a Global Context', the panel will feature C²DH faculty Thomas Cauvin and Frederic Clavert, and Mutanu Kyanya, head of programmes and outreach at African Digital Heritage, in a conversation moderated by Dahlia El Zein, assistant professor of history at NU-Q.

Together, they will examine how emerging digital tools are transforming the ways historians and communities engage with the past, while addressing the opportunities and challenges of developing inclusive and accessible forms of public history worldwide, a statement said. "Digital technologies and AI are changing not just how historians work, but how societies everywhere connect with the past," said Marwan M Kraida, dean and CEO of NU-Q. "This panel gives us a chance to think about those changes together, across different regions and traditions. It also shows the real impact of our partnership with C²DH, bringing scholars and students together for scholarly dialogue, exchanging perspectives, and building new ways of doing public history that are inclusive and globally relevant."

This panel is part of an ongoing, dynamic part-

nership between the Institute and C²DH, which aims to advance academic approaches to public history and digital perspectives and methodologies from the Global South. It features joint seminars that engage scholars, practitioners, and student researchers in the Global Undergraduate Fellowship programme at the Institute, as well as from the University of Luxembourg.

It also supports visiting faculty and fellowships between both universities, allowing scholars to contribute their expertise and engage with the unique research environments at both institutions. While at NU-Q, the Institute will also host a workshop that brings together visiting C²DH faculty with #IAS_NUQ Global Postdoctoral Scholars and Global Undergraduate Fellows. Designed as a forum for scholarly exchange, the workshop will allow participants to share research interests, explore points of convergence, and identify opportunities for collaboration in the evolving field of digital public history. The workshop is facilitated by Myriam Dalal, research and outreach consultant for the Public History programme at the University of Luxembourg.

"This partnership offers new opportunities for our students, staff, and researchers to make knowledge more accessible and participatory. Working with #IAS_NUQ means contributing to exciting discussions on history, digital scholarship, and the diverse ways humanities are practiced in a global context," said Thomas Cauvin, professor of public history at the University of Luxembourg and head of the Public History Department at C²DH.

QU's Sesri, Difi present national survey on child well-being

Qatar University (QU)'s Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (Sesri), in collaboration with Doha International Family Institute (Difi), hosted a dissemination workshop titled 'Child Well-Being in Qatar: Insights and Implications' recently.

The event brought together academics, experts, and policymakers to discuss the results of one of the country's pioneering national surveys on child well-being. The survey's results revealed a strong correlation between children's well-being and family stability, with the majority of participants reporting high levels of family satisfaction and parental involvement. Speakers at the event underscored the importance of child well-being as a national priority aligned with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

In his opening remarks, Dr Mohammed al-Safran, associate Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies at QU, said, "Child well-being is not merely an academic topic; it is a strategic priority, as emphasised in the National Development Strategy (2024-2030), which highlights children's survival, development, and rights as central to Qatar's vision for human

development." Dr al-Safran added that the project reflects the university's commitment to transforming field data into practical policies, calling it "an invitation to meaningful scientific dialogue and constructive engagement between researchers and policymakers." Dr Noora al-Mannai, director of Sesri, noted, "This survey is among the first national, systematic studies to assess child well-being in Qatari society – a subject of great importance that is closely tied to the goals of sustainable human and social development outlined in Qatar National Vision 2030." The workshop featured a presentation of the survey's findings by Prof Kaltham al-Ghanim, lead researcher and professor of Sociology at QU, followed by policy recommendations from experts at QU and DIFI. The event concluded with a panel discussion moderated by Abdulrahman al-Rahmani and featuring distinguished speakers from various sectors, including Dr Madiha Kamal (senior consultant, Sidra Medicine), Fatima al-Tamimi (director of Family Support and Psychological Counseling at the Shafallah Center), and Dr Ibrahim al-Ansari (dean of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at QU).

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Micro Health Laboratories extends its profound gratitude to the wise leadership of the State of Qatar, its patients, partners, and the people of Qatar for their continued trust and support. This accomplishment not only validates the organization's enduring commitment to quality but also strengthens its mission to serve as the benchmark for global diagnostic excellence.



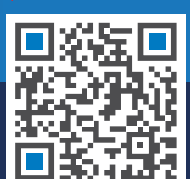
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Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar MFA Student Champions Sustainable Design by Transforming Food Waste into Design Materials



As part of Art and Design Now 2025, VCUarts Qatar's annual Year End Show which appeared through to early July this summer at M7 Downtown Doha, MFA in Design graduate Yasamin Shaikhi made a bold statement on sustainability with her project, Food Waste Renaissance: From the Table, for the Table.

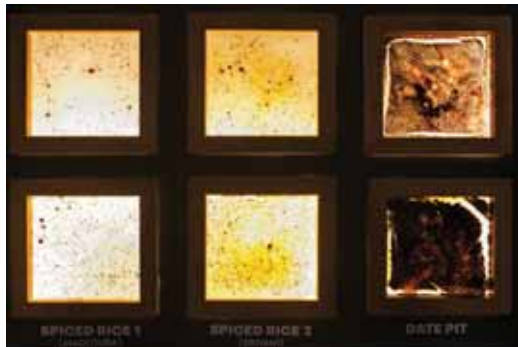
The project transformed everyday food waste into biodegradable design materials, offering a fresh perspective on the hidden potential of local byproducts.

Shaikhi's work reimagines common food discards—such as rice and date pits—as raw materials for product design, particularly lighting products. Driven by her deep interest in material experimentation, she invites viewers to reconsider waste as a valuable design resource, rather than something to be discarded.

"Rather than viewing food waste as refuse, I wanted to frame it as a design resource," said Shaikhi. "This project is about material exploration and encouraging a shift in how we relate to what we discard."

The project evolved through a rigorous process of hands-on experimentation with various binders and food byproducts, leading Shaikhi to identify eight essential material properties: shrinkage, translucency, flexibility to rigidity, texture, adhesion, color variation, warping, and pattern transfer. These discoveries directly shaped the forms of the final products, with the materials' natural translucency and organic warping lending themselves perfectly to lighting design.

Shaikhi acknowledges that the process was far from predictable. One of her biggest challenges was learning to work with the unpredictability of the materials and environmental factors such as humidity and temperature, which significantly influenced curing and texture.



Through perseverance and adaptability, she not only overcame these hurdles but also learned to embrace the imperfections, which ultimately became central to the project's design language.

"I'm most proud of embracing the material's unpredictability and using it to shape a design that feels both intentional and organic," Shaikhi reflected.

Shaikhi's Food Waste Renaissance is more than a final project—it represents a design philosophy that she plans to carry forward. The experience has inspired her to continue working with sustainable materials, letting their properties guide her creative process and challenging conventional approaches to material use.

Her work formed part of Art and Design Now 2025, which celebrated the creativity, innovation, and thinking of VCUarts Qatar's graduating class across multiple disciplines.

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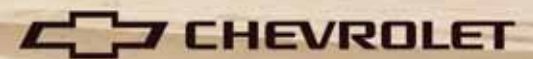
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Awqaf, education ministries launch research contest for students, teachers

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, represented by the Department of Islamic Research and Studies, has launched an annual research contest for teachers and students of both genders from public and private schools in Qatar, in collaboration with and co-ordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE).

During a press conference attended by HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Mohammed bin Ghanem al-Thani, Director of the Department of Islamic Research and Studies, Sheikh Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Ghanem al-Thani clarified that the contest aims to support and encourage scientific research, in pursuit of promoting the cultural and intellectual level of a wide swath of Qatari community segments, particularly teachers and school students.

Under the motto of "We read to think... and we write to elevate," the contest is structured into two key branches: the first devoted to teachers, addressing

issues germane to education, and the second for students, who are required to summarise selected books, he highlighted.

HE Sheikh Dr Ghanem further indicated that the branch for teachers focuses on presenting a topic and multiple themes that annually address issues related to education, as well as everything that touches on the scientific and intellectual concerns of teachers.

He outlined that this year's topic features five key themes, with the first theme tackling the conceptual and foundational framework for Islamic values in education, while the second focuses on Islamic values in building a positive educational environment.

The third theme explores the mechanisms for integrating Islamic values into the curriculum, the fourth examines the role of teachers and school administration in promoting Islamic values, and the fifth weighs the challenges and solutions in integrating Islamic values into education.

Regarding the student award, Awqaf explained that it involves providing a selection of books

from which each student chooses one and then summarises and presents it in a scholarly manner.

Overall, the competition is structured into two distinct groups, with due consideration given to both the age bracket and the academic stage of the participating students.

The first group encompasses male and female students in grades seven, eight, and nine (preparatory stage), whereas the second group comprises students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve (secondary stage).

Concerning the special award designated for teachers, Awqaf outlined a set of rigorous conditions, some pertaining to the researcher personally and others governing the technical and substantive specifications of the submitted research paper.

Among the stipulations related to the researcher are that the applicant must be a serving teacher at one of the public or private schools within Qatar, must faithfully adhere to all declared themes, must inscribe their name solely on the title page, and must enclose a detailed curriculum vi-

tae together with a copy of their Qatari identification card.

The winning researcher shall be required to execute in full all corrections and observations prescribed by the panel of adjudicators.

The ministry further highlighted that the total value of the awards allocated to the three winning teachers amounts to QR150,000, with the first-place winner receiving QR70,000, the second-place winner QR50,000, and the third-place winner QR30,000.

The total value of the awards designated for the winning students stands at QR120,000, with 20 winners selected from each group. They will be granted monetary prizes ranging between QR3,500 and QR1,000.

Furthermore, the top three winners from each group will undergo an examination based on the books they have summarised.

Accordingly, the first-place winner shall be granted an additional reward of QR5,000, which will be added to the original prize value. In the event of a tie, all winners will receive the same supplementary reward. (QNA)

Nigerian FM meets Qatar ambassador



Nigerian Foreign Minister Yusuf Maitama Tuggar met on Sunday with Qatar's ambassador in Abuja Dr Ali bin Ghanem al-Hajri, on the occasion of the end of his tenure. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries. (QNA)

DR Congo Deputy PM meets Qatari diplomat



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Security, Decentralisation, and Customary Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jacquemain Shabani Lukoo, met with acting charge d'affaires at the Qatari embassy in Kinshasa, Shafi bin Newaimi al-Hajri. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations. (QNA)

Doha Film Festival to showcase global cinematic excellence

Doha Film Festival will showcase a remarkable selection of acclaimed titles from across the world as part of its International Feature Film Competition, reflecting the festival's commitment to cinematic excellence and cultural diversity, bringing together powerful stories that resonate across borders.

The competition brings together award-winning filmmakers whose impactful stories have inspired audiences around the world. Through their bold storytelling and artistic excellence, these creators continue to shape global cinema and spark meaningful cultural dialogue.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Festival Director and CEO of Doha Film Institute, said: "At Doha Film Festival, we honour the remarkable filmmakers whose films have touched hearts, challenged perspectives, and are reshaping the global cinema landscape through courageous narratives. The films in the International Feature Film Competition share a deep commitment to authentic storytelling and reflect our shared belief in the transformative power



of film. We are proud to provide a platform in Doha where powerful voices can be heard and where audiences can engage with stories that inspire reflection, empathy, and connection."

Taking place from Nov 20-28, Doha Film Festival (DFF) represents the bold next chapter in Doha Film Institute's mission to nurture regional talent and champion urgent and authentic stories in cinema.

The festival will transform iconic locations across Doha, including Katara Cultural Village, Msheireb Downtown Doha, and the Museum of Islamic Art, into vibrant hubs of cultural exchange, bringing together filmmakers, storytellers, and audiences from every corner of the globe, to reaffirm art's power to inspire, to unite, and to spotlight voices that deepen shared understanding. (QNA)

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Training course on combating human trafficking in GCC countries

The Ministry of Labour (MoL), represented by the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, in co-operation with the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), has launched a specialised training course titled "Strengthening National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Countries."

The course brought together representatives from relevant national entities in Qatar, alongside delegations from other GCC countries, comprising officials responsible for anti-human trafficking efforts in their respective states.

Running from Oct 12 to 16, the training programme aims to build and enhance the skills of national professionals working in the field of combating human trafficking. It offers specialised training based on best national and international practices to improve the effectiveness of responses to this crime, support and care for victims, and

strengthen regional co-operation among GCC member states in this critical area.

This initiative is part of the Ministry of Labour's ongoing training programmes under the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2024-2026, which seeks to unify the efforts of government institutions, civil society, and international partners to counter human trafficking, protect human rights, and advance mechanisms to combat the crime. The programme also reflects Qatar's firm commitment to the principles of Islamic Shariah, its Constitution, and laws that prohibit all forms of abuse and violations of human dignity.

Experts and specialists from the ILO and IOM are delivering sessions during the course, focusing on modern methods for identifying human trafficking cases, engaging with victims, understanding relevant legislation, and implementing prevention and protection mechanisms. The training also seeks to raise awareness among participants about victim-centred approaches that uphold dignity and ad-

dress specific needs. Additionally, the course highlights the importance of sharing knowledge and best practices among GCC countries in the fight against this form of organised crime.

The organisation of this course reflects Qatar's ongoing commitment to regional and international co-operation in addressing the grave issue of human trafficking. It underscores the country's vision to build a comprehensive system that safeguards individuals' dignity and rights by emphasising prevention, victim support, and the development of robust legal and judicial mechanisms to prosecute perpetrators.

Human trafficking remains one of the most severe violations of human dignity and fundamental rights, with devastating impacts on victims and societies alike. Combating this crime requires co-ordinated, multi-sectoral efforts and effective collaboration at the national, regional, and international levels, alongside fostering widespread public awareness of its dangers and strategies for prevention. (QNA)

Qatar to host GCC youth debate training programme

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Sports and Youth, will host the GCC Youth Debate Training Programme next Sunday.

Featuring a select group of youth from the GCC, the five-day programme aims to develop participants' skills in the art of debate and encourage them to use critical thinking and logical analysis to enhance constructive dialogue and persuasion skills.

The programme's agenda includes a series of training workshops, starting next Monday with the "Introduction to the Art of Debate" workshop. The workshops will discuss the art of debate, its importance, the rules and ethics of debate, and building a debate team's position. A training workshop will also be held on position building and argument-building exercises.

On Tuesday, a workshop titled "Argumentation Skills" will be held, discussing critical thinking, constructing arguments, and formulating evidence, followed by implementation and practical application. On Wednesday, a workshop titled "Team Building and Strategies: Role Distribution, Co-operation, and Winning Strategies" will be held, along with an interactive session and practical exercises on

arbitration, discussing how to determine the winning team, and discussing the debate from the arbitrator's perspective.

The GCC Youth Debate Training Programme concludes with a workshop titled "Practical Application: The Gulf Mini-League," followed by the final debate and honouring of the participating delegations. (QNA)

Geely Qatar and Al-Futtaim Vehicle Rentals Celebrate a Successful Partnership for the Second Consecutive Year

Geely Qatar, part of Skyline Automotive - a Jaidah Group company, is proud to announce the renewal of its successful partnership with Al-Futtaim Vehicle Rentals for the second consecutive year. This milestone reflects a strong, ongoing collaboration built on trust, performance, and shared commitment to quality and customer satisfaction.

Over the past year, joint promotional campaigns for Geely vehicles through Al-Futtaim Vehicle Rentals have delivered remarkable results. Geely models have become among the most in-demand vehicles in Qatar's rental market, a clear indicator of the growing confidence customers have in the brand's reliability, efficiency, and value.

Al-Futtaim Vehicle Rentals now offers the complete range of Geely vehicles, which are recognized for their practicality, advanced technology, and fuel efficiency. Combining sleek design, strong performance, and competitive pricing, Geely cars continue to meet the needs of both individual and corporate clients seeking comfort, safety, and long-term value.



Maher Tinawi, [General Manager, Geely Qatar], commented: "We are delighted to continue our successful collaboration with Al-Futtaim Vehicle Rentals, which reflects the mutual trust between our brands and the outstanding performance of Geely vehicles in Qatar. This partnership plays a key role in expanding Geely's market presence and reinforcing its reputation as a reliable automotive brand."



The renewed partnership forms part of Geely Qatar's broader strategy to strengthen its presence in the local market and expand its B2B operations through strategic alliances with leading fleet and rental providers.

Over the past five years, Geely has steadily grown to become a trusted choice in Qatar's automotive landscape, thanks to its superior quality, innovative engineering, and value-driven approach.



People gather at Nasser hospital as they welcome freed Palestinian prisoners released by Israel as part of a hostages-prisoners swap and a ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday. **Right:** A freed Palestinian prisoner released by Israel as part of the swap and a ceasefire deal, hugs a man, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Palestinians freed from Israeli jails return to loved ones

AFP
Ramallah

With huge crowds waiting to welcome them home, Palestinian prisoners released by Israel yesterday under a Gaza ceasefire deal were overwhelmed with joy as they returned to their loved ones.

Some threw peace signs while others struggled to walk without assistance as they got off the bus and were met by a crowd cheering their return from Israel's jails to the West Bank city of Ramallah. "It's an indescribable feeling, a new birth," Mahdi Ramadan, newly released, said, flanked by his parents with whom he said he would spend his first evening out of jail.

Nearby, relatives exchanged hugs, young men in tears pressed their foreheads against each

other – some even fainting from the emotion of seeing loved ones again after years, and sometimes decades, in jail.

The crowd chanted in celebration "Allahu akbar", meaning God is the greatest.

Among the Palestinians to be released under a US-brokered Gaza ceasefire deal, 250 are security detainees, including many convicted of killing Israelis, as well as about 1,700 Palestinians detained by the Israeli army in Gaza during the war.

Israel agreed to free them in exchange for the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip, under the first phase of US President Donald Trump's plan to end the war that was sparked by Hamas's unprecedented storming of Israel in October 2023.

Nour Soufan, now 27 years old, was due to meet his father Mousa, who was jailed a few months

after his birth, outside of jail for the first time.

Soufan and half a dozen relatives came to Ramallah from Nabulus, in the north of the West Bank, and spent the night in their vehicle.

"I have never seen my father, and this is the first time I will see him. This is a very beautiful moment," Soufan said.

Like him, many had defied the travel restrictions that puncture daily life in the Palestinian territory, with Israeli army checkpoints proliferating in two years of war.

Palestinian media reported on Sunday that families of detainees had been contacted by Israeli authorities, asking them not to organise mass celebrations.

"No reception is allowed, no celebration is allowed, no gatherings," said Alaa Bani Odeh, who came from the northern town of Tammun to find his 20-year-old



A freed Palestinian prisoner is greeted after being released from an Israeli jail as part of a hostages-prisoners swap and a ceasefire deal in Gaza between Hamas and Israel, in Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank, yesterday.

son who had been jailed for four years. AFP spoke to several prisoners who said that in their first hours of freedom, they would go home and stay with family.

During previous releases, mass gatherings had flooded entire streets in Ramallah, with people waving Palestinian flags as well as those of political factions including Hamas.

Dressed in the grey tracksuits of Israeli prisons, many prisoners also wore a black-and-white kuffiyeh around their necks – the

traditional scarf that has become synonymous with the Palestinian cause.

Some of the newly released prisoners happily let themselves be carried away on relatives' shoulders.

"Prisoners live on hope... Coming home, to our land, is worth all the gold in the world," said one freed detainee, Samer al-Halabiye.

"God willing, peace will prevail, and the war on Gaza will stop," Halabiye added.

"Now I just want to live my life." Journalists rushed to talk to the prisoners, but many declined to engage, sometimes explaining that before their release, they were advised not to speak.

In the south Gaza city of Khan Younis, a crowd gathered near Nasser Hospital, in the hope of catching sight of the prisoners taken during the war with Israel.

In the afternoon, thousands cheered to welcome their loved ones as they caught glimpses of the buses carrying them home.

INSURGENCY Rebels linked to IS kill 19 in eastern Congo

Suspected Islamic State-backed rebels killed 19 civilians in an overnight attack in eastern Congo, two local officials said yesterday, deepening insecurity in the mineral-rich region. Reuters reported from Kinshasa.

The attack, believed to have been carried out by the Allied Democratic Forces group, occurred in the village of Mukondo in North Kivu province, Alain Kiewa, the military administrator for Lubero territory where Mukondo is located, told Reuters, adding that the death toll could rise.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility by the ADF, which is also known as Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) and has claimed responsibility for a spate of attacks in recent months, including one in September on a funeral that killed more than 60 civilians. Reuters could not immediately reach ADF for comment.

The assailants in Mukondo wore uniforms resembling those of the Congolese army, which allowed them to enter the village without arousing suspicion.

South Africa bus crash kills at least 42

AFP
Johannesburg

A passenger bus rolled down an embankment in South Africa, killing at least 42 people including workers from Malawi and Zimbabwe, authorities said yesterday.

The bus was travelling to Zimbabwe when it crashed around 90 kilometres from the border on Sunday after the driver apparently lost control, Limpopo province transport minister Violet Mathye said.

"A reported 42 travellers died in the incident," South Africa's presidency said.

The dead included a 10-month-old girl, Mathye said.

Thirty-eight people were in hospital and rescuers were searching for other victims, she said.

President Cyril Ramaphosa called the crash a tragedy for all three nations and urged road users to do more to stay safe.

"This sadness is compounded by the fact that this incident has taken place during our annual transport month, where we place special focus on the importance of safety on our roads," he said in a statement.

The bus was travelling from the southern city of Gqeberha, around 1,500 kilometres away, and its passengers included Malawians and Zimbabweans who were working in South Africa. The crash may have been caused by driver fatigue or a mechanical fault, the minister said.

South Africa has a sophisticated and busy road network with a high rate of road deaths, blamed mostly on speeding, reckless driving and unroad-worthy vehicles.

Trump says ready for deal when Iran agrees

Reuters
Cairo

The US is prepared to make a deal with Iran when Tehran is ready, US President Donald Trump said in a speech to the Israeli parliament yesterday.

Tehran and Washington held five rounds of nuclear talks, prior to a 12-day war between Iran and Israel in June, which Washington joined by striking key Iranian nuclear sites.

The talks faced major stumbling blocks such as the issue of uranium enrichment on Iranian soil, which Western powers want to bring down to zero to minimise any risk of weaponisation, a plan that Tehran has rejected.

"We are ready when you are and it will be the best decision that Iran has ever made, and it's going to happen," Trump said, referring to a deal with Iran.

"The hand of friendship and cooperation is open. I'm telling you,

they (Iran) want to make a deal... it would be great if we could make a deal," Trump told the Israeli Knesset. On Saturday, Iran's foreign minister welcomed a potential "fair and balanced" US proposal on its nuclear programme, but said Tehran has not received any starting points for negotiation.

"If we receive a reasonable, balanced, and fair proposal from the Americans for negotiations, we will certainly consider it," Abbas Araqchi told state television on Saturday, adding that Tehran and Washington had been exchanging messages through mediators.

Trump was welcomed in Israel yesterday where he addressed the Knesset ahead of a planned trip to Egypt for a summit aimed at building conditions for a lasting peace in Gaza.

"There's nothing that would do more good for this part of the world than for Iran's leaders to renounce fighters...and finally recognise Israel's right to existence," Trump said.

Lebanon president says 'necessary to negotiate' with Israel

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun called for negotiations with Israel yesterday, after US President Donald Trump brokered a ceasefire in Gaza. In October 2023, Hezbollah began launching rockets at Israel in support of Hamas in the Gaza war, AFP reported from Beirut. Months of hostilities escalated into all-out war in September 2024, before a ceasefire was agreed two months later. Israel has continued to strike Lebanon, saying it is hitting Hezbollah targets, but according to the United Nations over 100 civilians have been killed since the truce. "The Lebanese state has previously negotiated with Israel under American and United Nations auspices, resulting in an agreement to demarcate the maritime border... so what prevents the same thing from happening again to find solutions to the outstanding issues," Aoun said according to a presidency statement.

Soldiers join hundreds in Madagascar street celebrations

AFP
Antananarivo

Soldiers and security forces joined hundreds celebrating in Madagascar's capital yesterday, with the whereabouts of President Andry Rajoelina unknown hours before he was due to address the nation following weeks of protests and growing calls for his resignation.

Rajoelina has not appeared in public since last Wednesday, fueling speculation among demonstrators that he may have fled the country.

He is believed to have fled aboard a French military plane, according to Radio France Inter-

nationale. French officials did not immediately respond to AFP's request for confirmation.

The former mayor of Antananarivo was due speak to the nation at 7:00pm (1600 GMT), but it was delayed by an hour and half after "a group of armed forces threatened to take control of the state-owned media," the presidency said on Facebook.

Earlier, people flooded a square in front of the Antananarivo city hall, waving flags and chanting slogans, some hanging off military vehicles as they arrived, AFP reporters saw.

Among them were soldiers from the army CAPSAT unit, which played a major role in the 2009 coup that first brought Rajoelina



Residents and protesters cheer and hold banners as they gather for a civil society rally outside City Hall in Antananarivo, yesterday.

to power and on Saturday declared it would "refuse orders to shoot" on demonstrators.

Also present were gendarmerie

officers, accused of using heavy-handed tactics during the over two weeks of near-daily protests. They admitted in a video statement to

"faults and excesses" in their response. The protests erupted in September, initially focused on chronic power and water cuts in the impoverished country but developed into a broader anti-government movement that called for 51-year-old Rajoelina to resign.

The United Nations has said that at least 22 people were killed in the first days, some by security forces and others in violence sparked by criminal gangs and looters. Rajoelina has disputed the toll, saying last week there were "12 confirmed deaths and all of these individuals were looters and vandals".

Rajoelina said at the weekend an "attempt to seize power illegally" was under way in the Indian Ocean

island nation. Yesterday, Rajoelina pardoned eight individuals in a decree, including French-Malagasy dual national Paul Maillot Rafanoharana, sentenced in 2021 to 20 years in prison for an attempted coup in Madagascar. The case has been a source of tension between Antananarivo and Paris.

Amid rumours that Rajoelina had fled, his government said Saturday he remained in Madagascar and was managing national affairs.

"We hope that he will apologise and genuinely announce his resignation," law student Finiritra Manitra Andrianamelaso, 24, told AFP at the city hall gathering where a large flag of the Gen Z movement that led the protest was on display.

India unveils \$77bn hydro plan as China builds dam

Reuters
New Delhi

India's power planning authority has drawn up a Rs6.4tn (\$77bn) transmission plan to move more than 76 gigawatts of hydroelectric capacity from the Brahmaputra basin by 2047 to

meet rising electricity demand, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) said yesterday. In a report released yesterday, the CEA said the plan covers 208 large hydro projects across 12 sub-basins in the northeastern states, with 64.9GW of potential capacity and an additional 11.1GW from pumped-storage plants.

The Brahmaputra River, which rises in Tibet, China, and flows through India and Bangladesh, holds significant hydro potential in its Indian stretch, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh on the China border. The basin's transboundary nature and proximity to China make water management and infra-

structure planning a strategic concern, amid India's fears that a Chinese dam on the Yarlung Zangbo, the river's upper course before it enters India, could cut dry-season flows on the Indian side by up to 85%. The Brahmaputra basin spans parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Mizoram, Megha-

laya, Manipur, Nagaland and West Bengal, and holds more than 80% of India's untapped hydro potential, the report said, with Arunachal Pradesh alone accounting for 52.2GW. Phase one of the plan, running to 2035, will require Rs1.91tn, while phase two will cost Rs4.52tn, according to the CEA.

The CEA's plan also includes projects allocated to central public sector utilities such as NHPC, NEEPCO, and SJVN, with some projects already in the pipeline. India aims to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels by having 500GW of non-fossil power generation capacity by 2030 and becoming net zero by 2070.

India and US to hold trade talks as Delhi mulls energy imports

Reuters
New Delhi

India and the US are set to hold trade talks this week, with New Delhi pledging to import US energy and gas as it aims to address Washington's concerns over its Russian oil purchases, an official said.

Talks were suspended briefly in August after the Trump administration announced tariff hikes of up to 50% on Indian goods, accusing India of financing Russia's war in Ukraine by continuing to buy Moscow's oil despite western sanctions. However, discussions resumed in September after US President Donald Trump struck a conciliatory tone in public remarks and spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the phone, raising hopes for a breakthrough.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, due to the sensitivity of the issue, said India was looking to increase purchases of energy and gas from the US.

The move follows US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor's meetings over the weekend with Modi and later with Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal on strengthening bilateral trade and investment.

"During my visit to India, I met with commerce secretary Agrawal and discussed US-India economic ties, including increased investment in the US," Gor said on 'X' on Sunday. Indian officials held "constructive" talks with US counter-

parts in Washington last month, the government said, adding that both sides agreed to push for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial trade deal.

The US tariff hikes have hurt Indian exports of textiles, leather goods, gems & jewellery, and food products, prompting the government to diversify markets and offer incentives to exporters.

India's exports to the US fell to \$6.86bn in August from \$8.01bn in July, trade ministry data showed, with exporters reporting further declines in September.

Negotiations began in February 2025, targeting a deal to double bilateral trade to \$500bn by 2030.

The two sides have held five rounds of trade talks, with the sixth - postponed in August - now expected to lead to the first phase of the deal next month, as agreed by Trump and Modi.

India is seeking greater participation from private players, including US firms, in its renewable and nuclear energy sectors.

"Investments coming into our renewable energy sectors are an important area of our relationship (with the US)," the official said, noting that New Delhi was open to buying more liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the US.

When asked about the Trump administration's calls for greater Indian investment in the US, the source said New Delhi was not opposed and viewed overseas investments by Indian firms positively, similar to China's approach.

Visiting Afghan minister meets India industry leaders



Afghanistan's Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi participates in a roundtable at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and meets with industry leaders in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

India and Canada agree on new roadmap for relations

Reuters
New Delhi

India and Canada yesterday agreed on a new roadmap for their relations after talks between their foreign ministers in New Delhi, as both countries seek to mend ties strained over the killing of a Canadian Sikh separatist.

The two countries, both of which are looking to diversify trade away from the US due to tariff announcements, agreed to collaborate on areas like critical

minerals, trade and agricultural value chains, a joint statement said.

"Reviving this partnership will not only create opportunities for enhanced economic co-operation but also help mitigate vulnerabilities arising from shifting global alliances," it said.

The statement came after Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and her counterpart Subrahmanya Jaishankar yesterday.

"Both of our governments agree on the importance of el-

evating the relationship," Anand said in her opening remarks at the meeting with Jaishankar.

Relations between New Delhi and Ottawa were strained for almost two years after then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused New Delhi in 2023 of involvement in the killing of a Canadian Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India denied Canada's allegations of involvement in the murder and in turn accused Ottawa of fostering separatist groups on its soil.

In June this year, Trudeau's

successor Mark Carney hosted Modi at the G7 summit in Kananaskis in the Canadian province of Alberta.

India is Canada's top source of temporary foreign workers and international students, as well as an important market for pulses such as lentils and yellow peas.

Canada is home to an influential Sikh community. Indian leaders say there are some fringe groups there that are still sympathetic to the cause of an independent Sikh state called Khalistan to be carved out of India.

14 injured as quake rocks Philippines

A moderately strong earthquake struck the central Philippine island of Cebu yesterday, injuring at least 14 people and damaging infrastructure already weakened by a deadly tremor two weeks earlier, officials said.

The magnitude 5.7 aftershock, recorded by the US Geological Survey, struck just after 1am yesterday.

Its epicentre was located near Bogu city, the same area devastated by a 6.9 magnitude quake on September 30 that killed 75 people and damaged or destroyed 72,000 houses, according to the provincial government.

The latest tremor tore up a road in the town of San Remigio and caused a wall to collapse at a government hospital in Bogu, which had already sustained damage in the earlier quake, local officials said. Eight people were injured in Bogu, while six were hurt in San Remigio and the municipality of Daanbantayan, according to official data.

World Conker Championships



Competitors take part in the first round of the annual World Conker Championships in Southwick, Britain.

Australia govt to overhaul retirement savings' tax plans

Reuters
Sydney

The Australian government yesterday said it would revise its proposal to hike taxes on the retirement savings of its wealthiest workers, including backing down on plans to tax unrealised gains, seeking to win support for the contentious legislation.

The original plan, announced in 2023, proposed doubling taxes from 15% to 30% on pension balances above A\$3mn (\$1.96mn), amid concerns tax concessions in the country's A\$4.1tn pension system were deepening inequality.

The plan would impact around 0.5% of the population, or about 80,000 people, at present. But it was opposed by investors and industry groups who raised concerns that more people would be affected over time because the A\$3mn balance level was not indexed to inflation. It failed to

gather enough support to pass parliament before May's general election.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers said yesterday the centre-left Labor government would make six changes to the legislation and delay its start date by one year to July 1, 2026.

The changes include establishing a 40% tax rate for earnings on balances above A\$10mn. Earnings on balances between A\$3mn and A\$10mn will be taxed at 30%.

The government will also scrap the most contentious aspects of the proposal by no longer applying the tax hike to unrealised gains on pension balances, and introducing indexing for balances above A\$3mn.

A low-income offset payment will also be increased from A\$500 to A\$810 and the threshold will be raised to an income of A\$45,000 from 2027, ensuring more savings for 1.3mn Australians who relied on the payments, of whom 60% were women.

Massive UK dieselgate lawsuit reaches court

AFP
London

A trial involving five major carmakers opened at London's High Court yesterday, marking the latest chapter of the dieselgate emissions scandal that has rocked the auto industry for a decade. The high court will decide in a three-month hearing whether systems installed in Mercedes, Ford, Peugeot-Citroen, Renault and Nissan diesel vehicles were designed to cheat clean-air laws.

The trial of the five lead defendants will set a precedent for other manufacturers, potentially paving

the way for billions of pounds (dollars) in compensation.

During the first day of the hearing Thomas De La Mare, lawyer for the claimants, argued that manufacturers "chose to cheat rather than comply with the law".

The claims were brought on behalf of 1.6mn motorists against 14 carmakers, including Jaguar Land Rover, Toyota, Vauxhall-Opel and BMW, among others.

Martyn Day, lawyer at Leigh Day representing the claimants, said the case could lead to "serious amounts of compensation".

The first day of hearings, dedicated to the arguments presented on behalf of the claimants, concluded

yesterday. The dieselgate scandal first erupted in September 2015, when German automaker Volkswagen admitted to fitting millions of vehicles with software to make engines appear less polluting in regulatory tests than in real driving conditions.

It caused waves in the global car industry, ensnaring several other top carmakers and leading to legal action in multiple countries including France, South Korea and the US.

The court in London will examine evidence to determine whether major carmakers installed defeat devices in cars to reduce nitrogen oxide readings in order to cheat emissions tests. Closing arguments will take

place in March, with a judgement expected mid next year.

The five lead defendants deny that their systems were designed to circumvent the tests.

London resident Rosamund Adoo Kissi-Debrah, whose nine-year-old daughter Ella died in 2013 from an asthma attack linked to air pollution, joined around twenty protestors outside the court yesterday.

"The coroner said if it wasn't for the illegal levels of air pollution where we live, not only would she not have got asthma, she wouldn't have died on that fatal night," she said.

She hoped for "an apology" from the manufacturers.

"There are still millions of diesel cars on our roads and making our children sick," said Jemima Hartshorn, a clean air campaigner at Mums for Lungs.

She said she hoped the trial would encourage the government to "get these cars off our roads to protect our children's health".

Adam Kamenetzky, one of the claimants, said he felt "defrauded" after he bought a Mercedes SUV in 2018 on the belief that it was less polluting than other models.

"We live in a built-up neighbourhood in London where there are children with lungs that can be harmed immeasurably by the emissions that these cars are producing,"

he said. Kamenetzky said outside the court that he wants to "hold to account" the manufacturers.

But it will take some time for any possible compensation to reach claimants.

The trial must first determine whether carmakers are liable, before a separate compensation phase can follow next year.

German automaker Mercedes and US carmaker Ford both rejected the claims as having "no merit", while Japan's Nissan declined to comment. French manufacturers Renault and Stellantis, parent of Peugeot and Citroen, both said the vehicles they sold were compliant with regulations at the time.



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GULF TIMES

Time to dip into IMF's pot of gold

With developing countries facing intense financial pressure and developed countries slashing foreign aid, it can be tempting to dream of stumbling across a pot of gold. Dream no longer: The International Monetary Fund is currently sitting on 90.5mn ounces of the metal.

A relic of the gold standard, these holdings could be quickly turned into tangible funds. After hovering around \$2,000 per ounce for most of the last half-decade, the price of gold has now topped \$4,000 per ounce. Even in real terms, this is a record high. But you wouldn't know it from looking at the IMF's balance sheet, which values its gold at just \$50 per ounce, a price last seen in the 1970s.

In reality, the IMF's gold reserves are worth over \$350bn – more than Chile's GDP. Selling just 10% of these holdings would generate enough funds to offset this year's foreign-aid cuts.

Such a move is not without precedent. The IMF has sold gold several times, most recently in 2009-10. The Fund used the proceeds from that sale to create an endowment account that complements IMF revenue and subsidises the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, its concessional lending arm for low-income countries.

The case for selling a small share of the IMF's gold is even stronger today. The funds could help support cash-strapped developing countries, without requiring any donor contributions.

The proceeds from a gold sale could be channelled into multiple existing trusts within the IMF. Perhaps the most promising candidate is the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT), which covers repayments by vulnerable low-income countries of debt owed to the IMF in the aftermath of public health or natural disasters.

The IMF's gold reserves are worth over \$350bn. Selling just 10% of these holdings would generate enough funds to offset this year's foreign-aid cuts

Alternatively, these funds could be used to increase the concessionality of the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, scaling up support for low-income countries.

But regardless of which trust is selected, placing the proceeds from a gold sale in an endowment account would maximise their impact by continuously generating returns to be distributed to the trust. As an added benefit to the US, the endowment fund could include investments in US Treasury bills, boosting demand for them.

This use of gold is entirely consistent with the IMF's mandate. The aid cuts to some developing countries amount to several percentage points of GDP. The consequent need to increase domestic spending on public health, education, and related sectors will further strain governments that were already grappling with high debt-servicing costs.

Selling some of the IMF's gold also aligns with the stated desires of the US and other developed countries.

Nor would selling gold jeopardise the IMF's financial stability. The Fund does not borrow on the market, so it does not need gold reserves to demonstrate its creditworthiness. Moreover, it has exceeded its precautionary-balances target of around \$35bn, a figure that does not count its gold reserves. Lastly, the vast majority of the IMF's gold would remain untouched. If anything, these sales would strengthen the Fund's financial stability by improving developing countries' ability to repay their debts.

It is hard to imagine a more cost-effective solution to widespread foreign-aid cuts than the IMF selling a small share of its gold at no risk to its financial health and at no cost to its donors. That would be true even if the price of gold had not reached new heights. The fact that it has means that finance ministers and central bankers should act with a sense of urgency when they gather at the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank this month. There might never be a better time to dip into the Fund's pot of gold. – Project Syndicate

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Africa's best energy choice is geothermal

By Mugwe Manga
Nairobi

Africa is on a quest to deliver universal energy access and advance green industrialisation, but it is still struggling to deliver reliable baseload electricity. Power outages and shortages cost Nigeria's economy an estimated \$26bn annually, and Ethiopia and Uganda routinely face blackouts, as droughts reduce hydropower. Across the continent, expensive, polluting diesel generators are used to bridge the gaps, with Nigerian businesses, for example, spending about \$22bn on off-grid fuel each year. But there is a renewable-energy technology that could go a long way toward meeting African demand: geothermal.

Most renewable energies are fickle. Solar, wind, and hydropower can be generated only under certain weather conditions, meaning that disruptions are always a possibility. In Africa, where grid operators lack resources and infrastructure is brittle, such shocks could be crippling.

Geothermal energy avoids these issues by harnessing Earth's natural internal heat. The steam trapped in rock formations deep underground is released, and used to drive turbines for electricity generation. Since radioactive decay constantly produces extreme heat in these reservoirs, geothermal energy can always be generated, making it an ideal candidate for supporting a reliable power supply.

Geothermal energy does have some drawbacks. Drilling deep into the surface and installing the necessary equipment to generate energy is a slow and capital-intensive process, which

can begin only after a costly exploration phase, involving extensive geological surveys. Geothermal-energy production also carries some environmental risks, and geothermal reservoirs are found only in certain locations, such as near tectonic-plate boundaries.

But the benefits far outweigh the costs. Once the initial investment is made, geothermal plants provide low-cost electricity for decades. On a large enough scale, geothermal can provide baseload stability, meaning that other renewables, like wind and solar, can be harnessed to their full potential without disrupting the grid. As advances in directional drilling, data analytics, and AI applications lower costs and improve success rates, geothermal will become even more attractive.

While geothermal is not a solution everywhere, it can work for Africa, especially as production techniques are improved. Oil and gas firms, under pressure to pivot toward cleaner energy, are applying their expertise to geothermal ventures. Enhanced Geothermal Systems, for example, apply oil- and gas-drilling techniques to access hotter rocks at greater depths. The International Energy Agency estimates that Africa hosts nearly one-fifth of global EGS potential – some 115 terawatts. Tapping even 1% of that potential could, by 2050, meet Africa's entire electricity demand.

Kenya is leading the way on geothermal generation. Its first geothermal plant, Olkaria I, began operating in 1981, and currently has a capacity of 45 megawatts. Kenya's total installed geothermal capacity amounts to 985MW – placing the country sixth globally.

Geothermal now accounts for 47% of Kenya's total electricity generation, making it the single largest renewable-energy source in a grid that is 93% green.

Kenya's embrace of geothermal has contributed to a rapid expansion of energy access. In 2013, only 37% of Kenyans had electricity; today, that share has risen to 76-80%. And there is plenty of room for further progress, as Kenya has so far tapped less than a tenth of its geothermal potential. KenGen, the state-backed utility, has plans to reach a gigawatt of installed capacity by 2026, and place Kenya among the world's top three geothermal producers by 2030.

But the benefits of geothermal systems extend well beyond electricity generation. For starters, geothermal reservoirs can be used for direct heating applications in sectors like horticulture, aquaculture, and food processing – all of which require stable heat sources. Kenya's Oserian flower farms pipe geothermal steam into greenhouses, leading to consistent and high-quality blooms. Crucially, such applications do not require access to the ultra-hot geothermal reservoirs that are located deep underground; more plentiful and accessible, moderate-temperature reservoirs are sufficient.

Moreover, geothermal brines, a byproduct of geothermal electricity generation, often contain high concentrations of critical minerals, including lithium (essential for batteries) and rare-earth elements (used in many electronics). By extracting and exporting these high-value minerals, African countries could derive even greater benefit from the green transition.

Geothermal energy can also act

as a powerful engine of economic integration across Africa. Already, regional "power pools," which co-ordinate electricity generation and transmission across borders, are laying the foundation for greater cohesion in Africa's fragmented energy market.

The embrace of stable, widely available geothermal energy could accelerate this process, thereby supporting the African Union's vision of an African Single Electricity Market.

None of this will be easy, not least because geothermal lacks strong political support. Whereas geothermal exploration and installation is a protracted process, requiring significant risk-tolerant finance, dams and solar farms easily attract donor money and media headlines, offering the kinds of quick victories politicians crave.

But, if one takes a longer view, geothermal's potential is undeniable. By anchoring grids, geothermal can support the use of other renewables. By supplying heat, it can facilitate the decarbonisation of industries from food processing to textiles. By producing minerals, it can elevate Africa in global supply chains. And by supporting cross-border energy exchanges, it can accelerate the establishment of an integrated African electricity market – critical to improve energy access, reliability, and affordability across the continent. – Project Syndicate

• *Mugwe Manga is Senior Green Finance Adviser at FSD Kenya, a board member and Co-Founder of the geothermal energy company Olsuswa Energy Limited, and the author of The Energy Future of Africa: A Journey Through Africa's Green Revolution and How It Can Change the World (Footprints Press Limited, 2022).*



File photo: Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) workers are seen at a section of the Olkaria IV Geothermal power plant near the Rift Valley town of Naivasha.

California enacts first US legislation requiring AI chatbot safety measures

AFP
San Francisco

California governor Gavin Newsom has signed into law a first-of-its-kind law regulating artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots, defying a push from the White House to leave such technology unchecked.

"We've seen some truly horrific and tragic examples of young people harmed by unregulated tech, and we won't stand by while companies continue without necessary limits and accountability," Newsom said after signing the bill into law.

The landmark law requires chatbot operators to implement "critical" safeguards regarding interactions with AI chatbots and provides an avenue for people to file lawsuits if failures to do so lead to tragedies, according to state senator Steve Padilla, a Democrat who sponsored the bill.

The law comes after revelations of suicides involving teens who used chatbots prior to taking their lives. "The tech industry is incentivised to capture young people's attention and hold it at the expense of their real world relationships," Padilla said prior to the bill being voted on in the state senate.

He referred to recent teen suicides including that of the 14-year-old son of Florida mother Megan Garcia. Garcia's son, Sewell, had fallen in love with a *Game of Thrones*-inspired chatbot on Character.AI, a plat-

form that allows users – many of them young people – to interact with beloved characters as friends or lovers. When Sewell struggled with suicidal thoughts, the chatbot urged him to "come home".

Seconds later, Sewell shot himself with his father's handgun, according to the lawsuit Garcia filed against Character.AI.

National rules aimed at curbing AI risks do not exist in the United States, with the White House seeking to block individual states from creating their own.

The new California law sets guardrails that include reminding users that chatbots are AI-generated and mandating that people who express thoughts of self-harm or suicide be referred to crisis service providers.

"This law is an important first step in protecting kids and others from the emotional harms that result from AI companion chatbots which have been unleashed on the citizens of California without proper safeguards," said Jai Jaisimha, co-founder of Transparency Coalition nonprofit group devoted to the safe development of the technology.

The landmark chatbot safety measure was among a slew of bills signed into law yesterday by Newsom crafted to prevent AI platforms from doing harm to users.

New legislation included a ban on chatbots passing themselves off as healthcare professionals and making it clear that those who create or use AI tools are accountable for the consequences and can't dodge liability by claiming the technology acted autonomously, according to Newsom's office.

Five killed in violence at anti-Israel rally in Pakistan

Pakistani police said yesterday that they launched a clearance operation against a hardline Islamist party after failed negotiations to call off an anti-Israel protest, with five killed in the violence, including one policeman.

The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) began its protests in Lahore on Thursday and planned to march to the US embassy in Islamabad, leading authorities to block roads between the two cities and shut down the Internet.

After negotiations between the TLP and the government collapsed on Sunday, authorities launched a "dispersal operation" in Muridke, a town north of Lahore, where more than 7,000 supporters had reached in their march to the capital.

Police said TLP workers "resorted to stone pelting, spiked batons, and petrol bombs" and opened "indiscriminate fire, resulting in casualties among civilians and law enforcement personnel".

The TLP has been behind some of Pakistan's most violent protests, and frequently calls on the government to expel Western ambassadors.

"One police officer and four civilians died," the police statement said, adding that several rioters had been arrested while 48 law enforcement personnel and eight civilians were injured.

TLP leader Saad Rizvi was among those injured, sustaining three bullet wounds, the group said.

The TLP had originally said the protests were organised to voice its opposition to the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, backed by Pakistan, after two years of war in Gaza.

It later said the protest was in solidarity with Palestinians. Rizvi told a news conference on Sunday that his supporters only wanted to march up to Islamabad to express solidarity with the people of Palestine.

"Our march is against Israel's atrocities," he said, adding that the group had previously run campaigns to boycott Israeli products.

"There were police personnel besieging us. They were firing bullets and tear gas. They kept shooting continuously for three to four hours," said TLP protester Abou Sufian.

After the operation, charred cars, including the TLP leader's main truck, were left in the street.

"There were no real negotiations. The government just used the word 'negotiation' to give the impression to the general public that they were holding a dialogue," senior TLP member Allama Irfan told AFP.

Shipping containers were being placed as barriers across major roads in the capital in anticipation of the protesters' arrival.

As many as 50 police officers were injured in Friday's clashes, a senior police official told AFP, while the TLP claims that some of its members had been killed could not be verified independently. – AFP/Reuters

Eurovision organisers postpone Israel decision to December

The Eurovision Song Contest's organisers said yesterday that they had put back taking a decision on Israel's participation in next year's event, given the Gaza ceasefire.

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU)'s members were due to hold a vote next month, after a growing number of countries threatened to boycott the 2026 TV extravaganza in Vienna unless Israel was excluded.

The annual Eurovision Song Contest is world's biggest live music television event. Some 166mn viewers in 37 countries watched the 2025 competition, held in Basel, Switzerland.

The EBU, the world's biggest public service media alliance,

said yesterday that instead of the special meeting in November announced last month, Israel's participation would be dealt with in December.

"In the light of recent developments in the Middle East, the EBU's executive board (meeting on October 13) agreed there was a clear need to organise an open and in-person discussion among its members on the issue of participation in the Eurovision Song Contest 2026," the EBU said in a statement. "Consequently, the board agreed to put the issue on the agenda of its ordinary winter general assembly, which will be taking place in December, rather than organising an extraordinary session in advance." – AFP

Former president Sarkozy 'to go to prison on October 21'

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy will serve jail time at a Paris prison from October 21, informed sources told AFP yesterday, after a court last month sentenced him to five years behind bars for criminal conspiracy.

The 70-year-old, who will be the first French

post-war leader and the first former head of a European Union country to go to jail, will serve time at the La Sante prison in Paris, they said.

Sarkozy, France's leader from 2007-2012, was convicted in late September over a scheme for late Libyan dictator Muammar

Gaddafi to fund his 2007 presidential run. Sarkozy has denied the charges and appealed against his conviction.

The former president immediately appealed his conviction in September and a new trial is expected in the coming months. – AFP

Trio win economics Nobel for work on tech-driven growth

The Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded yesterday to American-Israeli Joel Mokyr, France's Philippe Aghion and Canada's Peter Howitt for work on technology's impact on sustained economic growth.

Mokyr, 79, won half of the prize "for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress", the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Aghion, 69, and Howitt, 79, shared the other half "for the the-

ory of sustained growth through creative destruction", it added.

John Hassler, chair of the prize committee, told reporters that their work answered questions about how technological innovation drives growth and how sustained growth can be maintained.

Mokyr, who is a professor at Northwestern University in the United States, "used historical sources as one means to uncover the causes of sustained growth becoming the new normal", the jury said in a statement.

Aghion and Howitt then examined the concept of "creative destruction", which refers to the process "when a new and better product enters the market, the companies selling the older products lose out".

The economics prize is the only Nobel not among the original five created in the will of Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel, who died in 1896.

However, like the Nobels in chemistry and physics, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences chooses the winner and follows the

Macron puts blame on French opposition for political 'chaos'

AFP
Paris

President Emmanuel Macron has blamed opponents for political "chaos" as his embattled prime minister, Sebastian Lecornu, urged his new cabinet ministers to put their egos aside for the sake of France.

France, the eurozone's second-largest economy, is in a deep political crisis which has spooked markets and raised concern about its minority government's ability to govern and ease the country's debt burden.

Following an extraordinary week of political drama, which saw Lecornu resign on October 6 only to be re-appointed by Macron on Friday, the 39-year-old prime minister urged his new cabinet to do everything to help France overcome the political crisis.

"I am counting on you to show the utmost restraint and humility," Lecornu, the seventh prime minister of Macron's mandate, told his new cabinet yesterday.

"Service is something that requires putting egos aside," said the prime minister, who is to deliver a policy speech today to a deeply divided parliament where he faces threats of censure.

Lecornu addressed the cabinet following a low-key handover ceremony, which took place without journalists.

Macron's perceived refusal to bring in new faces has enraged the opposition, with the hard-left France Unbowed party and

far-right National Rally threatening to topple Lecornu's new cabinet, which was unveiled late on Sunday.

Lecornu's two immediate predecessors were ousted in a standoff over an austerity budget, and his immediate task is to put together a 2026 budget plan.

The new cabinet is expected to present a draft budget today that aims for a deficit below 5% of GDP, according to new government spokesperson Maud Bregeon.

The cabinet must give parliament the constitutionally required 70 days to scrutinise the plan before the end of the year.

In recent days, Macron has come under unprecedented pressure.

Some opposition leaders are urging him to call snap elections or resign, and even key allies such as former prime minister Edouard Philippe have distanced themselves from the 47-year-old president.

Macron sought to shift all responsibility for the turmoil to political rivals as he travelled to Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh to attend a summit on ending the Gaza war and highlight his diplomatic credentials.

"The political forces that have instigated the destabilisation of Sebastian Lecornu are solely responsible for this chaos," he told reporters upon arrival in Egypt.

"It is everyone's duty to work towards stability," Macron said. "Many of those who have fuelled division and speculation have not risen to the moment."

Political jockeying in France has been intensifying ahead of the 2027 presidential election.

Macron, who is enduring his worst-ever popularity levels, has vowed to serve out his second and final term.

Many opponents and political analysts blame the French president for the current gridlock.

In mid-2024, he called snap elections to stave off the march of the far-right, but his gamble backfired.

Macron's centrist camp lost its majority, while parliament's lower house, the National Assembly, is now divided into three distinct blocs.

French daily *Le Monde* said in an editorial that Macron was on dangerous ground.

"The head of state is taking the risk of turning this major political crisis into a lasting institutional deadlock, and thus into a crisis of the regime," the newspaper said.

The leftist Socialists, a swing group, warn they may also vote against the government unless Lecornu backs off from a controversial 2023 pension reform that raised the retirement age from 62 to 64.

The right-wing Republicans, once a key political ally of Macron, have said that they would only cooperate on a "bill-by-bill" basis.

Macron declined to speculate yesterday on a possible dissolution of parliament in case of another government failure.

"I'm not making any bets," he said. "I want the country to move forward."

Nearly 130 missing in flooded Mexico towns

Reuters/AFP
Mexico City

Torrential rains that lashed Mexico last week killed at least 64 people and 65 more are missing, the government said yesterday, after a tropical depression triggered landslides and flooding in parts of the Gulf Coast and central states.

The unnamed depression came toward the end of the rainy season, battering land and bursting rivers that had already been soaked by months of rains, while forecasters were focused on tropical storms and two hurricanes on the Pacific coast.

"This intense rain was not expected to be of such magnitude," President Claudia Sheinbaum told reporters.

Admiral Raymundo Morales, Mexico's Navy secretary, said the flooding was the result of the coming together of warm and cold air fronts over rivers that were already filled to the brim and mountains weakened by months of rain.

Around 100,000 homes were affected, Sheinbaum said.

"Many flights are needed... to deliver enough food and water," the president told reporters.

She is set to meet with the finance ministry later in the day to discuss rebuilding efforts, and visit some hard-hit states.

Laura Velazquez, national co-ordinator of civil protection, said Hidalgo and Veracruz were

the states worst affected, with 29 deaths and 18 missing reported in Veracruz, and 21 deaths and 43 missing in Hidalgo.

The rain also destroyed infrastructure such as bridges and left streets filled with mud.

Videos and images from last week showed emergency responders wading through deep waters to find stranded residents and get supplies to affected communities.

Authorities have deployed thousands of personnel to help evacuate, clean up and monitor the places that were hardest hit.

Electricity, which had been knocked out in towns across five states, has largely been restored.

Authorities said they will also focus on containing the spread of viruses such as dengue, carried by mosquitoes that breed in stagnant water.

Heavy rains often occur during Mexico's wet season from May to October, but last week's downpours were made more dangerous by the combination of a tropical system from the Gulf of Mexico and a cold front from the north, according to meteorologists.

Yesterday Sheinbaum batted away questions about possible failures in early warning and preparedness.

"It would have been difficult to have information in advance about this situation, unlike what happens with hurricanes," she said, citing a combination of unpredictable meteorological factors.

Spain's Valencia region on red alert for torrential rain

Spain's national weather agency issued a red alert yesterday for torrential rains for the eastern region of Valencia, where deadly floods struck last year.

The warning came a day after a storm swept through the neighbouring region of Catalonia, leaving 18 people injured, including one seriously.

National weather agency AEMET said its highest red alert would be in place for the coast of Valencia until midnight, warning of "extraordinary danger" and the risk of flash floods.

Earlier in the day the agency downgraded its alert level for Catalonia a notch from its highest red level to orange, signalling a "significant risk of rain".

Videos circulating on social media showed torrents of mud carrying away cars and debris on Sunday in the region, as a storm swept through the region.

Catalonia's civil protection service said 17 people were lightly injured, and one seriously, due to the torrential rains.

Firefighters responded to dozens of calls from people trapped in vehicles or requiring assistance to remove fallen trees or debris from rockslides, it added.

Widespread flooding in Valencia in October 2024 killed more than 200 people in Spain's worst such disaster in decades.

Scientists say that a hotter atmosphere, which holds more water evaporating from the rapidly warming Mediterranean Sea, increases the risk and intensity of flooding from extreme rainfall. – AFP



This handout photo provided by the Slovak Police via its Facebook site shows a damaged train at the accident site of two passenger trains near the village of Jablonov nad Turnou, close to Kosice, Slovakia. – AFP

More than 60 injured in Slovakia train collision

Two trains collided in eastern Slovakia yesterday, derailing an engine and a carriage and injuring at least 66 people, emergency medical services and police said.

There were no reports of deaths in the crash, which police said happened in front of a tunnel near the village of Jablonov nad Turnou, about 55km (34 miles) west of the eastern Slovak region's main city Kosice.

The country's emergency medical services said 16 people suffered moderate or serious injuries and at least 50 were lightly injured.

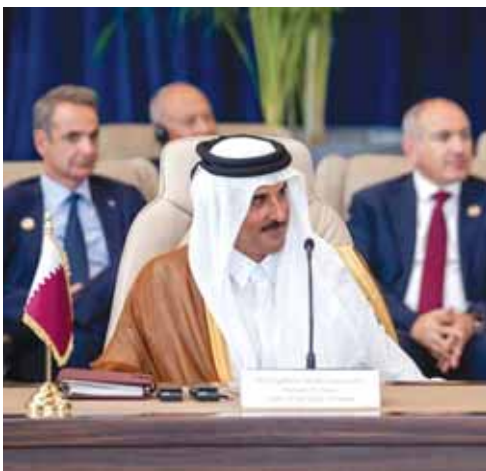
Firefighters and rescue workers were "pulling people out through the doors", according to emergency services, and the police posted photos on social media of a partially derailed carriage and smashed locomotive.

Police footage on Facebook showed mangled wreckage, and a locomotive and a carriage that had come off the tracks lying on the side of a hill following the crash, which happened just after 10am (0800 GMT).

There were about 80 passengers on the trains, police said. Slovak Railways said the two trains collided at a point where tracks cross and turn into a single line, and that the cause was under investigation.

Prime Minister Robert Fico said on Facebook that the transport and interior ministers were on the way to the "scene of the tragedy".

Last year, seven people died and five were injured when a passenger train and a bus collided at a railway crossing. – Reuters/AFP



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit, in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh.



Amir meets leaders at peace summit

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met with a number of rulers, leaders of nations and heads of delegations and government participating in the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit, at the International Convention Centre in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh.

His Highness the Amir met with King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein of Jordan, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and French President Emmanuel Macron.

He also held meetings with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan al-Saud, UAE Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, a number of senior officials, and heads of delegations.

The discussions during the meetings, which were held on the sidelines of the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit in Egypt, focused on the main issues on the summit's agenda, particularly the agreement to end the war in Gaza, the flow of humanitarian aid to the Strip, and supporting peace and security in the region.

They also explored ways to support and enhance co-operation and relations within the international community across various fields, in addition to discussing the latest regional and international developments of common interest.

The meetings were attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, and a number of members of the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Amir. - QNA



Acclaim for Amir's contributions

US President Donald Trump, addressing the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit, said: "I would like to thank in particular His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar who is an exceptional man, who is greatly respected."

"I express my condolences to Qatar after the tragic car accident that claimed the lives of some diplomats."

Trump said the war in Gaza is over and aid has started to flow in. "Together we achieved what everyone said was impossible: peace in the Middle East."

The American president said



the agreement between Israel and Hamas will hold.

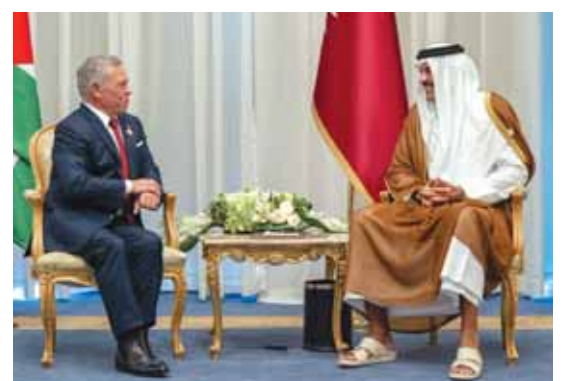
Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said: "I thank my dear brother Sheikh

Tamim, who worked hard to achieve peace in this region."

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said that the Gaza agreement must be implemented to achieve a two-state solution and integrate the peoples of the region.

He highlighted Qatar's role in achieving peace as a key mediating country.

Spokesman for the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Jamal Rushdi, lauded Qatar's role in the negotiations that were held to reach a decision to cease the warfare in the Gaza Strip.



Amir and delegation leave Sharm El-Sheikh

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani left Sharm El-Sheikh yesterday after having presided over Qatar's delegation to the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit.

His Highness the Amir was seen off upon at Sharm El-Sheikh International Airport by Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Dr Hanī Sewil-

am and Qatar's ambassador Tariq bin Ali al-Ansari.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi accompanied His Highness the Amir, along with an official delegation. - QNA



Qatar Charity distributes new aid batch for Gazans



Qatar Charity (QC) has announced the distribution of a new batch of aid in the Gaza Strip, including food, potable water, and education support, to alleviate the humanitarian suffering of the population due to the blockade and the effects of the war over more than two years.

The aid includes about 4,700 food parcels under the "Goodness Parcels" projects, with each parcel containing essential food staples, the QC reported in a statement yesterday.

It also involves the distribution of 2.4mn litres of potable water as part of the "Life in Every Drop" project, in addition to daily meals through the "Meal of Hope" initiative, bringing the total number of targeted meals to 47,100 since September.

The aid encompasses the implementation of the "Back to Class" project, coinciding with the start of the current academic year, through which around 4,500 school bags are being distributed and 60 classrooms are being rehabilitated, to provide students with necessary supplies and a suitable learning environment. - QNA



Humanitarian aid shipment delivered to Syria

A new shipment of humanitarian aid to Syria, provided by the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has been delivered.

The assistance aims to support the ef-

forts of Syria's ministry of emergency and disaster management and the Syrian Civil Defence (White Helmets) in disaster response operations, a QFFD statement said.

The shipment included vehicles, ma-

chinery, and specialised equipment for search and rescue operations to enhance the preparedness of Syrian emergency teams and strengthen their field capabilities.

Syrian Emergency and Disaster Management Minister Raed al-Saleh stated that Qatar's support reflects the strong ties between the two countries and will contribute directly to enhancing rescue

and emergency capacities and alleviating the burdens on Syrian society.

Charge d'affaires of Qatar's embassy in Syria, Khalifa bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud, stated that the initiative is an extension of the existing partnership between Qatar and the Syrian ministry of emergency and disaster management and Civil Defence.