



Qatar Insurance
Financial Results (Q3 2025)

Gross Written Premiums (GWP)
9%
QAR 7.9B

Net Profit
23%
QAR 645M

Net Profit
12%
QAR 588M

Earnings Per Share
14%
QAR 0.135

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Our Say



Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka, Editor-in-Chief of *Gulf Times*

Qatar, Uzbekistan forge stronger ties for shared progress

The visit of His Excellency President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Doha this week to attend the Second World Summit for Social Development marks a significant milestone in the steadily deepening relationship between Qatar and Uzbekistan. It highlights not only the strong diplomatic ties that unite our two nations but also the shared aspirations for sustainable growth, social progress, and cultural understanding grounded in our common Islamic heritage.

Shared Heritage, Modern Vision

Both Qatar and Uzbekistan represent two vibrant centres of the Islamic world – one in the Gulf, the other in the heart of Central Asia – each with a rich legacy of scholarship, culture, and tolerance. Uzbekistan, the land of Bukhara and Samarkand, was once the beating heart of the Silk Road, where trade and learning flourished. Qatar, meanwhile, has emerged as a global hub for dialogue, education, and innovation in the 21st century. The convergence of these histories and values gives special depth to their co-operation today. Both nations uphold the principles of dialogue, peace, and development championed by the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) and the United Nations. **To Page 7**

falmudahka@gulf-times.com

Qatar, UN flags raised; 2nd WSSD to be held in Doha from Nov 4-6

QNA
Doha

A flag-raising ceremony for the State of Qatar and the United Nations was held yesterday at the Qatar National Convention Centre to mark the opening of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), to be held in Doha from November 4 to 6. The summit features high-level participation from heads of state and government, as well as representatives of international and regional organisations.

The ceremony was attended by HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi; UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua; senior Qatari officials; and representatives of the United Nations.

In his remarks, HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Qatar's pride in hosting this major international event, held 30 years after the first social summit in Copenhagen.

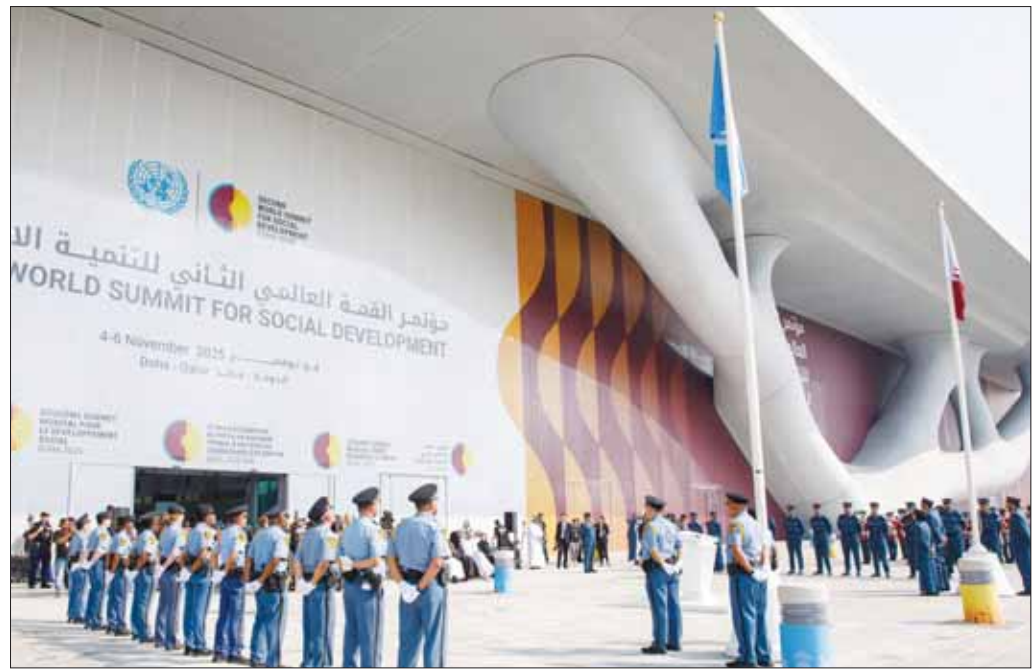
He affirmed that Qatar's hosting of the summit reflects its firm commitment to inclusive and sustainable social development and to multilateral co-operation in pursuit of social justice and well-being for all peoples. He added that the summit offers a pivotal opportunity to advance global dialogue on social development and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

HE al-Hammadi also praised the strategic partnership between Qatar and the United Nations, highlighted by the opening of the UN House in Doha,

which underscores Qatar's role as a trusted partner in supporting joint efforts with the international organisation.

The occasion featured a parachute display organised by Education Above All Foundation, in collaboration with the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and the Qatar Air Sports Committee of the Joint Special Forces, with parachutists soaring over Doha bearing banners of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The ceremony concluded with the raising of the flags of Qatar and the United Nations by Lekhwiya and UN security personnel, accompanied by celebratory music performed by the Lekhwiya band, a symbolic scene reflecting the depth of the partnership between Qatar and the United Nations and their shared commitment to advancing inclusive and sustainable social development.

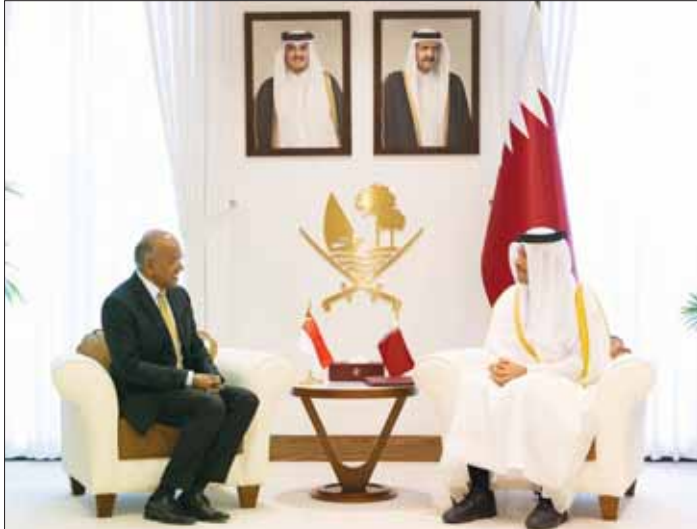


A flag-raising ceremony for Qatar and the UN was held yesterday at the Qatar National Convention Centre to mark the opening of the Second World Summit for Social Development, being hosted in Doha from Tuesday to Thursday.

Amir appoints ambassador to Bahrain

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani issued yesterday Amiri Decision No. 52 of 2025 appointing Nasser Abdullah Hassan al-Nassr as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The decision is effective starting from its date of issue, and is to be published in the official gazette. **(QNA)**

PM meets Singapore minister



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday Co-ordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, K Shanmugam, who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral co-operation relations and ways to support and enhance them, in addition to a number of topics of mutual interest. **(QNA)**

FIFA U-17 World Cup: Qatar open tournament against Italy today

The 20th edition of the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2025 will kick off in Doha today, running until Nov. 27, with the participation of 48 national teams – the largest number in the tournament's history. This edition marks the first of five consecutive tournaments that Doha will host until 2029. Matches will take place across eight stadiums within the Aspire Academy over 25 days, featuring a total of 104 matches, with eight games played daily throughout the various stages of the competition. The final match will carry special significance as it will take place at Khalifa International Stadium, one of the iconic venues of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The Qatar national team will officially open the tournament, facing Italy at 6.45pm today on



Pitch No. 7 at Aspire in Group A, which also includes South Africa and Bolivia. **Sport Pages 1, 4**

Call to protect journalists in war zones



Al Jazeera Centre for Public Liberties and Human Rights organised a seminar on the topic "Impunity for the Killers of Journalists: Concealing the Truth and Deepening the Silence", at the Al Jazeera Media Network headquarters in Doha.

The seminar was attended by a considerable number of editors in chief of Qatari newspapers, some of the families of the martyred Al Jazeera journalists, some of the journalists injured during their work in conflict zones, alongside their families and representa-

tives of the local and international partners of Al Jazeera Center including the Unesco, the UN Human Rights Office, The National Human Rights Committee, Qatar Press Center, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Editor-in-Chief of *Gulf Times* Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka took part in the seminar. He said that there should be an effective and practical mechanism to enhance the protection of journalists, in particular at the conflict zones. Besides, he stressed the importance of the collaborative efforts of the parties con-

cerned to take the necessary legal actions against those who threaten the lives of journalists to act as a deterrent and help improve the safety of the news reporting environment.

The seminar was held on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, held on November 2.

Through this seminar, the centre shed more light on the dear price paid by many journalists for reporting the truth and stressed the need for prosecuting the perpetrators of crimes against media-persons.

'Qatar Al Khair Camp' launched to support displaced Sudan families

QNA
Khartoum

Qatar Charity has launched a new humanitarian initiative to provide relief for people displaced from the city of Al Fasher to the Al Dabba area in Sudan's Northern State. The Qatar Al Khair Camp project, supported by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), will deliver shelter, food, water, and health and education services over a three-month period. Acting Governor of Northern State, Othman Ahmed Othman, praised Qatar Charity's swift and effective response to the worsening humanitarian situation, noting that its provision of food, shelter, and medical assistance would help ease the initial shock faced by displaced families amid a large influx of people into the area. He also announced that local



authorities had approved the establishment of the humanitarian camp to allow Qatar Charity to continue providing relief and social services to those affected. The official commended Qatar's ongoing support for Sudan, describing Qatar Charity as a key partner in humanitarian and disaster relief efforts. **To Page 7**

Shura panel reviews draft budget for 2026

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Shura Council held its first meeting of the current session yesterday, chaired by Mohammed bin Youssef al-Mana, the committee's chair. During the meeting, the committee discussed the draft state budget for the 2026 fiscal year and the draft law approving it, and decided to continue its review at its next meeting. **(QNA)**

All US lawsuits against QC dismissed

Qatar Charity welcomed the dismissal of all lawsuits filed against it in the US, reaffirming the organisation's integrity, transparency, and strict adherence to international humanitarian and financial standards. Several unfounded lawsuits were filed in US courts against Qatar Charity, alleging that the organisation supported extremist groups in Syria and Palestine. **Page 4**

يَا أَيُّهَا الشَّافِعِيُّ الْإِسْلَامُ فِي رَجْعِهِ لَأِيُّ زُلُمٍ لِّلْأَعْيُنِ مِمَّا فَرَغَ مِنْ حَبَارَئِيٍّ وَالَّذِي عَلَى حِمْنِيٍّ
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QC welcomes dismissal of US lawsuits

Qatar Charity welcomed the dismissal of all lawsuits filed against it in the US, reaffirming the organisation's integrity, transparency, and strict adherence to international humanitarian and financial standards.

In recent years, several unfounded lawsuits were filed in US courts against Qatar Charity, alleging that the organisation supported extremist groups in Syria and Palestine. All cases have since been dismissed, including one that was withdrawn by the plaintiffs after it emerged that the evidence presented had been doctored. In that

particular case, Qatar Charity has since initiated legal proceedings in the US to identify those responsible for falsifying the evidence. The US courts have authorised the start of a discovery process.

Qatar Charity stated that these outcomes reflect its unwavering commitment to humanitarian neutrality and transparency, in line with its long-standing partnerships with the UN, international NGOs, and government institutions worldwide.

"We welcome the court decisions and reaffirm our commitment to humanitarian principles

and accountability," said Yousef AlKuware, Chief Executive Officer. "Our focus has always been on delivering life-saving aid to those in need, and ensuring that humanitarian action remains independent of political agendas."

With these cases now concluded, the organisation expressed growing concern over the rise of "lawfare": the use of legal mechanisms and lawsuits to restrict, stigmatise, or intimidate humanitarian organisations, particularly those working in Palestine and other politically sensitive contexts.

Such tactics, Qatar Charity

warned, divert resources, discourage partnerships, and impede the delivery of urgent humanitarian aid to civilians. In the wake of the recent ceasefire in Gaza, this phenomenon threatens to slow the reconstruction and recovery process at a time when needs are greatest.

"Humanitarian work must never be criminalised or politicised," added al-Kuware. "The international community has a moral responsibility to protect aid organisations from targeted campaigns that weaponise the law against humanitarian assistance. The victims of such tactics are not institutions,

but the millions of families awaiting aid and recovery." Qatar Charity operates under a robust system of governance, due diligence, and compliance, including financial audits, anti-terror financing safeguards, and partnership vetting aligned with international humanitarian standards.

The organisation continues to work closely with UN agencies, donors, and international networks such as the CHS Alliance, the Start Network, and BOND to strengthen the collective accountability of the humanitarian sector.

As reconstruction efforts in Gaza

and other crisis regions intensify, Qatar Charity calls upon international actors, regulators, and financial institutions to uphold humanitarian neutrality and depoliticise the flow of aid.

Ensuring an enabling environment for NGOs to operate safely and independently is essential for effective humanitarian response and sustainable recovery.

"Aid must reach people based on need alone," concluded al-Kuware. "The principles of humanity and impartiality must rise above politics, especially in times when lives depend on them?" (QNA)



Qatar-Singapore security ties discussed

HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohammed al-Thani met with Singapore's Co-ordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs, K Shanmugam. Discussions during the meeting touched on a range of subjects of shared interest, avenues for reinforcing security co-operation between the two countries, and advancing work mechanisms in the relevant fields. (QNA)

Deputy PM meets Dutch defence minister



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, met with Minister of Defence of the Netherlands, Ruben Brekelmans, and his accompanying delegation during their official visit to Qatar. Discussions during the meeting centred on subjects of shared interest and ways to enhance them. HE the Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces, Lt Gen (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai, and Chief of Defence of the Dutch Armed Forces, Gen Onno Eichelsheim, alongside several high-ranking officers and officials from both sides, attended the meeting. (QNA)

NHRC to hold rights symposium

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC), in partnership with the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI), is set to organise an international symposium on Wednesday on human rights at the core of social development, towards a sustainable future.

The event will be held on the sidelines of the second World Summit for Social Development, hosted by Doha from Nov 4-6 at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

HE the NHRC Chairperson Maryam bint Abdullah al-Attiah said social development is

among the foremost priorities Qatar strives to advance through public legislations and policies, as well as a variety of measures. She noted the nation's permanent constitution lays a robust groundwork for social development.

In its third pillar concerning social development, Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030) seeks to advance the social field through a tripartite of aims, chiefly social care and protection, strengthening the community's structure, and international co-operation, al-Attiah highlighted.

She added that issues of social development have been receiv-

ing increasing attention from the international community, emphasising that global efforts have persisted, stemming from the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995, along with the outgrowth in terms of obligations, with the UN General Assembly issuing an array of social development-relevant resolutions.

The general objective of this symposium lies in exploring ways to incorporate human rights into core social development-relevant policies and programs, embodying the effective participation of national human rights institutions, NGOs, and stakeholders in

this summit, in addition to promoting awareness of cohesion and solidarity between human rights and social development, she noted.

Alongside NHRC and AN-NHRI, several institutions will also participate in organising this symposium, namely the Ministry of Social Development and Family, the Ministry of Labour, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Office, and the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, together with the participation of NGOs, experts, and specialists. (QNA)

Cuba PM meets health minister



Visiting Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz met yesterday with HE the Minister of Public Health Mansoor bin Ebrahim bin Saad al-Mahmoud. The meeting discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them in the health sector. (QNA)

Qatar-Japan environment talks




HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie held talks in Doha yesterday with Japan's ambassador, Naoto Hisajima, on strengthening co-operation between the two nations in environmental protection and sustainability. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to enhance joint efforts to address climate change and manage natural resources effectively. (QNA)

China's VP arrives in Doha



Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng arrived in Doha yesterday to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development, which is hosted by Qatar from Nov 4-6. He was welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, and China's ambassador, Cao Xiaolin. (QNA)



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ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE OF THE FOLLOWING TENDER:

Tender No.	Subject	Tender Bond (Q.R.S.)	Closing Date
AAH/TC/18/2025	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Urodynamic System with Accessories	QAR 30,000	3rd December 2025

- The full documents for the above mentioned tender can be obtained from the PURCHASING DEPARTMENT of Al-Ahli Hospital from Sunday to Thursday, between 9:00AM to 1:00PM upon payment of non-refundable fee of **QAR 4,000.00 to Accounts Receivables, Finance department Al-Ahli Hospital.**
- The tender should be accompanied by a Tender Bond issued by a Qatar Accredited Bank and acceptable to Al-Ahli Hospital. The bond should be valid for 120 days from the submission date of the tender.
- The successful tenderer should submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the contract value, which should be valid for 180 days beyond the warranty period.
- The tenders should submit in three (3) sealed envelopes: one (1) envelope for Technical Offer, one (1) envelope for Commercial Offer, and one (1) envelope for Tender Bond.
- Tenders must be addressed to the Chairman of the Tender Committee, clearly indicating the Tender Number and Subject.
- The Last date to purchase the tender documents will be on **25th Nov. 2025.**
- The closing time for the submission of bid Tenders should be no later than 2:00PM of the Closing Date.

For further information please contact: **Purchasing Department**
Phone: **+974 4489 8663** – Fax: **+974 4489 8768**
Email: **mohiddens@ahlihospital.com**

Shura Council, IPU to hold forum

The Shura Council, in co-operation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), will hold a parliamentary forum tomorrow titled "Investing in People and Institutions: The Role of Parliamentarians in Social Development", on the sidelines of the Second Global Social Development Summit hosted by Qatar from Nov 4-6.

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council, Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, will deliver the opening speech at the forum, alongside IPU Secretary-General Martin Chungong.

The forum, held at Qatar National Convention Centre, will include a panel discussion titled "Building Bridges for Inclusive Development". Parliamentarians and social development stakeholders will discuss a variety of topics, including human investment, expanding economic participation, and strengthening the role of institutions in related fields.

The session, moderated by member of the Shura Council and member of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Yousuf bin Ali al-Khater, will also highlight practical experiences and successful models, aiming to produce actionable recommendations that support parliamentary work in this field.

HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council and Vice-Chair of the IPU Executive Committee, Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti, will deliver the closing remarks. (QNA)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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Qatar Boat Show 2025 ready to light up Old Doha Port

The stage is set for the second edition of Qatar Boat Show 2025, returning to Old Doha Port from November 5-8, under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani.

This year's edition brings together the world's leading yacht builders, luxury brands, and maritime innovators in a spectacular celebration of craftsmanship, culture, and creativity, a statement said yesterday.

Following its record-breaking debut, the 2025 edition will feature a stronger international presence with prominent SYBASS

members, such as: Gulf Craft, Feadship, Benetti, Oceanco, and Heesen.

The show will also feature regional and world premieres, including Turkiye's AIATA and La Sera will make their regional launches, while Bahrain's Seven Craft and Aldhaen will stage global debuts, and the UAE's Al Shaali Marine will be making their first appearance in Qatar.

A strong spotlight will be cast on Qatar's own marine manufacturing sector, with showcases from Doha Craft Marine, Halul Boats, Belhambar Boats, Tornado Boats, and Zawraq Marine — the first yacht fully built in Qatar.

Complementing these show-

cases, the Erhama Bin Jaber Al Jalahma Shipyard, the country's largest private shipyard for building and repairing boats, will unveil new models that highlight Qatar's growing leadership in maritime innovation.

Beyond the marina, Old Doha Port's waterfront will witness captivating live performances and experiences, including suspended musical performances, and roaming musicians bringing energy along the Mina Corniche. Maritime showcases will include live diving demonstrations at the Dive Pool Show.

In addition, a dedicated zone will spotlight participating companies from the marine fishing

sector, featuring interactive shows and competitions.

Organised in collaboration with the Nomas Center, the activities will include live demonstrations by children and members of the centre, celebrating Qatar's rich fishing heritage.

As the sun sets, fireworks and synchronised drone shows will light up the sky over Old Doha Port. Visitors can enjoy more than 20 global and local F&B outlets, such as floating cafés from Earth and Qinwan, and Le Relais de l'Entrecôte, and explore the "Oshar" art exhibition featuring maritime-inspired artworks that celebrate Qatar's seafaring heritage, featuring a select group of



artists and fine painters.

Engineer Mohammed Abdulla al-Mulla, CEO of Old Doha Port and chairman of the Organising Committee of Qatar Boat Show 2025, said: "This year's edition builds on the success of the inaugural show, expanding its global reach and reinforcing Qatar's position as a leading destination for yachting, tourism, and innovation

and as the host of one of the region's most prominent emerging showcases on the global maritime calendar. Through continuous planning and collaboration with our partners, we are fully prepared to deliver an exceptional experience that showcases the readiness, ambition, and world-class capabilities of both Old Doha Port and Qatar."

Booker Prize-shortlisted author in GU-Q Qalam series

Booker Prize-shortlisted author Nadifa Mohamed revealed how writers make history matter, during a book discussion at Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) with her topic: A man executed for a crime he did not commit.

She didn't lean into the inhumanity of the events, instead focused on the human, asking: "How is he not a victim?"

At the discussion, Nadifa demonstrated something powerful: how to reclaim history not as a distant observer, but as a cultural insider who understands the world that shaped her subject's life.

Nadifa's quest to understand the true Mahmood Hussein Mattan, a Somali merchant seaman wrongfully executed in 1952, began with a news story on the overturning of his conviction nearly 50 years too late.

Her first breakthrough, however, came when she discussed the falsified evidence and racial prejudice of the day with her father. "I knew Mahmood," he said.

That conversation on the life of Somali seamen led to her first book based on her father's life story, called *Black Mamba Boy*.

She eventually got access to the court archives, poring over police records and ship logs from 1950s Cardiff, but still couldn't get beyond a recounting of the sequence of events. So she did what great scholars do: she asked better questions. "My challenge to myself was why did it happen? What does Mahmood do? Where does his agency lie in all of this?"

By refusing to accept the historical record's silences, Nadifa uncovered the humour, pride, faith, and humanity that archives had erased. She travelled to Cardiff's Tiger Bay neighbourhood, interviewed



Nadifa Mohamed at the event.

elderly Somali sailors, and pieced together a portrait of dignity in the face of injustice. The result was *The Fortune Men* — a novel that doesn't just tell you what happened, but makes you feel what it meant.

During her conversation with GU-Q writer-in-residence, Kamila Shamsie, at the latest instalment in the university's Qalam series, Nadifa demonstrated that excellent writing isn't separate from rigorous scholarship — it's scholarship at its most powerful.

By explaining how she told Mattan's story as a cultural insider who shares his Somali heritage, Nadifa delivered a masterclass on the kind of thinking Georgetown students are challenged to do every day — to ask hard questions, dissect official narratives, and discover truths hidden in plain sight, a statement added.

QCB, Qatar Airways Privilege Club collaborate to offer benefits to Himyan cardholders

Qatar Central Bank has partnered with Qatar Airways Privilege Club enabling Himyan prepaid and debit cardholders to enjoy Privilege Club benefits and collect 'Avios.'

Himyan cardholders can now collect one Avios for every QR8 spent using their cards on online or point-of-sale (POS) transactions. The cardholders will also benefit from card-linked offers, whereby they will collect even more Avios for purchases with linked Himyan cards at participating Privilege Club partner outlets, which include retail, dining, entertainment, lifestyle and more venues across Qatar.

This pioneering first-of-its kind partnership is now available to both existing and new Himyan cardholders of Ahli Bank, AlRayan Bank, Commercial Bank, Doha Bank, Dukhan Bank, Qatar



International Islamic Bank, Qatar Islamic Bank, and Qatar National Bank.

Commenting on the initiative, HE the Deputy Governor of Qatar Central Bank, Sheikh Ahmed bin Khalid bin Ahmed bin Sultan al-Thani stated: "This initiative reflects the Qatar Central Bank's commitment to developing the national payments ecosystem and strengthening collaboration with partners across various sectors. "It aligns with the objectives of the Third Financial Sector Strategy of

the State of Qatar, supports the digital payments transformation, and further enhances the benefits of the Himyan card as a secure and advanced payment instrument within the State of Qatar".

Qatar Airways Group CEO Badr Mohammed al-Meer said: "Our collaboration with the Qatar Central Bank reflects Qatar Airways' commitment to supporting Qatar's digital and economic transformation." Privilege Club members can redeem the Avios they collect through Himyan card purchases for travel and lifestyle rewards of their choice.

With Cash + Avios, they can enjoy flexible partial payments using Avios, benefit from significant discounts on flights, upgrades, extra baggage allowance, holiday packages, and much more.

A Jaipur Legacy Unveiled: Birdhichand Ghanshyamdas Opens in Association with Al Darwish Jewellery in Doha

Birdhichand Ghanshyamdas, one of India's most distinguished fine jewellery houses, proudly announces the inauguration of its flagship showcase in Doha, Qatar, in partnership with the esteemed Al Darwish Jewellery.

Founded in the royal city of Jaipur, Birdhichand Ghanshyamdas has long been celebrated for its ability to reinterpret traditional Indian artistry through a contemporary lens. Each creation is a confluence of imagination, cultural heritage, and meticulous craftsmanship; qualities that have cemented Birdhichand's reputation as one of India's foremost luxury jewellery brands. Now, with its Doha debut, the brand extends this narrative of artistry and refinement to an international audience that values cultural authenticity and timeless design.



The Doha showcase unveils an exquisite curation of Birdhichand's Haute Joaillerie masterpieces alongside its contemporary prêt line both designed for a new generation of collectors who seek individuality and emotional resonance in every jewel.

Yash Aggarwal, Creative Director of Birdhichand Ghanshyamdas, remarks, "Birdhichand has always celebrated the poetry of craftsmanship every collection retells a chapter of Jaipur's artistic legacy through modern sensibilities. Our entry into Doha is both a continuation and an evolution of that story. The Middle East, with its deep cultural ties to India and its growing passion for bespoke craftsmanship, is a natural home for Birdhichand's philosophy."

Mr. Abdalla Jassem Al Darwish, Chairman of Al Darwish Jewellery, remarked:

"India remains one of the most influential centres of jewellery craftsmanship. What sets Birdhichand apart is its commitment to originality — every design is created and produced in-house,



ensuring exclusivity and artistic integrity. As tastes evolve, our clients increasingly value such meaningful and distinctive creations, and we are proud to present them in Qatar through this collaboration."

This partnership stands as a bridge between two distinguished traditions, India's mastery in jewellery making and Qatar's appreciation for art and luxury. Together, Birdhichand and Al Darwish Jewellery celebrate legacy, authenticity, and innovation—offering jewellery that stands the test of time.

The collection is now available exclusively at Al Darwish Jewellery, Ariane Real Estate Tower, Doha, Qatar.





GULF HELICOPTERS COMPANY (GHC) Q.P.S.C.

Invites prospective suppliers to participate in the following tender

Tender Reference and Description	Submission of information & willingness for bidding	Tender fee (non-refundable)	Tender publication	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
Tender No. RFQ-GHC/SCO/025/2025	Until 6 th November 2025	QAR 500/-	13 th November 2025	QAR 20,000. 00	26 th November 2025 12:00 PM
Provision of Transportation Services		Until 11 th November 2025 10:00 am			

Brief Scope: GHC invites reputable and qualified suppliers to submit their bids for the Provision of Transportation Services for a period of One (1+1) year extension option. The scope of work requires the regular to provide its employees, visitors, Client, with a daily shuttle Service. Suppliers are expected to maintain consistent quality, ensure timely delivery, and comply with all applicable health and safety regulations in the State of Qatar.

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and send contact details to GHC email (procurement@qulhelicopters.com) indicating company name, address, telephone, official email, authorized company representative, etc. latest by 6th November 2025.

GHC tender reference numbers and description must be mentioned in the email.

ii. Non-refundable tender fee of QAR 500/- is payable to GHC, only through QNB account # 00134036531-001 IBAN # QA80QNBAA00000000013036531001 via online or at any QNB branch. Interested bidders shall attach the evidence of the tender fee payment and send it via bidder company official email to GHC email: procurement@qulhelicopters.com, latest by 11th November 2025, 10:00 am for GHC approval.

iii. Tender package will be sent via email to the confirmed participants from tender@qulhelicopters.com by 13th November 2025. GHC shall provide the necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.

iv. Original of the Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee) must be submitted by hand to the following address:


Gulf Helicopters Company,
P O Box: 811, Al Areesh Street,
Ras Abu Abboud, Doha, Qatar
Tel: +974 44 333 888
Attention: Supply Chain Manager

Attach a copy of tender bond to the technical offer. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

V. For any clarifications on the above, please send your queries with tender reference and description addressed to Supply Chain Mail to email procurement@qulhelicopters.com

VI. For the submissions of technical and commercial proposals shall be submitted to tender@qulhelicopters.com

Note: Bidders who are not registered in GHC will be requested to complete the supplier registration process during the tendering period.




Invitation to Tender

Tender / Auction Number	Subject	Tender / Auction Document Fees (Non-refundable)	Tender / Auction Bond	Tender/Auction Offer	Closing Date
AL-AWALIA/TD/2025/33	Call-Off Agreement for the Supply and Delivery of Pantry Items for Qatar Primary Materials Company ("Supplies")	500 QAR	41,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	10 November 2025 01:00 PM

In accordance with the following conditions:

- Tender Documents can be collected online by sending email to tender@qpmc.qa along with requested documents in point No.2.
- Tender Documents will be shared only after delivery of Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized person as per Computer ID. Copy of commercial Registration (CR), Business License and Computer ID.
- Bids are to be submitted in two sealed (in red wax) envelopes (Technical & Commercial), and addressed to Tenders and Auction Committee. Tender reference number and subject are to be clearly written on the envelopes, provided that the last date for submitting bids is one o'clock in the afternoon on the closing day. Any bids submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
- Tenders shall submit the proposals to our head office located at Lusail, Building No. 108, St. No. 303, Burj Marina Tower, 17th Floor before the closing date. (To get the map of the new building, please scan the QR code below).
- Tender Fees are non-refundable and can be transferred online to Account of Qatar Primary Material Company - Bank A/C (4050-63101-006) at Commercial Bank of Qatar. IBAN No. (QA 18 CBQA 0000 0000 4050 63111 006) Tender reference number and subject are to be written on the deposit slip.
- Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee/ Manager Cheque) must be valid for 120 days after closing date and must be submitted in separate & sealed envelope along with technical bid and a photocopy is to be attached with commercial bid. Bids without tender bond will be rejected.
- Bids must be valid for 90 days after the closing date.
- Any queries relating to the Tender Documents must only be raised in writing, preferably by email, to the address specified in the respective Tender Document. Any response issued by Qatar Primary Material Company will be in the form of a question and answer and will be distributed to all Tenderers without revealing the identity of the originator of the query(ies) in the Form of Tender Bulletins. Queries must be received at the address specified in the respective ITT Documentation at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Tender closing date. Any queries received after such a date will be ignored.
- The amount of the Performance Bond to be provided by the awarded bidder is (10% of the contract value) and its validity period must remain valid under the contract implementation period and the guarantee period according to the terms of the tender.
- The Technical Bids shall be opened within one week of the closing date.
- Qatar Primary Material Company has the right, during the contract period, to request an increase or decrease in the amounts of the items, works or services by a percentage not exceeding (20%) of the contract value with the same conditions and prices, provided that the increase is of the same type of contracted items, works or services.
- Qatar Primary Material Company's tendering terms and conditions apply.
- For any inquiries about the tender except collecting the documents, please contact tender@qpmc.qa
- Location of the new building



For further inquiry, please send your queries at email to tender@qpmc.qa or visit Qatar Primary Material Company website at www.qpmc.qa

شركة قطر للمواد الأولية (ش.م.ع.م) | مركزها الرئيسي: الدوحة - قطر، منطقة لوسيل، برج مارينا، رقم 108، شارع 33204 | 33204 | هاتف: 4447 9411 | فاكس: 4447 9411
Qatar Primary Materials Company (P.S.C.) | Head Office: Doha-Qatar, Lusail, Marina Tower No. 108 | CR No. 33204 | P.O. Box 22095 | Tel. +974 4447 9411
رأس المال المصرح به 200,000,000 ريال | رأس المال المدفوع 200,000,000 ريال | Paid Up Capital 200,000,000 QAR | Capital 200,000,000 QAR

talabat hosts annual Choice Awards at Hospitality Qatar

talabat, the leading on-demand delivery platform in the Mena region, concluded its participation at Hospitality Qatar 2025 10th Anniversary as the official Food Tech Partner for the fifth consecutive year. Held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre from October 28-30, the event gathered industry leaders, professionals, and innovators from the food, technology, and hospitality sectors, a statement said. The Hospitality Qatar main stage also featured the annual talabat Choice Awards, which recognised top performing restaurants, grocery and retail stores, third-party logistics, and other associated partners across multiple categories including Fastest Delivery, Best Quality, Best Service, and Most Loved Brands of 2025. This year, talabat introduced an all new activation at Hospitality Qatar - talabat Kiosks. The branded space featured



several partner restaurants who presented their dishes to attendees. The initiative was designed to showcase Qatar's diverse culinary landscape and strengthen

connections between partner restaurants and customers through an interactive experience. Francisco Miguel de Sousa, managing director of talabat Qatar, stated: "We are proud

to continue our partnership with International Fairs and Promotions Qatar for the fifth consecutive year. "Hospitality Qatar provides an excellent platform to celebrate the

achievements of our partners and highlight the innovations shaping the future of food technology. The introduction of talabat Kiosks this year brought our partners even closer to the community, offering

a unique way to experience the best of Qatar's food scene." Customers can download the talabat app via the IOS App Store, Google Play Store, or Huawei App Gallery.

Federation of Arab Journalists lauds Qatar press freedom

The Permanent Committee for Freedoms of the Federation of Arab Journalists issued its Annual Report on the Reality of Press Freedom in the Arab World (2024-2025), including Qatar, at a press conference in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott. The report highlighted the ongoing existential crises and severe hardships confronting journalists in Gaza, where Israeli forces deliberately targeted them, resulting in the deaths of 256 journalists since Oct 7, 2023. It also drew attention to the risks faced by journalists working in Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Lebanon, as well as the legislative challenges and economic crises in several other Arab countries.

According to the report, Qatar has made significant progress in promoting press freedom, ranking 79th globally on the World Press Freedom Index, advancing five places from the previous year. It also topped the Middle East countries in press freedom and journalist protection, reflecting the importance of Qatar's experience in this field and its alignment with international standards.

Qatar has firmly established its position on the international map to guarantee freedom of expression and protect journalists, enabling them to perform their noble mission. The country has long believed in freedom of the press and media as a noble message grounded in conveying the truth and ending the monopoly of information. Qatar has repeatedly called for the protection of journalists in conflict and war zones.

Qatar affirms that the protection and safety of journalists remain a national priority and are regarded as essential to achieving freedom of expression. It has also made significant efforts, both locally and internationally, to safeguard journalists' rights.

The Qatar Press Center, established in December 2017 as a private institution serving the public interest under Law No 21 of 2006, includes hundreds members of journalists and media professionals. It is one of the country's leading media institutions, dedicated to serving and supporting the journalism sector in Qatar.

The centre enjoys the support of its founders pioneers of Qatari journalism and media who have empowered it to fulfil its mission with the required professionalism and efficiency, advancing the nation's jour-



nalistic experience while providing a range of services to media professionals.

The centre has been and continues to be among the first entities to condemn Israeli attacks on Palestinian journalists following the start of the aggression on Oct 7, 2023, documenting the martyrdom of 256 Palestinian journalists. It sent official letters to several international organisations, such as Reporters Without Borders, the International Federation of Journalists, and Human Rights Watch, calling for the protection of journalists and accountability for the perpetrators. The Center also expressed solidarity with Sudanese, Yemeni, and Syrian journalists who have suffered grave violations.

According to the centre's monitoring, which covers all journalists and media professionals working across the print, broadcast, and digital sectors in Qatar over the past three years, the overall environment for journalists, media professionals, and news platforms in Qatar is safe and stable, supported by legislation that guarantees freedom of opinion and expression and does not restrict journalistic work.

There are no cases of any journalist or media professional being referred to trial in connection with their pro-

fessional activities, publishing, or broadcasting false news, nor are there any cases brought before the courts against journalists.

No complaints have been filed regarding verbal or physical abuse, denial of information, arbitrary detention, or enforced disappearance of journalists. Qatari law provides that the exercise of freedom of expression is accompanied by clear responsibilities and may be subject to limited restrictions to protect the rights of others.

Government ministries and agencies in Qatar are keen to engage directly with various media outlets, issuing official statements to clarify decisions and procedures, and to counter misinformation on social media.

In cases where a journalist publishes inaccurate information, the affected party issues a correction. If the information is proven false, it may - under standard protocol - formally request the media outlet to publish a correction. If the outlet ignores the request, the entity then has the right to file a complaint with the public prosecution. However, the centre has recorded no such cases in recent years.

Financial challenges remain the most pressing issue facing Arab and

Gulf media, particularly following the collapse of the advertising market since 2014 - a crisis that worsened after the Covid-19 pandemic. Advertisers have largely shifted to digital platforms and influencers, leaving traditional media struggling to sustain operations. Although there has been some recovery after the pandemic, it is still not enough. Unless new sources of funding are secured, some major media institutions may be forced to close in the coming years.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer a technological luxury but a professional necessity for effective communication. However, the human element remains the ultimate guarantee of accuracy, ethics, and editorial integrity, which requires collective efforts to uphold the values of truth, responsibility, and professionalism.

Many traditional media roles are now being replaced by AI applications, leading to the reduction of the human element for reasons of economy and efficiency. In this context, journalists are required to reach higher levels of creativity and innovation that go beyond the capabilities of AI. Moreover, fostering an enabling environment helps journalists harness artificial intelligence effectively in their media work.

QIC reaffirms commitment to community health

Qatar Insurance (QIC) has reaffirmed its commitment to community health and wellbeing through a series of impactful initiatives conducted in collaboration with the Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) during October.



Rashid al-Buainain

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, QIC organised a 'Breast & Cervical Cancer Awareness' event under the theme 'In Support of Pink October'. Conducted in partnership with QCS, the session featured a certified health educator who shared vital insights on risk factors, symptoms, and the importance of early detection.

A clinical dietitian also led a healthy cooking session, offering practical nutrition and lifestyle guidance to reduce cancer risk. More than 50 female employees from across QIC attended the event, wearing pink in solidarity and engaging in open conversations about women's health and preventive care.

In addition, QIC served as the insurance sponsor of Qatar Cancer Society's 'Relay for Life 2025', a major community event dedicated to honouring cancer survivors, remembering those lost, and inspiring collective action in the fight against cancer.

The event brought together individuals, families, and organisations for a four-hour walk symbolising hope, resilience, and unity. The initiative emphasised the importance of physical activity, early detection, and community support in reducing the impact of cancer. Rashid al-Buainain, QIC Group chief administrative officer, stated: "At QIC, we believe that promoting health and wellbeing is an essential part of our social responsibility. Partnering with the Qatar Cancer Society through initiatives like Pink October and Relay for Life allows us to support both individual empowerment and community-wide action in the fight against cancer. These efforts reflect our commitment to fostering a healthier and more informed society."

One of the participating employees said: "The sessions were both educational and inspiring. They reminded us how awareness and small lifestyle changes can make a powerful difference. Seeing so many colleagues come together for this cause was truly uplifting."

Through its ongoing collaboration with QCS, QIC continues to advance its holistic approach to corporate social responsibility, with a focus on education, health, environment, and community development in alignment with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Reyada unveils 'Her Health' initiative



Reyada Medical Centre launched the 'Her Health!' focused on breast cancer awareness and conducted across various organisations in Qatar, reaching hundreds of women through informative talks and interactive sessions designed to encourage early detection and regular screening.

Led by Reyada's OBG specialists Dr Vijayalakshmi and Dr Lufna, the sessions provided insights on breast self-examination, routine screening, and lifestyle choices that support women's long-term wellbeing.

The doctors also addressed individual queries and emphasised the importance of awareness as the first step toward prevention.

Jamsheer Hamza, managing director of Reyada Medical Centre, said: "Through the 'Her Health' campaign, we aim to encourage every woman to prioritise preventive care and early detection - because awareness saves lives."

Dr Abdul Kalam, executive director of Reyada Medical Centre, said: "Empowering women with the right knowledge is key to early diagnosis and better outcomes in breast cancer."

Reyada Medical Centre, a JCI-accredited multi-speciality healthcare facility, located on C-Ring road, Doha, Qatar, has 15+ specialities and a team of 25+ expert doctors.

The centre offers an extensive range of services, including radiology, laboratory, pharmacy, optical, physiotherapy, and more, the statement added.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, JEAN MARTIAL TCHETCHE
holder of

COTE D'IVOIRE Passport No. 20AC68413
QID No. 28738400017

hereby change my name

from

JEAN MARTIAL TCHETCHE

to

MOJEED BABATUNDE RASAQ

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

Mark & Save Hyperstore celebrates 3rd anniversary in GCC

Mark & Save Hyperstore has announced the celebration of its '3rd Global Anniversary' across all its branches in Qatar, the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. The grand celebration will continue throughout the month of November, bringing customers an unforgettable shopping experience packed with exciting deals, unbeatable offers, mega promotions, and vibrant in-store events, a statement said. "Since its inception, Mark & Save Hyperstore has been committed to offering exceptional value, quality products, and customer satisfaction. "This anniversary celebration is a gesture of gratitude to its loyal customers for their continuous support and trust over the years. "During this festive month, shoppers can explore exclusive discounts across all major categories, enjoy thrilling shopping activities, and take part in special promotions designed to make every visit rewarding," the statement added.



Seabed cleanup campaign at Gewan Island

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Marine Protection Department has participated in a seabed cleanup activity at The Pearl Island. The event was organised in cooperation with United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl and Gewan Islands, as part of the activities of Qatar Sustainability Week. The initiative aimed to remove waste from the seabed and promote the concept of social responsibility toward the marine environment, while highlighting the importance of joint efforts between the public and private sectors in protecting the marine ecosystem and preserving biodiversity. The campaign successfully removed large amounts of metal and plastic waste, which often cause significant harm to the marine environment. The ministry noted that many of its staff members participated in the campaign, alongside a number of volunteers and divers.



QU partners with HBKU to host global sports biomechanics conference



Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), is hosting the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports Conference 2025 (ISBS 2025) for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa.

The five-day event at QU's College of Sport Sciences has brought together leading international experts, scientists, and researchers in the field of sports biomechanics.

ISBS 2025 is one of the world's most prominent scientific conferences specialising in sports biomechanics.

Organised annually on a rotating basis across continents, the event provides a platform for global experts to discuss cutting-edge research and technology that integrates sports science, mechanical engineering, and innovation.

Held under the theme "Innova-

tion, Technology, and Tradition," the conference features more than 250 experts and researchers from 40 countries, featuring 132 peer-reviewed papers, keynote lectures, applied laboratory workshops, and an international exhibition showcasing the latest in sports engineering and technology. The conference also highlights QU's newly established College of Sport Sciences, positioning it as a key contributor to the development of sport sciences in the region.

The event will include the ISBS flag handover ceremony to Loughborough University, which will host the 2026 edition.

Prof Ibrahim al-Kaabi, vice-president, Academic Affairs at QU, said: "This is an important opportunity to connect global knowledge with local capabilities, enabling students, faculty, researchers, and professionals to exchange ideas, explore modern

technologies, and build sustainable academic and professional networks."

Dr Ahmad M Hasnah, president of HBKU, said: "This conference marks a significant milestone in the partnership between HBKU and QU, and demonstrates our commitment to strengthening global scientific collaboration and positioning Qatar as a leading hub for sports sciences. Bringing together distinguished researchers and experts from around the world to exchange insights on the latest developments in sports biomechanics underscores our dedication to advancing interdisciplinary research that combines science, innovation, and community applications, highlighting the university's expertise in leveraging research and innovation to develop relevant technologies and applied solutions."

Qatar, Uzbekistan forge stronger ties

From Page 1

Economic Synergy and Energy Partnership

Economically, Qatar and Uzbekistan are increasingly aligned in their ambitions. Uzbekistan's ongoing reforms have opened new avenues for foreign investment, especially in energy, logistics, finance, and infrastructure—fields where Qatar possesses world-class expertise and capacity.

Qatar's leading energy companies, including QatarEnergy, have expressed interest in contributing to Uzbekistan's ambitious plans to modernize its gas infrastructure and expand renewable energy projects. This cooperation reflects a mutually beneficial dynamic: Qatar brings energy know-how and capital, while Uzbekistan offers promising markets and strategic access to Central Asia.

In turn, Uzbekistan's growing textile and agricultural industries present opportunities for Qatari investors eager to diversify portfolios beyond hydrocarbons. Bilateral trade, though modest in volume today, is poised for further growth through enhanced connectivity and economic cooperation.

Social Development and Human Capital

The President's participation in the World Summit for Social Development in Doha underscores both nations' shared commitment to placing people at the heart of progress. The summit's focus on education, equity, and sustainable livelihoods resonates deeply with the development agendas of Qatar and Uzbekistan.

Qatar's experience in human capital development—through initiatives like the Qatar Foundation and Education City—serves as a model for collaboration. Uzbekistan, with its large and youthful population, is undertaking substantial education reforms and digital transformation efforts that align with Qatar's expertise in innovation and smart infrastructure.

Such cooperation not only strengthens bilateral ties but also contributes to a broader Islamic and global

agenda for inclusive growth—where social justice, knowledge, and economic empowerment go hand in hand.

Cultural Diplomacy and Shared Values

Beyond economics, Qatar and Uzbekistan share a commitment to cultural diplomacy. Both nations invest in preserving Islamic art, architecture, and heritage, while also promoting modern creative industries. Cultural exchanges—through art exhibitions, academic cooperation, and media collaboration—enhance mutual understanding and reaffirm the role of culture as a bridge between civilizations.

Qatar Museums and Uzbek cultural institutions have already engaged in dialogue exploring partnerships that would bring Central Asian Islamic art to audiences in Doha and beyond. These efforts strengthen the spiritual and cultural fabric connecting the Gulf and Central Asia.

A Future of Co-operation and Stability

As global challenges grow more complex—whether in energy transition, climate change, or geopolitical uncertainty—the co-operation between nations sharing both vision and values becomes even more vital. Qatar and Uzbekistan are demonstrating that faith, modernity, and social progress can coexist harmoniously.

The visit of President Mirziyoyev thus stands as a testament to an expanding partnership—one that moves beyond diplomacy to encompass trade, education, energy, and shared human values. It embodies the spirit of South-South cooperation and the belief that prosperity is best achieved through collaboration, not competition.

As both nations chart their paths toward 2030 and beyond, the partnership between Qatar and Uzbekistan can serve as a model of constructive engagement in the Islamic world—a partnership rooted in mutual respect, cultural affinity, and a joint commitment to a fairer, more inclusive world.

falmudahka@gulf-times.com

Qatar Reads' One Book, One Doha Festival celebrates Arabic literature

Qatar Reads, an initiative under Qatar National Library, brought the richness of classical Arabic literature to life at the One Book, One Doha Festival 2025.

This year's vibrant and interactive edition spotlighted Maqamat al-Hariri, a literary masterpiece celebrated for its linguistic artistry, sharp humour, and cultural depth.

Being held from Nov 2 to 15, at Katara Building 18, the event provides an unparalleled educational and cultural experience, connecting readers across all generations by turning the classical text into an engaging, immersive public forum. The festival demonstrates the power of culture and education in bringing people together.

The festival's concept highlights al-Hariri's literary and linguistic brilliance, encouraging appreciation for the Arabic language through creative exploration, and promoting reading as a vital cultural practice.

Tan Huism, executive director of Qatar National Library, emphasised the festival's national significance. "The One Book, One Doha Festival serves as a dynamic catalyst for engaging with our rich Arab intellectual heritage, proving that our classical texts are both timeless and directly relevant to



today's generation," she noted.

"By making the festival interactive, we did more than celebrate a book; we highlighted the beauty of the Arabic language and invited all citizens and residents to join this cultural and educational discovery." The festival's extensive programme features several interactive zones designed for families, students, educators, and the general public. The Desert of Knowledge, for instance, serves as a central hub for activities that encourage linguistic creativity and teamwork, including the "Dotless Arabic Challenge" and "Proverbs of Al-Hariri" reconstruction in both Arabic and English.

The Secrets of the Maqamat (an Escape Room), sponsored by Seashore Group, is another engaging

challenge inspired by the protagonist's wit and adventures. It merges literary puzzle-solving with a focus on modern sustainability and environmental awareness, reflecting the Group's commitment to corporate social responsibility alongside cultural enrichment.

The Literary Souq zone of the festival offers a cultural marketplace featuring publishers, namely Dar Nabjiah, HBKU Press, and Dar Basma. Meanwhile, the Qatar Reads booth serves as a key platform to connect with the community, offering reading packages through the Family Reading Programme memberships. An interactive Debate Wall also invites visitors of all ages to reflect and vote for contemporary, thought-provoking questions inspired by the classic text. (QNA)

Visit Qatar presents Mo Amer Live in Doha on Nov 21



Visit Qatar presents acclaimed Palestinian-American comedian and actor Mo Amer, performing live in Doha on November 21 at the Katara Amphitheatre. As a pioneer in Arab American stand-up comedy, Mo Amer has built a global following by turning stories of identity, migration, and everyday life into powerful comedy that resonates across cultures, a statement said. The show forms part of Qatar's year-round calendar of events spanning culture, sport, and leisure, reinforcing Doha's growing reputation as a premier hub for unique events and experiences.

'Qatar Al Khair Camp' launched to support displaced Sudan families

From Page 1

Meanwhile, Manal Makawi, Minister of Social Affairs for Northern State, said Qatari aid had been among the first to reach Sudanese communities in need and that Qatar Charity has remained at the forefront of emergency response efforts.

Tariq Mohy Al Din, Acting Director of Qatar Charity's office in Sudan, said field teams had already begun preparations to implement the Qatar Al Khair Camp initiative, which will include interventions in shelter, food security, non food items, and access to safe drinking water.

He added that urgent relief distributions — including food baskets, tents, floor mats, blankets, and family hygiene kits — would begin immediately. Over the next three months, Qatar Charity's plan, supported by QFFD, will see the distribution of thousands of food parcels and daily meals for displaced families, along with shelter kits, hygiene packs, cooking utensils, mobile health clinics, potable water, and the establishment of a temporary school. Qatar Charity has called on donors and members of the public to contribute to its Relief for Sudan campaign to help meet the urgent needs of those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Al Fasher and surrounding areas.

Entries invited for Katara Prize for Arabic Novel 2026

Katara Cultural Village has announced the opening of nominations for the 12th Katara Prize for Arabic Novel 2026, running from early November until Jan 31, 2026.

The prize includes key categories, namely published novels and unpublished novels, research and critical studies, unpublished young adult novels, unpublished historical novels, and published Qatari novels.

General Manager of Katara Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti said he is excited about the success of the 11th prize, considering it exceptional because it primarily showcased a slew of new projects and initiatives.

They primarily include the Katara International Prize, dedicated to novels written in English, French, and Spanish, and the project to convert unpublished novels and unpublished historical novels into films using artificial intelligence, as well as the launch of the Katara Youth Novel Competition, devoted to university students across the Arab world, in addition to "The Novel Brings Us Together" initiative, which pairs a Qatari novelist with a novelist from an Arab country.

General Supervisor of the Katara Prize for Arabic Novel, Khalid Abdelrahman al-Sayed, affirmed that the prize committee has made it a tradition to respect a



guest of honour from an Arab country at every season of the Katara Arabic Novel Festival.

This initiative, he highlighted, aims to showcase the evolution of the novel in each chosen Arab country through focused seminars and exhibitions, shining a spotlight on its literary milestones.

Al-Sayed pointed out that opting for Saudi novels as a guest of honour for the 11th prize has contributed to pitching them in terms of origin and evolution, addressing their key champions, namely the late novelist and diplomat Ghazi Abdul Rahman al-Gosaibi, who was chosen as the character of the year. (QNA)



UNRWA operates over 70 shelters for displaced people in Gaza

QNA
New York

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) confirmed that it is currently operating more than 70 shelters in the Gaza Strip, housing tens of thousands of forcibly displaced people.

In a statement yesterday, the Agency noted that there is widespread destruction across the territory, in addition to unstable structures and unexploded ordnance, stressing that its teams continue their efforts tirelessly to ensure the shelters remain operational and to help children continue learning and playing.

UNRWA confirmed that over 25,000 Palestinian children have joined the agency's temporary learning spaces, either in person or online, emphasising plans to expand the number of these sites.

The Agency also stated that it provides online lessons targeting around 300,000 children in the Gaza Strip, explaining that literacy and education serve as remedies for despair and psychological trauma, thanks to the efforts of thousands of UNRWA teachers.



Displaced Palestinians wait for a food portion at a shelter where families have been living, in Nuseirat in the central of Gaza Strip, yesterday. **Right:** Palestinian children attend a class in the historic "Al-Kamaliya al-Othmanya" school in Gaza City's Old Town, as part of a volunteer initiative organised by displaced teachers, in Gaza City, yesterday.



Rights group warns Gaza cancer, kidney patients face death risk

QNA
Gaza

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) said it is deeply alarmed by the Israeli occupation forces' move to enforce a death sentence against cancer and renal failure patients in the Gaza Strip.

In a statement yesterday, PCHR said it is extremely apprehensive over the unprecedented worsening of patients' situation in Gaza due to the fallout from the Israeli military aggression and the persistent blockade imposed for over 19 years.

The occupation authorities deliberately block the flow of medicines, medical essentials, and spare parts for critical medical equipment into the enclave, along with imposing tight restrictions on patients' travel abroad for treatment, the statement con-

tinued. The statement added that this reality undoubtedly confirms that Israel engages in a policy of slow killing against thousands of patients by intentionally depriving them of their right to life and treatment, turning their suffering into a vehicle of harsh collective punishment.

The centre cited medical sources reporting that there are approximately 12,500 cancer patients in the Gaza Strip, including toddlers, noting that female patients represent 52% of the total.

The shortage of diagnostic equipment and the inoperational status of most examination and imaging departments has resulted in the diagnosis of no more than 1,000 patients, while it is estimated that approximately 3,000 other patients remain undiagnosed and face the risk of disease progression without medical care, presaging a silent health catastrophe that threat-

ens their lives, the statement warned. The statement further noted that the interruption of chemotherapy and targeted cancer treatments since October 2023 has caused the death of no fewer than 615 cancer patients since the onset of the onslaught on Gaza, including 179 cases in the first quarter of 2025 alone, due to medication shortages or forced treatment stoppages.

According to the statement, roughly 700 renal failure patients are at risk of death as a substantial number of dialysis centres have stopped functioning due to fuel depletion and shortages of filters and medical solutions.

The centre held the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for this reality and entreated the international community to act effectively to ramp up pressure on the occupation authorities to stop using patients as a vehicle for collective punishment.

Iranian tech prodigies battle it out with robots

AFP
Tehran

Two machines resembling robotic vacuum cleaners sped around a ring colliding, shooting sparks and catching fire, as Iranian engineering students watched from behind plexiglass.

The dramatic clash was just one of many opportunities for competitors to go head-to-head at the country's Tech Olympics, to determine the future of its engineering talents.

Iran aspires to become a key regional player in emerging technologies, despite decades of international sanctions that have stifled its development.

The fields at this year's competition included robot battles, programming, artificial intelligence, as well as drones, cybersecurity and connected devices.

A few hours before his event, Alireza Hosseini put the final touches on combat robot Arash – a rudimentary machine of wires and wheels without the appearance of a humanoid.

"What's more important than the design is the operator," the 21-year-old university student told AFP, referring to the person who remotely controls the robot.

"The design only represents a third of the work, but the operator decides how and where the robot attacks," said Hosseini, from Kerman in southern Iran.

Hosseini said his team of students in electrical engineering, electronics, computer science, mechanical engineering and design had been crowned Iran's robotics champion three times.

Launched last year at the government's initiative, the Tech Olympics serve as a talent pool for companies seeking potential recruits.

The coach of one team of



Engineering students and guests watch robots battle it out at Iran's Tech Olympics.

under-18s appeared somewhat anxious before the start of the competition.

"Unfortunately, we started late, and the robot isn't quite ready yet," said Azizi, who did not give his first name.

IRAN'S SILICON VALLEY

Three referees were tasked with judging the robot fights, just like in wrestling, a sport at which Iran excels.

The collisions between machines produce sparks, and sometimes even balls of fire. Victory goes to the robot that disables its opponent.

The Tech Olympics take place on the outskirts of the capital Tehran, at the Pardis Technology Park – nicknamed Iran's Silicon Valley – where dozens of cutting-edge companies are located.

The organisers boast that they received more than 10,000 applications for the competition, which was whittled down to 1,000 spots in the elimination rounds. A few foreign teams also participated. Iranian media mentioned more than a dozen countries ranging from neighbouring Iraq to far-away Romania. Iran has invested sizeable sums in emerging technologies,

including robotics, with dozens of companies using them for a variety of applications.

In September, the country unveiled its first AI-powered robot, capable of accurately answering a wide range of legal questions, according to local media.

The military has also harnessed these technologies, including for its Aria combat robot, which uses AI to detect obstacles and move autonomously and was unveiled in September.

In 2021, veterinarians in Iran performed the first-ever remote surgery on a dog using Sina, a surgical robot entirely designed and manufactured domestically.

The Tech Olympics aims to prepare students for real-world situations.

Mohammad-Javad Asadolahi, a 21-year-old studying mechanical engineering at university, said he and his classmates designed a drone – capable of taking off automatically and following a set trajectory – from scratch using "60 to 70% Iranian technology".

"Our main difficulty was the lack of educational resources" in English and Persian, he said.

But "thanks to our knowledge and research, we have gradually succeeded".

Pope denounces violence in Sudan, renews call for ceasefire

AFP
Rome

Pope Leo XIV yesterday renewed his call for an immediate ceasefire in Sudan and the "urgent opening of humanitarian corridors" there to alleviate "unacceptable suffering" caused by civil war.

He also appealed for an end to post-election violence in Tanzania. "With great sorrow, I follow the tragic news coming from Su-

dan, particularly from the city of El-Fasher in the afflicted northern Darfur region," the Pope said during his Angelus address at Saint Peter's Square. He denounced "indiscriminate violence against women and children, attacks on unarmed civilians, and serious obstacles to humanitarian action" that have caused "unacceptable suffering to a population already exhausted by long months of conflict". The Pope renewed a "heartfelt appeal to the parties involved for a ceasefire and the urgent opening of humani-

tarian corridors". In September, the head of the Catholic Church had called on the international community to increase diplomatic efforts to "end this humanitarian catastrophe" and ensure humanitarian corridors. Sudan's war has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced millions and triggered the world's largest displacement and hunger crisis.

International powers have struggled for months to mediate an end to the fighting between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese army.

Kenya landslide death toll rises to 26

Reuters
Nairobi

The death toll from a landslide in western Kenya's Rift Valley has risen to 26, a government spokesperson said yesterday, following heavy rains on Saturday.

Twenty-five people were still missing and 26 others had been rescued after devastating floods in Elgeyo-Marakwet County, government spokesperson Isaac Mwaura said in a statement. Most of the rescued people were receiving treatment.

The government has deployed military planes and disaster response specialists to conduct a search and rescue operation, Mwaura added.

Hundreds of people have been killed in recent years in landslides and flooding in Kenya, with scientists saying climate change is causing more intense and frequent extreme weather events.

Hundreds mourn Hezbollah members killed in Israeli attacks

AFP
Nabatieh

Hundreds of people gathered in south Lebanon's Nabatiyeh yesterday to mourn five Hezbollah members killed in recent Israeli attacks, an AFP correspondent said, as Israel warned of intensifying attacks against the group.

On Saturday, an Israeli strike killed four people in Kfar Rumman, Nabatiyeh district, the Lebanese health ministry and the Israeli military said.

Israel said the four were members of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force.

The attack came a day after the Israeli military said it had killed "a Hezbollah maintenance officer" working to re-establish the group's infrastructure sites in southern Lebanon in a strike on the same district.

An AFP correspondent at the funeral said hundreds of people gathered in Nabatiyeh city to mourn the five.

The men's coffins were draped in Hezbollah's flag while



Supporters of Lebanon's Hezbollah group gesture as they attend the funeral of fighters killed in recent Israeli attacks, in the southern city of Nabatiyeh, yesterday.

mourners threw petals and chanted "death to Israel, death to America".

Hezbollah fighters in military garb were present, swearing loyalty to Hassan Nasrallah, the group's former leader killed by Israel in September 2024, and to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Some held pictures of relatives killed by Israel, he added.

"This is a price the south is paying on a daily basis," said Rana Hamed, mother of one of the five men killed. "We know that

Israel has been our enemy for decades."

Hezbollah first began launching cross-border fire at Israel following the outbreak of the war in Gaza in October 2023, kicking off a more than year-long conflict that culminated in two months of open war before last year's ceasefire was agreed. Israel, however, has never stopped carrying out air strikes on Lebanon – usually saying it is targeting Hezbollah positions – and has stepped up the attacks in recent days.

Nigerian president hopes to meet Trump after military action threat

AFP
Lagos

Nigeria's president is hoping to meet with US counterpart Donald Trump, an aide said yesterday, after the US leader threatened to send the military into Africa's most populous country over what he has described as a threat to Christians by militants.

In an explosive post, Trump said on social media on Saturday that he asked the Pentagon to map out a possible plan of attack in Nigeria, one day after warning that Christianity was "facing an existential threat" there.

Nigeria, which is almost evenly divided between a Muslim-majority north and a largely Christian south, is embroiled in numerous conflicts that experts say have killed both communities without distinction.

In his post, Trump said that if Nigeria does not stem the killings, the United States will attack and "it will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the thugs attack our cher-

ished Christians". A senior aide to Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's, Daniel Bwala, told AFP that "we do not see the (post) in the literal sense."

"We know that Donald Trump has his own style of communication," Bwala said, told AFP, suggesting it was a way to "force a sit-down between the two leaders so they can iron out a common front to fight their insecurity".

Earlier Bwala had suggested in a post on X that the two leaders could meet soon.

"As for the differences as to whether terrorists in Nigeria target only Christians or in fact all faiths and no faiths, the differences if they exist, would be discussed and resolved by the two leaders when they meet in the coming days, either in State House or White House."

Bwala, who was speaking on the phone from Washington, declined to disclose details of any potential meeting. Trump posted on Friday, without evidence, that "thousands of Christians are being killed (and) Radicals are responsible for this mass slaughter."

OFFICIAL

China’s Premier Li to visit Australia in 2026: Albanese

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese yesterday said China’s Premier Li Qiang would visit Australia next year on a trip that may include a stop at Uluru, the giant monolith in central Australia. “Premier Li will visit Australia next year, we’ve discussed that,” Albanese told Sky News television, according to an official transcript of his remarks. “Included in that was a discussion about a visit to Uluru that he expressed an interest in. I encourage that. I think that would be a very good thing to showcase Central Australia to what is after all well over a billion people,” Albanese added.

REALTY

Australia home prices surge by most in over two years in Oct

Australian home prices jumped by the most in more than two years in October as rate cuts and government policies fuelled buyer demand, data from Cotality showed, while rents also increased. That added to signs financial conditions might not be as tight as thought. National home prices rose 1.1% to a record median value of A\$872,538 (\$566,975.19) in October, marking the strongest monthly gain since June 2023, figures from Cotality, formerly CoreLogic, showed. The monthly gain was broad-based and led by a 1.9% jump in Perth. Sydney prices rose 0.7% and Melbourne, which has been lagging behind in the recent market recovery, gained 0.9%.

TRAGEDY

Australian climber dies on Nepal’s Himlung Himal peak

An Australian climber has died while attempting to scale Nepal’s 23,379 foot Himlung Himal, tourism officials said yesterday. Chin-Tark Chan, 49, fell ill during his ascent of the moderately difficult mountain near the border with Tibet on October 29. “He was dead at an altitude of 6,100 metres,” tourism department director Himal Gautam said. Gautam said rescue efforts failed due to adverse weather conditions in the area. “Efforts have been made to bring his body to Camp 2 from Camp 3, then his body will be flown back to Kathmandu on a helicopter,” Gautam said. He said the cause of the death was still unknown.

CO-OPERATION

Philippines, Canada sign visiting troops deal

The Philippines yesterday signed a visiting forces agreement with Canada, the latest in a series of pacts aimed at countering Beijing’s assertiveness in the disputed South China Sea. The Philippines and China have engaged in frequent clashes in the crucial waterway, which Beijing claims in nearly its entirety despite an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis. The Royal Canadian Navy last year began taking part in joint maritime patrols in the area with its US, Australian, Japanese, and Philippine counterparts. The visiting forces deal would allow Canadian troops to participate in joint exercises on land as well.

Mass stabbing on train is not terror incident, say UK police

Reuters
Huntingdon, England

British police yesterday said a knife attack on a train which put 11 people in hospital was not a terrorist incident, adding that two men – both British nationals – had been arrested. Counterterrorism police had helped with the initial investigation after the mass stabbing of passengers on a train in eastern England on Saturday. “At this stage, there is nothing to suggest that this is a terrorist incident,” superintendent John Loveless from British Transport Police told media yesterday. The two men arrested on suspicion of attempted murder were a 32-year-old male, a Black British national, and a 35-year-old British national of Caribbean descent, Loveless said. Both were born in the UK, he added. “We continue work to establish the full circumstances and motivation for this incident,” he said. “It would not be appropriate to speculate on the cause.” The arrests were made by armed police after the train made an emergency stop at Huntingdon around 130km north of London. Of the 11 people hospitalised, four have since been discharged and two patients remain in a life-threatening condition, police said. Prime Minister Keir Starmer

called it an “appalling incident” which was “deeply concerning”, while King Charles said he was “truly appalled and shocked”. Knife crime in England and Wales has risen 87% over the past decade, with 54,587 offences last year alone, a 2% rise from 2023 and among the highest rates in Europe, according to figures from Britain’s interior ministry show. In her statement, Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood said she was “deeply saddened”, while urging people to avoid speculation about the incident. The government is keen to stop rumours spreading on social media following an incident in Southport in northwest England in 2024, when internet claims over the murder of three young girls sparked days of rioting across the country. Witness Olly Foster told the BBC that he was on the train which was heading towards London on Saturday evening when someone ran past him saying a man was stabbing “everyone, everything”. “I put my hand on this chair... and then I look at my hand, and it’s covered in blood. And then I look at the chair, and there’s blood all over the chair. And then I look ahead and there’s blood on all the chairs,” he said. Another witness told Sky News that a suspect was seen waving a large knife before being tasered by police.

India space agency launches its heaviest satellite



India launched its heaviest ever communication satellite yesterday, the latest step in the country’s ambitious space programme. The CMS-O3 satellite blasted off from Sriharikota in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh at 5.26pm. “Our space sector continues to make us proud!” said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who wants to send an Indian astronaut to the Moon by 2040. Weighing about 4,410kgs, it is “the heaviest communication satellite” launched in the country, the Indian Space Research Organisation said. The Indian Navy said the satellite would help “secure communication links between ships, aircraft, submarines”.

Pentagon chief urges closer military ties with Vietnam

Reuters
Hanoi

The US wants deeper military ties with Vietnam, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said yesterday at the start of a visit to Hanoi, amid prolonged talks for the potential supply of military equipment to Washington’s former foe. The Southeast Asian nation, which relies heavily on Russian weapons, has been looking to diversify its arsenal for years. Talks with the US, which lifted an arms embargo in 2016, gained momentum during the Biden admin-

istration but have not yet yielded any formal announcement on major items. “Deeper (military) co-operation will benefit both of our countries,” Hegseth, who arrived in the Vietnamese capital after meetings in Malaysia with Asian counterparts, said prior to meeting Defence Minister Phan Van Giang. The US had already delivered three cutters to the Vietnamese coastguard and three T-6 trainer aircraft, from an order of 12, and intended to do more, he added. In a statement, Vietnam’s defence ministry said both governments agreed to continue promoting security co-operation, including in areas such as defence.

It also praised the signing of an agreement on Friday to deepen co-operation on war legacy remediation, including for dioxin decontamination. Talks on US arms supplies are expected to dominate the agenda, according to two Vietnamese sources briefed on the matter. Both mentioned Lockheed Martin C-130 Hercules military transport planes among the items to be discussed. A US official also confirmed C-130s would come up in the talks. One of the Vietnamese sources said the supply of US helicopters could also be discussed, specifically Lockheed Martin S-92s and Boeing Chinooks.

Cruise cancelled after death of passenger left behind on island

A cruise around Australia was cancelled after an elderly passenger was left behind on a remote island and found dead a day later. Suzanne Rees, 80, was hiking with fellow passengers of the Coral Adventure ship to a lookout spot on Lizard Island, in the Great Barrier Reef, on October 25. Rees felt unwell and began heading back to the ship unescorted, according to national broadcaster ABC. The cruise ship left the island that evening, without Rees on board, and only returned hours later in search of her. Her body was found the next day. The rest of the tour was cancelled, Coral Expeditions CEO Mark Fifield told ABC, citing Rees’ death and “previous mechanical issues”. He said the company prides itself on delivering “high-quality experiences” but it was “increasingly apparent given the circumstances of the last week that we could not deliver on this promise”.

Dhaka downpour



A rickshaw moves on the street during a downpour in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Andrew to lose his last military rank: minister

AFP
London

The UK government yesterday said it would move to strip the former prince Andrew of his honorary title of vice-admiral, his last remaining military rank. Andrew was stripped of his honorary military titles by his mother, the late Queen Elizabeth II, in 2022 after he was sued by Virginia Giuffre, US offender Jeffrey Epstein’s main accuser. The latest move comes after King Charles III on Thursday removed all his younger brother’s remaining royal titles and honours amid growing UK anger over Andrew’s ties to Epstein. “We’ve seen Andrew surrender the honorary positions he’s had throughout the military... Guided again by the king, we are working

now to remove that last remaining title of vice-admiral that he has,” Defence Minister John Healey told the BBC. He told the Laura Kuenssberg programme that the government would also be guided by the king on whether Andrew should lose his military medals. The king’s younger brother was once feted for his role as a Royal Navy helicopter pilot in the 1982 Falklands War. He retired in 2001 after 22 years of service. Andrew has always denied that he abused Giuffre. But on Thursday Buckingham Palace said in a fiercely-worded statement that “Prince Andrew will now be known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor” adding “these censures are deemed necessary” despite his denial. The king and queen also said their “utmost sympathies have been, and will remain with, the victims and survivors of any and all forms of abuse,” it added.

Death becomes a growing business in ageing, lonely S Korea

AFP
Busan, South Korea

Rows of coffins line a university classroom in the South Korean port city of Busan, ready for use in training the funeral directors of the future in a rapidly ageing country. Growing numbers are finding work in the business of death as South Korea undergoes massive demographic change, with birth rates among the lowest in the world and almost half the population aged 50 or older. Students at the Busan Institute of Science and Technology carefully draped a mannequin in traditional

Korean funeral cloth, smoothing the fabric as if over real skin, before gently lowering it into a coffin. “With our society ageing, I thought the demand for this kind of work would only grow,” said Jang Jin-yeong, 27, a funeral administration student. Another student, 23-year-old Im Sae-jin, decided to enter the field after his grandmother died. “At her funeral, I saw how beautifully the directors had prepared her for the final farewell,” he said. “I felt deeply grateful.” More and more South Koreans are also living – and dying – alone. Single-person households now account for around 42% of all homes

in Asia’s fourth-largest economy. A new profession has emerged reflecting that statistic: cleaners who are called in to tidy up homes after their occupants, most of whom lived alone, have died. Former classical musician Cho Eun-seok has cleaned many homes where people were found dead, sometimes months after their passing. Their homes are “like their portraits”, Cho, 47, said. He described heartbreaking traces: hundreds of neatly capped bottles and dusty boxes of gifts that were never opened. South Korea has the highest suicide rate among developed nations, and these “lonely deaths” include

those who died alone by their own hand. Cho recently began receiving calls from used-car leasing companies to clean vehicles later found to be where clients ended their lives. He is also developing a device to detect signs of unattended deaths that he said can harm the environment, causing pest infestations and forcing the disposal of belongings from entire households. In summer, the smell spreads fast, he said, “and nothing can be saved”. The home of a woman who had died recently in her late eighties was still filled with traces of her life when AFP visited – an old air conditioner, bottles of cosmetics and a portable

toilet, while several walking sticks stood by the door. The work sometimes requires more than just cleaning. Kim Seok-jung once cleared the home of a late lyricist and found a set of songs she had not shared with her relatives. He turned them into a song for the bereaved family. And Cho remembered a high school girl who lived alone in a gosiwon – a cramped room typically less than five square metres – after she escaped domestic violence. He visited once a month to clean. The teenager, suffering from depression, had been unable to tidy up herself. Piles of belongings and rotting food covered the bed and

the air was thick with flies. But she carefully looked after a small box, insisting Cho never throw it away. She took her own life in that small room a year later. When Cho returned to clean, he found that a hamster had been living in the box all along. Beside it sat her guitar – she had dreamed of becoming a musician. “The moment I saw the hamster, all I could think was that I had to save it and keep it alive,” Cho said. Kim Doo-nyeon, a veteran in the funeral business, said he has a growing number of recruits in their twenties. “When people live together, they share things... even if one person dies, those items remain,” he said.

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GULF TIMES

Doha rekindles the spirit of Copenhagen’s social vision

Thirty years after the landmark 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, the global community will gather once again – this time in Doha, for three days from tomorrow (Tuesday, November 4) for the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2). In a world facing growing inequalities, demographic shifts, and rapid technological transformation, the need for a renewed commitment to social progress has never been more urgent.

Convening at the level of Heads of State or Government, WSSD2 aims to address the gaps and recommit to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and its implementation and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Pre-Summit events will kick off today (Monday, November 3) with Qatar co-hosting the First Leaders’ Meeting of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, with Brazil, and the Doha Solutions Forum for Social Development, with France.

Building on the 10 Commitments of the 1995 Summit and the Copenhagen Declaration, the WSSD will accelerate action on poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, and social inclusion, ensuring that no one is left behind in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. It aims to address persistent gaps, reaffirm global commitment to social development, and give new momentum to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thirty years after the landmark Copenhagen Summit, world leaders gather in Doha to renew commitments to social justice, inclusive growth, and sustainable development

In Doha, world leaders will come together to redefine strategies for social progress, strengthen global partnerships, and promote inclusive policies that foster equitable opportunities for all. The goal: to build societies that are more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable. The Summit will serve as a pivotal platform for dialogue, co-operation, and joint solutions, convening governments, international organisations, the UN system, civil society, co-operatives, academia, the private sector, and experts to strengthen international co-operation for inclusive

social development.

In his welcome message on the conference website, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani stated that this Summit will assess progress, identify implementation gaps, and reaffirm the collective commitment to advancing social development, ensuring that no one is left behind.

“The State of Qatar consistently upholds its commitment to human-centred development, both nationally and globally. Through investments in education, health, social protection, and the promotion of productive employment and decent work for all, we continue to advance social justice and foster inclusion. We have championed the integration of social, economic, and environmental policies, adopting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that places people at the centre of our development.

“The convening of this Summit in Doha reflects Qatar’s deep belief in multilateralism and global solidarity. As a long-standing partner of the United Nations, the State of Qatar has consistently supported global efforts to promote peace, social justice, and sustainable development. Over the years, we have hosted numerous high-level UN conferences, providing a platform for dialogue and co-operation on some of the most pressing global challenges. These efforts reflect our enduring dedication to the values and objectives of the United Nations and our vision for a world where prosperity is accessible to all.

“As we prepare to welcome the world to Doha, we look forward to working closely with Member States, the United Nations, civil society, academia, and the private sector to advance social justice, rebuild trust in institutions, and shape a new course for global social development. The State of Qatar stands ready to contribute to this shared mission and to support a successful and transformative Summit,” His Highness the Amir added in his message.

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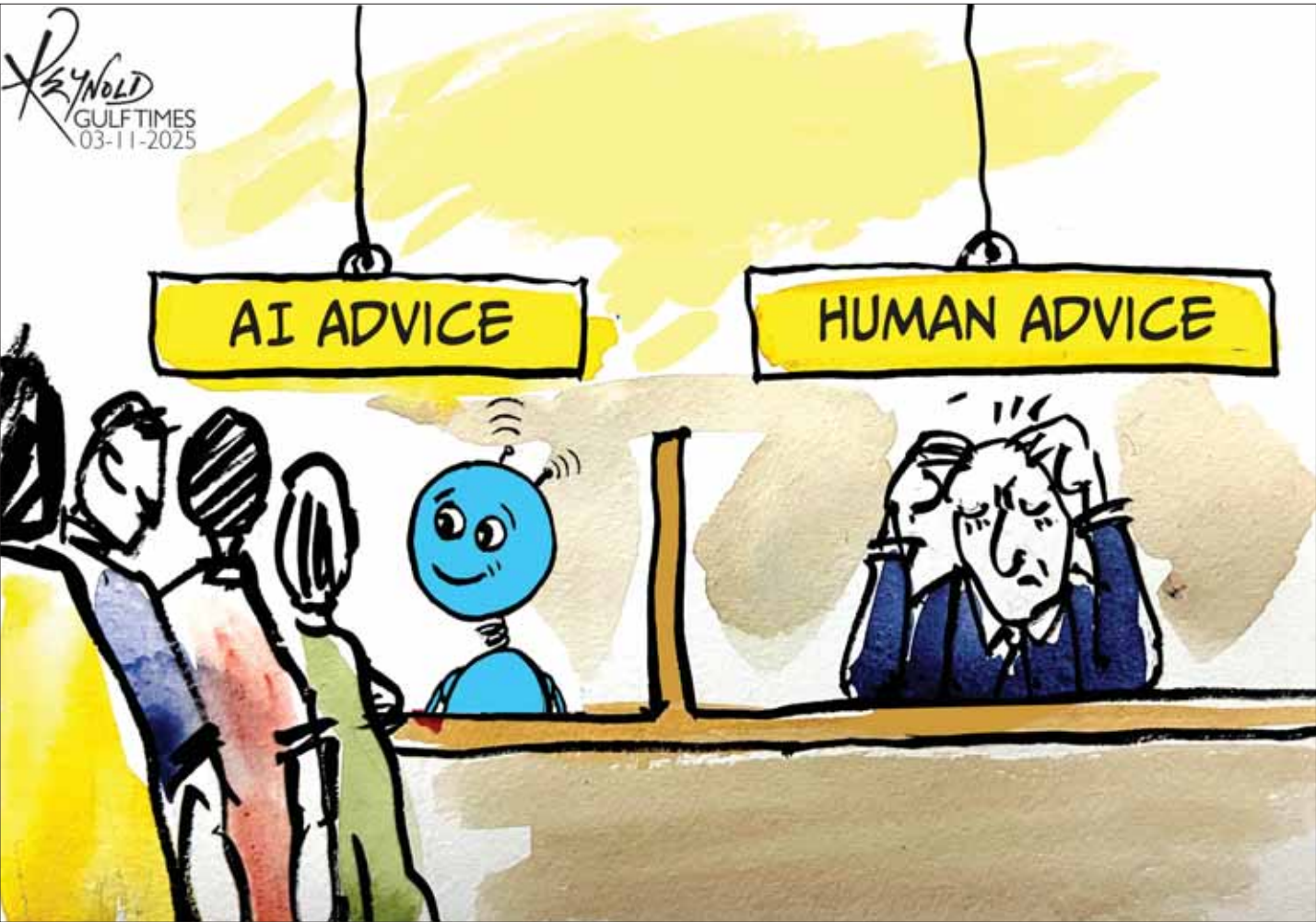
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AI transforms Google Cloud into Alphabet’s powerhouse

By Kenrick Cai
New York

Once a money-losing backwater, Google Cloud has become one of Alphabet’s fastest-growing businesses, powered by massive bets on AI and years of costly investment in data centres, custom chips, and networking gear.

Alphabet’s cloud revenue topped \$15 billion in the third quarter, a 34% increase reflecting strong demand for AI infrastructure and services, including Google’s own Gemini model, the company announced Wednesday.

Google Cloud is now challenging YouTube as Alphabet’s No. 2 cash generator behind its search ads business.

“Google Cloud is one of the most important priorities for Alphabet as a whole and I expect it to play an even more central role as the company moves forward,” Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai told Reuters in an interview earlier in October.

Much of the cloud unit’s growth can be attributed to the business bets and diplomatic manoeuvring of its head Thomas Kurian, who joined Google from Oracle in 2018 and grew the unit’s market share from 7% then to 13% in 2025, according to Synergy Research Group, which tracks the cloud industry.

When Pichai replaced Google co-founder Larry Page as CEO in 2019, he identified Google Cloud and YouTube as his two big bets to move Alphabet beyond its core business of search advertising.

Since then, YouTube has largely delivered, becoming the world’s largest video platform with 1 billion hours watched per day.

By contrast, Google Cloud lost billions between 2018 and 2022 due to heavy investments in servers, data centres and chips until it turned its first profit in 2023.

Now, with generative AI, Alphabet sees a chance to close the gap with rivals Microsoft and Amazon, which hold 20% and 30% market share respectively.

Making Google Cloud a contender has come at a cost: Alphabet has already shocked Wall Street twice during quarterly earnings this year by proclaiming higher-than-expected capital spending due to the need to build more infrastructure to fulfil cloud demand.

“This is the moment Google Cloud was waiting for,” Dave McCarthy, who directs coverage of the cloud industry for research firm IDC. “A lot of the future growth at Alphabet is being looked at through its potential.”

In exclusive interviews with Reuters, senior Alphabet executives mapped out the gameplan that transformed the also-ran into a growth driver: a cultural shift to a more customer-driven sales approach; changing how it worked with rivals; and a renewed focus on delivering profits.

Back when Kurian joined

Alphabet, Google Cloud struggled to win enterprise customers, unlike the ads side of the business which was dealing with the biggest companies in the world.

“We would go to the ads team asking, ‘Hey, can you help us out with this customer?’ And they would basically be like, ‘Get out of here, kid,’” said Josh Gwyther, a startup founder who worked at Google Cloud from 2016 to 2025.

That’s not a problem anymore: Google’s scope of AI offerings have brought it into conversations with large companies that previously only considered Amazon and Microsoft.

“The ads business is extremely healthy, but it’s not going to grow at the pace that we are,” said Matt Renner, Google Cloud’s president of global revenue.

Nine of the 10 leading AI labs are now customers, Kurian said at an industry conference in September. They include OpenAI, Anthropic and Safe Superintelligence. Details of Google’s deals with were first reported by Reuters earlier this year.

To get there, Kurian took a mallet to traditional practices, replacing it with what several employees called an “un-Googley” culture.

Kurian, who left a job as one of Larry Ellison’s highest-paid lieutenants at Oracle, brought financial discipline to Google’s “loosely-run, ground-up culture” that encouraged side projects and experimentation, said Chirag Mehta, a tech analyst who worked at Google Cloud from 2017 to 2021.

To slash costs, Kurian opened new offices in cheaper locations, such as North Carolina and

Poland. He audited Google Cloud’s contracts for internal services and renegotiated those where he deemed his unit was being overcharged by other departments, as was first reported in The Information.

He has ordered employees to focus on revenue rather than bookings. Google Cloud also shifted its sales strategy to target customers by sector rather than geography. That helped reduce sales reps being assigned accounts in industries where they lacked specialised knowledge, said Renner.

Its focus on generative AI has allowed it to catch up with rivals Microsoft and Amazon from a technical standpoint, according to some analysts.

“We believe that the three clouds competitively are on roughly equal footing,” said Goldman Sachs managing director Eric Sheridan. “That’s a very different competitive positioning for Google Cloud now than two or three years ago.”

For years, Alphabet had reserved the lion’s share of its own chips, or TPUs, for in-house use only. That changed in 2022, when Kurian successfully lobbied to move the group selling TPUs from Google’s core engineering unit into Google Cloud.

That move drastically increased Google Cloud’s allocation of TPUs because the unit could now freely offer the chips rather than having to receive approval from another part of the company, according to two people familiar with the move. At a time when the world was scrambling for compute, Alphabet made the decision to make its chips available to not just its own DeepMind AI unit, but

also to its competitors.

That decision stoked tensions internally, according to former employees of both units, but it gave Kurian a stronger sales pitch for courting customers.

“We are the only hyperscaler with both silicon and models of our own,” he said. “How deep is your technical differentiation when the same stuff that you’re reselling can be bought from somebody else?”

Google Cloud quickly leveraged the opportunity to petition Anthropic to test TPUs as a viable alternative to Nvidia’s GPUs, according to a former Google Cloud executive involved in the partnership. By 2024, Anthropic had seen enough to deploy Alphabet’s TPUs at scale.

In October, it expanded its deal with Google to use as many as one million TPUs, worth tens of billions of dollars. The startup, which is now valued at \$183bn, has also tapped Amazon for chips as it reduces its dependency on Nvidia, which controls about 80% of the AI chip market.

“The whole world was sort of on GPUs, OpenAI in particular,” said Dan Rosenthal, who manages Anthropic’s partnerships with Google and Amazon. The need for chips “pushed us to be more flexible,” he said.

Other AI developers including Apple and Safe Superintelligence have since adopted Alphabet’s TPUs. Pichai told analysts on an earnings conference call this week that Alphabet is “investing in TPU capacity to meet the tremendous demand we are seeing from customers and partners.”

And although Google Cloud launched an enterprise version of its flagship model Gemini in October, Kurian told Reuters he would welcome adding OpenAI’s family of enterprise models to Google Cloud if the ChatGPT maker was interested.

The ascent of Google Cloud is shifting the balance of power inside Alphabet. Current and former executives told Reuters Kurian has gained clout at Google’s weekly “leads,” the agenda-setting meetings where division leaders jostle over resources and priorities.

“What Thomas has been a powerful voice for is making sure that when we say we’re focusing on the user, that we’re focusing on the enterprise customer too,” Pichai said.

It still has a long way to catch up with its rivals and it will be expensive to get there. In July, Pichai hiked Alphabet’s projected capital spending for 2025 by \$10bn to \$85bn. This week, he raised the projection again to between \$91bn and \$93bn, adding that 2026 was likely to run an even larger bill.

With concerns over an AI bubble growing, Pichai told Reuters that he expects Google Cloud’s business to have “a lot of resilience” against short-term market corrections.

“From our standpoint, we’ve been doing the AI thing for a decade now, and we’re going to be doing it a decade from now.”

— Reuters



Mamdani leads dramatic NY mayoral race

AFP
New York

New Yorkers will pick a new mayor tomorrow after an unpredictable race that has drawn attention from far beyond the largest city in the United States, with President Donald Trump branding frontrunner Zohran Mamdani “a communist.”

Breakout Democratic Party candidate Mamdani, a naturalised Muslim American who represents Queens in the state legislature, leads former governor and sex assault-accused Andrew Cuomo, running as an independent after losing his party’s primary contest to Mamdani.

The Republican party candidate polling in third place is Curtis Sliwa, 71, who has a colourful past as founder of the Guardian Angels vigilante group, a prolific broadcaster and cat lover.

The latest Quinnipiac University poll conducted October 23 to 27 gives Mamdani 43% of the vote, followed by Cuomo on 33% and Sliwa on 14%.

The race has centred on cost of living, crime and how each candidate would handle Trump, who has threatened to withhold federal funds from the city.

“Mamdani is an unusual political figure and really captures the spirit of the moment. This is a moment where a loud anti-Trump voice in America’s biggest city is going to get news,” Lincoln Mitchell, a politics professor at Columbia University, told AFP.

“Frankly, a Muslim candidate for mayor of New York is an enormous story”

Mamdani, 34, has attacked his opponents for Islamophobic rhetoric and smears, calling out both Republicans and Democrats for “anti-Muslim sentiment that has grown so endemic in our city.”

NYC Board of Elections data showed 275,006 registered Democrats had cast ballots, as had 46,115 Republicans, along with 42,383 voters unaffiliated with any party in the first five days of early voting, which ends November 2.

Mamdani’s ascent has highlighted the gulf between the left and centre-right of the Democratic Party.

New York’s state governor Kathy Hochul, a centrist, appeared at a Mamdani rally on October 26 but was drowned out by “tax the rich” chants, an AFP correspondent saw.

Hochul has been critical of Mamdani’s proposals to impose a 2% income tax on New Yorkers making more than \$1mn.



Democratic New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani (centre) raises his hands during a campaign event with New York City elected officials in the Queens borough of New York City. (AFP)

Mamdani’s unlikely ascent has been fired by young New Yorkers canvassing for him, with his campaign claiming 90,000 people have volunteered.

“It really comes back to people speaking to other New York-

ers about the city that we all love,” Mamdani told *The Daily Show*.

Teenager Abid Mahdi, a Queens native who leads canvasses for Mamdani, told AFP that “when I think of Zohran, I think of what Bernie Sanders was to many Amer-

icans in 2016 and 2020. He is my Bernie Sanders in a lot of ways.”

Mamdani appeared with leftist standard-bearer Senator Bernie Sanders at a Queens rally on October 26.

“I’m 15 right now, I’ll be an adult

and paying taxes at 18, right? The majority of laws will apply to me in about three years. So, why should I start caring then?” added Mahdi.

Underscoring the importance of older voters who typically turn out in greater numbers than youngsters, Mamdani attended a “paint and pour” session at an elder care home in Brooklyn Thursday.

Torrential rain at the end of the week slowed canvassing, with the three leading candidates touring TV studios in a final push to woo wavering voters.

Ahead of the vote, Sliwa appeared in a surreal conservative rap video wearing a suit and his signature red beret.

Cuomo, 67, sought Thursday to court Black and Muslim voters, campaigning in Harlem with current mayor Eric Adams, a corruption-accused Democrat who bowed out, eventually endorsing his former foe Cuomo.

There was a stir in the week when a British newspaper published what claimed to be an interview with former mayor and Mamdani backer Bill de Blasio in which he appeared to question the affordability of the Democratic socialist’s spending plans.

But the article was removed after the former mayor denied speaking to the journalist.

Germany arrests Syrian plot suspect

AFP
Frankfurt

German authorities said yesterday they had arrested a 22-year-old Syrian man in Berlin suspected of preparing an attack, without giving details of the alleged plot.

The suspect, arrested on Saturday in the capital’s southern Neukoelln district, was being kept in a detention centre and was to be brought before an investigating judge later yesterday.

He was alleged to have plotted “a jihadist-motivated attack”, a spokesman for the prosecutor’s office in Berlin told AFP.

He was being held on suspicion of preparing an act of a serious nature that would put the country in danger, the spokesman said.

The newspaper *Bild* reported that a search by special police units of three Berlin residential addresses linked to the suspect turned up items that could be used to build explosives.

The daily said the alleged plot was thought to be an attack in Berlin, but that no other details had yet emerged.

Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said in a statement that the arrest of the Syrian showed that “the terrorist threat in Germany, though often abstract, remains heightened”.

He said the Syrian had been in Germany since 2023 and that his activities “suggesting preparations for an attack, were detected in time”.

Germany in recent months has seen several knife attacks, as well as attacks with jihadist and far-right motives that have thrown a focus on security measures.

Berlin remains under vigilant watch, especially since a murderous 2016 attack at a Christmas market, when a truck mowed down a crowd, killing 12 people.

23 killed in Mexico supermarket blast

AFP
Mexico City

A supermarket explosion killed at least 23 people in northern Mexico, according to local officials, with investigators saying the blast was an accident possibly caused by a faulty electric transformer.

“Sadly a number of the victims we’ve found were minors,” Alfonso Durazo, governor of Sonora state, said in a video message as he announced the toll.

Gustavo Salas, the state prosecutor, said most victims had died of toxic gas inhalation.

He confirmed in a video shared by his office that the dead include some minors, but did not elaborate as the process of identifying the bodies was still ongoing.

Salas added that 12 people were injured and treated at hospitals in the city of Hermosillo, where the explosion took place.

Durazo said he had “ordered an extensive and transparent investigation to determine the causes

of the incident and figure out those responsible.”

The prosecutor’s office said in a statement that “the working assumption is that the incident was accidental, and the investigation is looking into a transformer located inside the store.”

Prosecutor Salas later said that there was no indication that this was an intentional act, but “we don’t rule out any line of investigation.”

The explosion happened at a Waldo’s store in the city centre.

A statement shared on the supermarket chain’s social media pages expressed “profound” sadness at the lives lost, and promised to work “transparently and responsibly” with the authorities investigating what had happened.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum expressed her condolences on X “to the families and loved ones of those who died.”

“I have been in contact with the Sonora governor, Alfonso Durazo, to provide support where needed. I’ve instructed Interior

Secretary Rosa Icela Rodriguez to send a support team in order to assist the families and the injured,” she added.

The governor said that “nobody will face this pain alone. From the very first moments, emergency, security and health services responded with great professionalism and commitment, controlling the situation and saving lives.”

Mexican media reports said customers sought refuge inside the store after the explosion, only to become trapped by the flames. Images in local media showed the building’s facade blackened from the fire with windows shattered.

Newspaper *El Universal* said the explosion occurred around 2pm and that nearby businesses opted to close their doors in order to prevent the fire from spreading there.

Local authorities urged members of the public to avoid the area of the explosion, and cancelled celebrations scheduled to be held in honour of the Day of the Dead holiday.



Investigators work at the site of an explosion at a supermarket in Hermosillo, northern Mexico. (AFP)

Mexico city mayor shot dead during public event

Gunmen shot dead the mayor of a Mexican city during a public event, authorities said, in an area plagued by violence and organised crime.

Carlos Manzo, the mayor of Uruapan in the western state of Michoacan, was killed in an attack in the city centre, the national public security agency said in a statement.

“Two people involved in the incident were arrested, and one of the assailants had lost his life,” it added.

Michoacan state has for years suffered violence from powerful drug cartels operating in the agricultural region seeking to extort farmers.

Manzo was shot during an event marking the Day of the Dead. Videos shared online showed people fleeing the crowded event after gunshots were heard.

Manzo became mayor in September 2024 and occasionally joined security patrols on the streets wearing a bulletproof vest.

In a video on his social media of one such patrol in June, he urged the federal government to do more to tackle violent crime.

His killing came days after Michoacan farmer representative Bernardo Bravo, who often spoke out against extortion by crime gangs, was also shot dead.

Mexico, plagued by drug-related violence for nearly two decades, has seen numerous local politicians assassinated in recent years.

Last month, armed assailants gunned down the mayor of Pisaflores in central Mexico.

In June, armed men stormed a mayor’s office in southern Mexico, killing her and a staff member. The following day, another mayor was murdered in the country’s west along with her husband.

US could hike tariffs if China backtracks on rare earths, says Bessent

AFP
New York

US President Donald Trump’s administration is prepared to raise tariffs on China if Beijing continues blocking rare earth exports, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent warned yesterday.

China announced Thursday it would suspend for one year the restrictions it imposed in October on rare earth materials and technologies, but Bessent voiced concern that Beijing had not always followed through on its commitments.

“The Chinese have cornered the market (on rare earths), and unfortunately at times they proved to be unreliable partners,” Bessent told *Fox News Sunday*.

Such metals are mined in several countries including the United States, but China has a virtual monopoly on processing these metals for industry usability.

The suspension was announced following recent talks between Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in South Korea.

Some of the export restrictions previously decided by Beijing remain in place.

Following the agreement and the “goodwill” between the leaders of the world’s two largest

economies, Bessent said he hoped “we can depend on them to be more reliable partners.”

If not, “we could threaten the tariffs again,” Bessent warned, stressing Washington has been prepared to use “maximum leverage.”

“We don’t want to decouple with China, but we’re going to have to de-risk,” he said.

Bessent also accused previous US governments of being “asleep at the switch” as Beijing spent years putting together its rare earths strategy.

“Now this administration, we’re going to go at warp speed over the next one, two years, and we’re going to get out from under this sword that the Chinese have over us — and they have it over the whole world,” he told CNN’s *State of the Union* talk show.

As part of the announced deal, Washington will reduce the level of tariffs imposed on Chinese exports to the United States by 10%.

The agreement also requires China to take significant measures to stem the flow of fentanyl into the United States, where consumption of the powerful synthetic opioid has caused tens of thousands of deaths.

According to the US Drug Enforcement Administration, China is by far the largest supplier of fentanyl to the United States.

3 dead in US strike on alleged drug vessel

AFP
Washington

A US strike on an alleged drug-trafficking vessel in the Caribbean killed three people, Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth said, the latest such attack in international waters.

The United States has deployed Navy ships to the Caribbean and sent F-35 stealth warplanes to Puerto Rico, part of a massive military force that Washington insists is aimed at curbing drug trafficking.

More than 15 US strikes on boats in the Caribbean and the Pacific have killed at least 65 people in recent weeks, prompting criticism from governments in the region.

The latest strike hit “another narco-trafficking vessel... in the Caribbean,” Hegseth wrote on social media.

“This vessel — like EVERY OTHER — was known by our intelligence to be involved in illicit narcotics smuggling,” he said.

“Three male narco-terrorists were aboard the vessel during the strike, which was conducted in international waters. All three terrorists were killed.”

Experts say the attacks, which began in early September, amount to extrajudicial killings even if they target known traffickers, and Washington has yet to make public any evidence that its targets were smuggling narcotics or posed a threat to the United States.

Hegseth said Washington

would continue to “hunt... and kill” alleged drug traffickers.

He shared video footage of the strike, showing the moment the vessel is hit, followed by a fireball.

Like previous videos released by the US government, areas on the boat are obfuscated, rendering it impossible to verify how many people were on board.

The United Nations urged on Friday Washington to halt its strikes.

UN rights chief Volker Turk said these people had been killed “in circumstances that find no justification in international law.”

“These attacks — and their mounting human cost — are unacceptable,” he said in a statement.

Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro — who faces indictment on

drug charges in the United States — accused Washington of using drug trafficking as a pretext for “imposing regime change” in Caracas to seize Venezuelan oil.

But US President Donald Trump has said he was not considering strikes against Venezuela, dialling back previous posturing.

Maduro insists there is no drug cultivation in Venezuela, which he says is used as a trafficking route for Colombian cocaine against its will.

The Trump administration has said in a notice to Congress that the United States is engaged in “armed conflict” with Latin American drug cartels, describing them as terrorist groups as part of its justification for the strikes.

Leadership Innovation Forum 2025 concludes under the theme ‘The Art of Decision Making’

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The second edition of the Leadership Innovation Forum 2025, held under the theme ‘The Art of Decision Making’, concluded yesterday.

The forum, held under the patronage of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Leadership Centre (QLC), aimed to build upon the success of the inaugural forum in 2024 and further solidify its position as a leading national platform. It brought together promising leaders, experts, and decision-makers from various sectors to explore leadership thinking in critical situations and highlight decisions that make a difference in achieving success and excellence.

In his address at the forum, Abdullah Mohammed Khalifa al-Binali, Director General of the QLC, affirmed that the forum served as an inspiring platform for exchanging leadership experiences and enhancing decision-making skills, a cornerstone of modern leadership. He explained that a leader’s ability to make responsible strategic decisions that combine future vision with data-driven knowledge is the essence of leadership in a rapidly changing era.

He added that since its establishment in 2008, the QLC has continued to develop na-



HE Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi addressing the forum.



Abdullah Mohammed al-Binali (centre) during a panel debate.

tional leaders and broaden their horizons through high-quality programmes and initiatives. He noted that the forum reflects this approach through its interactive sessions and workshops, which addressed leadership in technology, health, sports, society, and family.

HE Dr Mohammed bin Ab-

dulaziz al-Khulaifi, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also delivered a speech addressing the concept of decision-making from a humanistic and diplomatic perspective. He emphasised that a decision is not merely a situational response, but rather an expression of awareness, maturity, and wisdom. He pointed



HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and other dignitaries at the event.

out that the art of decision-making rests on a delicate balance between deliberation and decisiveness, reason and experience, and initiative and responsibility, citing his experiences in diplomatic work where complex situations present a true test of wisdom and judgment. He also emphasised that reliance on God and consultation are fundamental to sound decision-making, affirming that conscious leadership is manifested when decisions are based on human values and a vision that seeks to build bridges, not widen divides.

The second edition of the forum focused on the dimensions of leadership from the perspective

of the art of decision-making, through keynote and interactive sessions that combined experience, practice, and inspiration. Highlights included: Leadership in sports, medical leadership, leadership at home, initiate leadership, and from legacy to building the future.

The forum also included side sessions and interactive workshops, including Leadership and Youth Empowerment – Preparing an innovative generation of future leaders, and Technology and Legislation.

The forum witnessed a turnout of over 800 participants, including dignitaries, ministers, speakers, and experts from various

sectors, along with graduates of the QLC and young leaders from across the country.

A dedicated pavilion showcased the success stories and inspiring experiences of graduates from national programmes, fostering intergenerational leadership and encouraging young people to embrace conscious and responsible leadership practices.

The forum concluded with the QLC reaffirming its commitment to empowering leaders and developing their leadership, innovation, and decision-making skills, thereby contributing to strengthening Qatar’s leadership ecosystem and solidifying its presence and influence both locally and globally.

QM chairperson opens 2 major exhibitions, marking 15th Mathaf anniversary

HE the Chairperson of Qatar Museums (QM), Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani opened two significant exhibitions at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, marking the museum’s 15th anniversary season.

The presentations, “Resolutions: Celebrating 15 Years of Mathaf” and “We Refuse_d”, collectively highlight Mathaf’s continued commitment to championing modern and contemporary Arab art while fostering critical dialogue and creative exchange across generations.

The exhibitions were unveiled in the presence of the President of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art Sheikh Hassan bin Mohammed bin Ali al-Thani, among other prominent dignitaries, artists and cultural figures from Qatar and around the world.

Together, these exhibitions mark a milestone in Mathaf’s legacy as a leading platform for artistic expression and scholarship in the Arab world, reaffirming its role within Qatar’s broader cultural landscape and the nation’s ongoing Evolution Nation campaign celebrating 50 years of cultural progress.

For her part, Curator at Mathaf Fatima Mostafawi told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Mathaf founding through two distinguished exhibitions affirms Mathaf’s role as a key platform for artists from the region whose works leave an indelible mark on the history of Arab art.

She noted that Mathaf’s first collection originated from artistic



experiences embraced by the exhibition space and artist residency established by Sheikh Hassan bin Mohammed bin Ali al-Thani, which contributed to enriching the local and regional visual scene.

The first exhibition, “Resolutions: Celebrating 15 Years of Mathaf”, explores the museum’s journey through four key themes: its origins as an art centre thanks to the pioneering efforts of Sheikh Hassan bin Mohammed bin Ali al-Thani, President of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art; its extensive exhibition history; its engagement with diverse forms of knowledge dissemination in the Arab world; and its response to defining Arab identity through modern representations in the post-independence era.

The exhibition offers a renewed perspective on the museum’s ac-

claimed permanent collection, tracing the evolution of Arab modernism through key moments in Mathaf’s institutional history. It also presents a chronological overview of the most prominent exhibitions hosted by the museum over the past fifteen years, beginning with “Record: A Century of Modern Art”, featuring 118 artists from the Mathaf collection. This exhibition documented the evolution of modern art in the Arab world through multiple narratives, drawing its title from the poem *Record, I am an Arab* by the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish.

The exhibition further highlights significant moments in the museum’s history, featuring landmark shows such as *Told/Hidden/Revisited: 23 Narratives of Journeys Through Time and Space*, Sai Goo Chang: Mi-

rage, Shirin Neshat: *Beyond*, Sofia Al-Maria: *Meditation Therapy, Nothing Lasts Forever...* Taysir Al-Batniji, Swailf: *Qatari Art Between Memory and Modernity*, Mona Hatoum: *Disturbance*, Farid Belkahlia: *Dawn*, Farid Belkahlia: *Towards a New Modernity*, Mother Tongue: *Selected Works by Inji Aflatoun*, Jassim Zaini: *Photography and Abstraction*, *Generations of the Revolution*, *The Doha Art Map*, Maqbool Fida Hussain: *The Sun’s Antiquities*, and *The Moroccan Trilogy 1950-2020*. The exhibition culminates in recent showcases including *Majaz: Contemporary Art in Qatar*, Daoud Aoulad-Sayed: *Stars of the Moment*, Qatar: *You Are Close to My Soul*, *Our Specters Are Your Specters*, *Promising Visions from the Pioneering Cinema*, and *Wafad Al-Hamad: The Geography of Im-*

agination. The second exhibition, “We Refuse_d”, brings together works by more than 15 contemporary artists from across the Arab world. Through diverse artistic practices, these creators explore acts of rejection, resilience, and creativity-interrogating notions of continuity and resistance in the face of oppression, censorship, and displacement.

Emerging from an ongoing dialogue between artists and curators, the exhibition forms a collective statement and a shared space for solidarity. Evoking the spirit of the 19th-century *Salon des Refusés*, it captures both the fragility of optimism and the enduring strength required to create under challenging circumstances.

Many of the featured works are newly commissioned, underscoring the conviction that art must

persist as a vital force within society. Through the framework of refusal, these works chart alternative paths of endurance and renewal, drawing from heritage while fostering community and reimagining the future.

At its heart, “We Refuse_d” is a space devoted to life, continuity, and the uncompromising necessity of artistic practice, even in times of adversity.

Participating artists include Taysir Batniji, Dar Sandy Hilal and Alessandro Betti, Barris Dogrusoz, Samia Halaby, Majd Abdelhamid, Emily Jacir, Jumana Manna, Walid Raad, Khalil Rabah, Yasmine Eid Sabbagh, Nour Shantout, Suha Shoman, Dima Sarouji, Areeb Toukan, and Abdelhai Muslim Zarara. The exhibition is curated by Nadia Radwan and Wassef Kartoun. (QNA)



QF’s ‘Heart to Heart’ series revives beauty of Arabic Maqam



Doha ensemble for classical maqam performing at the Black Box Theatre, Multaqa.

Qatar Foundation (QF) hosted the first edition of ‘Heart to Heart’ – a series of performances celebrating the purity and depth of Arabic Maqam

and the timeless place it holds within Arab identity, in its most authentic form.

Held at the Black Box Theatre in Multaqa, the opening night of

‘Heart to Heart’ – which is part of QF’s Al Ghorrah for Literature and Arts, a celebration of the cultural heritage and arts of Arab and Islamic civilisations – was attended by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson, QF. It gathered music enthusiasts for an intimate live performance illuminated only by candlelight to experience sound in its most authentic and natural form, free of all screens and amplification.

The performance featured the Doha Ensemble for Classical Maqam, comprising musician, composer, and researcher Mustafa Said, and Tawfiq Mirkhan, Ahmed AlKarawi, Ibrahim Kadar, and Hany AlKhatib, all of whom are members of the Arabic Department at QF’s Qatar Music Academy. Together with Ali Hout from the Asil Ensemble, they took the audience on a journey through eight centuries of Arabic melodic tradition, blending classical compositions inspired by historical manuscripts with newly composed contemporary works.

Following the performance, attendees had the opportunity to meet and interact with the musicians through a special segment of the event organised in collaboration with QF’s BilAraby initiative,



HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani at the performance.

offering a platform for dialogue around the cultural and scientific depth of the Arabic Maqam. This highlighted BilAraby’s role in promoting, and allowing people to connect with, Arab cultural and artistic identity, and with inspiring ideas and perspectives.

In addition to the live performances, the series also included a range of workshops organised in

collaboration with QF’s Herfah programme, enabling music lovers to engage with arts and cultural heritage, and explore the craft and science behind Maqam.

‘Heart to Heart’ will continue with regular performances that celebrate the diversity and vitality of this Arabic musical tradition.

Upcoming events will see Nigar Bouban perform by the end of

November in an edition titled ‘The Veil And The String: A Persian Lament’; Dr Ahmad AlSalhi, a Kuwaiti musician and researcher, perform in an edition titled ‘Sawt On The Coast Of The Arabian Gulf’ by the end of January; Fikret Karakaya perform ‘Maqamat Of The Ottoman Court’ in March; and Mohammed Antar perform ‘A Journey Through Maqam’ in May.