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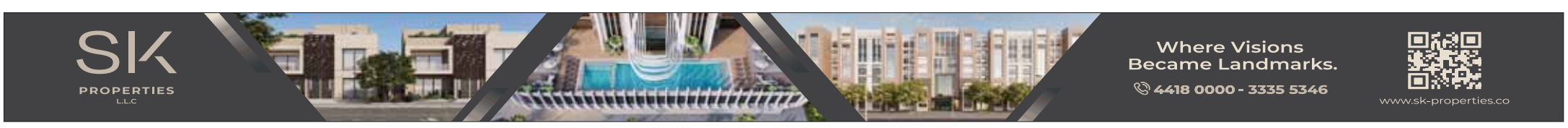












PM, Turkmen deputy premier discuss ties

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from Turkmenistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov. During the call, the two sides discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and enhance them, in addition to a number of topics of common interest. (**QNA**)

60 Qatari aid trucks dispatched to Gaza

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad witnessed yesterday the departure of 60 trucks loaded with Qatari aid from 10th of Ramadan City to the Egyptian city of Al Arish, in preparation for their entry into the Gaza Strip via the Rafah Crossing. HE al-Misnad inspected the Qatari humanitarian aid warehouse in 10th of Ramadan City, during her current visit to Egypt. The Qatari aid to Gaza includes 25,500 comprehensive food baskets, 1,800 hygiene baskets, 1,000 shelter kits, 400 tonnes of flour, and 7,400 cartons of baby milk. She also toured the Qatari humanitarian aid warehouse, which contains relief and food supplies. (**QNA**)

Msheireb Museums celebrates 10th anniversary

Msheireb Museums celebrated its 10th anniversary yesterday, bringing together leading international and regional architects, cultural leaders, and heritage preservation experts to examine a decade of architectural innovation and cultural transformation in Qatar. The event at Bin Jelmood House was marked by two panel discussions and the launch of two new publications that document the museums' role in shaping Qatar's contemporary built environment. Led by Msheireb Museums general manager Abdulla al-Naama and attended by senior officials from Msheireb Properties, the conference underlined the museums' impact on defining a unique modern Qatari architectural identity. **Page 16**

Amazon cloud services hit by global outages

Many popular Internet services, from streaming platforms to messaging services and some banks, went offline for hours yesterday due to an outage in Amazon's crucial cloud network. The disruption affected streaming platforms, including Amazon's Prime Video service and Disney+, as well as Perplexity AI, the Fortnite game, Airbnb, Snapchat and Duolingo. Mobile telephone services and messaging apps Signal and Whatsapp were also affected in Europe, according to Downdetector, a website monitoring Internet problems. Some UK banks, such as Lloyd's were also impacted, and pointed to Amazon Web Services (AWS) as the problem. AWS handles nearly a third of the planet's cloud infrastructure market, powering millions of apps and websites around the world. (**AFP**) **Page 15**

Qatar, Egypt to boost scope of aid to Gaza

QNA
Cairo

Qatar held yesterday a high-level event in Cairo, highlighting joint Qatari-Egyptian efforts to support the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, as part of the ongoing humanitarian partnership between the two fraternal countries.

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad represented Qatar at the event, while Minister of Social Solidarity Dr Maya Morsy represented Egypt.

The event was widely attended by a number of charitable and development organisations and institutions, including Qatar Charity, the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), and the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), as well as representatives of international organisations and humanitarian partners.

The two sides discussed mechanisms for enhancing field co-ordination and expanding the scope of humanitarian and relief aid within the Gaza Strip, including food, medicine, shelter, and civilian protection, in light of the worsening humanitarian challenges.

The two sides emphasised the depth of Qatari-Egyptian co-operation and the complementarity between their humanitarian efforts, stemming from the shared Arab and humanitarian duty toward the Palestinian people and embodying the commitment of the two countries' leaderships to continue supporting Gaza and contributing to alleviating the suffering of its people. (**QNA**)



Qatar, Turkiye win praise for Pakistan-Afghan truce deal

GCC Secretary-General Jassim Mohammed Albudaiwi has welcomed the diplomatic efforts undertaken by Qatar and Turkiye to reach the ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan which was signed in Doha.

The GCC Secretary-General noted that this agreement represents a positive step towards consolidating stability and strengthening bridges of trust between the two countries.

He affirmed the GCC's support for all initiatives aimed at establishing peace and promoting dialogue in the region and beyond, contributing to a more stable and prosperous future for peoples.

Saudi Arabia and Oman also welcomed the diplomatic efforts and constructive roles played by Qatar and Turkiye.

The Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the Kingdom's welcome for signing an immediate ceasefire and establish mechanisms to consolidate lasting peace and stability between the two countries.

In a statement, the ministry affirmed Saudi Arabia's support for all regional and international efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability, and its constant commitment to ensuring security to achieve stability and prosperity for the Pakistani and Afghan peoples.

Oman expressed its appreciation and gratitude for the roles of Qatar and Turkiye in reaching the agreement, expressing hope for its sustainability as well as to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Kuwait welcomed the ceasefire agreement and expressed hope that this step will help end tensions and strengthen security and stability, in line with the aspirations of the peoples of both countries.

In a statement issued yesterday, Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs praised the constructive efforts and tireless endeavours led by Qatar and Turkiye in hosting and sponsoring the negotiations that culminated in the agreement.

The ministry stressed the importance of dialogue and adherence to diplomatic means to resolve disputes and enhance regional and international security.

Official spokesman for the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fouad Majali praised the mediation efforts made by Qatar and Turkiye to reach this agreement, stressing Jordan's support for all efforts to establish security and stability in the border areas between the two countries.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova said: "We welcome the agreement on a mutual ceasefire along the Afghan-Pakistani border, achieved between Kabul and Islamabad with the mediation of Qatari and Turkiye."

In a statement, she voiced Moscow's call on Kabul and Islamabad to expand their co-operation, including in countering terrorism.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun affirmed that his country welcomes the ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

He expressed China's support for continued dialogue and consultations between Pakistan and Afghanistan to resolve their differences, achieve a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire, and work together to maintain peace and stability in both countries and the region. (**QNA**)

Amir opens new Shura Council session today

● A new chapter begins in the Council's 50-year journey

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will patronise the inauguration of the first regular session of the second legislative term, corresponding to the 54th annual session of the Shura Council, this morning at the Council's headquarters.

His Highness the Amir will deliver a speech that will include Qatar's domestic plans and policies, as well as its future priorities in various sectors and fields, in addition to highlighting the country's efforts and positions on various regional and international issues.

The Shura Council's new session in its historic journey marks another milestone in more than five decades of national parliamentary development. The Council has consistently enjoyed the support and guidance of the wise leadership, reflecting its vital legislative and oversight role and its close co-operation with the esteemed government in advancing Qatar's renaissance, sustainable development, and the aspirations of its citizens for a dignified and prosperous future.

The next phase of the Shura Council's successful journey — which spans over half a century — begins with the first regular session of the second legislative term. This new session will be held with a developmental vision and comprehensive institutional preparedness, in line with the Council's evolving role in national governance.

His Highness the Amir issued Amiri Decision No 42 of 2025 on Oct 9, appointing members of the Shura Council. The decision took effect from the date of issuance and was published in the Official Gazette.

On the same day, His Highness the Amir received Their Excellencies the members of the Shura Council at the Amiri Diwan, where he welcomed them and wished them success in performing their duties. The Amir emphasised the Council's role in supporting the State's efforts to achieve sustainable development and to further the comprehensive renaissance witnessed by Qatar across all fields.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's speech will include Qatar's domestic plans and policies, as well as its future priorities in various sectors and fields, in addition to highlighting the country's efforts and positions on various regional and international issues

For their part, the members of the Shura Council expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir for his continued trust and support. They affirmed their commitment to work with national responsibility and dedication to serve the homeland and citizens, in line with Qatar's vision and the aspirations of its people for continued progress and prosperity.

The Shura Council, as formed under His Highness the Amir's decision, consists of 49 members. Article 77 of the country's Permanent Constitution was amended to state that: "The Shura Council shall consist of no fewer than forty-five members, and the appointment of members shall be issued by an Amiri Decision." The new session follows the constitutional amendments that were unanimously approved by the Council last November and subsequently endorsed through a popular referendum, which saw an approval rate of 90.6% of valid votes. This milestone represents a genuine embodiment of national unity, the strengthening of the social fabric, and the consolidation of the principles of Shura deeply rooted in Qatari society, paving the way for continued growth and achievement.

The 2024 constitutional amendments stand among the most significant accomplishments of the previous legislative term. They included several amendments, additions, and deletions to the Constitution, all designed to serve the State's supreme interests and reinforce the values of justice, equality, and civic responsibility among all members of Qatari society. **To Page 2**

97 killed in Israeli violations since Gaza ceasefire

The Israeli occupation forces have committed 80 documented violations since the announcement of the ceasefire in Gaza, resulting in the slaying of 97 Palestinians and injuries to over 230 others, with varying degrees of severity, including 21 violations recorded on Sunday, the Government Media Office in Gaza reported in a statement yesterday.



An aerial view shows tents sheltering displaced Palestinians in the war-damaged area surrounding Gaza City's port yesterday.

The statement added that these breaches included direct shooting at civilians, deliberate bombing of residential compounds, creation of fire belts, and unleashing field detentions in several areas.

These practices confirm the persistent Israeli occupation's belligerent approach and its determination to field escalation in an unequivocal violation of the ceasefire decision and the international humanitarian rules-based order, the statement continued.

The statement further pointed out that in their assaults, the occupation forces operated tanks stationed at the perimeter of residential neighbourhoods, alongside remotely-operated sensor-equipped cranes with electro-optical targeting capability, in addition to fighter jets and quadcopters that daily hover over populated areas and directly launch firepower at civilians.

The Israeli breaches have been recorded in various governorates across the Gaza enclave, emphasising the Israeli occupation's non-compliance with the ceasefire and its persistent pursuit of the policy of killing and terrorising against the population, the statement clarified.

QATAR

Minister of state meets delegation from Syria's NCTJ, NCMP





HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met yesterday with a delegation from the National Commission for Transitional Justice (NCTJ) and the National Commission for Missing Persons (NCMP) in the Syrian Arab Republic, headed by Chairman of NCMP Dr Mohammad Reda Jalkhi and Chairman of NCTJ Abdul Basit Abdul Latif. Discussions during the meeting centred on the operations of the two commissions and their efforts in strengthening the course of comprehensive justice and accountability, as well as supporting civil peace and addressing topics of shared interest. HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs underscored that the State of Qatar supports all legal mechanisms that bolster the transitional justice and accountability system for crimes committed, in addition to the global efforts aimed at achieving peace and stability and capitalising on successful experiences in the domain of transitional justice. **(QNA)**

US 'Hostage Freedom Award' for al-Khulaifi

QNA
Washington



The US James Foley Foundation has awarded HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, the 2026 American "Hostage Freedom Award". In a statement published on its official website, the Foundation stated that "His Excellency, in his capacity as Chief Negotiator, played a decisive role in securing the release of Americans held hostage in Afghanistan, Iran, Gaza, and Venezuela."

The Foundation noted that his expertise contributes to opening channels of dialogue when all other paths are blocked, building bridges of trust, and guiding negotiation tracks in the most challenging cases.

The American Foundation confirmed that HE Dr al-Khulaifi succeeded in finding means of communication and humanitarian solutions in cases where the US lacked formal relations. It added, "His Excellency's work embodies the role played by the State of Qatar as a trusted mediator and affirms the strength of diplomacy in serving peace and preserving human dignity."

Qatar and Bosnia and Herzegovina hold round of political consultations



The third round of political consultations between the foreign ministries of the State of Qatar and Bosnia and Herzegovina was held yesterday in Doha. HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi headed the Qatari side, while Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Edin Dilberovic headed the Bosnian side. The round of consultations discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them. **(QNA)**

Dawn of a new chapter in Shura Council's grand 50-year journey

From Page 1



Among the major achievements of the Shura Council in its previous term was the approval of its internal regulations, which govern its operations, define procedures for sessions, decision-making, and committee work, and enhance the Council's overall efficiency.

The new internal regulations, consisting of 244 articles divided into eight chapters, bolster the Council's legislative and oversight authority and define the mechanisms for exercising its powers in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws.

The first legislative term (2021-2025) witnessed extensive parliamentary activity, including 138 regular sessions, two extraordinary sessions, 312 committee meetings, the discussion of 84 draft laws, 22 requests for discussion, 25 proposals, 21 hearings, and 185 internal and external parliamentary engagements, as well as 417 bilateral meetings. These figures reflect the substantial institutional efforts of the General Secretariat and the Council's expanding role in legislation, oversight, and parliamentary diplomacy.

Meanwhile, the General Secretariat of the Shura Council has finalised all technical and organisational preparations for the launch of the first regular session of the second legislative term today.

The preparations included equipping the main hall and meeting rooms with the latest technology, ensuring the aesthetic and functional readiness of the Council's facilities, and confirming full technical and logistical preparedness.

In this regard, HE Secretary-General of the Shura Council Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud stated in a meeting held on Sunday with representatives of the local media that the opening session of the new term will be followed by a procedural session, including the swearing-in and the reading of Amiri Decree No 98 of 2025, inviting the Shura Council to convene its first regular session of the second legislative term, corresponding to the 54th annual session. The session will then proceed with the election of the Speaker and deputy Speaker.

He added that the General Secretariat has tested all technical and logistical systems, and that legal and technical teams are fully ready to ensure the smooth conduct of the session.

HE al-Mahmoud emphasised that, with more than fifty years of experience, the Council is fully prepared for this new phase and continues to operate with high professionalism and discipline to ensure a successful start befitting its prestigious stature and legislative and oversight responsibilities.

Thanks to its active participation in various regional and international parliamentary forums, the Shura Council has attained a prominent position and enjoys wide respect and recognition. It currently holds several key positions, including membership in the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) — the highest UN-affiliated parliamentary body — as well as membership in several of its standing committees.

HE al-Mahmoud highlighted that the General Secretariat plays a vital role in supporting Council members and enabling them to effectively perform their parliamentary and diplomatic duties.

He underlined that external parliamentary work has evolved beyond symbolic participation to become a strategic activity aimed at achieving tangible outcomes that serve national interests and strengthen the Council's international partnerships.

As a result of its active role in parliamentary diplomacy, the Shura Council has established distinguished relations with counterparts in other countries. These ties, reinforced through mutual visits between the general secretariats, enable the exchange of parliamentary experiences and expertise, including legal and technical knowledge.

In this context, one of the most prominent upcoming parliamentary events to be hosted by the Council is the Parliamentary Forum, which will be held in collaboration with the IPU on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha this November, in co-operation with the UN. Additionally, the Council will host the meetings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in December, and will also participate in the summit of heads of GCC parliaments, which will later be hosted by Bahrain.

Such relationships, mutual visits, and various parliamentary events reflect the growing international confidence in the Shura Council's experience, its leading institutional role, and its prominent presence at both the national and international levels, guided by the visions and messages contained in the speeches delivered by His Highness the Amir during the opening of the Council's sessions.

As part of its continuous modernisation and development efforts, the General Secretariat of the Shura Council has begun implementing a digital transformation initiative within its comprehensive institutional plan and its 2025-2030 strategy, which is set to launch at the end of this year. The General Secretariat has developed this strategy based on Qatar National Vision 2030 and the key messages from the speeches delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani during the openings of the Shura Council's sessions.

The aim is to enhance efficiency, digitise procedures, develop human capacities, and improve administrative and technical performance in line with the aspirations of the coming phase. The important and distinguished role played and consistently upheld by the Council in promoting the image of Qatar at regional and international forums is widely recognised.

The Council also articulates the country's steadfast positions and defends issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic nations, foremost among them the Palestinian cause.

Throughout its successive sessions, the Council has demonstrated its vital legislative role in serving the interests of the Qatari people and meeting their aspirations through the body of legislation and laws it discusses, approves, and amends within the framework of the rule of law and in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Permanent Constitution of Qatar.

Building on all these achievements, members will continue to carry out their duties in the new legislative session, keeping in mind the interests of citizens and the higher interests of the nation, under the wise leadership of the Amir.

The history of the Shura Council dates back to 1972, when the amended Interim Basic Law was issued on April 19 of the same year to regulate the structures and institutions of the modern state, including the Shura Council, which initially had 20 members.

McDonald's Qatar Fosters a Culture of Care with Breast Cancer Workshop

Held during Pink Month, the workshop provided expert guidance and preventative health support for McDonald's Qatar's employees by Al Azizya Medical Center Doctors



McDonald's Qatar organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop in collaboration with Al Aziziya Medical Center, bringing employees together to learn, connect, and support one another in recognition of Pink Month. The initiative reflected the brand's unwavering commitment to employee wellbeing, inclusion, and its purpose-driven culture under the Rahlatuna "Our Journey", Corporate Social Responsibility platform and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion values.

The workshop gathered more than 100 McDonald's Qatar employees for expert-led presentations by an Obstetrics and Gynecology Specialist from Al Aziziya Medical Center. The sessions highlighted early detection, national screening programs, prevention strategies, and balanced lifestyle habits, followed by a Q&A that encouraged employees to address personal health questions directly with the experts.

The session concluded with closing reflections, highlighting the value of education, access to healthcare, and McDonald's Qatar's ongoing commitment to employee wellbeing and empowerment.

The initiative provided exclusive health benefits for employees including 50% discounts on mammograms, reduced rates on medical services, and free consultations across all services, including ultrasound, reinforcing the brand's belief that access to healthcare is essential to creating a supportive workplace.

"Belonging, wellness, and empowerment are at the heart of who we are as McDonald's Qatar," said Imane Abid, Senior HR Manager & Compliance Lead, McDonald's Qatar. "This workshop created a safe and meaningful space where our people felt supported, educated, and valued. Partnering with Al Aziziya Medical Center allows us to go beyond awareness by offering real health benefits and expert guidance. When we invest in the wellbeing of our employees, we strengthen our culture, our community, and our purpose."

The initiative reflected the brand's unwavering commitment to employee wellbeing, inclusion, and its purpose-driven culture under the Rahlatuna "Our Journey", Corporate Social Responsibility platform and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion values.

"Our partnership with McDonald's Qatar reflects our shared belief that awareness is the first step toward prevention," said Dr. Islam Khalid Omran, Al-Aziziya Medical Center representative. "By engaging employees directly, we are not only sharing medical knowledge but also empowering individuals to take proactive steps in safeguarding their health. Initiatives like this bridge the gap between education and action, ultimately creating a healthier, more informed community."

As a 100% locally owned and operated company by Al Mana Restaurants & Food Company, McDonald's Qatar continues to champion initiatives that uplift its people and the communities it serves. Through inclusive platforms such as the Women Leadership Network, and purpose-led programs under Rahlatuna, McDonald's Qatar remains a trusted employer and community partner, committed to care, empowerment, and long-term impact.

Al-Muraikhi meets ambassadors of France, Germany





HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with ambassador of the French Republic to the State of Qatar Arnaud Pescheux. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them. HE al-Muraikhi also met yesterday with ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Oliver Owcza. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them. **(QNA)**

Syrian minister tours QNA facilities, calls for closer media co-operation

QNA
Doha



HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met yesterday with Minister of Information of the Syrian Arab Republic Dr Hamza al-Mustafa, who is visiting the country.

During the meeting, they discussed means of media co-operation between the two countries, and mechanisms for developing them within the framework of the distinguished fraternal relations between the State of Qatar and Syrian Arab Republic.

During his visit to the QNA headquarters, the Syrian Minister of Information and the accompanying delegation were briefed on the news and media services provided by the agency, its role in serving the country's interests, and the stages of coverage, transmission, and broadcasting of news, events, developments, and various activities until they reach the recipient.

This process is done in an innovative, speedy, credible, and responsible manner, where the agency uses its various mechanisms and platforms, as well as the related advanced and modern technical, engineering, and training technologies and equipment.

The delegation was also briefed on a detailed explanation of QNA's history, experiences, and accumulated professional expertise over 50 years since its establishment in May 1975, as well as its keenness to utilise the latest technologies in various areas of its work, including artificial intelligence technology, and keeping pace with global developments in these fields.

During his tour around a few of the agency's departments, sections and units, the Syrian Minister of Information and the accompanying delegation were able to witness the nature of QNA's work and the high professional and practical efficiency of its employees.

He also visited QNA's training halls and saw its advanced interactive training environment, and how it was equipped with the latest devices and technologies, which supports national media cadres, enhances their capabilities and their effective contribution to Qatar's efforts to develop and grow and build a more prosperous and sustainable future for its future generations, within the framework of its national vision and the third national development strategy 2024/2030.

Towards the end of his visit, the Syrian Minister of Information commended Qatar's firm stance in support of the Syrian people, stressing, in this context, that there has never been a time when Qatar abandoned the Syrian people. He also explored QNA's experience in integrating AI across various stages of the journalistic process — from publishing systems to editing, translation, and monitoring — describing it as a model that is virtually unprecedented in the Arab world. He expressed his hope that the coming period would see, within the framework of relations between the two brotherly countries, a strengthening of media co-operation — with the aim of exchanging expertise in ways that serve their mutual interests.

For his part, HE the director-general of QNA welcomed Syrian Minister of Information and the accompanying delegation, and hailed the existing relations between the two countries in the media field, expressing his aspiration to develop them to broader horizons in the future in various fields, in a way that serves the two countries, their brotherly peoples, and the nation's issues.

Dukhan Bank launches new personal finance campaign



Dukhan Bank has launched a new personal finance campaign offering the best profit rate in Qatar from 3.49% annually, a statement said yesterday.
Running until December 31, 2025, the campaign provides personal financing to new customers who transfer their salaries and liabilities to Dukhan Bank.
According to the campaign terms, customers earning QR35,000 or more qualify for a 3.49% rate, while those with incomes between QR20,000 and QR34,999 qualify for a 3.80% rate, and customers earning between QR10,000 and QR19,999 qualify for a 4.00% rate.
Additional benefits of this campaign include a grace period of up to three months before instalment payments begin, with a minimum financing tenure of four years.
These advantages are complemented by streamlined procedures and fast approvals, ensuring customers can secure financing quickly and without any hassle. Customers will also receive a free credit card for the first year and enjoy a full year of exclusive card benefits and rewards.
Talal Ahmed al-Khaja, chief marketing and communications officer at Dukhan Bank, stated: "We are delighted to launch this exceptional personal finance campaign, which offers the best profit rate in Qatar and provides our new customers with a financing solution that delivers significant benefits and meets their evolving needs.
This campaign reflects Dukhan Bank's ongoing commitment to driving innovation in personal finance and delivering meaningful value to its customers.
"Through this initiative, we aim to further strengthen our market position, enhance customer satisfaction, and support their financial aspirations with solutions that align with their needs and ambitions."
For more information about the personal finance offer and other banking products and services offered by Dukhan Bank, contact 8008555, visit www.dukhanbank.com, or chat with virtual assistant 'Rashid' through the website, mobile app, or WhatsApp at 44100888.

Environmental training for divers



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) organised a specialised training workshop for divers, within the activities of the Coral Reef Restoration Project in Qatari local waters. The event brought together a number of divers and experts in the field of marine environment.

The national programme supervised by the ministry aims to restore coral reefs and rehabilitate marine ecosystems through the application of advanced scientific methodologies that ensure the sustainability of the marine environment and support biodiversity in Qatar.

The project includes several key phases, such as conducting marine surveys to assess the current status of coral reefs in territorial waters, identifying donor sites and target sites for coral reef restoration, as well as carrying out restoration operations and deploying artificial structures designed to support coral growth.

The project also aims to train divers and participants in the best environmental and scientific practices used in restoration processes, as well as in monitoring and evaluating the condition of coral reefs after restoration, studying growth rates, and observing the settlement of marine organisms around them. The workshop would enhance the skills of participating divers and raise environmental awareness about the importance of protecting coral reefs, through intensive hands-on training and direct technical supervision from the Wildlife Development Department at the ministry.

The training included learning techniques for installing structures dedicated to reef restoration and mechanisms for monitoring their growth to ensure the project's success and sustainability.

QU launches pioneering initiative to harness AI in strengthening humanitarian aid

Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with the British embassy in Doha, officially launched the "Artificial Intelligence in Qatar's Humanitarian Sector" project, a pioneering initiative that aims to harness the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to strengthen humanitarian aid, crisis response, and resilience-building in Qatar and beyond.

The launch ceremony celebrated this landmark partnership and highlighted the shared vision between Qatar University and the British embassy to advance innovation, research, and global collaboration in humanitarian technology. During the event, a co-operation agreement was signed between the British Embassy and Qatar University to formally commence the project and to unite efforts toward leveraging AI for social good.

The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Head of Mission of the British Embassy, along with senior leadership from QU, including Vice-President for Health and Medical Sciences and Director of the Biomedical Research Center, Prof Asmaa al-Thani, Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, Prof Aiman Erbad, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, Prof Hanan Abdul Rahim, and Head of the Department of Public Health, Dr Karam Turk Adawi, as well as faculty members and partners.

In her remarks, Dean of the College of Health Sciences at QU, Prof Hanan Abdul Rahim, stated: "At the College of Health Sciences, we strive to conduct research defined by creativity, collaboration, and purpose. Through initiatives like this project, we are working with our partners to explore how artificial intelligence can strengthen humanitarian action and resilience in real-world settings. Our engagement in this area reflects our commitment to align research with global innovation and real-world needs".



For his part, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Doha, Duncan Hill, said: "This initiative is a testament to the strong and evolving partnership between the United Kingdom and Qatar in science, research, and humanitarian innovation. Together, we are demonstrating how technology can be used as a force for good; empowering preparedness, resilience, and effective response when crises strike.

Following the ceremony, Qatar University hosted the inaugural Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting under this AI project. The TWG brought together representatives from leading national and international institutions and organisations engaged in humanitarian work.

This TWG will establish collaborative frameworks for AI-driven humanitarian initiatives, data sharing, and the development of early warning systems to enhance regional and global resilience.

Importantly, and for the first time, the TWG will develop ethical guidelines and principles for the adoption of AI in humanitarian settings, jointly led by Qatar and the United Kingdom. These guidelines will inform and guide global ethical standards and best practices for the responsible use of AI in humanitarian contexts. **(QNA)**

QATAR

Minister visits Construction Waste Recycling Plant



HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, has conducted a field visit to the Construction Waste Recycling Plant operated by Qatar Primary Materials Company (QPMC) in Rawdat Rashed area.

The visit aimed to review the latest technologies used in waste recycling and to observe the progress and achievements made in this sector. He was briefed on the operations of the plant, which is considered one of the largest construction waste processing facilities in the country.

Around 14,000 tonnes of waste are transported daily to Rawdat Rashed landfill from various regions. The minister also inspected the full production system for recycled sand and the mixed waste sorting unit, which helps process materials that are difficult to separate. This enhances recycling efficiency and contributes to the preservation of natural resources. HE Dr al-Subaie stressed that these efforts are part of the ministry's strategy to promote the concept of a circular economy and effective waste management, by transforming waste into economic resources that support development projects. He noted that recycling helps reduce the environmental impact of waste and strengthens environmental sustainability in the country.

The ministry is working with partners in both the public and private sectors to expand recycling projects and develop supporting legislation. He highlighted that Rawdat Rashed experience serves as a successful model that can be replicated in other areas, such as municipal and industrial waste.

Abdulaziz bin Ibrahim al-Tamimi, CEO of QPMC, expressed his appreciation to HE the minister and the accompanying delegation for the visit, reaffirming the company's commitment to environmental sustainability and to developing its facilities by introducing new production lines and improving sorting and processing technologies.

He pointed out that Rawdat Rashed landfill contains about 100mn tonnes of construction waste, and that since taking over the site in 2020, QPMC has successfully recycled more than 20mn tonnes, converting them into construction materials that meet Qatari specifications.

He noted that these efforts are in line with the implementation plan of the Strategy for the Management, Development, and Sustainability of Natural Resource Sources, overseen by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

At the conclusion of the visit, the minister held a meeting with QPMC officials to discuss ways to utilise construction waste in infrastructure projects and explore opportunities for co-operation in environmental innovation and sustainable resource management, contributing to the achievement of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy 2024–2030.

Essa Al Sulaiti Law Firm wins 'Qatar Law Firm of the Year'



Essa Al Sulaiti Law Firm has been awarded 'Qatar Law Firm of the Year' at the ALB Middle East Law Awards 2025, held in Dubai recently. The ceremony brought together a distinguished gathering of top-tier and leading regional and international law firms, celebrating innovation, professionalism, and legal excellence across the Middle East.

This remarkable recognition marks the third consecutive win for Essa Al Sulaiti Law Firm as 'Qatar Law Firm of the Year', following its victories in 2023 and 2024. The ALB Middle East Law Awards, organised annually by Asian Legal Business (Thomson Reuters), is one of the region's most prestigious legal recognitions.

In addition, the firm was also honoured with the 'Construction Law Firm of the Year' at the Legal Era Middle East Awards 2025, reflecting its professional excellence in one of the most complex and dynamic legal sectors, and its proven ability to manage major projects and complex construction disputes efficiently.

Essa bin Mohammed al-Sulaiti, chairman of Essa Al Sulaiti Law Firm, emphasised that this accomplishment represents a significant addition to Qatar's legal landscape, especially as it was achieved among prestigious international and regional firms, reflecting the prominent position and competitiveness of Qatari law firms.

قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG

QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/EAR/7285/25 TENDER ENQUIRY # SUP/C/EAR/7285/25 ("TENDER") FOR SOLID WASTE OXIDIZERS ON CALL OFF BASIS	20/10/2025 to 29/10/2025	0	0	10/11/2025

Scope of Work:
This CONTRACT requires operations support services of COMPANY Waste Incinerators, 3-Phase Centrifuge and its supporting equipment installed at Ras Laffan facilities under the control of COMPANY - herein after referred to as the SERVICES.

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

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

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



New call centre for Urban Planning Affairs Sector

The Ministry of Municipality's Customer Service Department and the Unified Call Centre have inaugurated a new call centre dedicated to serving customers of the Urban Planning Affairs Sector.

The opening ceremony was attended by Hani Saleh al-Obaidli, director of the Customer Service Department and Unified Call Centre; Mohamed Abdulrahman al-Abdullah, director of the Land Department in the Urban Planning Affairs Sector; and Rakan Mohamed al-Ateeq al-Marri, head of the Unified Call Centre at the Customer Service Department.

Al-Marri explained that the new centre will serve as a communication link between the public and the Urban Planning Affairs Sector by receiving inquiries, comments, and requests, and responding to them promptly, professionally, and efficiently.

The new centre specialises in providing immediate responses and reviews for public inquiries related to 37 different services connected to the Urban Planning Affairs Sector, including land allocation, planning, and related approvals, making it easier for clients to complete their transactions through a unified communication channel that saves time and effort, and ensures rapid responsiveness to the needs of Qataris and expatriates.

Qatar hosts 25th GCTF meeting

The 25th meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) began yesterday in Doha. The meeting is being hosted by the State of Qatar from October 20-22, with the co-chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the European Union (EU). Doha is also set to host a number of meetings and events on the sidelines of the Coordinating Committee meeting. Qatar's delegation was headed by HE Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah al-Hanzab. In a speech during the meeting, HE al-Hanzab highlighted Qatar's counterterrorism efforts and stressed the importance of eliminating this phenomenon and its sources of funding. HE Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced at the conclusion of his speech that the State of Qatar will be providing a financial funding to support the efforts of the GCTF Administrative Unit. **(QNA)**

مؤسسة قطر
Qatar Foundation

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
CO-RFQ-389	Supply of energy efficient LED lamps	500.00	N/A	25-Nov-2025 2:00 PM
CO-RFQ-391	Supply and Installation of Chairs at QF Head Quarter building	500.00	N/A	20-Nov-2025 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-1005	Provision of Printing Office Stationery (Envelopes and Letterheads) to QF on call off basis for 03 years	500.00	N/A	20-Nov-2025 2:00 PM
CO-RFQ-390	Provision for Pre-University, Higher Education, Corporate Daily Food and Events Catering Services to QF on call-off basis for 5 years	1,000.00	100,000.00	23-Nov-2025 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-1034	Provision of Courier Services (Inbound and Outbound) on Call off basis for 3 years with option to extend for 1 more year	1,000.00	100,000.00	30-Nov-2025 2:00 PM

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

1) **Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender(s). Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration to complete the Supplier Registration process.

   Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.

   All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

   Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **21st October to 27th October 2025.**

2) All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.

3) Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.

   - The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
   - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
   - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
   - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Note: All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link:
https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration

قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG

QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/SOH/7375/25 PROVISION OF SAFETY SERVICES FOR ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE ON CALL-OFF BASIS	21/10/2025 to 03/11/2025	0	890,000	17/11/2025

Scope of Work:
QatarEnergy LNG, requires services of reputed safety services companies on a call-off basis to provide safety services for Onshore and Offshore locations for a duration of five (5) years, with an option to extend for further two (2) years.

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

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

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

الهلال الأحمر القطري
Qatar Red Crescent

Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

Tenders Announcement: -

Sr. #	Tender No.	Description	Documents Fees (Non-Refundable)	Temporary Tender Bond	Closing Date
1	QRC/WHC/14-2025	Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Three Ultrasound Imaging Systems	500 Q.R	50,000 Q.R	04/11/2025
2	QRC/WHC/15-2025	Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Two ENT Diagnostic and Treatment Units with Associated Construction Works	500 Q.R	45,000 Q.R	04/11/2025

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 or by sending email along with the requested documents below.

Required Documents:
1. Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
2. Company's Commercial registration copy.
3. Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents not refunded & account details:
- Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
- Bank: Al Rayan.
- Account Number: 0011199970200
- IBAN Number: QA83MAFR00000000011199970200

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

Qatar Population Day marked with focus on youth

The Permanent Population Committee (PPC) organised the Qatar Population Day 2025 event yesterday, under the theme 'Role of Youth in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.'

The National Planning Council secretary-general and PPC chair HE Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa, inaugurated the event with a keynote address. He emphasised that investing in youth is not just a developmental choice but a core pillar of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the State's journey toward a diversified, knowledge and innovation-driven economy. He underscored that youth are catalysts of change and architects of the future, Qatar's true wealth, vital to building a prosperous and sustainable society that balances heritage with modernity and national competence with



HE Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa, inaugurated the event with a keynote address.



global openness. He noted that the latest statistics indicate that youth under 25 make up about 11% of Qatar's population, close to the global average of 15.6%. He emphasised, however, that Qatar stands out for its proactive efforts to develop young people's potential and involve them in national development.

He also highlighted that Qatar has recorded one of the lowest youth unemployment rates globally, remaining below 0.5% in 2024. This notable achievement contributed to its top-tier ranking among 181 countries in the Commonwealth Global Youth Development Index, highlighting Qatar's leadership in empowering youth and investing in human capital.

On behalf of HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, undersecretary Yasser bin Abdullah al-Jammal, said: "Under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the State attaches great importance to youth, seeing them not just as beneficiaries but as partners and primary drivers of development.

"This approach is reflected in the Qatar National Youth Policy, approved by the Council of Ministers in May 2023. From the very beginning through to its final approval, youth were involved in shaping the policy, ensuring it truly reflects their aspirations and priorities.

"Within the framework of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy, the Ministry of Sports and Youth has adopted an advanced institutional approach focused on transitioning youth from participation to influence, and from presence to leadership."

In a recorded address, Jocelyn Fenard, Representative of the UNFPA's Sub-regional Office for the GCC Countries, based in Muscat, Oman, reiterated UNFPA's commitment to working with Qatar, with youth, and for youth, to ensure they are equipped with the skills, opportunities, and platforms necessary to lead their communities toward a more prosperous, peaceful, and just future for all. The event also featured a symposium which addressed topics, including youth and future skills, youth and social responsibility, and investing in youth.

Following the sessions that addressed youth in Qatar and the discussions on the submitted papers, the recommendations proposed by participants were presented.

'Rashid Toon' transforms imagination into life in colour

Drawing cartoon characters, in particular, is a unique kind of art and creativity, with an enjoyable artistic touch in every painting produced by a creative artist.

Cartoonist Rashid Lahdan al-Kuwari, nicknamed "Rashid Toon" for his distinctive cartoon character drawings, is a distinguished creator who blends imagination with reality to convey a message.

In comments to Arabic daily *Arrayah*, he said: "Since I was in elementary school, drawing has been my favourite pastime. My art teachers in second grade noticed this, as I never deviated from the colouring lines. Also, when I chose colours, the choices were beautiful and harmonious. That's why drawing has become a hobby of mine ever since."

My first drawing, and one I still remember, was a cat-like character standing on its paws, holding the same luminous jewel, resembling a necklace, in its paw. It was daylight on the shore of an island. On the other side of the page, there was a dragon holding a luminous jewel on the shore of another island, at night. Both were on an island, in two different places, and united by the mysterious jewel. I was influenced by the cartoon series "The Golden Falcon," the mysterious golden cities, and the two necklaces (the sun and the moon).

Rashid said: "I love drawing cartoon characters and creating my own characters. I also love drawing people and transforming them into cartoon characters."

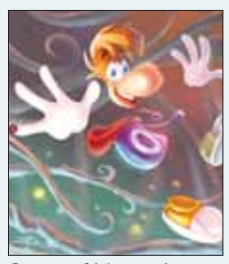
For Rashid, drawing is a stage of relaxation and transition into his own imaginative world, where I can draw for hours without feeling bored or tired. I also consider drawing a time to release negative energy and feel calm, similar to reading books. I spend most of my time drawing in the evening.

He added: "I watched many clips and videos to improve my drawing style, which helped me a lot until I reached the level I am at today. Perseverance and consistency are the foundations of success in drawing. I was greatly influenced by cartoon magazines such as Majid, Rashid & Noura, Mickey, and other comics. I was also influenced by some foreign illustrators, including the Japanese illustrator Mio Zaki, who gave us many beautiful films. I was most influenced by Japanese culture, given that our childhood included a lot of dubbed Japanese animation. As for drawing cartoon characters, you have absolute freedom of expression as long as it doesn't violate the ethics of drawing. You also have absolute freedom to create characters in any way you like.

"As for self-development, there are courses on social networks and online platforms for small fees from artists from around the world, who explain different methods and topics to me. I educate myself, so that my drawing develops for the better."



Rashid Lahdan al-Kuwari





Some of his works.

Ministry of Sports and Youth launches debate training for GCC youth

The Ministry of Sports and Youth, in co-operation with the General Secretariat of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), has launched "The Art of Debate and Argument Building" training programme for GCC youth. The programme will run until Oct 24 in Doha.

Held in partnership with the Qatar Foundation's QatarDebate Center, the programme, aims to develop the skills of GCC youth in the art of debate, enhance their critical thinking and logical analysis capabilities, and to encourage constructive dialogue and persuasion skills.

The programme also seeks to empower participants with the foundations and skills of debate, develop public speaking and discussion management skills, and promote shared values and cultural understanding among GCC youth.

The QatarDebate Center provides training to youth participating in the programme through certified trainers.

The programme features specialised training workshops and practical experiences through mini-debate simulations, in addition to cultural activities and field visits to prominent landmarks in Qatar, with the aim of enhancing communication and building professional networks among participating Gulf youth.

It targets youth from the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, aged 18 to 29, with a total of 36 young men and women participating, five participants from each country, in addition to 11 participants from the host country, Qatar.

In this context, Director of the Youth Affairs Department at the Ministry of Sports and Youth, Fawaz Abdullah al-Musaifari said in a remarks that the Ministry of Sports and Youth places great importance on supporting joint Gulf youth work, believing in the importance of strengthening cohesion and integration among youth from the GCC countries, and continuously striving to provide a supportive environment to empower Gulf youth and to enhance their capabilities.

He explained that this programme represents a practical model of this approach, as it is keen to provide participants with the knowledge and skills that qualify them for leadership and effective contribution to their communities, thus enhancing the position of Gulf youth in the comprehensive development process.

Regarding QatarDebate's participation in the programme, Turki al-Suwaidi, programme specialist at QatarDebate, expressed pride in partnering with the Ministry of Sports and Youth to implement this programme, which aims to empower Gulf youth with the tools of constructive dialogue and the art of persuasion. He noted that QatarDebate believes in the importance of equipping youth with skills that enhance critical thinking and effective communication, and is committed, through this collaboration, to transferring debate training expertise and experience to a new generation of ambitious youth in the GCC countries. Programme Director, Nasser Mohammed al-Jabri emphasised the team's full readiness to ensure the success of this programme, as all necessary preparations have been made to ensure a rich and distinguished training experience for all participants.

Organising this programme reflects the Ministry of Sports and Youth's commitment to promoting a culture of constructive dialogue and mutual understanding among the youth of the region, and to offering quality programmes that align with global best practices in building the capacity of youth and empowering them to become future leaders in their communities. **(QNA)**









قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG

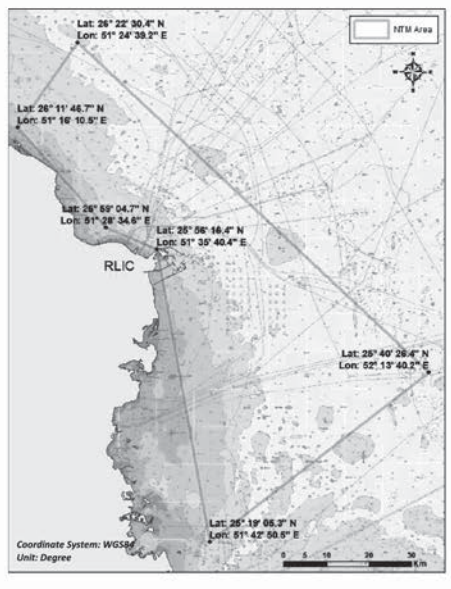
Public Announcement
To all Ships, Fishermen and Mariners
Seismic Survey Acquisition by Vessels AOS Glory, Stanford Hawk, GMS Apollo, Voyager Explorer, BGP Innovator and Safa Searcher
Seismic Survey Works Offshore Qatar from 27th November 2024 – 27th November 2025

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

شركة إسمنت الخليج
Al Khalij Cement Company

AL KHALIJ CEMENT COMPANY INVITES BIDDER WHO ARE INTERESTED TO BUY THE OLD (UN-USED) DUCTILE IRON PIPES

SER. NO.	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	Deadline of Bid Submission Date
1	AKCC/AUC/04/25	Sale of Ductile Iron Pipe, Flange Type, DN250 x 6 Meter Long	240 Nos	28/10/2025

General conditions:

1) The sale is on 'as is where is and as is what is' basis and without any representations and warranties.
2) Interested bidders must contact the Al Khalij Cement Company office via e-mail at **procurement@qatariinvestors.com** immediately to obtain the auction document and terms and conditions for the sale of ductile iron pipes.
3) Offers validity should be **60 days** from **BID CLOSING DATE**.
4) Offers should be sent in sealed envelope on or before **October 28, 2025**. Any offer after this date and time will be automatically rejected.

QATAR

QU launches research priorities for 2025-2030

Qatar University (QU) has announced the launch of its research priorities for 2025-2030, through which the university aims to elevate the national scientific research system and direct research efforts toward research axes that align with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, including human, social, economic, and environmental development.

These priorities embody a comprehensive strategy designed to drive research and innovation, promote sustainability, and enhance the QU's role in serving society through five main research pillars: Health, Energy, Digital Technology, Resource Sustainability, and Society.

On the occasion of launching the research priorities, QU president Dr Omar al-Ansari stated: "We are proud to launch our research priorities for the period 2025-2030, which reflect QU's commitment to producing impactful knowledge that serves society."

"These priorities also contribute to building an integrated system for scientific research governance by investing research resources and directing them effectively toward achieving impact in various sectors," he said. "This approach enhances the university's contribution to achieving Qatar's national goals and establishing its global position in research and innovation."

"Through these priorities, the QU continues to affirm its role as a beacon of scientific research that looks toward future horizons, contributes to fostering a knowledge-based society, and supports the national aspirations for comprehensive and sustainable development," Dr al-Ansari added. "It is a clear roadmap toward a brighter future for the State of Qatar, reflecting our continued commitment to excellence and leadership in scientific research and innovation fields."

QU's vice-president for Research and Graduate Studies Prof Aiman Erbad emphasised that colleges and research centres play a pivotal role in implementing these research priorities through strategic planning, directing research efforts, and aligning research grants and graduate programs with the specified priorities.

He added that the QU continues to promote interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research, student participation in research projects, and building strategic local and international partnerships with academic and industrial institutions to achieve qualitative results with tangible impact in various scientific and innovative fields and elevates the quality of higher education and its research outputs.

The director of Research Planning and Development at the Research and Graduate Studies Sector, Prof Bassem Hammadi, said that the updated research priorities were developed based on a precise scientific methodology that relied on Qatar's Third National Development Strategy and the strategies of relevant ministries.

The process included reviewing the university's previous priorities (2021-2025), aligning them with global research trends, using Scopus database indicators, and analysing the research capabilities of QU researchers. – ***QNA***

WCM-Q congress showcases innovation in healthcare


Dignitaries at the conference.

Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q), in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), hosted the "PHIE-2025: AI & TECH for Enhancing Healthspans & Women's Health Congress".

In his keynote speech, HE the Minister of Public Health Mansoor bin Ebrahim bin Saad al-Mahmoud shared Qatar's strategic focus on advancing healthcare technologies and underscored the importance of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping the future of the nation's healthcare landscape.

"Over the past decade, and with the guidance and encouragement of our leadership, we built strong foundations for our national precision-medicine strategy: the Qatar Biobank, the Qatar Genome, high-performance computing, advanced clinical labs, and a growing team of scientists, clinicians, and data specialists," said HE al-Mahmoud. "We have also worked hard to make the transition from research into clinical implementation possible and effective; allowing discovery to move from the lab to the bedside."

"Within our national strategy, we are focusing our precision health efforts on four priority areas: cancer, obesity, type 2 diabetes, and rare diseases," he added. "These conditions represent some of the largest health burdens in our society and the greatest opportunities to apply genomics and precision approaches for earlier detection, more effective treatment, and better prevention."

The event commenced with opening remarks by WCM-Q dean Dr Javaid Sheikh, who emphasised the importance of fostering global collaboration in healthcare research and technological innovation.

"The convergence of AI, precision medicine, and technological innovation provides unprecedented opportunities to improve health outcomes globally," Dr Sheikh said.

The two-day event brought together global healthcare and tech leaders, researchers, and innovators to explore the future of healthcare, with a particular focus on precision medicine, AI, enhanced healthspans and the evolving role of women's health in shaping global well-being.

The event also provided a platform for networking and collaboration as world-renowned leaders in AI, healthcare and innovation from across the globe connected and shared their latest research and clinical experiences in utilising new technologies for real-world applications in the healthcare sphere.

QF's innovative education connects students to their heritage through Arabic


Student Ghalia al-Muqbali.


Yassine Ayari

Within Qatar Foundation (QF) schools, an innovative approach is being taken to teaching and engaging young learners with the Arabic language – emphasising how it is a pathway for creativity as well as communication.

By combining digital technologies with active learning using interactive platforms, educational applications, and multimedia, the QF's educational ecosystem makes the process of learning Arabic smoother for today's students, while reinforcing its connection to cultural heritage.

As Yassine Ayari, a music teacher at QF's Qatar Academy Al Wakra – who received the Distinguished Teacher Award at the QF's Pre-University Education Forum 2024 – explained: "The efforts and initiatives undertaken by Qatar Foundation to promote the Arabic language combine authenticity and modernity, presenting the Arabic language and its teaching in a way that keeps pace with the aspirations of a new generation while preserving its cultural, heritage, and human depth."

To give an example, he points to the Rasekh platform, an initiative under the QF's Pre-University Education (PUE) providing high-quality educational resources that connect international curricula to a local context, supporting schools in implementing global education programmes that students can relate to their own society.

It is a platform that Ayari has utilised.

A graduate of the Sorbonne University in France and the Higher Institute of Music in Tunisia, since joining Qatar Foundation in 2011, he has looked to integrate local music into education, and, through curriculum development and research, link artistic performance to the preservation of cultural heritage.

His project on Qatari chants became an educational programme under the Rasekh platform.

Based on the "karaoke" method, it allows students to practise correct pronunciation and performance techniques, relying on rhythm and melody supported by visuals.

Maryam al-Khulaifi is the mother of Ghalia Abdullah al-Muqbali, winner of an Akhlaquna Junior Award through the QF's Akhlaquna initiative, and an active Akhlaquna ambassador.

As she follows her daughter's education path at the QF's Qatar Academy Doha, she sees how the QF ecosystem is making learning the Arabic language an experience that is relevant to the youth of today, while staying true to traditions and roots.

"It uses elements that are fun for children, such as exciting stories, interactive educational games, and visual clips that rely on movement, colours, and music," al-Khulaifi said.

"This allows children to experience the Arabic language, rather than simply studying it," she added. "And integrating technology shows how QF understands the needs of today's generation, who interact with screens and apps more than ever before – it makes learning more fun and more creative."

As al-Khulaifi says, the QF's 3D edutainment TV programme, *Siraj*, launched to help children learn Arabic in a fun and engaging way, added a new dimension to her daughter's language learning – presenting Arabic as more than simply an academic subject.

"Our experience with *Siraj* was very special," she continued. "Ghalia loved the characters from the first moment, and she began imitating some of them and rehearsing scenes in her own way, which increased her self-confidence and encouraged her to speak Arabic without hesitation."

"This attachment to the programme contributed to building a new habit within her. It was her desire to tell stories," al-Khulaifi said.



The Longines Global Champions Tour winners.

LGCT returns to Rabat as legacy of Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture

The Longines Global Champions Tour (LGCT) has returned to Rabat, upholding the cultural and diplomatic bond forged between Qatar and Morocco during the successful 2024 Year of Culture (YoC) initiative.

In a statement, Qatar's ambassador to Morocco HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Thamer al-Thani said: "The Years of Culture initiative was never about a single moment, but about creating exchanges that continue to live on."

"Seeing that spirit carried forward through the Longines Global Champions Tour reminds us how sport can keep cultural connections alive long after the official celebrations end," he said.

Jan Tops, founder and president of the Longines Global Champions Tour, said: "What began as a collaboration under the Qatar-Morocco Year of Culture has grown into an enduring connection, reminding us that horses have long been a bridge between people, traditions, and continents."

This year's event marked the 15th leg of the 2025 Tour, held just before the Riyadh finale.

The world's top 30 riders competed in one of the most striking venues on the circuit, framed by the Hassan Tower, the Rabat Grand Theatre, and the Mohammed VI Tower, landmarks that embody the city's harmony between tradition and modernity.

Geely Qatar, Gulf Car celebrate partnership



Geely Qatar, part of Skyline Automotive – a Jaidah Group company, has announced the renewal and expansion of its long-term partnership with Gulf Car, celebrating five years of collaboration.

Geely vehicles represent a key part of Gulf Car diverse fleet, which caters to a wide range of clients including major government entities, semi-government institutions, and leading corporations across Qatar, a statement said.

Gulf Car offers, the statement added, a complete lineup of Geely models, known for their modern design, advanced safety technologies, and exceptional performance.

The company's competitive offers and superior customer service reflect its commitment to providing an outstanding experience, the statement said.

Geely Qatar general manager Maher Tinawi said: "We are proud of our enduring collaboration with Gulf Car, a partnership that has stood the test of time and proven to be truly successful."



Olympian Ibtihaj helping QF empower a generation of girls through sport

As an ambassador for Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Creating Pathways programme, Olympic medallist and fencing world champion Ibtihaj Muhammad is dedicated to using sport to inspire young girls to realise their full potential.

When she joined Creating Pathways – a key part of the QF's effort to create safe, supportive spaces for female athletes – she saw it as an opportunity to open doors and change perceptions.

"The programme creates space in ways we haven't seen before, in sports that the young girls haven't tried before, and hopefully encourages them to see themselves be successful – not only on the fencing strip or on the track, but outside of the sports world as well," Ibtihaj said.

With deep roots in the Arab world, fencing connects young women to cultural and religious heritage.

For Ibtihaj, it is more than sport – it is a vital link to tradition and identity.

Her own journey began at age 12 when she discovered fencing: "Fencing uniquely aligned with my religious beliefs as a Muslim. It was an opportunity to take part in a sport where I truly felt I belonged."

Ibtihaj acknowledges that there are many barriers facing women in sport.

"Programmes like Creating Pathways are really important to challenging stereotypes and really pushing back against those barriers and helping encourage women to take care of their health first," she said.

Reflecting on mentorship, Ibtihaj recalls struggling to see athletes like her – wearing the hijab or having brown skin – in fencing.

Her message to young girls is self-belief and claiming their rightful place despite obstacles.

Looking ahead, Ibtihaj hopes Creating Pathways will leave a legacy of courage, investment in women and girls, and a vision for thriving communities.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, AYYARIL ABDULLA ABBASS
holder of
Indian Passport No. Z4759696
QID No. 26335612026
hereby change my name
from
AYYARİL ABDULLA ABBASS
to
ABBASS AYYARIL ABDULLA

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, BIANCA SARAH LEE
holder of
UK Passport No. 548680835
QID No. 29882600491
hereby change my name
from
BIANCA SARAH LEE
to
BIANCA SARAH HASSAN

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, JEZIRA KENNEDY PHILIP PHILIP
holder of
India Passport No. V7099942
QID No. 31135601350
hereby change my name
from
JEZIRA KENNEDY PHILIP PHILIP
to
JEZIRA ROSE KENNEDY

Any objection, please contact
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QATAR


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Pinktober in Qatar: Empower, Educate, and Eradicate Breast Cancer with Micro Health Laboratories



Vishnu Ravi
Bio-Medical Engineer
Micro Health Laboratories

Every October, Qatar glows pink, from the Corniche to corporate offices, symbolising a nation united in awareness and compassion. Known globally as Pinktober or Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it began in the early 1990s to raise awareness, encourage early detection, and honour survivors. The pink ribbon has since become a universal symbol of hope, courage, and solidarity.

Breast cancer remains the **most common cancer among women in Qatar, accounting for nearly 39 percent of female cancers.**

The Qatar National Cancer Registry notes that many cases are detected late, when treatment is more complex. Yet there is cause for optimism. Early detection significantly improves outcomes, with survival rates exceeding 90 percent. Early testing is more than a medical measure. It is a step towards confidence, clarity, and control over one's health.

Why Awareness Matters

Even with Qatar's advanced healthcare system, many women hesitate to be screened. Some are fearful, others shy away due to modesty, and some believe breast cancer will not affect them. Cancer does not discriminate. It can occur at any age, with or without family history. In fact, eight out of ten women diagnosed in Qatar have no family history of the disease.

Raising awareness must go hand in hand with action. Regular screenings, preventive tests, and open conversation can make the difference between early detection and advanced disease.

Micro Health Laboratories: Leading Precision Diagnostics

At the forefront of early detection is Micro Health Laboratories (MHL), the only precision diagnostic centre in Qatar's private healthcare sector. Its Department of Diagnostic Imaging and Radiology is a first-of-its-kind independent Centre of Excellence, offering advanced imaging and diagnostic services in one location.

Services include:

- Mammography for early detection and routine screening
- Breast ultrasound for non-invasive imaging and detailed tissue analysis
- Breast tissue biopsy for precise diagnosis
- Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology (FNAC) for cell-level study of tumors cells
- Blood-based tumor markers including CEA (Carcinoembryonic Antigen), elevated in colorectal, lung, and breast cancers
- CA 15.3, used to monitor treatment response and recurrence
- Genetic testing, including BRCA1 and BRCA2, and the MicroGen Comprehensive Hereditary Cancer Panel, covering 144 genes including breast and other cancers

Each test is conducted with care and precision by experienced specialists. Combining imaging, laboratory diagnostics, and genetic testing ensures that every individual, male or female, gains a clear understanding of their risk and health status.

Breaking Common Myths About Breast Cancer and Screening

Despite awareness efforts, misconceptions still prevent many from seeking screening

***Myth*-**Mammograms are painful.
***Fact*-**Modern machines at MHL ensure minimal discomfort and accurate results

***Myth*-**I do not have a family history, so I am safe.
***Fact*-**80 percent of breast cancer cases occur in women without family history. Screening is important for all

***Myth*-**No lump means no risk.
***Fact*-**Early-stage cancers often show no symptoms

***Myth*-**Breast cancer only affects women.
***Fact*-**Men can develop breast cancer too, though it is rarer. Early awareness is vital

***Myth*-**Genetic testing is unnecessary unless someone is diagnosed.
***Fact*-**Identifying risks early allows preventive steps and monitoring

Trained female technicians and radiologists at MHL ensure that every screening is handled with sensitivity, professionalism, and care.

Qatar's Collective Responsibility

National initiatives like Screen for Life have made early screening accessible, particularly for women aged 45 and above. Qatar's healthcare system is ready. The services are available. The first step must be taken by women themselves.

Empowerment Through Knowledge

Every screening, conversation about preventive care, and supportive workplace builds a healthier Qatar. Normalising breast health reduces fear, encourages early action, and saves lives. At Micro Health Laboratories, the mission is clear. They empower women with knowledge, precision, and trust. Awareness alone is not enough. Action is what saves lives.

A Message to Every Woman in Qatar

Your health is your strength. Your screening is your shield. Your awareness is your first act of courage. This Pinktober, go beyond ribbons. Know your risk. Check your health. Take charge of your future. Book your screening, ask about genetic testing, and protect your dreams, your family, and your life







QATAR

Unesco concludes regional dialogue on Media and Information Literacy, AI

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter



Unesco Gulf States and Yemen, in partnership with the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, Al Rayyan Municipality, and Hamad Bin Khalifa University, hosted yesterday the concluding session of a regional initiative on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and AI.

The Talk was attended by youth, journalists, community leaders, and decision-makers from public, private, and civil society sectors across the Gulf states and Yemen.

The opening remarks were made by Salah Khaled, Regional Director of Unesco to the GCC States and Yemen, Mansour Ajraan Alboenain, Director of Al Rayyan Municipality, and Dr Eyad Masad, Vice-President for Research, Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

In his opening remarks, Khaled, emphasised the importance of inclusive and multi-sector engagement, stating: "In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, the intersection of media, information literacy, journalism, and AI has never been more critical. Each sector plays a unique role in adapting to these changes, ensuring accurate and trustworthy communication, and fostering intergenerational understanding."

This session marked the wrap-up of a series of three regional talks earlier this year, which targeted the public sector, private sector, and civil society. It brought together a diverse mix of stakeholders to synthesise insights, foster intergenerational dialogue, and co-create a shared roadmap for advancing MIL and responsible AI practices across the GCC and Yemen region.

The panel discussion saw the participation of Dr Wael Abdelal, Assistant Professor of Media and Mass Communication, Qatar University; Dr Milan Maric, Head of Digital Communication and Media Production, University of Doha for Science & Technology; Dr Rayana Ahmed Bou Haka, WHO Representative in Qatar; Nasser al-Khori, Executive Director of Generation Amazing Foundation and Unesco Chair on Sport Governance and Social Responsibility; Khalifa al-Haroon, Founder and CEO of the ILQ Media Network, RaqamiTV and Store974 and founding partner of PayLater; Abdulla al-Hor, Lecturer at Qatar University, and it was moderated by Professor Sima Hamadeh, Haigazian University.

During the discussion, participants examined the intersection of MIL and AI across sectors, developed strategies to enhance digital literacy, combat misinformation, and promote ethical AI use, and explored opportunities for youth-led initiatives and sector-specific policies.

Building on these discussions, participants contributed to a shared roadmap for MIL and AI, which outlines key strategies and practical recommendations for policymakers, institutions, and communities. The roadmap provides guidance on strengthening digital literacy, fostering cross-sector collaboration, promoting responsible AI use, and empowering youth and influencers to actively shape a resilient and inclusive media ecosystem.

This discussion is part of Unesco's ongoing efforts in the region to advance media, information literacy and responsible AI practices, empowering communities and youth to engage critically with media and digital technologies.

Qatar Charity provides hot meals in Gaza

Qatar Charity (QC) has begun distributing 1,000 hot meals daily to displaced people returning from southern Gaza to Gaza City and the northern Gaza, since mid-October.

Additionally, 315 meals are being provided daily to patients with special needs receiving treatment at the Hamad Hospital for Rehabilitation and Prosthetics in the Gaza Strip. The initiative is supported by donors in Qatar.

These efforts are part of QC's humanitarian campaign 'Labbeh Gaza: Commitment and Solidarity', to alleviate the suffering of displaced residents in Gaza.

The relief efforts began in August and are expected to continue by the end of the year, targeting critical sectors such as food, clean water, and education.

The total aid planned for distribution includes approximately 24,700 food parcels, 2.4mn litres of clean drinking water, 4,500 school bags, and the rehabilitation of 60 classrooms. These efforts are expected to benefit hundreds of thousands of displaced individuals across the Gaza Strip.

In implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, QC participated in the launch of a land bridge of humanitarian aid last week in response to the urgent needs in the Gaza Strip



and to be delivered through Jordan and Egypt.

The humanitarian convoy includes 87,754 shelter tents provided by the Qatar Fund for Development, QC, and the Qatar Red Crescent Society, benefiting about 436,170 individuals from affected families. This effort comes at a critical time, as more than 288,000 families in Gaza have lost their homes as a result of the war.

QC continues to urge donors to support its ongoing 'Labbeh Gaza' campaign. Contributions can be made via the organisation's website and mobile app, through its home collection service, by dialling 44290000, or by visiting its branches and representatives in commercial centres.

Qatar Charity launches 55 new projects for Jordan's needy

As part of its ongoing commitment to improving living standards, reducing unemployment, and empowering underprivileged families in Jordan, Qatar Charity (QC) has launched 55 new economic empowerment projects across various governorates.

With a total value approaching QR1mn, these initiatives supported by donors in Qatar, aim to boost family incomes and promote sustainable self-reliance by providing diverse and stable sources of livelihood, including photography equipment, handicraft materials, and household appliances.



Saleh Mohammed al-Merri, general supervisor of QC office, said: "These economic empowerment projects reflect Qatar Charity's humanitarian mission of promoting solidarity and giving and highlight the trust of our donors in Qatar, whose contributions bring hope and joy to hundreds of needy families."

Abdullah Mohammed from Irbid, said: "This project has restored our hope for a dignified livelihood and self-reliance after years of hardship."

Since 2021, QC has been operating in Jordan in partnership with the government and civil society organisations. To date, it has implemented more than 125 economic empowerment projects, benefitting over 2,100 people.



Southern EU countries call for 'immediate release' of Gaza aid

AFP
Portoroz

Leaders from nine EU countries around the Mediterranean Sea yesterday said they "fully" expected Israel to open border crossings into Gaza for the "immediate release" of humanitarian aid following a ceasefire.

Countries of the so-called MED9 group — Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain — met yesterday in the Slovenian coastal town of Portoroz to discuss issues affecting their region.

Jordan's King Abdullah II and European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen were also at the meeting.

The group called for "the immediate release of all the humanitarian aid to flow to Gaza", Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob told a joint press conference after the meeting.

"There is absolutely no excuse for anyone to block such humanitarian aid," he said, adding that the countries "fully expect" Israel to open border crossings to allow the aid in.

The reopening of the Rafah border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt remains on hold despite calls from the UN and aid groups.

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that a ceasefire in Gaza was still holding after Israel carried out deadly strikes on the territory over alleged truce violations by Hamas.

The ceasefire, which began on October 10, halted more than two years of devastating war between Israel and Hamas.

Golob said the MED9 group also wanted to make sure the ceasefire agreement is "fully respected", including by finding a way to put reporters on the ground.



Displaced Palestinians gather around a truck to receive aid supplies that entered Gaza in the morning at the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

After war, Israel must 'find a way to help' Palestinians: US envoy

AFP
Washington

Israel should help the Palestinians "thrive" if it seeks regional integration after the Gaza war is over, said US envoy Jared Kushner, who has been involved in mediation efforts for a ceasefire.

"The biggest message that we've tried to convey to the Israeli leadership now is that now that the war is over, if you want to integrate Israel with the broader Middle East, you have to find a way to help the Palestinian people thrive and do better," Kushner told CBS News in an interview that aired on Sunday.

The interview preceded fresh Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip following Israel's accusation that the Hamas group had violated the truce by attacking troops.

Kushner, who is also US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, helped broker landmark deals during his first term in office that saw several Arab governments normalise ties with Israel. In the CBS interview, he said that the situation remained "very difficult", but he was looking for "joint security and economic opportunity" to guarantee that Israelis and Palestinians "can live peacefully side by side in a durable way".

Yesterday, Kushner returned to Israel alongside Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff for a visit that is expected to see them meet with Israeli government officials.

Referring to the situation in Gaza since the October 10 ceasefire began, Kushner said: "Hamas right now is doing exactly what you would expect a organisation to do, which is to try to reconstitute and take back their positions."

Iran says co-operation deal with UN nuclear watchdog is void

Reuters
Dubai

Iran has scrapped a co-operation deal that it signed with the UN nuclear watchdog IAEA in September, its Supreme National Security Council Secretary said yesterday, according to state media.

The statement came around three weeks after Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araqchi, said Tehran would scrap the agreement, which let the IAEA resume inspections of its nuclear sites, if Western powers reinstated UN sanctions. Those were reinstated last month.

The confirmation will be a setback for the International Atomic Energy Agency which has been trying to rebuild cooperation with Tehran since Israel and the United States bombed the nuclear sites in June. "The agreement has been cancelled," Ali Larijani said while meeting with his Iraqi counterpart in Tehran, according to state media.

"Of course, if the agency has a proposal, we will review it in the secretariat," he added.

Madagascar president names civilian PM after takeover

AFP
Antananarivo

Madagascar's new head of state yesterday named a civilian prime minister, following a military takeover last week that sent ex-president Andry Rajoelina fleeing.

Army colonel Michael Randrianirina, who announced last Tuesday that the military had taken power after Rajoelina was impeached for desertion of duty following weeks of protests, was sworn in as president on Friday.

Randrianirina promised sweeping change and new elections in the poverty-stricken island nation, where anger over chronic power cuts sparked the demonstrations last month that swiftly escalated into a mass anti-government movement.

Following consultations with the national assembly, Randrianirina chose Herintsalama Rajaonarivelo, a figure of the private sector and former chairman of the Malagasy bank BNI, as new premier yesterday.

Rajaonarivelo had "the skills, the experience but also relations with international organisations in other countries that will collaborate with Madagascar," Randrianirina said.

The new president has promised a civilian government and collaboration with "all the driving forces of the nation" after the military takeover, rejecting last week accusations of having led a coup. He said yesterday that the choice of premier had "scrupulously followed the Constitution".

Iraq bans US gaming platform Roblox over child safety concerns

Iraq has banned US user-generated videogame platform Roblox due to concerns over child abuse, the government said, joining other countries in cracking down on virtual worlds, Reuters reported from Baghdad. The government said late on Sunday that the ban was motivated by concerns that the game allowed direct communication between users in ways that exposed children and adolescents to attempts of exploitation or cyber-extortion, and that its content was "incompatible with social values and traditions".
Roblox Corp, which develops the online game creation system and user-generated-content platform, did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on the ban. The company has previously said it "respects the laws and regulations in countries where we operate and share local lawmakers' commitment to children".

'$2.8bn losses for Gaza agriculture amid Israeli assault'



Smoke rises following an Israeli strike in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

QNA
Gaza

The agricultural sector has incurred staggering losses due to the methodical Israeli targeting and deliberate destruction of a massive portion of Gaza's agricultural capabilities, spokesperson for Gaza's Ministry of Agriculture Muhammad Abu Odeh told Qatar News Agency yesterday.

He stressed that the devastation was ubiquitous, affecting all of Gaza's agricultural sector and spaces, as well as water wells, livestock, fisheries, dairy and poultry farms, and greenhouses.

Abu Odeh revealed that $2.8bn represents the total preliminary losses of the agricultural sector in Gaza throughout two years of Israeli aggression and the deliberate and systematic targeting of all components of agriculture in the enclave. He further explained that 94% of agricultural lands in the Strip were destroyed by the occupation out of a total of 178,000 dunums, and that 1,223 agricultural wells were rendered inoperative.

Abu Odeh stated that 93,000 dunums of vegetable-cultivated lands have shrunk to only 4,000 dunums, while approximately 85% of agricultural greenhouses, which used to produce vegetables for the residents of the enclave, were destroyed. This led to a decline in vegetable production from about 405,000 tonnes annually to around 28,000 tonnes only, insufficient to meet the population's needs in the Gaza Strip amid the war and famine endured by the population, Abu Odeh said.

He noted that 100% of the fisheries sector was affected due to the targeting by the Israeli occupation of fishing areas, followed by the destruction of fishermen's equipment and boats, in addition to the detention or killing of anyone attempting to venture out to sea to practice their profession, amid the prohibition on fishermen from operating in the Gaza Sea throughout the period of onslaught.



Over a season has passed during the two-year-long war since the seasonal agricultural crops were planted, which incurred massive losses due to the deceleration of production caused by Israel's methodical and intentional razing and decimation, especially of the varieties known in Gaza.

The Gaza Strip is mired in unemployment following two years of the war of extermination that plagued all elements of life, with the unemployment rate in Palestine surging during the offensive in the West Bank and the Gaza enclave to reach 50%, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) said in a report.

The report added that the rate stands at 34% in the West Bank and 80% in the Gaza Strip, while the number of unemployed in Palestine has reached approximately 550,000. The ceasefire deal between the Hamas movement and the Israeli occupation took effect last week following the Israeli occupation army's pullback from sites and populated areas in the enclave. This was marked by the return of displaced people to the northern Strip as part of the first phase of US President Donald Trump's plan to end the war on Gaza.

Nigeria police detain demonstrators in Abuja

AFP
Abuja

Nigerian authorities arrested protesters yesterday as they scattered a demonstration in the capital in support of a separatist leader, firing tear gas to disperse people before they could gather in large crowds.

Nnamdi Kanu and his Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) group advocate for independence for southeastern Nigeria, a sensitive topic in a country that saw a brutal civil war from 1967-1970 over southeastern secession.

Roads were blocked and the military was stationed at intersections in Abuja, with police firing tear gas at least twice by 7:00am (0600 GMT), AFP journalists saw, disrupting plans by protesters to gather in support of Kanu, who is facing "terrorism" charges.

Two hours later police fired gas canisters at a group of reporters gathered outside a hotel before detaining an AFP video journalist.



Members of the Nigerian Police Force disperse protesters demanding the release of Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, in Abuja, yesterday.

DA party proposes bill to repeal race-based legislation

Reuters
Johannesburg

The Democratic Alliance (DA), the second-biggest party in South Africa's coalition government, wants to axe race-based laws aimed at boosting Black jobs in an economy still dominated by White people three decades after the end of apartheid.

How to address the legacy of White minority rule is a big debate between the DA and its larger coalition partner, the African National Congress, with the issue further amplified by criticism from US President Donald Trump.

The DA's proposed "Economic Inclusion For All Bill" would amend the Public Procurement Act of 2024, which gives an advantage to firms that are Black-owned or run when bidding for contracts. The DA says this system has encouraged corruption and failed to help most Black people.The DA calls for the removal of references to Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment — the ANC's flagship affirmative action programme — across legislation.

WORLD

ANGER

China flays UK for delaying ruling on new embassy

China yesterday accused Britain of lacking "credibility and ethics" after the UK government postponed a decision on whether to approve Beijing's plan to build a new embassy in London. China's plans to build its biggest embassy in Europe near the Tower of London have stalled for the past three years because of opposition from local residents, lawmakers and Hong Kong pro-democracy campaigners in Britain. Last week, Britain again delayed a decision on whether to approve the plan, days after ministers faced pressure over the collapse of a trial of two men accused of spying for Beijing.

PEOPLE

Trial of Northern Ireland's Donaldson delayed again

The trial of former Northern Ireland politician Jeffrey Donaldson for historical sex offences has been delayed for a second time and will likely not take place until next year, a court heard yesterday. The trial of the former Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leader and his wife Eleanor was delayed from March until November 3 after the court heard that Eleanor was unwell. The Public Prosecution Service told Newry Crown Court yesterday it was waiting for additional details from Eleanor's medical assessment. The court will sit again on November 13 and the trial will likely not take place until next year.

COMMENT

Billions lost to illegal tin mining: Indonesia president

Indonesia is losing more than $2bn every year to illegal tin mining and smuggling, President Prabowo Subianto said yesterday. The Indonesian leader ordered authorities to step up enforcement earlier this month in islands rich in the metal used in everything from electronics to making glass. "There are still many illegal mines," he told reporters yesterday. "The losses are quite significant, estimated at 40tn rupiah ($2.4bn) per year, and this has been going on for almost 20 years." Prabowo said the military was involved in operations to stop illegal tin smuggling from the Bangka-Belitung Islands, a hub for the illicit activity.

CRACKDOWN

Myanmar junta seizes 30 Starlink receivers in raid

Myanmar's junta raided one of the country's most notorious cyberscam centres and seized Starlink satellite Internet devices, it said yesterday, after an investigation revealed an explosion in their use in the multibillion-dollar illicit industry. State media *The Global New Light of Myanmar* said the military "conducted operations in KK Park near Myanmar-Thai border" and had "seized 30 sets of Starlink receivers and accessories". That number is only a fraction of the Starlink devices identified using satellite imagery and drone photography. Starlink parent company SpaceX did not immediately respond to a request for comment yesterday.

Japan coalition deal paves way for Takaichi to be first woman PM

AFP
Tokyo

Japan's ruling LDP and its junior partner signed a coalition deal yesterday, paving the way for Sanae Takaichi to become the country's first woman premier.

The 11th-hour agreement with the Japan Innovation Party (JIP) came just a day before the lower house was due to vote on Takaichi's appointment as the fifth prime minister in as many years.

If she wins, she will take office the same day.

"I'm very much looking forward to working with you on efforts to make Japan's economy stronger, and to reshape Japan as a country that can be responsible for future generations," Takaichi told the JIP's co-head Hirofumi Yoshimura as they signed the deal.

Yoshimura said he was convinced the parties were "on the same page about our passion to move Japan forward". Takaichi, 64, seen as a China hawk and traditionalist from the right-wing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), won the party leadership this month.

But her bid to become premier was derailed by the collapse of the LDP's coalition with the Komeito party after 26 years.

Komeito said the LDP had failed to tighten party funding rules following a damaging slush fund scandal.

It was also unnerved by Takaichi's previous harsh rhetoric on China and her regular visits to a Tokyo shrine that honours Japan's war dead, including war criminals.

The clock was ticking for Takaichi to be appointed.

US President Donald Trump is due to visit at the end of the month on his way to the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) summit in South Korea.

Details of a trade deal between Washington and Tokyo remain unresolved, and Trump also wants Japan to stop Russian energy imports and boost defence spending.

The LDP's new coalition with JIP is still two seats shy of the lower house majority needed for Takaichi to be appointed.

But Takaichi is still likely to win since in a second-round run-off vote she only needs more support than the other candidate.

The announcement of a new coalition pushed the Nikkei 225 index up more than three percent to a new record above 49,000 points.

Yutaka Miura, analyst at Mizuho Securities, said that investors were cheered by hopes of "proactive fiscal policies" by Takaichi, Bloomberg reported.

Takaichi has in the past backed aggressive monetary easing and expanded government spending, aping the "Abenomics" of her mentor, former premier Shinzo Abe.

In Nara, Takaichi's hometown, 39-year-old company worker Keiko Yoshida said she was hopeful that if Takaichi became prime minister, she would "make Japan a more liveable place for women".

Two dead as cargo plane skids off Hong Kong runway



A cargo plane veered off a runway yesterday during landing in Hong Kong, hit a security patrol car and then skidded into the sea, leaving two men in the vehicle dead, authorities said. Officials said an investigation would aim to determine what caused the Boeing aircraft to leave the tarmac at Hong Kong International Airport, the world's busiest for cargo last year, according to an industry ranking. The plane's damaged fuselage was left partly submerged in the seawater that borders the airport, with its emergency evacuation slides extended.

Australia flags China's 'unsafe' flare drop in aerial encounter

Reuters
Sydney

Australia has raised concerns with Beijing after a Chinese fighter jet dropped flares near one of its maritime patrol planes, the defence department said yesterday, labelling the incident "unsafe and unprofessional".

The Chinese jet released flares in close proximity to an Australian maritime patrol plane carrying out surveillance in the South China Sea, posing a risk to the latter craft and its crew, Australia's defence department said in a statement.

"This was an unsafe and unprofessional manoeuvre," it added. "Australia expects all countries, including China, to operate their militaries in a safe and professional manner."

China's military gave Australia a warning and called the incident an "intrusion" by the plane into its airspace around the Paracel Islands, which it deployed naval and air forces to monitor and expel.

"Australia's actions constitute a grave violation of China's sovereignty and pose a high risk of triggering maritime and aerial incidents," the spokesperson for the Southern Theater Command air force said in a statement on Monday.

No injuries were reported in the encounter between the People's Liberation Army jet and the aircraft of the Australian Air Force, the Australian defence department statement said, while the P-8A Poseidon patrol plane was not damaged.

The Chinese jet fired flares on two occasions, Defence Minister Richard Marles said in a television interview with Sky News Australia. "It's really that, the proximity at which the flares were released, which has given us cause to deem this unsafe and unprofessional," he said.

The incident is the latest of a series of military encounters involving China that Australia has called out publicly in similar terms.

In February, it also criticised as "unsafe and unprofessional" the actions of a Chinese fighter jet that dropped flares within 100ft of a maritime patrol plane.

UK military gets new powers to shoot down drones

Britain's military will get new powers to shoot down "unidentified" drones over bases, Defence Minister John Healey announced yesterday. The move comes after several recent drone sightings across Europe triggered disruptions in Germany and Denmark among other countries, and multiple sightings last year over UK airbases which are also used by US forces in some cases.
Russia has been accused of involvement in some of these drone flights, claims which Moscow denies.
Countries across Europe have boosted military spending and defences amidst a growing perceived threat from Russia since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.
Nato said last week it was testing new anti-drone defences on its eastern flank to counter a threat from Russia following several recent air incursions in Poland and Estonia.

King Charles meets Manchester emergency service personnel



Britain's King Charles III meets emergency service personnel at Greater Manchester Police Headquarters in Manchester, northwest England, yesterday. The king met staff representing Great Manchester's Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance services about their roles responding to recent events and protecting people in the area.

'Scream club' helps people relieve stress in London

AFP
London

At a London park, dozens of young people gathered, awaiting the starting signal, then screamed at the top of their voices – all in a bid to release tension.

So-called scream therapy is a technique that is rapidly growing in popularity on TikTok and has made its way to Britain from the US. "It was very therapeutic," 23-year-old Rebekah Drakes said after screaming at the top of Parliament Hill on Hampstead Heath, in the north of the British capital. She, along with other participants mostly in their 20s, were taking part in a "Scream Club" on Saturday.

"I feel like you don't realise how much you're holding in until you can let it all out," the bartender added. Mona Sharif organised the event after seeing on TikTok that people were gathering to scream together in the US.

"I made a TikTok saying that London should do one and from that video I created a group chat after I gained some traction and views and likes," she said.

"A thousand people joined the group chat within three days," she explained. Sharif counted to three and then everyone let out a roar while filming themselves on their phones, much to the surprise of passersby.

"It's kind of drawing from, like, group therapy," she said.

In this case, "people are letting out frustrations that they can't really talk about".

Julia Dewit, a 29-year-old teacher, was pleased that so many women took part.

"There is sort of a stigma around women being told to sort of be calm and cool under pressure," she said.

S Koreans returned from Cambodia over online scams face arrest

Reuters
Seoul

South Korean police are seeking to detain most of the 64 South Koreans repatriated from Cambodia over allegations they were involved in online scams in the Southeast Asian country, the police said yesterday.

The police have filed requests to the courts to detain 58 of the repatriated citizens, while one is already held in custody, they said in a statement.

The United Nations says the scam centres, which emerged in Southeast Asia during the Covid-19 pandemic and target victims around the world with phone and online scams, generate billions of dollars in revenue every year for criminal networks.

It estimates hundreds of thousands of people are working in the centres, some lured with the promise of a well-paid job but many forced to do so under threats of violence.

The South Koreans' return to Cambodia on Saturday followed the death of a South Korean student who was lured to Cambodia for what he thought was a high-paying job.

Park Chan-dae, a lawmaker who helped rescue 16 South Koreans in August and September, many in their 20s and 30s, said crime organisations were exploiting vulnerable people desperate for work.

"What is intertwined here is desperate young people with a lack of economic opportunities," Park said.

Family members of three of those 16 South Koreans reached out to Park's office, pleading for help rescue their loved ones, Park said.

"We were able to save them miraculously because they were brave, took risks and communicated with us, not done through some kind of system," said the lawmaker from the ruling Democratic Party, adding the victims secretly shared their location information with him.

South Korea has issued a "code-black" travel ban for parts of Cambodia over recent increases in cases of detention and "fraudulent employment".

The government has also set up a taskforce to help nationals lured into working in scam compounds and secure the release of those held against their will.

The returnees, who were arrested in Cambodia in recent months, are implicated in various crimes linked to voice phishing, romance scams and "no-show" fraud schemes, according to police.

"No-show" scams are a new kind of fraud where scammers make large reservations or take advance payments under a false identity and disappear with the money.

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said yesterday Cambodian police had arrested about 10 more South Koreans and rescued two who had been held against their will, and that the government would beef up consular support in the country.

Britain and the US last week sanctioned the Cambodia-based Prince Group, a multinational network accused of operating vast online scam operations that trafficked people to defraud victims from around the world.

The British government said the centres, located in Cambodia, Myanmar and across Southeast Asia, used fake job adverts to lure workers who were then forced to commit online fraud under the threat of torture.

Scam operations in Cambodia are estimated to have about 200,000 workers, including 1,000 South Koreans, according to estimates from South Korean officials.

Indian solar firms tweaking supply chains to navigate US tariffs

Reuters
New Delhi

Indian solar manufacturers have begun recalibrating their supply chains to maintain access to the lucrative US market and offset higher tariffs, according to executives.

US President Donald Trump's tariffs of up to 50% on most exports from India, among the highest for any US trading partner, went into effect on August 27.

In a post-earnings call with analysts, Vikram Solar which has 15% of its current order book tied to the US, said it is navigating the tariff structure by sourcing solar cells from countries with lower duties.

For solar modules, US tariffs are based on the country where the solar cell was

manufactured — specifically, where the cell's PN junction (the part that generates electricity) was formed.

So even if a module is assembled in India, the US will apply tariffs based on the country of origin of the cell inside.

"We are exploring alternative supply chains from countries with significant cell capacities that have lesser levies than what India does," said Rinal Shah, a top executive at Vikram Solar.

The company did not specify if the tariffs had any impact on its September quarter earnings, but expressed confidence in fulfilling US orders despite the tariff headwinds.

Waaree Energies, India's top solar module maker and among the top exporters to the US, said it was not using domestically manufactured solar cells for the US because that would attract higher tariffs.

The company is also under investigation by the US, which has alleged that it sidestepped the country's tariffs on Chinese-made cells and panels by labelling them as made in India. Waaree has refuted these allegations.

Waaree CEO Amit Paithankar said in an analyst call the supply chain for the US is completely China-free, and that the company abides by prevailing laws and rules.

"We have also configured it in such a way that the tariff problems associated with that (exports) are the lowest," Paithankar said.

Ola Electric founder named in employee suicide case

Reuters
Bengaluru

Ola Electric founder Bhavish Aggarwal and a senior executive have been named in a police complaint after an employee accused them of harassment in a 28-page note before dying by suicide, according to a copy of the police report seen by Reuters.

The complaint, filed by the employee's brother in Bengaluru, names Aggarwal and the company's head of homologation, Subrath Kumar Das, alleging the employee was under intense pressure.

The deceased K Aravind's brother, Ashwin Kannan, told Reuters that a day after his brother's cremation on September 29, the company deposited about Rs1.7mn ($19,341) to Aravind's account.

On enquiring about the payment, three people from Ola Electric's human resources team visited him and said the deposit related to Aravind's pending salary for the financial year 2024-25, he said.

"When they had not paid for months, how did they suddenly send the amount the very next day of hearing about my brother's death and cremation?" Kannan asked.

Ola Electric, which has challenged the First Information Report (FIR) in the state's top court, said the employee never raised any complaint or grievance regarding his employment or any harassment during his tenure.

However, Kannan told Reuters his brother had been employed with Ola Electric since 2022 and had recently complained that the company had not cleared his dues.

He said Aravind feared seeking payment after hearing that employees who raised similar concerns were losing their jobs.

On non-payment of salary, the company said all salary dues to Aravind "were cleared in the normal course of payroll processing". "There were no pending or outstanding salary payments at the time of the incident," it said.

"In order to provide immediate support to the family, the company promptly facilitated the full and final settlement to his bank account," Ola Electric's spokesperson said.

Ola Electric, backed by SoftBank Group, Temasek Holdings, Tiger Global Management and India's State Bank of India has been grappling with slowing sales, regulatory scrutiny and intensifying competition from established two-wheeler makers.

The stock has fallen about 30% since listing in August 2024.

Lighting up the sky



Revellers prepare to release a handmade sky lantern from the terrace of a building to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights, in Kolkata, India, yesterday.

Tariffs to stay until Russian oil imports end, Trump tells India

Reuters
Aboard Air Force One

US President Donald Trump reiterated that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told him India will stop buying Russian oil, while warning that New Delhi would continue paying "massive" tariffs if it did not do so.

"I spoke with Prime Minister Modi of India, and he said he's not going to be doing the Russian oil thing," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.

Asked about India's assertion that it was not aware of any conversation between Modi and Trump, the US president replied: "But if they want to say that, then they'll just continue to pay massive tariffs, and they don't want to do that."

Russian oil has been one of the main irritants for Trump in prolonged trade talks with India - half of his 50% tariffs on Indian goods are in retaliation for those purchases.

The US government has said petroleum revenue funds Russia's war in Ukraine.

India has become the biggest buyer of seaborne Russian oil sold at a discount after Western nations shunned purchases and imposed sanctions on Moscow for its 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Trade talks between India and the US are going on in a "congenial" manner, an Indian government official said on Saturday, declining to be identified due to the sensitivity of talks.

An Indian delegation which was in the US last week for talks has returned, the official said, declining to share further details.

An e-mail to India's trade ministry was not immediately answered yesterday, which was a public holiday.

Trump on Wednesday said Modi had assured him that day that India would stop its Russian oil purchases. India's foreign ministry said it was not aware of any telephone conversation between the leaders that day, but said that New Delhi's main concern was to "safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer."

Corporate bond market rebounds on India rate-cut bets

India's corporate debt market is witnessing a rebound as renewed bets of steep rate cuts boost demand and encourage firms to opt for bonds over traditional funding sources, analysts say.
Bond issuances fell 40% quarter-on-quarter to Rs2.03tn ($23.1 billion) in July-September, data from aggregator Prime Database showed. But since then, firms have raised around Rs500bn, with bankers predicting total supply in October could top Rs1tn.
Last week, Bharti Telecom raised Rs105bn in the largest bond issue of the fiscal year, while State Bank of India on Friday raised Rs75bn.
The hefty issues signal a turnaround that could pave the way for a record year in corporate debt fundraising, analysts said.
"Periods with multiple rate cuts have led to a significant rise in corporate bond issuances, supported by favourable pricing in bonds," said Vinay Pai, head of fixed income at investment banking firm Equirus Capital.



Vehicles move on a road shrouded in smog in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

Toxic haze chokes Indian capital

AFP
New Delhi

India's capital New Delhi was shrouded in a thick, toxic haze yesterday as air pollution levels soared to more than 16 times the World Health Organisation's recommended daily maximum.

New Delhi and its sprawling metropolitan region - home to more than 30mn people - are regularly ranked among the world's most polluted capitals, with acrid smog blanketing the skyline each winter.

Cooler air traps pollutants close to the ground, creating a deadly mix of emissions from crop burning, factories and heavy traffic.

But pollution has also spiked due to days of fireworks set off to mark Diwali, the major festival of lights, which culminated yesterday night.

The Supreme Court relaxed this month a blanket ban on fireworks over Diwali to allow the use of the less-polluting "green firecrackers" - designed to emit fewer particulates. The ban was widely ignored in past years.

Levels of PM2.5 - cancer-causing microparticles small enough to enter the bloodstream - hit 248 micrograms per cubic metre in parts of the city yesterday, according to monitoring organisation IQAir.

The government's Commission of Air Quality Management said air quality is expected to further deteriorate in the coming days.

It also implemented a set of measures to curb pollution levels, including asking authorities to ensure uninterrupted power supply to reduce the use of diesel generators.

City authorities have also said they will trial cloud seeding by aeroplanes for the first time over Delhi this month, the practice of firing salt or other chemicals into clouds to induce rain to clear the air.

India 'eyes easing certain Chinese import curbs'

Reuters
New Delhi

India's trade ministry and a government think-tank are pushing to ease certain tariff and non-tariff curbs on Chinese imports, three government officials said, acknowledging the country's growing reliance on Chinese raw materials for industrial and export growth.

They are seeking measures including allowing anti-dumping duties to lapse on certain products, while considering tariff cuts on raw materials used in sectors such as leather and engineering goods where domestic capacity remains limited, the sources said.

New Delhi is caught between balancing trade relations with Washington - which has imposed punitive tariffs on imports from India - and Beijing, which until earlier this year had slowed supplies of key goods, including fertiliser, to India.

In August, India and China agreed to boost business links as the neighbours rebuild ties damaged by a 2020 border clash.

"A consensus is emerging within the government and the industry that, while negotiating a deal with Washington, India needs to fine-tune its trade policy, including trade relations with China," one of the government officials said. Both the commerce ministry and the NITI Aayog - a government policy think-tank - have backed industry calls to cut import tariffs on raw materials at inter-ministerial meetings, a second official said, noting countries such as Vietnam import Chinese raw materials at zero duty, putting Indian manufacturers at a disadvantage. However, the final decision on duty cuts rests with the finance ministry, the official said, noting cheaper Chinese raw materials have boosted exports of Apple's smartphones, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and engineering goods.

The sources spoke on condition of anonymity as details are not public. India's commerce ministry didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Responding to industry demands, the commerce ministry last month extended advance authorisations for quality-controlled inputs from 180 days to 18 months - easing critical Chinese raw material imports.

India's imports from China rose more than 16% to more than $11bn in September, with imports touching $91bn in the first nine months of 2025, up from about $80bn a year ago.

Exports rose modestly to about $15bn, widening the trade gap in Beijing's favour, commerce ministry data showed.

The government would also not renew anti-dumping duties on items such as axle beams, steering components and high-tenacity polyester yarn, another government source said.

However, India's trade remedies authority has launched new anti-dumping probes on imports such as cranes, toner cartridges and solar cells from China after local complaints.

"This is not about abandoning self-reliance policy," the official said. "It's about recognising that growth needs global inputs - and China remains too central to ignore."

India's reliance on critical Chinese supplies has deepened in a number of categories. Imports now account for 91% of embroidery machines, 92% of saw blades, 72% of inverters and half of UPS systems, said Ajay Srivastava, founder of Global Trade Research Initiative, a Delhi-based think-tank.

Nearly 90% of antibiotics, silicon wafers, flat-panel displays, and 80% of laptops are also imported from China, according to Global Trade Research Initiative.

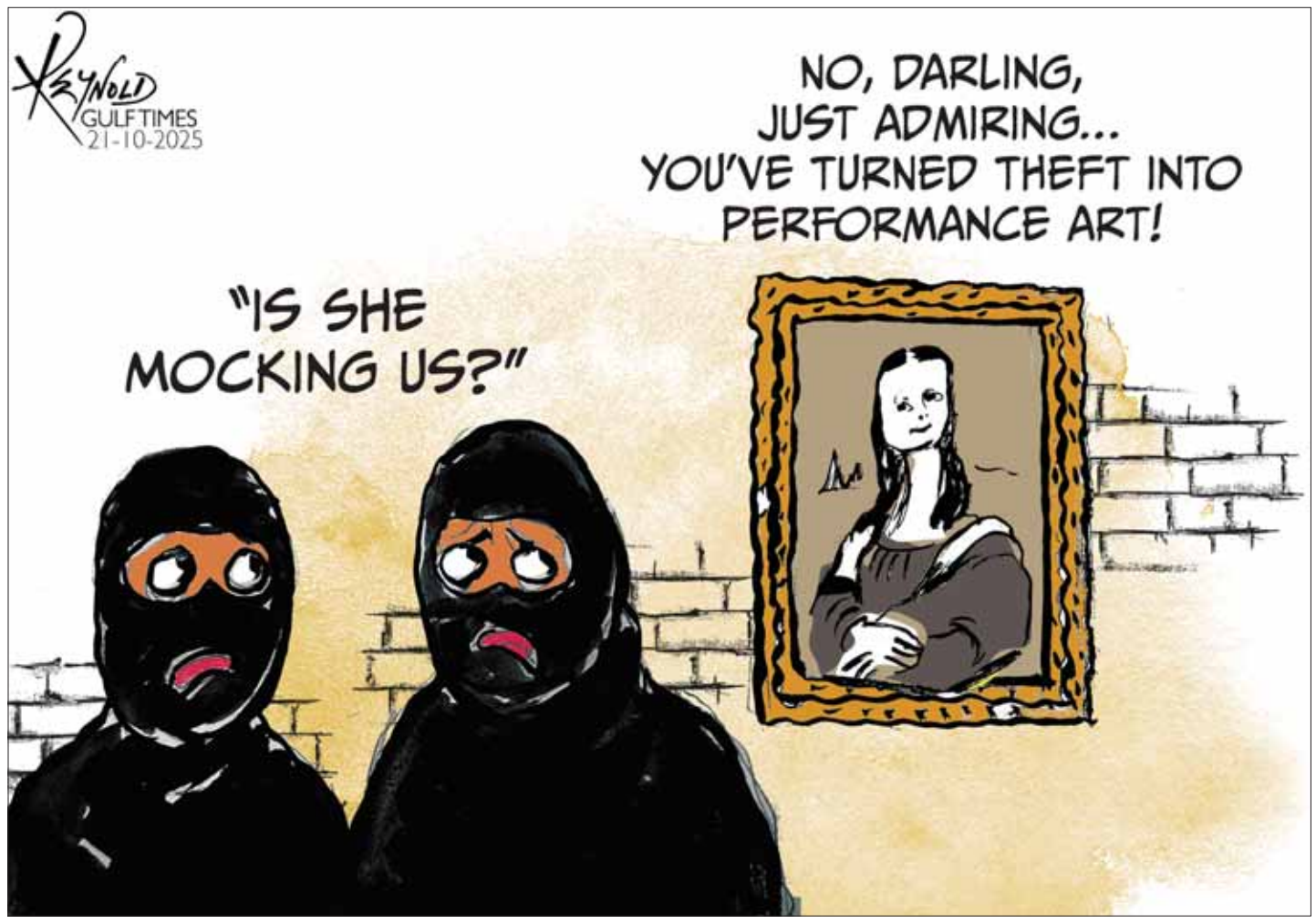
The trade deficit hit nearly $94bn in 2024 and could widen to $120bn-$130bn in two to three years, driven by rising imports of electronics components, chemical and industrial inputs, the second government source said.

COMMENT

CHAIRMAN
Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka
Deputy Managing Editor
K T Chacko

P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
editor@gulf-times.com
44350478 (News),
44466404 (Sport),
44466636 (Home delivery)
44350474
facebook.com/gulftimes
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Global firms hit by $35bn in US tariffs, but outlook stable

Global companies have flagged more than $35bn in costs from US tariffs heading into third-quarter earnings, but many are lowering their initial forecasts as new trade deals reduce exposure to President Donald Trump's levies.

Trump's trade war has hiked US tariffs to their highest levels since the 1930s, and the president has regularly threatened more duties, but overall, the fog that paralysed many businesses is clearing, allowing executives to forecast costs and make plans — including some price hikes.

Companies expected a combined financial hit of $21.0bn to $22.9bn for 2025, with an impact of nearly $15bn calculated for 2026, according to a Reuters analysis of hundreds of corporate statements, regulatory filings and earnings calls between July 16 and September 30. The total of more than $35bn compares with $34bn tallied in May, shortly after Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs in April rattled global supply chains. But the trajectory masks a shift: the increase is largely due to Toyota's $9.5bn estimate.

Many other companies have lowered their earlier worst-case forecasts after Trump reached lower-rate trade deals with the EU and Japan. The figures combine annual and partial-year estimates from an overlapping group of firms. Both groups include about 60 firms. Sony in August cut its forecast.

Companies expected a combined financial hit of $21.0bn to $22.9bn for 2025, with an impact of nearly $15bn calculated for 2026

Trump also carved out exceptions, with only about a third of Brazil's exports facing a 50% tariff, for instance. "Tariffs are getting clearer and clearer. And we believe that tariffs will be just another variable of our business equation that we need to be ready to manage, and we will," Stellantis CEO Antonio Filosa told Reuters in a mid-October interview, introducing new details of a $13bn, four-year investment in US manufacturing. Stellantis in July warned of a 1.5bn-euro hit from US tariffs this year.

"I think there is this sense that we reached a kind of landing point with some of the bilateral trade deals," said International Chamber of Commerce Deputy Secretary General Andrew Wilson.

"But there will continue to be much greater complexity and this massive uncertainty."

S&P 500 companies are projected to show an earnings growth rate of 9.3% in the July-September period, a decline from 13.8% in the second quarter, according to LSEG data. Much of that is on the back of the US IT sector, driven by AI investment. Europe's Stoxx 600 is expected to clock 0.5% growth, down from 4% in the previous quarter.

The pain is concentrated on companies that depend on countries that do not have trade deals. Nike, heavily dependent on suppliers in Vietnam and other Asian countries, raised its tariff impact estimate late last month to $1.5bn from $1bn. In Europe, Tefal kitchen-ware maker SEB recently cut its profit outlook, citing weaker demand as customers adopted a wait-and-see attitude partly due to tariffs, while H&M cautioned that US tariffs on imports would weigh more heavily on margins in the quarter through November.

Price increases are the most frequent effect of tariffs cited by companies in the Reuters tracker. Carmakers including Ford, Stellantis, Volkswagen and Toyota collectively have reported billions in tariff-related costs. Ford, for instance, is expecting a cumulative $3bn impact

Still, optimism has ticked up among automakers and auto parts suppliers as Trump has moved toward significant tariff relief for US auto production that could effectively eliminate many of the costs that have hit top car companies.

Drug makers also have started rolling out deals on drug pricing and manufacturing that are tied to US tariff exemptions. Pfizer and AstraZeneca have led the way, and others are expected to follow. – Reuters

Global film industry shrugs off renewed Trump movie tariff threat

- **Trump's tariff proposal causes muted reaction in film industry**
- **Hollywood spent $24.3bn in overseas productions over last 12 months**
- **US film industry seeks tax incentives over tariffs**

By Paul Sandle, Michael Kahn, Byron Kaye and Dawn Chmielewski
London/Prague/Sydney/Los Angeles

Star Wars: Starfighter is filming in Britain, soundstages in Hungary are packed and post-production houses in Australia are humming, as the global film industry keeps rolling despite US President Donald Trump's renewed threats to impose tariffs on movies made outside of the US.

Trump has proposed levying a 100% tariff on films produced overseas to stem the loss of film jobs to production hubs around the world, reviving an idea he first broached in May. The initial call for tariffs jolted the film world, and temporarily halted projects and international movie finance deals as producers evaluated the potential impact of the levy on each project's financial viability, two sources familiar with Hollywood motion-picture financing told Reuters.

This time around, the reaction has been more muted.

"Other than the initial flurry of 'Oh, he's said it again,' people are not taking it as seriously as they did the first time around," said Lee Stone, a partner at London law firm Lee & Thompson, who worked on the Emmy-winning Netflix show *Adolescence*. Trump initially called for a 100% tariff on movies produced outside the country in early May, to stave off the "very fast death" of the American film industry as incentives lured filmmakers to production hubs around the world. The announcement — just weeks before the Cannes Film Festival — caused a panic.

"It was terrible timing. Everyone was saying, 'What's going to happen?'" said Stone, noting that Trump's threat resulted in temporary paralysis. "I'm not getting the impression that there's the same pause this time." Newly released data from industry researcher ProdPro reveals that while overall spending is down 15% from last year, amid a pullback in scripted television series and big-budget feature films, there is no evidence that Hollywood is abandoning global production hubs.

"We're not seeing anything in the data that suggests studios are opting to film more of their production in the US because of concern about the tariffs," said ProdPro CEO Alexander LoVerde.

The US remains the industry's largest production hub, accounting for $16.6bn in spending over the last 12 months, according to ProdPro. However, Hollywood studios and streaming services spent even more — $24.3bn — on film and television projects produced outside the US over that same period, ProdPro reported, as they took advantage of tax credits, lower labour costs and world-class soundstages.

The United Kingdom has become a major beneficiary of the Hollywood exodus, attracting $8.7bn in film and scripted TV spending over the past year, including major film productions like *Star Wars: Starfighter*, the much-buzzed-about next entry in the "Star Wars" saga set for release in May 2027. Canada comes in a close second with $6.4bn, according to ProdPro's most recent report on production trends.

Other regions — Australia, Ireland, Hungary and Spain — together accounted for nearly one-quarter of all production.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the Hollywood strikes by US writers and actors supercharged the exodus that began years earlier.

"Australia became a bit of a production bubble where particularly in Queensland, productions could continue even as the rest of the world shut down," said University of Melbourne film expert Kirsten Stevens.

Prague increased its tax breaks from 20% to 25% in January, while Britain offers relief of 25.5% on qualifying films and TV productions, with a higher rate for animated films and a new credit for smaller independent films.

In places like Central Europe, a deep filmmaking tradition and lower labour costs have attracted a long list of Hollywood films including the Russo brothers' *The Gray Man*, Netflix's Oscar-winning *All Quiet on the Western Front* in the Czech Republic, and Warner Bros Studios' *Dune: Part Three*, which began shooting this summer in Hungary.

"Hungarian soundstages are currently operating at full capacity with both international and domestic productions," Csaba Kael, government commissioner for the development of the Hungarian Motion Picture Industry, told Reuters.

Any change in US trade policy would take time to implement, Kael said.

Hollywood studios have found that distributing work across multiple locations can accelerate the production timetable, allowing films to be completed faster and cheaper.

"It's not uncommon at high-end films that a bunch of work would come to Australia, but a bunch of work also might go to New Zealand and to London and to somewhere else," said Mike Seymour, Emmy-nominated visual effects specialist and lecturer at the University of Sydney.

"Sometimes the film is being worked on literally 24 hours a day because of all the time zones," he said.

For the moment, it is business as usual for filmmakers, said Stephen Weizenecker, an entertainment lawyer with Barnes & Thornburg in Atlanta. They are hoping to avoid any interruption that throws off the schedule of a production, which can result in actors, directors or even a filming location being unavailable.

"The film industry dislikes uncertainty," Weizenecker said. "Once it starts to hesitate, it means a project stops altogether." A coalition of American film industry unions and guilds, joined by veteran actor Jon Voight, has asked Trump to consider implementing a federal tax incentive to put domestic film production on a more competitive footing with incentives offered in other countries.

"What we really want is a national tax incentive that would be more effective than any tariffs," one studio executive said.

Meanwhile, a bill with bipartisan support, known as the CREATE Act, was introduced in the US Congress this past summer. It would extend a tax deduction for US productions, which is set to expire in December, and increase the cap on deductible costs.

The looming threat of tariffs raises concern about the potential impact on the economy and livelihoods in production hubs around the world, if Trump follows through.

"It is hard for anyone here to understand the likelihood of this coming into effect, but if it did, it would have a huge impact," said a visual artist in the industry who declined to be named over fears of losing financing. "It would be devastating." — Reuters



File photo: Flags flutter in front of the Hollywood sign after President Donald Trump ordered a 100% tariff on foreign-made films in Los Angeles on September 29, 2025.

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Amazon cloud services hit by global outage

AFP/Reuters
Paris/Washington

Many popular Internet services, from streaming platforms to messaging services and some banks, went offline for hours yesterday due to an outage in Amazon's crucial cloud network.

The disruption affected streaming platforms, including Amazon's Prime Video service and Disney+, as well as Perplexity AI, the Fortnite game, Airbnb, Snapchat and Duolingo.

Mobile telephone services and messaging apps Signal and Whatsapp were also affected in Europe, according to Downdetector, a website monitoring Internet problems.

Some UK banks, such as Lloyd's were also impacted, and pointed to Amazon Web Services (AWS) as the problem.

AWS provides on-demand computing power, data storage and other digital services to companies, governments and individuals.

Disruptions to its servers can cause outages across websites and platforms that rely on its cloud infrastructure. AWS competes with Google's and Microsoft's cloud services.

AWS directed Reuters to its status page when requested for a comment. Amazon did not respond to a request for comment.

AWS handles nearly a third of the planet's cloud infrastructure market, powering millions of apps and websites around the world.

AWS's maintenance site said its engineers scrambled to fix the underlying DNS issue once they became aware at 0711 GMT of "increased error rates" hitting multiple services.

More than four hours later, though some problems persisted, AWS said it was on the path "towards full recovery" and most of its operations were "succeeding normally".

The outage showed "how reliant we all are on the likes of Amazon, as well as Microsoft and Alphabet for many of the online services we more or less take for granted", said financial analyst Michael Hewson. "On an economic level it's almost akin to putting all of your economic eggs in one basket."

AWS leads the cloud computing market, followed closely by Microsoft Azure, and with Google Cloud in third place.

Businesses, government and consumers around the world rely on their infrastructure for online activities.

The British government's websites were among those affected by yesterday's outage, according to Downdetector, which relies on users to signal online problems they encounter.

AWS said the problem appeared to originate in one of its critical infrastructure zones, the US-East-1 region, located in the US state of Virginia.

The DNS issue identified has to do with the Domain Name System (DNS) protocol used on the Internet to associate information with various domain names.

Although the DNS problem was "fully mitigated" at 1030 GMT, it caused a huge backlog of stymied requests that had to be worked through, AWS said.

"This major online outage underscores a stark reality: Business operations associated with one critical vendor in a region can cascade into global instability," said independent cyber analyst Rimesh Patel, quoted by the Science Media Centre, a UK charity focused on science and engineering.

"It highlights how interdependent our digital infrastructure has become," said Alan Woodward, a University of Surrey professor quoted by the same centre.

In July 2024, another global online outage occurred when a US cybersecurity company, CrowdStrike, issued a faulty update to its software used by airports, hospitals and many organisations.

According to Microsoft, some 8.5mn devices were affected, resulting in a systems crash and users being confronted with a "blue screen of death".



Rodrigo Paz

Bolivians end decades of socialism, electing centre-right president

AFP/Reuters
La Paz

Bolivians have elected a pro-business centre-right senator as their new president, ending two decades of socialist rule that left the South American nation deep in economic crisis.

With 97.8% of ballots counted, Rodrigo Paz had 54.6% of the vote to 45.4% for his rival, right-wing former interim president Jorge "Tuto" Quiroga, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal said.

The news was greeted with joy, music and fireworks on the streets of La Paz.

The new president takes office on November 8.

"We must open Bolivia to the world," said Paz during his victory speech from La Paz, after Quiroga conceded defeat.

"We came to celebrate the victory with great hope of a new direction for Bolivia," Julio Andrey, a 40-year-old lawyer, told AFP.

Paz, the 58-year-old son of a former president, has vowed a "capitalism for all" approach to economic reform, with decentralisation, lower taxes and fiscal discipline mixed with continued social spending.

In his victory address, Paz said Bolivia was "reclaiming its place on the international stage".

Paz also said he had received a congratulatory message from US President Donald Trump, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington "stands ready to partner with Bolivia on shared priorities".

"After two decades of mismanagement, President-elect Paz's election marks a transformative opportunity for both nations," Rubio said.

Under former president Evo Morales, Bolivia took a sharp turn to the left: nationalising energy resources, breaking ties with Washington and making alliances with China, Russia and fellow leftists in Cuba, Venezuela and elsewhere in Latin America.

After the results were announced, Paz's vice-presidential running mate, Edmand Lara, made a call for "unity and reconciliation" after a bitter campaign.

While Bolivia is enduring its worst economic crisis in decades, he promised improvements are on the horizon.

"We must ensure the supply of diesel and gasoline. People are suffering. We need to stabilise the prices of the basic food basket, and we must put an end to corruption," he said.

Long queues for fuel have become a way of life in Bolivia, with dollars in short supply and annual inflation over 20%.

In a first electoral round in August, crisis-weary voters snubbed the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) party founded by Morales.

Sunday's election closes out an economic experiment marked by initial prosperity funded by Morales's nationalisation of natural gas reserves.

The boom was followed by bust, notably with critical shortages of fuel and foreign currency under outgoing leader Luis Arce.

"We hope the country improves," said homemaker Maria Eugenia Penaranda, 56, bundled up against the cold as she cast her vote in La Paz, about 3,600m (11,800;) above sea level. "We cannot make ends meet. There is a lot of suffering. Too much."

Successive governments under-invested in the country's hydrocarbons sector, once the backbone of the economy.

Production plummeted and Bolivia almost depleted its dollar reserves to sustain a universal subsidy for fuel that it can also no longer afford to import.

Analyst Daniela Osorio of the German Institute for Global and Area Studies told AFP that Bolivians' patience was running out.

Once the election is over, she warned, "if the winner does not take measures to help the most vulnerable, this could lead to a social uprising".

Morales said after the results were announced that the president-elect has urgent and "serious issues" to resolve, such as the fuel and dollar shortages.

Paz faces an uphill task, inheriting an economy in recession, according to the World Bank.

He had promised to maintain social programs while stabilising the economy, but economists have said the two things are not possible at the same time.

"He has maintained a very calm, centrist tone... he has connected with people who want change, but not radical change," political scientist Gabriela Keseberg told AFP of Paz's victory.

Paz said on Sunday that his governance style will be one of "consensus".

He will not have a party majority in Congress, meaning he will need to make concessions to get laws passed.

Outside of Congress, the new president will also face stiff opposition from Morales, who remains popular – especially among Indigenous Bolivians – but was constitutionally barred from seeking another term.

Quiroga said on Sunday that his team would review the official results but congratulated Paz on his victory nevertheless.

Tornado hits area north of Paris, leaving one person dead

One person has died after a tornado struck the Val d'Oise area just to the north of Paris, said French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez yesterday. Nunez said he was monitoring the situation closely, and added several others had been seriously injured as a result of the tornado. – ***Reuters***

Louvre robbery casts France in 'deplorable' light

Reuters/AFP
Paris

The jewellery heist at Paris's Louvre museum has cast France in a "deplorable" light, Justice Minister Gerard Darmanin said yesterday as opposition politicians criticised the government for what they branded a national humiliation.

Thieves on Sunday broke into the Louvre, one of the world's most famous museums, using a crane to smash an upstairs window, then stealing priceless objects from an area that houses the French crown jewels before escaping on motorbikes.

The theft, which several newspapers called "heist of the century", grabbed headlines globally.

"What is certain is that we failed," Darmanin told France Inter radio, saying the heist gave a "negative" and "deplorable" image of France. "The French people all feel like they've been robbed."

The break-in raised awkward questions about security at the museum, which is home to artworks such as the Mona Lisa and which welcomed 8.7mn visitors in 2024.

The museum remained closed yesterday.

The robbery took between six to seven minutes and was carried out by four people who were unarmed but who threatened the guards with angle grinders, the Paris prosecutor has said.

Darmanin said the robbers, who are still on the run, would eventually be found.

However, that did not soothe the anger over the theft.

This heist "is an unbearable humiliation for our country. How far will the disintegration of the state go?" Jordan Bardella, leader of the far-right National Rally party, said on X.

Francois-Xavier Bellamy, of the conservative Republicans party, called it "a symptom of a country that cannot protect its heritage".



A security employee clears visitors from the area near the glass Pyramid of the Louvre Museum as the museum remains closed the day after a spectacular jewel heist by thieves. – ***Reuters***

The stolen jewellery included a tiara from the jewellery set of Queen Marie-Amélie and Queen Hortense, from the early 19th century, as well as an earring, part of a pair from the sapphire jewellery set of the same queens.

The crown of Empress Eugenie was found outside the museum.

The thieves apparently dropped the piece, made of gold, emerald and diamonds, as they made their getaway.

The culture and interior ministries were holding an emergency meeting to discuss the security of the Louvre, officials said.

Meanwhile, the museum, which had been expected to re-open yesterday, remained closed.

"Due to exceptional circumstances, the Louvre Museum will remain closed today. Visitors who had booked a tour for today will be refunded," its website said.

At the museum, US tourist Jesslyn Ehlers, 38, and her husband were busy rebooking their tickets.

"We're just kind of disappointed. We've been planning this for a very long time," she said.

Shortly before the announcement, queues of impatient visitors snaked their way across the museum's pyramid courtyard and under the tall arches of the main entrance gallery.

Carol Fuchs, an elderly tourist from the United States, had been standing in line for more than three-quarters of an hour.

"The audacity, coming through a window," she told AFP after the disappearance of the jewels. "Will they ever be found? I doubt it. I think it's long gone."

Brazil greenlights oil drilling in sensitive Amazon region

AFP
Rio de Janeiro



This picture taken in June shows a Manoki Indigenous man wearing a mask of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during a demonstration in front of the hotel where an oil blocks auction organised by Brazil's Oil and Gas Regulatory Agency (ANP) was taking place, in Rio de Janeiro. Petrobras announced that it had received authorisation from environmental agency Ibama to begin oil drilling 500km from the mouth of the Amazon River. – ***AFP***

Petrobras said yesterday that it had received a licence to drill for oil near the mouth of the Amazon River, enraging environmentalists who said the move would undermine Brazil's hosting of UN climate talks next month.

Plans to expand oil exploration in Brazil, already the world's eighth largest producer, are backed by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who insists oil revenues will help fund Brazil's climate transition.

Critics accuse him of a contradictory stance as he urges world leaders to step up in the fight against climate change ahead of COP30 talks in the Amazon city of Belem on November 10-21.

Petrobras was granted a licence to drill in the Foz de Amazonas region after a five-year battle for permission to explore the area.

Brazil's environmental agency Ibama said it had given the go-ahead after "a rigorous environmental licensing process".

However, Brazil's Climate Observatory non-governmental organisation (NGO) said civil society organisations would go to court to fight the decision.

"The government is sabotaging the leadership it should have at COP30," Suely Araujo, a former president of Ibama and co-ordinator of the Climate Observatory NGO, told AFP. "How can our diplomats advocate for the shift away from fossil fuels... when the country is intensifying fossil fuel exploration and production?"

Araujo, who denied French oil giant Total a drilling licence in nearby blocks in 2018, said granting the licence had opened the door for other permits in the same region.

Foz de Amazonas is part of a promising new offshore oil frontier, with nearby Guyana emerging as a major oil producer in less than a decade following large offshore discoveries.

Petrobras said it would immediately start drilling an exploratory well at Block 59, an offshore site 500km (310 miles) from the mouth of the Amazon River.

Environmentalists have raised alarm about drilling for oil 160km off the coast of the world's largest tropical rainforest, which is home to Indigenous communities.

Petrobras has said its models show that an oil spill at the offshore site "would not be likely to reach the coast" and there would be "no direct impact" on Indigenous communities.

"We hope to obtain excellent results from this research and prove the existence of oil in the Brazilian portion of this new global energy frontier," said Magda Chambriard, president of Petrobras, in a statement.

Brazil meets most of its energy needs through renewables and exports more than half of its oil, so emissions from new oil production won't add to its own greenhouse gas tally, but will still be released globally.

"Authorising new oil licences in the Amazon is not just a historic mistake – it's doubling down on a model that has already failed," said Ilan Zugman of the advocacy group 350.org.

Ibama denied Petrobras an exploration licence in 2023, citing inadequate plans to protect wildlife in case of an oil spill.

As Petrobras appealed, pressure rose from Lula, who said earlier this year that Ibama was a government agency acting as if it was "against the government".

In February, an Ibama technical opinion seen by AFP said that the recommendation remained to "deny the environmental licence", citing the risk of "massive biodiversity loss in a highly sensitive marine ecosystem".

Ibama's technical staff noted that drilling conditions were very challenging in the Foz de Amazonas basin, which is prone to intense storms and strong ocean currents.

However, in May, Ibama president Rodrigo Agostinho overruled the opinion and allowed Petrobras to go ahead with an oil spill accident response drill that was considered the last step before the licence is granted.

In September, Ibama approved the pre-operational environmental assessment, despite Petrobras failing to demonstrate it can "reliably protect fauna in the event of an oil spill".

The federal public prosecutor's office has also raised the alarm over the process, and filed a lawsuit on Thursday to force Petrobras to conduct a new oil spill drill before the licence was issued, due to failures in its wildlife rescue plan.

WMO urges action to close gaps in disaster warning systems

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has urged action to close gaps in a global system of surveillance meant to protect people from extreme weather, saying yesterday that such early warnings were particularly needed in developing countries.

Convening a special meeting in Geneva, the WMO said that in the past five decades, weather, water and climate-related hazards have killed more than 2mn people, with 90% of those deaths occurring in developing countries.

WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo has made boosting early-warning systems a priority but still only 55% of countries have built up the surveillance capacity, data from the UN weather agency shows.

"Many millions of people lack protection against dangerous weather which is inflicting an increasing toll on economic assets and vital infrastructure," the WMO said in a statement.

The number of countries using early-warning systems has doubled in three years to 119.

However, a WMO assessment of 62 countries showed half of them possess only basic capacity and 16% have less than basic capacity.

"Early warning means early action. Our goal is to not only warn the world it is to empower it," Saulo said in a opening speech to the conference in Geneva.

Deaths from disasters are six times higher and the number of people affected is four times higher in countries with limited multi-hazard early warning systems, the WMO has found.

The head of Switzerland's Federal Department of Home Affairs, Elisabeth Baume-Schneider, told delegates at the conference that no country or region was spared from the impact of climate change and extreme weather. – ***Reuters***

QATAR

New DFI executive board of trustees

The Doha Film Institute (DFI) has announced its new executive board of trustees comprising distinguished leaders from key Qatari ministries and entities.

Each member draws on their wealth of experience and expertise working with diverse organisations that have helped shape the nation and strengthen Qatar's global position as a leading cultural hub, a statement said.

Under the leadership of DFI Chairperson HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the new members are:

- Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) chairman HE Sheikh Thani bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani
- HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater
- Qatar Tourism chairman HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji
- Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) managing director HE Hassan Abdulla al-Thawadi
- Qatar Museums board member Abdulla al-Najjar
- Engineer Jassim Mohamed al-Khori, the chief executive of Media City Qatar.

"Over the past 15 years, the DFI has been a driving force behind a golden age of Arab cinema, championing important films that have elevated Arab voices and redefined the global storytelling landscape with richness, diversity, and truth," said HE Sheikha Al Mayassa. "While we continue to grow, we remain committed to the values that are part of our organisational DNA: creative excellence, cultural authenticity, and the belief in the power of film to unite, to heal, and to remind us of our shared humanity."


HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani


HE Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater


HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji


HE Hassan Abdulla al-Thawadi


Abdulla al-Najjar


Engineer Jassim Mohamed al-Khori

"Our new board of trustees will steer the organisation to continue to look boldly to the future while honouring the strength of our past and celebrating our rich traditions and values," she added.

As QFFD chairman, HE Sheikh Thani oversees initiatives aimed at strengthening Qatar's role as a trusted global partner in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

HE AlKhater's distinguished career in public service includes appointments as Minister of State for International Cooperation and official spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs.

HE al-Kharji brings extensive administrative expertise from various leadership positions across the nation. His career is marked by a commitment to advancing Qatar's global standing.

HE al-Thawadi chairs the Film Committee at Media City Qatar and the Generation Amazing Foundation, and serves on boards at Media City Qatar, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Northwestern University Qatar, Qatar Rail, and Qatar International Islamic Bank.

Al-Najjar is an exceptional C-level leader with over 25 years of experience and a distinguished background in strategic planning and delivery across several of Qatar's most significant national projects.

He has held senior leadership roles with the SC, Al Jazeera Media Network, Qatar Museums Authority, and the 2006 Doha Asian Games.

Al-Khori leads the implementation of an ambitious strategy to position Qatar as a leading regional hub for media, innovation, and talent development – in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy (2024–2030).


The first talk, titled 'The Architectural Alphabet – Crafting Msheireb's Urban Language', examined the architecture and urban planning foundational to Msheireb's development.


The celebration was attended by senior officials from Msheireb Properties. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam

Msheireb Museums celebrates 10 years, launches publications on Qatar's architectural heritage

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Msheireb Museums celebrated its 10th anniversary yesterday, bringing together leading international and regional architects, cultural leaders, and heritage preservation experts to examine a decade of architectural innovation and cultural transformation in Qatar.

The event at Bin Jelmood House was marked by two panel discussions and the launch of two new publications that document the museums' role in shaping Qatar's contemporary built environment.

Led by Msheireb Museums general manager Abdulla al-Naama and attended by senior officials from Msheireb Properties, the conference underlined the museums' impact on defining a unique modern Qatari architectural identity.

A highlight of the celebration was the launch of two publications: *Building on Tradition – The New Architectural Language of Qatar* and *Msheireb Museums: Transforming Doha's Heritage Houses*.

Building on Tradition establishes a comprehensive framework for contemporary Qatari architecture through the introduction of the "Seven Principles".

Utilising Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD), dubbed as the world's largest sustainable downtown regeneration as its primary case study, the book demonstrates how timeless architectural wisdom can inform exceptional 21st century urban design.

According to Msheireb Museums, the Seven Principles – Continuity, Individual and Collective, Space and Form, Aspects of the Home, Aspects of the Street, Designing for Climate, and Architectural Language – offer a sophisticated methodology for honouring Qatar's cultural identity while addressing modern needs through climate-responsive and culturally sensitive design.

The second publication, *Msheireb Museums: Transforming Doha's Heritage Houses*, chronicles the meticulous restoration of the four historic houses at the heart of the museums: Radwani House, Mohammed Bin Jassim House, Company House, and Bin Jelmood House.

The book documents the unique conservation approach, detailing how these rare examples of traditional Qatari domestic architecture were transformed into powerful, contemporary museological narratives, achieving LEED Gold standards.

The panel discussions explored the interplay between architectural heritage and future-forward innovation.

The first talk, titled "The Architectural Alphabet – Crafting Msheireb's Urban Language", examined the architecture and urban planning foundational to Msheireb's development, addressing the necessity of depicting the past while embracing the future and the importance of creating safer urban spaces.

The panel comprised Rosanna Law, Simon Gathercole, and Michael Mossessian, and was moderated by engineer Fatima Mohamed Fawzi, senior manager (Education and Sustainability) at Doha Design District.

The second discussion, "Truth in Translation – Weaving Heritage into the Modern Fabric", shines a spotlight on the sensitive process of transforming historic buildings into dynamic storytelling spaces.

This panel featured experts John McAslan, Fanos Panayides, and Fatima M Fazwy, and was moderated by Fahad al-Turki.

Katara, embassy organise tasting experience of Egyptian cuisine

Katara Cultural Village, in co-operation with the Egyptian embassy in Qatar, has organised a tasting event celebrating the masterpieces of Egyptian cuisine and its heritage.

The event was attended by Katara general manager Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti and Egyptian ambassador Walid Fahmy al-Faqi, as well as other ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps in Qatar, among other guests.

Attendees enjoyed a unique tasting experience featuring koshari – Egypt's most famous traditional dish, celebrated across the Arab world.

Prof Dr al-Sulaiti said that Katara seeks, through such events, to promote cultural dialogue and human connection among nations, considering cuisine an integral part of cultural identity and civilisational heritage.

Al-Faqi thanked Katara for its continuous support and efforts in showcasing Egyptian culture.

"We are delighted with this initiative, which allows us to highlight an aspect of Egyptian culture represented by our rich cuisine," the envoy said. "We look forward to more joint events that reflect the depth of the fraternal relations between Egypt and Qatar."

Koshari is one of the most popular dishes in Egypt and regarded as one of the most prominent symbols of Egyptian identity par excellence.

The dish combines simplicity and diversity, having originated in the 19th century with roots among Egypt's working classes.

It soon became a national favourite that brought together all social classes.


Right: Egyptian cuisine showcased at Katara.

ASD hosts Global Art Teachers Exchange

The American School of Doha (ASD) recently hosted the Global Art Teachers Exchange (GATE), an international conference that brings together visual arts educators from around the world to collaborate, learn, and celebrate creativity.

Established in 2018, the GATE provides relevant, practical, and affordable professional development designed specifically for visual arts teachers.

Each year, a different international school hosts this independently organised and funded event, with the goal of fostering collaboration and the exchange of innovative teaching practices.

This year, the ASD welcomed 65 art educators from more than 25 countries, for a weekend of immersive workshops, presentations, and cultural excursions.

The programme is aimed at inspiring new ideas and strengthening global connections in arts education.

"After a year of preparation, from proposal to selection among top international schools, we were thrilled to open our doors to art educators from across the globe," said ASD visual arts teacher and GATE team lead Klara Hermanek.

"Our Visual Arts team is passionate about creating an environment where creativity, expertise, and collaboration thrive," she said. "Hosting the GATE was a chance to share the love of art teaching with colleagues worldwide."

Spearheaded by Inge Winters, Joni Muller, Carla Otero, Wendy Zarter, Klara Hermanek, Ryan Pace, Liz Estudillo, and John Venditti, the ASD Visual Arts Department led the event, showcasing the school's dedication to artistic excellence and global engagement.

At the heart of the GATE is its participatory model: attendees lead workshops, facilitate discussions, and share classroom-ready resources.

Sessions ranged from early childhood to high school art education, emphasising hands-on, practical approaches directly applicable to the classroom.

The conference concluded with a strong sense of community and renewed enthusiasm for teaching the visual arts, underscoring the universal power of art to connect people across cultures and inspire lifelong learning, a statement added.

