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Net Profit

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Net Profit

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# Amir opens 2nd WSSD 2025 today

**QNA**  
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will patronise the opening of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) 2025, today at the Qatar National Convention Center.

The summit will bring together Their Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies heads of state and government, senior officials, and representatives from brotherly and friendly countries, in addition to delegates from regional and international organisations and institutions.

The United Nations General Assembly, through Resolutions 78/261 and 78/318, decided to convene the World Social Summit, under the title “Second World Summit for Social Development”.

Thirty years after the landmark 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, the global community will gather once again – this time in Doha, Qatar, from 4-6 November 2025 – for the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Building on the 10 Commitments of the 1995 Summit and the Copenhagen Declaration, the Second Summit will accelerate action on poverty eradication, the promotion of full employ-



ment 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.

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.

# Amir, King Philippe explore new horizons in Qatar-Belgium ties

**QNA**  
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with King Philippe of the friendly Kingdom of Belgium on the occasion of his visit to Qatar to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development, which will begin in Doha today.

At the outset of the meeting, His Highness the Amir welcomed the king of Belgium and his accompanying delegation and underscored the importance of the strong ties between the two countries across a variety of fields.

His Highness further underlined that Qatar looks forward to strengthening these relations and elevating them to new heights for the joint interests of the two friendly nations, expressing his thanks to the king for responding to the invitation to participate in the summit.

For his part, the king of Belgium expressed his thanks to His Highness the Amir for the warm welcome and the invitation to participate in the



summit, emphasising his country's keenness to deepen the relations of friendship and co-operation with Qatar and advance them in all fields.

The king further lauded His Highness the Amir's role and Qatar's supportive efforts for peace in the region and the world.

During the meeting, they discussed the bilateral relationship between the two friendly nations and ways to enhance it in multiple areas, key regional and global developments, and a range of subjects of shared interest.

HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Mubarak al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of

State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi, alongside a number of high-ranking officials, attended the meeting.

Attending from the Belgian side were Minister of Consumer Protection, the Fight against Social Fraud, Persons with Disabilities and Equal Opportunities, Rob Beenders, along with members of the official delegation accompanying the king.

His Highness the Amir and King Philippe held a bilateral meeting during which they discussed a range of issues of mutual interest on the regional and global stages.

# Amir meets president of Colombia



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with President of the friendly Republic of Colombia Gustavo Petro and the accompanying delegation, currently visiting Qatar. Discussion during the meeting focused on bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to strengthen and develop them in various fields. The two sides also discussed the key regional and international developments, in addition to a host of topics of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi and a lineup of senior officials. On the Colombian side, the meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio Mape, Minister of Energy and Mines Edion Palma Egea and members of the official delegation accompanying the president. **(QNA)**

# Amir meets vice-president of China

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at the Amiri Diwan yesterday with Vice-President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting Qatar to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development, slated for Nov 4-6 in Doha.

The meeting discussed bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways to strengthen and develop them in various fields. The two sides also discussed key regional and international developments, in



addition to a number of topics of common interest.

The meeting was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi,

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi and a number of ministers and senior officials. **(QNA)**

# Amir congratulates Tanzania president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan, on the occasion of her swearing-in for a new presidential term, wishing her success in performing the duties and for the bilateral relations between the two countries further progress and prosperity. **(QNA)**

# FIFA U-17 World Cup 2025 kicks off in Qatar

The FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2025 officially kicked off yesterday with eight matches held across the Aspire Zone Competition Complex, marking a memorable start to the first-ever 48-team FIFA World Cup. Hosts Qatar narrowly lost 1-0 in their opening match against Italy at the Mansour Muftah pitch, one of eight venues recently renamed to pay tribute to Qatari football legends.

HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, also Local Organising Committee (LOC) Chairman, said: “We are proud to host the first-ever 48-team FIFA tournament, which will showcase football's exceptional emerging talent and celebrate the sport's power in uniting people from all around the world.” **Sport Page 1**

**NOV 11-12**



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# Ending hunger and poverty is a shared responsibility: al-Misnad

**QNA**  
Doha

**H**E the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad inaugurated yesterday the First Leaders' Meeting of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, held on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development Doha 2025, hosted by Qatar from November 4 to 6.

In her opening remarks, HE Dr al-Misnad praised Brazil's initiative in launching the alliance during its G20 presidency and the efforts of its co-chairs to turn the initiative into a practical framework serving humanity. She highlighted Qatar's commitment to rapid response and development

for peace, stressing that ending hunger and poverty is a shared responsibility requiring international solidarity and equitable partnerships. Dr al-Misnad noted that over 700mn people worldwide still live in extreme poverty, with conflicts, climate change, debt, and funding shortages threatening development in many countries.

The minister also referred to Qatar's support for the Sevilla Commitment adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, which calls for reforms to the global financial system and the creation of a fairer and more resilient global economy that ensures the right to development. HE Dr al-Misnad outlined Qatar's national vision for 2030, focusing on a diversified, sustainable, knowledge- and innovation-based



economy, human development, social protection, healthcare, and environmental preservation. She emphasised Qatar's efforts

to strengthen international partnerships to support multilateral co-operation and assist developing countries in achieving the

Sustainable Development Goals. Highlighting Qatar's partnership with the UN, she said the country is implementing the Doha Program of Action (2022-2031) to help least developed countries move towards sustainable development. Qatar, through the Qatar Fund For Development, has signed agreements with the UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries to finance two key projects: enhancing resilience and establishing a food storage system to address food insecurity.

HE Dr al-Misnad added that Qatar provided US\$4.8bn in foreign aid from 2022 to 2024, including US\$1bn to fight poverty and hunger, US\$1bn for education, health, water, and clean energy, and allocated around US\$1bn from its Special Drawing Rights to IMF

funds for poverty reduction and resilience. The country also contributed over US\$30mn to UNDP's Development Impact Accelerator Labs to support innovative community solutions.

She reaffirmed Qatar's belief in the UN as a platform for unifying efforts and strengthening multilateral action, and emphasised its continued support for UN Resident Coordinators and development programmes to ensure the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

HE Dr al-Misnad concluded by reiterating Qatar's commitment to a world free from hunger and poverty, emphasising that through partnership, investment in people, and a deep belief in solidarity, we can ensure no one is left behind, and that peace and development are shared rights for all.

## Amir congratulates Cameroon president on his re-election

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of the Republic of Cameroon, Paul Biya on the occasion of his re-election for a new presidential term, wishing him success in performing his duties, and for the relations between the two countries further development and growth.

## Qatar stands in solidarity with Afghanistan

Qatar has announced that it stands in solidarity with Afghanistan in curbing the impacts of the earthquake that hit the northern region of the country, resulting in hundreds of fatalities and injuries. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended Qatar's condolences to the families of the victims, the caretaker government, and the people of Afghanistan, while wishing a speedy recovery for the injured. **(QNA)**

# First Leaders' Meeting of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty begins in Doha

**QNA**  
Doha

**Q**atar, in partnership with the UN, hosted the First Leaders' Meeting of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty yesterday, ahead of the second World Summit for Social Development 2025.

The event brought together more than 350 delegates representing nearly 90 countries.

Speaking at the opening, HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation, Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, said the meeting reflects Qatar's long-standing commitment to development for peace and stressed that ending hunger and poverty is a shared global responsibility requiring international solidarity and partnerships based on justice and equality.

HE Dr al-Misnad welcomed participants to what she called their second home, Qatar, and praised Brazil's initiative to launch the alliance during its G20 presidency, highlighting the efforts of co-presidents in turning the initiative into a practical platform to serve humanity.

She noted that over 700mn people worldwide still live in extreme poverty, with the effects of conflict, climate change, debt accumulation, and weak development threatening progress in many developing countries. She also welcomed the adoption of the Sevilla Commitment during the Fourth Financing for Development Conference, emphasising the need to reform international development systems and create a fairer, more resilient global economic environment.

HE Dr al-Misnad outlined Qatar's efforts under its National Vision 2030, including building a diversified, knowledge-based economy, investing in human capital, strengthening social protection and healthcare, and environmental preservation. She highlighted Qatar's partnership with the UN in implementing the Doha Program of Action 2022-2031, aimed at empowering the least developed countries to transition toward sustainable development.

As part of these efforts, the Qatar Fund For Development signed agreements with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries to fi-



nance two major projects: building resilience and establishing a food storage system to tackle food insecurity. Dr al-Misnad emphasised Qatar's belief in the UN as a central platform for coordinating multilateral efforts and reiterated the country's commitment to working with all partners for a world free from hunger and poverty, stressing that through partnership, investing in people, and deep solidarity, no one will be left behind, and peace and development will be shared rights for all peoples.

Meanwhile, UN General Assembly President, Annalena Baerbock, described global hunger as an "unacceptable humanitarian tragedy" and warned that rising global temperatures could push an additional 189mn people into hunger if temperatures rise by 2C, or up to 1.8bn if the rise reaches four degrees. She called on the international community to act urgently, noting that 673mn people suffered from hunger in 2024, while 2.3bn faced varying degrees of food insecurity.

Brazilian Minister of Social Development Wellington Dias, co-president of the alliance, said the initiative has restored hunger and poverty to the global agenda, highlighting Brazil's success in lifting

24.4mn people out of hunger and 7.6mn out of poverty since 2023 through evidence-based policies and inclusive social and economic initiatives.

For her part, Spanish Secretary of State for International Co-operation, Eva Granados, also a co-president, praised the alliance as a model for international co-operation, noting that member countries lead with their national priorities while the international community provides co-ordinated support. She stressed Spain's commitment to combating hunger with a rights-based, gender-responsive approach and announced plans to launch a new co-operation strategy on the right to food next year.

The alliance has, within a year of its launch, fostered new partnerships in countries including Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Palestine, and Zambia, combining international financial institutions, UN agencies, donors, and NGOs to implement integrated national programmes addressing hunger and poverty through social protection, agriculture, nutrition, and climate adaptation under the Fast Track initiative launched nine months ago.

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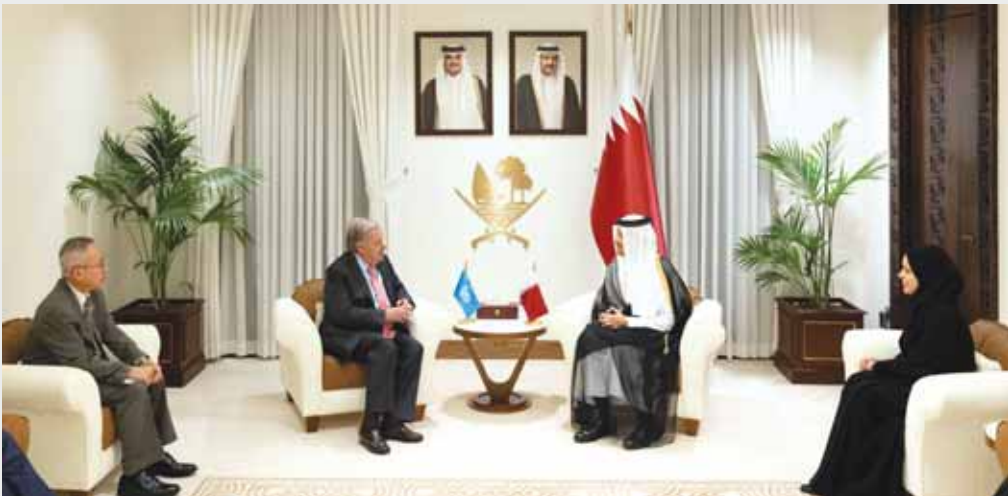


## UN secretary-general arrives in Doha



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrived in Doha yesterday to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development, hosted by Qatar from Nov 4-6. He was welcomed upon arrival at Hamad International Airport by HE the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN, Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani. (QNA)

## PM meets UN secretary-general



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Secretary-General of the UN Antonio Guterres, during his visit to the country to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), hosted by the State of Qatar from November 4-6. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between Qatar and the UN and ways to support and strengthen them. They also discussed the developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, in light of the agreement on the terms and mechanisms for implementing the first phase of the ceasefire agreement in Gaza, and ways to ensure the full implementation of the agreement. They also discussed topics on the agenda of the 2nd WSSD. The secretary-general of the UN thanked the State of Qatar for hosting the conference, voicing his hope that it would succeed in achieving its desired goals. In turn, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasised that the convening of the 2nd WSSD in Doha reflects the close strategic partnership between the State of Qatar and the UN. HE Sheikh Mohammed also stressed Qatar's firm commitment to international solidarity and multilateral co-operation to achieve social development. (QNA)

# Innovative tie-ups needed globally to fund social development, says Baerbock

QNA  
Doha

President of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, Annalena Baerbock, stressed that the Second World Summit for Social Development (Doha 2025) presents an ideal opportunity to transition from charting plans to deploying practical solutions for the social challenges facing many of the world's communities.

Addressing the Doha Solutions Forum for Social Development, held yesterday as part of the summit hosted by Qatar from Nov 4-6, Baerbock affirmed that the broad participation expected at the summit will help impart prolific experiences and explore the best solutions to address both current and future social challenges.

The summit broadly aims to unify efforts and share expertise to build practical and enduring solutions for global social development challenges, Baerbock underlined. She lavished praise on Qatar's role in backing international efforts to address social problems worldwide, particularly through hosting this monumental global event. The real challenge before the international community today, in terms of social development, lies in the capacity to implement solutions effectively, failure of which exacerbates suffering. Therefore, the Doha summit is a perfect platform for learning, inspiring ideas, and fostering joint action toward a better future for all, she highlighted.

The UN official cited a slew of successful global initiatives in social development, including the Sierra Leone initiative for enabling economic independence for persons with disabilities, which demonstrates empowerment through economic self-reliance rather than charity, achieved by removing barriers to employment, providing vocational training, and offering microloans for entrepreneurial projects.

Similarly, India's Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana



(PMJDY) has opened over 531mn new bank accounts, expanding the scope of social services, while civil society organisations in Sri Lanka launched a digital platform that created more than 25,000 job opportunities, underscoring that such initiatives demonstrate the immense value of collaboration between governments, the private sector, and civil society, she outlined.

She pointed out that the massive challenge before policymakers lies in scaling such solutions and mobilising essential resources to implement them on the ground.

The global financing gap in social development, estimated at approximately US\$4tn, underscores the urgent necessity to establish cooperative frameworks and innovative financial instruments capable of scaling pilot projects into large-scale initiatives benefiting millions, particularly in areas such as digital transformation, infrastructure enhancement, and social inclusion, Baerbock noted.

She further indicated that public-private sector partnerships, alongside civil society engagement, are the bedrock of achieving comprehensive development, emphasising that the private sector should be conceived not merely as a source of funding but as a strategic partner in innovation and solution creation. She stressed the importance of women's empowerment and providing opportunities for them to assume leadership across diverse fields, in addition to recognising existing solutions, exploring novel ones, and sharing expertise to build a more just and enduring future.

## Platform to bolster social justice: al-Naimi

The Second World Summit for Social Development - Doha 2025, which begins in Qatar today, represents a high-profile global platform for sharing successful expertise and experiences in the area of social development, CEO of the Qatar Foundation for Social Work (QFSW) Rashid al-Naimi told Qatar News Agency (QNA).

Al-Naimi emphasised that the summit will contribute to charting visions and policies that foster social justice, creating an opportunity to shed light on the State of Qatar's leading efforts in promoting social development and

the principles of cohesion and interdependence. He noted that the summit will demonstrate integration between civil society institutions and government agencies in supporting targeted groups, underscoring the Qatar National Vision 2030 in building a tight-knit, prosperous community founded on justice and equality.

He further indicated that the participation of QFSW, along with its operating centres, in this summit comes as part of its commitment to the national mission of supporting these segments and empowering them to effectively contribute to sustainable develop-

ment through the exchange of expertise and the provision of creative models in social care.

Al-Naimi highlighted that during the summit, QFSW will organise several sessions and events that showcase national experiences in the field of social inclusion, mental health promotion, and family support, in addition to leveraging technology as a social enabler to achieve comprehensive development.

He underscored the QFSW's commitment to utilising such platforms to reinforce collaboration with regional and international organisations. (QNA)

### 'Key meeting for exchange of expertise'

Minister for Social and Family Development of the Republic of Singapore, Masagos Zulkifli, affirmed that the Second World Summit for Social Development, which opens today in Doha, represents an opportunity to reinforce the United Nations' and the international community's role in bridging gaps in social development and advancing social justice. In remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA) during his participation in the Doha Solutions Forum for Social Development yesterday,

he described the summit as an important platform for exchanging expertise and learning from the experiences of different countries to close divides and promote development and social justice, as well as a chance to understand challenges and build lasting networks of collaboration. The Singaporean minister emphasised that the key to effecting global change lies in lifelong learning, particularly in light of current technological shifts that demand advanced skills and the creation

of innovative educational models within traditional education systems. He stressed that education has the potential to bring transformative progress in social development. In this context, he outlined his country's experience in social development, noting that Singapore has a strong education system and recognised early on the importance of developing human skills in response to technological changes and the critical role of lifelong learning. (QNA)

## 'Doha Declaration marks major step toward new social contract'

UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J Mohammed, has said that the 'Doha Declaration on Social Development', to be issued from the Second World Summit for Social Development hosted by Qatar from November 4-6, represents a significant step toward building a new social contract that promotes justice, equality, and inclusive, sustainable development.

In a recorded video address delivered at the Doha Solutions Forum for Social Development on Monday, she emphasised that the Doha Declaration will serve as a key milestone in advancing the global social development agenda, especially given that nearly half of the world's population lacks social protection.



She praised Qatar's efforts in driving global initiatives to bridge gaps in social development and expressed gratitude to both Qatar and France for organising the Solutions Forum, aimed at fostering social innovation and exchanging solutions to global challenges. The UN top official noted that pressing issues such as climate change, conflicts, and pandemics present

new obstacles to social development, pushing entire communities into the margins, particularly women and youth with limited access to education and employment.

She stressed that real change stems from ongoing efforts led by youth, entrepreneurs, and social workers across societies, highlighting the UN's support for innovators and change-makers worldwide.

In closing, the UN deputy secretary-general called for scaling up innovative solutions that demonstrate effectiveness on the ground and turning inspiring experiences into tangible actions that contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) for future generations.

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TENDERS AND AUCTIONS COMMITTEE

TENDERS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tenders and Auctions Committee of Mwani Qatar hereby announces the below tenders with the following terms and conditions:

SL no.	TENDER FOR	TENDER NO.	TENDER BOND	DOC FEES	CLOSING DATE	Remarks
1	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MWANI PORTS SECURITY SYSTEMS FOR 5 YEARS	MQ\TAC\TEN \440\2025	QRS. 5,000,000	QRS. 10,000	30.11.2025	Two envelope
2	PROVISION OF HOSPITALITY SERVICES TO MWANI QATAR FOR THREE YEARS	MQ\TAC\TEN \439\2025	QRS. 100,000	QRS. 400	17.11.2025	Two envelope
3	UPS SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION WITH THREE YEARS ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FOR DISTRIBUTION AND AGGREGATION SWITCHES AT HAMAD PORT	MQ\TAC\TEN \438\2025	QRS. 30,000	QRS. 300	16.11.2025	Two envelope
4	SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL SPARE PARTS ( SUBSTATION AND STREET LIGHTING ) FOR ONE YEAR	MQ\TAC\TEN \437\2025	QRS. 20,000	QRS. 200	13.11.2025	Two envelope
5	PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR THREE YEARS	MQ\TAC\TEN \436\2025	QRS. 20,000	QRS. 200	12.11.2025	Two envelope
6	CIVIL WORKS AND MEP SERVICES FOR TWO YEARS	MQ\TAC\TEN \435\2025	QRS. 350,000	QRS. 750	23.11.2025	Two envelope

1 - Tender documents can be obtained ( via Email ) from the Finance and Accounting Department Tel No. (40453724/568) , after depositing the non-refundable amount mentioned above at MQ A/C No. ( 0850 - 102030 - 060 ) at QNB and submitting the bank depositing receipt and copy of the Commercial Registration to : ( tender.secretary@mwani.com.qa ) Tel. ( 40453724 / 568 - 31265655 / 30121037 ) .

2 - Offer should be accompanied with a Tender Bond / issued by one of the Banks operating in Qatar for the amount shown in the above table and valid for 120 days from the closing date. The offer which is not accompanied by the Tender Bond will not be considered. The successful bidder should submit a Performance Bond of 10% of the total Tender value, which should be valid for (90) days after the expiry of the contract period.

3 - Offers should be valid for ninety (90) days commencing from the tender closing date and MQ has the right (after Tenders and Auctions Committee approval) to increase or decrease the items/services by 20% of the contract value according to its conditions and prices.

4 - The deadline for submitting offers will be **02:00 pm** of the date shown above. Any offer arriving thereafter will not be considered.

5 - The offers should be deposited in the Tenders and Auctions Committee Box of MQ as per the address given above. It should be in closed envelopes, sealed with red wax and addressed to the Chairman, Tenders and Auctions Committee of MQ , writing the number and subject of the Tender. The tender submitting party should confirm that he has received the receipt for delivering the tender

6 - The offers must be submitted in **Two envelope system, ( Technical original and copy one envelope + Commercial original and copy one envelope )** The envelopes should not bear any mark denoting the name of the Company. **The original Tender bond and copy of the ICV certificate must be attached with the Original Technical offer.**

7 - Every tenderer should attach document showing previous similar experience in the field of the required items/service.

8 - For more clarification, please contact Finance and Procurement Department. Tel : ( 40453404 ) E mail (mqprocurement@mwani.com.qa )

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# Minister opens Doha Solutions Forum for Social Development

QNA  
Doha

HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, inaugurated yesterday the Doha Solutions Forum for Social Development. The event was organised by Qatar in collaboration with the French Republic and with the support of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

The convening of the forum is part of WSSD Doha 2025, hosted by the State of Qatar from Nov 4 to 6.

The forum was intended to explore innovative solutions and effective policies in the areas of social development, in addition

to enhancing international dialogue on avenues for building more comprehensive, just, and enduring communities.

In her opening remarks, al-Nuaimi affirmed that the forum epitomises the State of Qatar's commitment to continuing its leading role in supporting social development both on the national and global stages, reflecting its vision of making humans the lynchpin of development objectives.

The ministry's Strategy 2025-2030, under the theme "From Care to Empowerment", provides a practical framework translating Qatar National Vision 2030, through strengthening tight-knit families, empowering women, supporting individuals with disabilities and the elderly, expanding the scope of voluntary

work and societal engagement, and advancing social protection systems to foster self-reliance and equality of opportunities, Her Excellency underlined.

She underscored that digital transformation is a core pillar of the social development system Qatar has adopted, emphasising that investment in innovation and the building of human capacities is the pathway toward achieving more sustainable and just development.

The forum concluded by underlining the importance of unifying regional and global efforts to accelerate the pace of social progress and deepen collaboration to build a more comprehensive and equitable future that bolsters human welfare and achieves comprehensive development.

## Sierra Leone seeks to benefit from Qatar's social development expertise

QNA  
Doha

Minister of Social Welfare in Sierra Leone, Melrose Karminty, has heaped praise on the significant strides of Qatar has made in the area of social development, affirming that the convening of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Qatar today comes at a consequential moment since the Copenhagen Summit in 1995, providing an opportunity to explore practical solutions for social development at a time when the world is passing through a critical phase.

Karminty highlighted to Qatar News Agency (QNA) that Sierra Leone wishes to exchange exper-

**Sierra Leone likewise seeks to foster social inclusion, particularly for women, persons with disabilities, and young people, who are often excluded**

tise with Qatar throughout the summit, emphasising her intention to both share expertise and learn from the experiences of other nations.

She underlined that the summit provides a platform to explore the support Sierra Leone needs to work together as development partners in addressing the most pressing global challenges. She further noted that her country aims to achieve social development, including the eradication of poverty as outlined in the Copenhagen Declaration, while ensuring the provi-

sion of skills, capacity-building, and access to decent job opportunities for the people of Sierra Leone, including men and women. Sierra Leone likewise seeks to foster social inclusion, particularly for women, persons with disabilities, and young people, who are often excluded. This summit represents an opportunity to share solutions for achieving social cohesion and inclusion for all, leaving no one behind, Karminty said.

Karminty further asserted that the broad participation in the Doha Summit aims to facilitate collaboration among all participating nations since the Copenhagen Summit and address issues related to poverty and exclusion, ensuring the inclusion of the most vulnerable segments of society worldwide.

## Shura Council refers draft general budget 2026 to Finance Committee

QNA  
Doha

The Shura Council held its weekly session yesterday for the first regular session of the second legislative term in Tamim bin Hamad Hall at the Council's headquarters, under the chairmanship of HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem. At the beginning of the session, the Shura Council expressed appreciation and pride in the State of Qatar's hosting of the Second World Summit for Social Development, which begins in Doha today.

It embodies Qatar's firm interest, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, in placing human beings and comprehensive development as the focus and goal of development. In this context, the council praised the summit and its important events, expressing its anticipation of the Parliamentary Forum and its outcomes, which it will hold on the sidelines in co-operation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as an effective platform for exchanging experiences and enhancing the parliamentary role in supporting social development paths. Following this, HE the Secretary-General of the Shura



Council Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud read out the agenda and the council approved the minutes of its previous session. During the session, HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem informed the council that the draft state general budget for the 2026 fiscal year and the draft law approving the state general budget had been referred to the Economic and the Financial Affairs Committee, in accordance with Article 135 of the Council's Internal Regulations, which stipulates that the Chairman shall refer the draft general budget to the committee immediately upon receiving it for study, and shall inform the council of this at the first subsequent session.

The Shura Council reviewed a draft law amending some provisions of Law No. 3 of 2016 regarding the regulation of birth and death registration, which was referred to it by the esteemed government, and decided to refer it to the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee to study it and submit its report on it

to the council. The council reviewed the statement of the esteemed government regarding the proposal made by the Shura Council concerning the cultural legacy project for hosting the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, and decided to refer it to the Education, Culture, Sports and Media Affairs Committee to study it and submit its report on it to the council.

Furthermore, the council reviewed the report on the participation of HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti in the work of the 296th session of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which was held in the Greek city of Olympia in July, in her capacity as vice-chair of the committee for the Arab Group.

The council also reviewed the report on the participation of members of the Arab Parliament in the work of the fifth session of the first session of the fourth legislative term of the Arab Parliament, which was held in Cairo in July.

## MSDF inks agreement with IDA to promote disability rights

QNA  
Doha

The Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The MoU aims to enhance collaboration in the field of supporting and empowering persons with disabilities.

The signing took place on the margins of the preparatory events for the Global Disability Summit 2028, held at Multaqa (Education City Student Center) of Qatar Foundation, under the theme: from commitments to change: the journey toward Doha. HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi said the signing of the MoU comes as part of the State of Qatar's enduring commitment to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and enabling their full participation across all spheres of life.

The memorandum intends to support persons with disabilities, hone their skills, and safeguard their dignity and autonomy, in addition to strengthening programmes and initiatives that foster their access to employment opportunities, healthcare, and community participation, al-Nuaimi highlighted. HE al-Nuaimi explained that the move aligns with the MSDF's vision of building an inclusive society founded on dynamic national and international partnerships.

She announced that the State of Qatar will host the fourth Global Disability Summit 2028 in Doha,



noting that this hosting will build upon the achievements realised through co-operation with regional and global partners. For his part, President of IDA and President of the Arab Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD), Dr Nawaf Kabbara, affirmed that this partnership represents a phenomenal model of international co-operation that can contribute to advancing the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities worldwide.

He commended the leading role assumed by Qatar in this domain, noting that his visits to several institutions concerned with persons with disabilities in Qatar revealed advanced experiences and exemplary practices that reaffirm the nation's steadfast commitment to promoting inclusion and meaningful participation of this group, emphasising that Qatar has emerged as a regional and global role model.

He added that the national efforts in Qatar embody dynamic leadership and a genuine desire to ensure that persons with disabilities are partners in development

and prosperity, noting that this approach serves as an inspiring model for many countries and international organisations.

Dr Kabbara, in his capacity as President of AOPD, touted the progress materialised across the Arab region in empowering persons with disabilities, emphasising that such strides reinforce the prospects for achieving inclusive and sustainable development on both the national and regional stages. The programme of the event, which brought together international and regional officials and experts, featured a series of panel discussions and specialised workshops, most notably a session on global horizons: from Berlin to Amman 2025, a session on innovation in inclusion, and a workshop on the invisible majority: bridging the disability data gap. The programme also included specialised workshops titled: from disability to participation and integrating children with disabilities, organised in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Unicef programme.



## 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 Provision of Transportation Services	Until 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	QAR 500/- Until 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 10:00 am	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	QAR 20,000. 00	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 12:00 PM

**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@gulfhelicopters.com](mailto:procurement@gulfhelicopters.com)) indicating company name, address, telephone, official email, authorized company representative, etc. latest by 6<sup>th</sup> 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 # 0013-036531-001 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@gulfhelicopters.com](mailto:procurement@gulfhelicopters.com), latest by 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 10:00 am for GHC approval.

iii. Tender package will be sent via email to the confirmed participants from [tender@gulfhelicopters.com](mailto:tender@gulfhelicopters.com) by 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Arees 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@gulfhelicopters.com](mailto:procurement@gulfhelicopters.com)

VI. For the submissions of technical and commercial proposals shall be submitted to [tender@gulfhelicopters.com](mailto:tender@gulfhelicopters.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/2025/34	Technical Pre-Qualification for Completion of Remaining Works for the Two Gabbro Quarries and Construction of an Exporting Jetty at Khattat Mithaa, Sultanate of Oman	2,000 QAR	N/A	One Bid (Technical)	11 November 2025 01:00 PM

**In accordance with the following conditions:**

- Tender Documents can be collected online by sending email to [tender.doc@gpmc.qa](mailto:tender.doc@gpmc.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.
- Tenderers shall submit the proposals to our head office located at Lusail, Building No. 108, St. No. 302, Bay Marina Tower, 17<sup>th</sup> 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 (4050-65111-006) at Commercial Bank of Qatar. **IBAN No. (QA 19 CBQA 0000 0000 4050 65111 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@gpmc.qa](mailto:tender@gpmc.qa)
- Location of the new building



For further Inquiry, please send your queries at email to [tender@gpmc.qa](mailto:tender@gpmc.qa) or visit Qatar Primary Material Company website @ [www.gpmc.qa](http://www.gpmc.qa)

شركة قطر للمواد الأولية (ش.م.ق) مركزها الرئيسي: الدوحة - قطر، منطقة لوسيل، برج مارينا، رقم 108، طابق 17 | Head Office: Doha-Qatar, Lusail, Marina Tower No.: 108 | CR No.: 33204 | P.O. Box: 22095 | Tel.: +974 4447 9411  
Qatar Primary Materials Company (Q.P.S.C.)  
رأس المال المصرح به 200,000,000 ريال | Paid Up Capital 200,000,000 | [info@gpmc.qa](mailto:info@gpmc.qa) [www.gpmc.qa](http://www.gpmc.qa) 200,000,000 المدفوع (رأس المال المدفوع) 200,000,000



# Formula 1 mall activations to engage fans

In the lead-up to the Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2025, Lusail International Circuit (LIC) will hold mall activations designed to engage fans of all ages. Motorsport enthusiasts across Doha will have the chance to experience the excitement of Formula 1 first hand through interactive installations. At Place Vendôme Mall, ground floor by Paul Café, the #Qatar GP Village will welcome visitors, until November 30, during mall operating hours with a variety of interactive experiences free of charge for kids and adults. Fans can test their racing skills in

the VR Pit Stop Challenge, compete on F1 simulators, explore hologram boxes, solve racing-themed puzzles, design their own helmets via the "Build Your Helmet" app, and capture memories at dedicated photo booths. The Cheer Wall will allow visitors to celebrate the passion of Formula 1. Fatima al-Qaedi, marketing and communications manager at LIC, said: "We aim to tap into different segments in our activation: education, art, technology, and fun as this is what F1 is all about, and we want to make sure that Doha, and everyone coming to Doha, celebrates this with us."



# ‘Oshar’ art gallery brings Qatar’s maritime heritage to life at QBS 2025

Old Doha Port is set to unveil the “Oshar” gallery, the first-ever art showcase at the Qatar Boat Show (QBS) 2025, taking place along the Shoreline Display throughout the event from November 5-8. The gallery will showcase maritime-themed artworks inspired by Qatar’s seafaring legacy, inviting visitors to explore and purchase original pieces created by artists based in Qatar. Held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, QBS 2025 continues to position Old Doha Port as a destination where culture, commerce, and community converge, connecting the world

to Qatar’s enduring maritime story. The term “Oshar”, meaning “modern dhow”, was historically used by Qataris to describe vessels that represented progress while preserving traditional seafaring values. The QBS art gallery at Old Doha Port revives that authentic nostalgia through the artworks of artists based in Qatar who draw inspiration from the spirit of the sea and the memories of their ancestors, keeping the port a living witness to a beautiful dialogue between past and present. The gallery transforms the marina’s shoreline into a space for creativity and reflection, featuring works by Yousif Ahmed, Salman al-Malik, Maryam al-Attiya,



Ali Ghaddaf, Nawal al-Mannai, Hind al-Obaidli, Maryam Mohammed Abdulla, Lina al-Aali, Hayan Maani, Salem Mathkour, Najla al-Khalifa and Shuaa Ali

which invites visitors to explore Qatar’s maritime legacy through art and support local talent inspired by the ocean that shaped the nation’s story.

## Emerging Qatari artist’s piece highlights deep cultural bonds with Japan

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

Emerging Qatari artist Moza al-Marri has brought the warmth of both Qatari and Japanese traditions onto one canvas, and in doing so, earned first prize in the 2025 Japan-Qatar Illustration Contest. Her winning piece, titled “Qahwa to Ocha – Coffee and Tea”, celebrates the shared cultural essence of hospitality, the gesture of offering a drink, whether Arabic coffee or Japanese tea, as a universal language of respect and connection.

“It’s not just colours and lines. Art is a message you send to the world. I wanted to show that despite our distance, Qatar and Japan share deep similarities, in how we welcome people, how we sit together, even in our architecture and manners,” al-Marri told *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the awarding ceremony at the Japanese embassy in Doha recently. Her research-driven approach reflects her belief that meaningful art begins with understanding. “You need to research, to brainstorm, to understand the idea before applying it,” she said, noting that both cultures value hospitality, gratitude, and harmony. Asked why Japanese culture, particularly anime and manga, which is gaining popularity among Qatari youth, al-Marri described it as part of a broader curiosity and cultural openness. “It’s something new, something different. People here love discovering new art forms and feeling they belong to something. The anime community in Qatar is growing and it brings people together, especially the youth,” she said. Al-Marri noted that what was once a niche interest has blossomed into a thriving subculture: “Years ago, anime wasn’t well-known here. Now, families support their children’s interests in it, and that’s beautiful to see. She added that Qatar is even developing its own anime produc-



Emerging Qatari artist Moza al-Marri showing her winning artwork.

tions, and described it as “a promising future.” For al-Marri, initiatives like the Japan-Qatar Illustration Contest go beyond art competitions, they are cultural dialogues. “You need to think of the other side. When I worked on my illustration, I thought, what if a Japanese person saw this? It would help them understand us better and the same goes for us understanding them. It’s a two-way message,” she said. Her reflections echo the contest’s broader mission: to foster understanding, empathy, and collaboration between Qatar and Japan through creativity. Al-Marri termed such experience as “wholesome” and deeply rewarding, saying: “I had to set aside a lot in my life to focus on this piece, but it was worth it. Seeing how well the contest was organised, how much effort the embassy and team put into it, it shows how much they care.” She hopes future editions will draw even more participation, stressing that “there’s so much talent here in Qatar, and next time, I want to see thousands joining.” Al-Marri’s growing portfolio also includes her contribution to the “For Palestine” student art exhibition at Multaqa Art Gallery in 2023, another proof to her drive to use art as a form of empathy, advocacy, and connection.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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holder of

**INDIA Passport No. P1405113**

**QID No. 27935625472**

hereby change my name

from

**SAGAR GUNDLA**

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**BATTU SAGAR**

Any objection, please contact

**THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS**

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

## Katara to host first joint Arab Festival of Arab Opera Houses

Katara Cultural Village has announced the organisation of the first joint Arab Festival of Arab Opera Houses in collaboration with the Arab Organisation for Education, Culture, and Science (Alecso) from December 8-11, with the participation of 13 Arab opera houses and a distinguished group of Arab artists. The Egyptian Opera House has been selected as the Guest of Honour for the festival’s first edition, as it is the oldest Arab opera house. It was established in 1869 under the name “Khedivial Opera House” and remained a cultural beacon for 102 years until it was destroyed by fire in October 1971. It was later reopened in October 1988. At the opening ceremony, the renowned Arab composer Omar Khairat will be honoured for his timeless contributions that enriched Arab sentiment and elevated the status of Arab music in regional and international forums. His compositions have built a bridge between authenticity and innovation, and he is known for blending Eastern and Western instruments, giving his works a global character. The opening event will also include musical and operatic performances featuring the Cairo Opera Orchestra alongside the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. Katara had previously hosted the first Arab meeting of Arab opera theatres, in collaboration with Alecso, in December 2024 under the slogan “Towards an Arab Operatic Renaissance”.

## Kia Qatar unveils its year-end offer for the Telluride and Sorento SUV’s!

To close out the year, Al-Attiya Motors and Trading Co. (AMTC), the official distributor of Kia in Qatar, has announced its latest offer on their reliable and outdoors SUV’s in the Sorento and Telluride. Kia’s award-winning three-row SUV’s can be driven away for ZERO interest over three (3) years along with free comprehensive Insurance and Registration on the first year.

With the outdoor season in full swing, Al-Attiya Motors and Trading (AMTC) has unveiled its year-end offer on the award-winning three-row Kia SUV’s: Sorento and Telluride. Running until the end of the year, buyers of these models can avail of zero interest fees over three years plus free comprehensive insurance and registration on the first year through AMTC In-House Finance. These incentives are available for all model year 2025 units and have a minimum requirement of 25% down payment. “With the welcome arrival of the winter season, we want to reward buyers of the Telluride and Sorento SUV’s further with zero interest fees through our in-house finance. These models come not only with robust engines and All-Wheel Drive (AWD) capability but with comfort, technology and most importantly reliability to empower families to enjoy the outdoors,” said an AMTC official in a statement. **The Kia Sorento – for every face of your life.** First launched in 2002, the Kia Sorento has now in its 4th generation as a versatile, stylish and reliable 3-row SUV. As the new generation was launched in 2021, the new facelift version has now arrived at the local market with



some notable enhancements to boot. The refreshed hood is sculpted with a stronger sense of volume for an upscaled SUV image. Showing true balance between power and efficiency, the Sorento is available as a 3-row, 7-seater SUV with a robust 3.5L V6 MPI or economical 2.5L 4-cylinder MPI engine options. The 3.5L V6 engine produces and output of 272 mechanical horsepower and 331Nm of torque for the seamless balance of effortless city cruising and outdoor driving.

The higher options will come with Kia’s signature Tiger-face grille that is accentuated by striking ‘Star-map’ LED lights. A full suite of ADAS features such as Forward-Collision Avoidance Assist with Junction Control (FCA-JX), Lane Follow Assist (LFA), Lane Keeping Assist (LKA), Surround View Monitor (SVM), Blind-Spot View Monitor and Warning Assist (BVM and BCW), Smart Cruise Control (SCC), Parking Collision Avoidance Assist (PCA) as well as Remote Smart Parking Assist (RSPA).



The interior is convenient for both driver and passenger with Panoramic 12.3” Driving Cluster and Multimedia Display, Tri-Zone full Auto A/C, Shift-By-Wire (SBW) transmission system, Auto Adjustable and Ventilated Front Seats, Relaxation – capable front seats and even a Digital Inside Rear-View Mirror in tow. **The Kia Telluride – move to a higher place.** The robust Telluride is powered by an invigorating 3.8L V6 Turbo-

GDI engine that generates 295 mechanical horsepower and up to 355 Nm of torque. Built for adventures, the Telluride is Kia’s biggest petrol SUV and has been a hit, ever since its global launch in 2019. The top option can be distinguished with its upright stance and easily visible even in the desert in the middle of the night with full LED lights. Similar to the Sorento, it offers as well a full suite of ADAS features such as Forward-Collision Avoidance

Assist with Junction Control (FCA-JX), Lane Follow Assist (LFA), Lane Keeping Assist (LKA), Surround View Monitor (SVM), Blind-Spot View Monitor and Warning Assist (BVM and BCW), Smart Cruise Control (SCC) and Head-up Display (HUD). Engineered for familial comfort, the interior boasts Panoramic 12.3” Driving Cluster and Multimedia Display, Tri-Zone full Auto A/C, Ventilated Front Seats, Digital Center Mirror, Harman Kardon™ sound system and a lot more.



## Workshop on combating illegal trade in ivory

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Department of Wildlife Development yesterday organised the National Workshop to Support Efforts to Combat Ivory Trafficking. The event was part of Qatar's commitment to implementing the National Ivory Trade Control Plan, approved in 2018. The resource person was international expert Jonathan Bardoux, a leading specialist in issues related to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the combating of illegal wildlife trade. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of national task forces and strengthen coordination among entities

involved in implementing the national plan. It focused on discussing the latest methods for enforcing the CITES Convention, mechanisms for combating wildlife-related crimes, inspection procedures at border crossings, and international co-operation frameworks to curb the illegal trade in ivory and other wildlife products. The event saw broad participation from relevant national authorities, including the General Authority of Customs, the Ministry of Interior, Hamad International Airport, the Civil Aviation Authority, Qatar Airways, and the Municipality and Environment Prosecution, underscoring the importance of the integrated efforts and inter-agency coordination in addressing the issue of illicit ivory trade.



## Ministry of Municipality organises activities at QSW

The Ministry of Municipality, represented by several municipalities and the Public Cleanliness Department, organised a variety of awareness and agricultural activities aimed at promoting environmental awareness and fostering a culture of sustainability as part of Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW), under the theme 'For a Sustainable Future'.

Doha Municipality, in co-operation with the Public Cleanliness Department, organised an awareness lecture titled "The Benefits of Home Gardening and the Waste Sorting at Source Programme", in partnership with the Qatar Social Work Foundation and Elite Recycling Company.

Salem Abdullah al-Ahwal, head of the Parks and Gardens Section at Doha Municipality, stressed the importance of spreading environmental and social awareness and encouraging eco-friendly practices at home.

Hamad al-Tamimi, head of the Awareness and Education Section at the Public Cleanliness Department, noted that QSW reflects the commitment of Qatar and the Ministry of Municipality to adopt



sustainable practices and maintain a clean environment for future generations.

Al Wakra Municipality participated in a beach cleanup campaign at Al Wakra Public Beach, in co-operation with University of Doha for Science and Technology and the Friends of the Environment Center, with the participation of

volunteers and students.

Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality, in co-operation with the Youth Committee at Al Khor Sports Club, organised an agricultural workshop for students of Abdullah bin Ali Al-Misnad Preparatory School for Boys. The workshop covered planting techniques, plant care, and the im-

portance of conserving natural resources, along with interactive activities designed to enhance environmental awareness in a hands-on way.

Umm Salal Municipality also held an educational and agricultural workshop for students of Rosy Land Nursery.

## QSW mobilises nationwide green movement

Since it was launched in 2015, Qatar Sustainability Week (QSW) has evolved into a cornerstone of the nation's environmental movement - engaging over 750,000 participants, supporting 2,700 events, and partnering with more than 1,650 organisations.

This year, QSW led by Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future, a member of Qatar Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change marks its 10th anniversary and its impact is clear across sectors, and society.

"Over the past nine editions, Qatar Sustainability Week has transformed from a platform for awareness and individual action into a nationwide movement that brings together every part of society," Shireen Obeidat, head, Partnerships and Outreach from Earthna, said.

Through QSW, community-led clean-up drives have removed thousands of kilograms of waste from public spaces, while corporate partners have implemented waste reduction and energy efficiency measures.

Educational institutions have adopted long-term sustainability programmes inspired by their participation in the week, and food sustainability has taken centre stage.



QSW has also given rise to community-led projects, such as Earthna's mangrove restoration efforts, that have grown into long-term stewardship programs involving families, students, and volunteers.

"Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, has invited the public to co-create an environmental artwork symbolising collective action, and composting initiatives, neighbourhood clean-ups, and youth-led sustainability clubs have become enduring efforts that extend well beyond the week itself," Obeidat said. "One example is the growing role of Green Island [QF's community-centric, Education City-based recycling hub], which now serves as a platform for hands-on community engagement."

Rashid Ali al-Jabr al-Naimi, representative of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, reiterated that youth participation is not merely a complementary element, but rather the true driving force behind Qatar's sustainability journey.



## First WCM-Q AI hackathon drives tech innovation in healthcare



Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) hosted its first AI Hackathon, a collaborative, interdisciplinary event that brought together medical students from WCM-Q with computer science students from Cornell University and Cornell Tech to co-develop AI-driven solutions for real, pressing clinical challenges. The two-day event, titled "MedAI Hack Collaborative: Unlocking Precision Health with AI", co-sponsored by Dr Javadi Sheikh, dean of WCM-Q, and Dr Curtis Cole, global chief information officer of Cornell University, marked a milestone in WCM-Q's mission to champion innovation at the intersection of medicine, data science, and technology. Six interdisciplinary teams took part, merging the clinical knowledge of WCM-Q students with the technical expertise of Cornell University and Cornell Tech computer science students, fostering creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving at the forefront of medical AI.

The teams were also guided by experts in clinical medicine, biomedical research, radiology, AI innovation, data science, and health informatics, while a team of mentors comprising Cornell faculty, WCM-Q faculty, and WCM-Q clinical alumni, provided continuous technical and clinical guidance to help students refine solutions and ensure real-world relevance. The judges selected the "Federated Nomads" team as winners which addressed the federated learning for clinical risk prediction challenge, in recognition of their creativity, technical rigour, and the potential to transform healthcare delivery. The winning team comprised WCM-Q medical students, Mahmoud Yousef, Kareem Ali, and Aqib Abdul Rahman; WCM-Q pre-medical student Mohammed Abdulla; Cornell University computer science student Vignesh Rangarajan, M Eng '26, and Yann Hicke, a doctoral student in the field of computer science.

## 'World Legend Exclusive Mastercard' launched in Qatar first

Doha Bank and Mastercard have collaborated to launch the World Legend Exclusive Mastercard, a metal credit card product that sets a new standard for premium banking in Qatar, a statement said yesterday. Doha Bank has thus become the first bank in the country and one of the first in the region to bring this elite offering to customers. World Legend Exclusive Mastercard delivers a range of ultra-premium benefits including access to upscale travel experiences, luxury hotel upgrades, and curated global events through The Mastercard Collection programme. Cardholders also enjoy exceptional benefits, earning loyalty points across travel, dining, and retail categories. For frequent travellers, the card offers complimentary access to over 1,000 airport lounges worldwide, dedicated fast-track lanes, and premium concierge along with travel insurance and priority services. Additionally, cardholders receive a complimentary 'Privilee' membership, granting exclusive access to Qatar's iconic resorts, top notch restaurants, and premium gyms. Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani, Group CEO, Doha Bank, said: "Our persevering endeavours are always steered to offer best-in-class products and lead the competition on this front. We leverage our ties with global alliances, including Mastercard, towards this mutual objective. J K Khalil, Division President, East Arabia, Mastercard, said: "Qatar is a vital market for us, and our collaboration with Doha Bank to launch the first World Legend Exclusive Mastercard credit card in the market reflects our shared ambition to drive innovation and deliver exceptional value to customers." Dimitrios Kokosioulis, Deputy CEO, Doha Bank, added: "By launching this first-of-its-kind credit product in Qatar, Doha Bank reaffirms its leadership in providing added value to customers, offering the best solutions and services." Erdem Çakar, Country Manager, Qatar and Kuwait, Mastercard, added: "The World Legend Exclusive Mastercard offers a suite of privileges and rewards that make every moment more meaningful and rewarding for our elite cardholders." Last year, Doha Bank and Mastercard entered a long-term strategic collaboration that aims to shape Qatar's payments landscape.



## Ministry of Environment takes part in organising Camel Mzayen Festival



The inspectors of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Department of Land Protection have taken part in the Camel Mzayen (beauty) Festival held in the central region. This initiative is part of the ministry's plan to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to preserve the integrity of natural ecosystems in areas of desert gatherings. During the event, inspectors from the department supervised the designated camping and settlement sites, ensuring adherence to guidelines governing camel handling, while working to prevent any practices that might negatively impact the desert environment or harm biodiversity.

The inspectors also made sure to enhance the awareness of the participants on the importance of maintaining cleanliness and avoiding harm to wild plants and wildlife, contributing to the protection of Qatar's environmental heritage and the sustainability of its natural resources. This participation comes as part of a series of field initiatives and engagements implemented by the Department of Land Protection in cooperation with the organisers of national festivals and events, with the aim of raising environmental awareness and reinforcing a culture of shared responsibility among participants and visitors toward Qatar's environment.



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## Islam and Visual Culture in Contemporary Asia: 11th Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art to Convene in Doha, November 8-10

The Biennial Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art will be held from November 8-10, 2025, at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar in Doha, gathering leading thinkers and scholars to Doha to explore the theme: "Islam and Visual Culture in Contemporary Asia."

The Symposium, widely recognized as a global platform for meaningful arts scholarship, will highlight how Muslim communities throughout South, Southeast, and East Asia engage with Islamic art in diverse cultural settings. This year's edition pushes the boundaries of traditional Islamic art discourse by decentering West Asian narratives and amplifying practices often overlooked in the field.

"This Symposium is a result of a research process that was deeply collaborative and immersive," say co-chairs Dr. Hala Auji and Dr. Radha Dalal. "In Singapore, we met with curators from the National Gallery, the Malay Heritage Centre, and the



contexts, while the city's vibrant neighborhoods -- from Gangnam's temples to Itaewon's mosques -- showed us how Islamic practices are woven into the urban fabric."

The 2025 theme addresses how artistic practices both reflect and reshape Muslim lived realities, from photomedia and textile art to architecture and community-based installations. "This Biennial reflects

entanglements of colonial histories and Southeast Asia's global intersections.

Along with her keynote, Yee I-Lann will present an exhibition in association with The Gallery at VCUarts Qatar, on view through December 6th. In the exhibition, paths of the wind weave shadows bare bones of a mat, Yee challenges traditional structures,



Asian Civilisations Museum. We also engaged artists at LASALLE College, gaining insight into a city shaped by rich multicultural textures -- from Arab Street and the Sultan Mosque to the bustling streets of Chinatown.

The co-chairs' research journey continued in Seoul, where they explored the city's contemporary art scene and institutional collaborations. "We visited the National Museum of Korea and the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, which are currently preparing a major collaborative exhibition with Doha's Museum of Islamic Art for 2025," they shared. "At Barakat Contemporary, we had critical conversations on the visibility of West Asian art within East Asian



VCUarts Qatar's role as a catalyst for global dialogue and cultural exchange, says Amir Berbić, Dean of VCUarts Qatar, "By bringing together voices from across Asia, we reveal how Islamic practices evolve through global movement and contemporary expression, not just responding to change but helping to shape communities and cultural spaces."

A key highlight of the Symposium will be the keynote address by Yee I-Lann, a Malaysian interdisciplinary artist whose work spans photography, textiles, installation, and community collaboration. Titled "The Surface Remembers: Decolonial Groundwork from the Archipelago," her talk will delve into the



both linguistic and political. The exhibition title, taken from one of her works, reflects her interest in disrupting expected rules of language and power.

Additional speakers will include leading voices in contemporary Islamic art practice and scholarship, with panel discussions and artist's talks. Both the Exhibition and the Symposium are open to the interested public.

The Hamad Bin Khalifa Islamic Art Symposium is co-sponsored by Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VCUarts Qatar and Qatar Foundation and has been held every two years since 2004. It has grown to be one of the most prestigious events focusing on Islamic art in the world.

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# Herpes Zoster vaccine now available at PHCC centres

**T**he Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has announced the availability of the Herpes Zoster Vaccine across all its health centres, free of charge for citizens and residents.

The herpes zoster virus typically appears as a painful rash with fluid-filled blisters that develop in a localised area of the skin following the path of a single nerve. In nearly 80% of cases, symptoms such as tingling, itching, or a burning sensation appear a few days before the rash develops. These symptoms tend to be more severe in individuals with weakened immune systems.

Dr Rand Aboud, family medicine specialist at PHCC's Omar Bin Al Khattab Health Centre, explained that herpes zoster often causes intense, burning pain that can significantly affect a person's quality of life. "One in three people will develop herpes zoster at some point in their lifetime," she said, "and the risk increases substantially after the age of 50."

The condition results from the reactivation of the chickenpox virus, which remains dormant in the body after an initial



Dr Rand Aboud

infection during childhood. A person with active herpes zoster can transmit the virus

to someone who has never had chickenpox or its vaccine in which case, that person will develop chickenpox, not herpes zoster. The infection is no longer contagious once the blisters have dried and formed scabs.

According to Dr. Aboud, the likelihood of developing herpes zoster is higher among individuals over the age of 50; those with weakened immune systems (such as cancer patients, individuals with HIV, organ transplant recipients, or those receiving immunosuppressive therapy) and people with chronic diseases such as diabetes, lung disease, or kidney failure.

Herpes zoster can lead to serious complications, especially among older adults. The most common is post-herpetic neuralgia – persistent nerve pain that affects 10–18% of patients, even after the rash has healed. Other possible complications include vision or hearing problems, facial paralysis, skin infections, or in rare cases, inflammation of the brain.

Dr Aboud emphasised the importance of vaccination as a safe and effective way to prevent herpes zoster and its painful complications. The vaccine is admin-

istered in two doses after consulting a family physician, and provides more than 90% protection against herpes zoster and post-herpetic neuralgia in healthy adults, and 70-90% protection for those with weakened immunity. The vaccine used in Qatar is non-live and safe, with minimal side effects.

Vaccination is recommended for adults aged 50 years and above, regardless of previous chickenpox or herpes zoster infection. It is also recommended for adults aged 18 years and above who are at higher risk due to chronic conditions or weakened immunity.

Even those who have previously had herpes zoster are advised to get vaccinated after full recovery, as it reduces the risk of recurrence and future complications.

Side effects of the vaccine are generally mild and short-lived, and may include slight fever, headache, fatigue, nausea, muscle pain, or redness at the injection site. In rare cases, allergic reactions, swollen glands, or more serious symptoms may occur.

# Awqaf seminar set to explore Arabic's role in Islamic world

**QNA**  
Doha

The Department of Islamic Research and Studies at the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs will hold a seminar today, on "The Present and Future of the Arabic Language in the Islamic World", with the participation of a elite researchers and academics specialising in Arabic language and its related sciences from Qatar University.

Director of the Department of Islamic Research and Studies, Sheikh Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Ghanem al-Thani, said that this seminar represents a collaborative intellectual project, a cultural endeavour, and a scholarly call to revive the Arabic language, rebuild its cultural foundations, and breathe new life into the pillars of its identity.

He pointed out that the seminar, the first-of-its-kind in an annual series, entitled "In Clear Arabic", stems from the ministry's recognition of the importance of the Arabic language and its desire to elevate its status as the language in which the Holy Qur'an was revealed and the Prophetic Sunnah was transmitted.

It is also the language through which the Islamic sciences, history, and civilisation flourished, and as the fundamental element in shaping the intellectual, cultural, and civilisational framework of the individual, society, and the Muslim nation.

He emphasised that Awqaf views this seminar as a cultural contribution to the efforts being made to revive the Arabic language and restore it to the forefront of the Muslim world, considering this a vital necessity and a prerequisite for the nation's revival and its return to the path of progress.

# HMC strengthens bone health services

**H**amad Medical Corporation (HMC) is expanding and enhancing its services to improve bone health and reduce the impact of osteoporosis through specialist clinics, early diagnosis and comprehensive treatment options across its facilities.

Affecting around 30% of women and 10% of men over the age of 50, osteoporosis leads to a reduction in bone density and strength, increasing the risk of fractures, mainly in the hips, spine, and wrists. Osteoporosis is often referred to as a silent disease, with many people unaware of the condition until experiencing a fracture. HMC continues to focus its efforts on raising awareness, promoting



early diagnosis and prevention, and providing timely and effective care for those at risk.

HMC offers a full range of specialist services that support patients through every stage of osteoporosis management. Dedicated osteoporosis clinics operate across several HMC facilities, providing individualised assessment and care for patients at risk of or living with osteoporosis. Advanced diagnostic tools, in-

cluding dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry scanning with Vertebral Fracture Assessment and Trabecular Bone Score are available to enable accurate and early diagnosis.

In addition, a specialist Fracture Liaison Clinic at the Bone and Joint Center ensures co-ordinated care for patients recovering from fractures and works to prevent future injuries. A full selection of approved osteoporosis medica-

**HMC encourages members of the public, especially those with risk factors such as age, menopause, or family history of fractures, to speak with their family physician about screening for osteoporosis**

tions - oral, subcutaneous, and intravenous - are available and prescribed based on each patient's clinical needs. HMC encourages members of the public, especially those with risk factors such as age, menopause, or family history of fractures, to speak with their family physician about screening for osteoporosis, while regularly exercising and eating a diet rich in calcium and vitamin D to

help strengthen bones. The FRAX online tool is used by healthcare teams and patients to predict the 10-year risk of fractures caused by osteoporosis.

This electronic system calculates and tracks key factors that should be considered when managing osteoporosis, enabling treatment decisions to be based on fracture risk assessment rather than bone density measurements alone.



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# QM unveils Rubaiya Qatar with new installation at MIA Park

**Q**atar Museums (QM) unveiled 'untitled 2025 (no bread no ashes)', a major new public art installation by international artist Rirkrit Tiravanija, on view at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Park until January 30, 2026.

Presented under the umbrella of Rubaiya Qatar, an upcoming multidisciplinary quadrennial, the project marks the soft launch of the initiative ahead of its inaugural edition in November 2026. Through Tiravanija's participatory pavilion, visitors are invited to share bread, conversation, and community, embodying the inclusive and collaborative spirit at the core of Rubaiya Qatar.

Tiravanija's 'untitled 2025' transforms a corner of MIA Park into a living installation where art, food, and social connection converge. The design of the octagonal pavilion is inspired by local heritage and Islamic geometry and invites visitors to gather and share freshly baked bread.

Reflecting Qatar's cultural diversity, the pavilion features four traditional ovens and griddles commonly found in Qatar, South Asia, and West Asia.

Each Friday from 4pm to 6pm, local bakers from different communities will activate the space by baking and serving bread, turning the site into a weekly gathering that celebrates shared labour, hospitality, and cultural dialogue.



'untitled 2025' transforms a corner of MIA Park into a living installation.

This installation builds on Tiravanija's long-standing exploration of art as social experience. It extends his practice of creating spaces where everyday acts such as cooking and eating become gestures of connection and collective reflection.

Rubaiya Qatar is a nationwide multidisciplinary quadrennial developed under Al Riqaq, a contemporary art and architecture institution dedicated to research, exhibitions, and public art. Under the leadership of QM chairperson HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint



HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani with other QM officials.



Rubaiya Qatar aims to inspire and empower new generations of artists and thinkers in Qatar and around the world.

Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Al Riqaq is headed by Sheikhha Reem al-Thani, Deputy CEO of Exhibitions, Public Art, and Rubaiya Qatar, with Sheikhha Alanood al-Thani serving as director of Rubaiya Qatar.

With its dynamic programme of

artists and commissions, exhibitions, public art projects, publications, residencies, and community development initiatives, Rubaiya Qatar aims to inspire and empower new generations of artists and thinkers in Qatar and around the world.

In a press statement, HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa said: "As Qatar celebrates 50 years of creativity and culture, we are proud to present Rirkrit Tiravanija's participatory pavilion as the first activation of Rubaiya Qatar.

"This project embodies our commitment to community, dialogue, and creativity as foundations of cultural exchange. Rubaiya Qatar will further extend QM's mission to connect the nation's heritage with global contemporary practice and strengthen Qatar's role as a vibrant hub for art and ideas."

Sheikhha Reem added: "Rirkrit Tiravanija's untitled 2025 (no bread no ashes) embodies Rubaiya's spirit of inclusion and collaboration. By inviting people to bake and share bread, the project transforms a simple act into a symbol of community and dialogue. It marks the beginning of Rubaiya Qatar's journey toward its first edition in 2026, which will continue to foster creative exchange and reflect Qatar's diverse and dynamic cultural landscape."



More than 100 children and their families attended the finale of "Cultural Crossroads" at NMOQ.

## Qatar Reads, YoC celebrate cultural ties with Argentina, Chile

**Q**atar Reads and Years of Culture (YoC) brought families together at the National Museum of Qatar (NMOQ) for a celebration of stories that spanned continents from Qatar to Argentina and Chile through storytelling, music, and art.

The event marked the finale of "Cultural Crossroads", a month-long collaboration between Qatar Reads, an initiative of Qatar National Library, the Years of Culture, and the Embassy of Argentina in Qatar.

The closing celebration welcomed more than 100 children and their families to NMOQ, where they took part in hands-on art and reading activities inspired by Latin American culture. Children settled in to see a short, animated film based on *Maryam in Argentina*, while families enjoyed the sounds of Argentinian guitarist Anibal Moran and the rhythm of

Chile's traditional Cueca dance with Daniela Bedmar San Juan.

Abdulaziz Saoud al-Jassim, a nine-year-old participant in the Family Reading Programme, spoke in Arabic and Spanish, sharing his passion for culture and languages.

"Every time I learn a new word, I feel so proud and happy. It's great because I can talk to friends from other countries," he said.

Argentine ambassador Guillermo Nicolas lauded the collaboration as a celebration of literature's unifying power. For Qatar Reads manager Fatema al-Malki, the event reflected the initiative's mission to make reading an adventure for every family: "Partnering with Years of Culture allows us to open new cultural horizons for families in Qatar."

The Qatar Reads' Family Reading Programme theme of "Cultural Crossroads", launched in October as part of the Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture, invited families across Qatar to explore the literary and artistic heritage of Latin America. Throughout the month, more than 1,700 bilingual book packages were distributed to families in Qatar. Each included stories, comics, and creative activities inspired by Argentinian heritage, designed to encourage reading together at home and spark curiosity about other cultures.

A reciprocal exchange is taking place in Argentina where the beloved "Kalila wa Dimna" tales are shared with students in Spanish through workshops and storytelling sessions.



## HBKU, Tamuq host conference on advancing materials science

**H**amad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and Texas A&M University at Qatar (Tamuq), in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and European Materials Research Society, are hosting Advancing Materials Science: Bridging Chemistry and Engineering for a Sustainable Future conference.

Taking place until tomorrow (Wednesday), the three-day event marks the first RSC and E-MRS conference in the Middle East. The conference will accelerate scientific discoveries, industry collaborations, and advancements in sustainability-driven materials research by bringing together global experts and young researchers in materials science, chemistry, and technologies.

Sessions will focus on facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration; showcasing research in advanced materials, sustainable energy, nanotechnology, and functional polymers; supporting early-career researchers and stu-

**The conference will accelerate scientific discoveries, industry collaborations, and advancements in sustainability-driven materials research by bringing together global experts and young researchers in materials science, chemistry, and technologies**

dents; and positioning Qatar as a hub for scientific collaboration in materials science and innovation.

Dr Mounir Hamdi, dean, College of Science and Engineering, HBKU, commented: "This conference provides an essential platform for thought-provoking dialogue and collaboration that turns ideas into solutions. As a leading research university, we remain committed to driving transformative change that addresses national priorities while contributing to global progress."

A panel discussion 'Science Without Borders: Strengthening International Partnerships for Innovation' considered how

cross-cultural collaboration can promote sustainable growth. The session featured a diverse high-level group of experts, including Dr Eyyad Masad, vice-president for research, HBKU, Dr Tony Kenyon, president, E-MRS, Dr Hisham Sabir, Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council, and Toby Underwood, head of Professional Standards, RCS.

Dr Mohammed al-Hashimi, professor, CSE, and conference chair, added: "The exchanges taking place here will help shape how chemistry contributes to solving pressing challenges and advancing sustainability both locally and globally."



## QRCS, IFRC host workshop on humanitarian diplomacy

**Q**atar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), in co-operation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), organised a workshop and roundtable discussion on humanitarian diplomacy.

The event was attended by representatives from many National Societies, IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), ambassadors, and members of the diplomatic missions in Qatar.

Titled "Humanitarian Diplomacy: Sharing Experience and Building Collaborative Action", the two-day regional workshop was held with the participation of humanitarian diplomacy special-

ists from Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, heads of IFRC delegations in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region, representatives of humanitarian partners, and officials from ICRC's regional delegation and representation mission in Qatar.

QRCS secretary-general Faisal Mohamed al-Emadi said: "Over the years, Qatar has been a strong advocate for humanitarian diplomacy and for building bridges among nations, institutions, and communities. QRCS works every single day to translate this vision into practice through our relief missions, development programmes, and contribution to international humanitarian forums".

He revealed arrangements in



progress with partners to draft a Universal Charter for Humanitarian

Diplomacy, an initiative aimed at creating a global framework for

effective humanitarian diplomacy, promoting dedicated engagement worldwide, and encouraging respect for human values, towards the ultimate goal of making the world a better and safer place for everyone to live.

QRCS and IFRC co-organised a roundtable discussion on "Humanitarian Diplomacy: Principled Engagement for Long-Term Impact", with two panel discussions on how principled humanitarian diplomacy, though inherently challenging and politically sensitive, can generate both immediate humanitarian access and durable impacts, as well as reflections about concrete tools, field experience, and the evolving norms that shape this work.

The event saw high-level participation from numerous government, diplomatic, humanitarian, and international organisations. The attendance from QRCS included Abdullah Hamed al-Mulla, board member; al-Emadi, Mohamed Ahmed al-Beshri, assistant secretary-general for Communication and Resource Development, and Dr Aiham Ismail al-Sukhni, head of International Relations.

Other participants included a delegation from Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, headed by Sara bint Abdullah al-Saadi, director of the Department of Human Rights, along with ambassadors and members of the foreign diplomatic missions in Qatar, among others.





# Qatar takes part in high-level ministerial meeting on Palestine developments

**QNA/AFP**  
Istanbul

Qatar took part in the high-level ministerial meeting on developments in Palestine, held in Istanbul, Türkiye, yesterday.

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi represented Qatar at the meeting.

## PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE STRESSED FOR FUTURE

Meanwhile, Gaza's future must be Palestinian-led and avoid any new system of tutelage, Türkiye and six of its top Muslim allies said after talks in Istanbul, AFP reported.

Türkiye, which played a central role in forging the now shaky three-week-old ceasefire, is pushing for Muslim nations to bring their influence to bear on the reconstruction of the embattled territory.

“Our principle is that Palestinians should govern the Palestinians and ensure their own security, the international community should support this in the best possible way – diplomatically, institutionally and economically,” Türkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said after the talks.

“Nobody wants to see a new system of tutelage emerge,” he told a news conference.

Brokered by US President Donald Trump, the October 10 ceasefire – which halted two years of continuous bloodshed – has been tested by fresh Israeli strikes and claims of Palestinian attacks on Israeli soldiers.

The talks involved top diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Pakistan and Indonesia.

All of them were called to a meeting with Trump in September on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, just days before he unveiled his plan to end the Gaza war.

“We’ve now reached an extremely critical stage: we do not want the genocide in Gaza to resume,” Fidan added, saying all seven nations supported plans for the Palestinians to take control of Gaza's security and governance.

Fidan, who held talks at the weekend with a Hamas delegation led by its chief negotiator Khalil al-Hayya, said the movement was “ready to hand Gaza to a committee of Palestinians”.

He also expressed hope that reconciliation efforts between Hamas and the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority, “will bear fruit as soon as possible,” saying inter-Palestinian unity would “strengthen Palestine's representation in the international community”. Earlier, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Ha-

mas was “determined to adhere to the (truce) agreement” and urged Muslim states to play “a leading role” in Gaza's recovery.

“We believe the reconstruction plan prepared by the Arab League and the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Co-operation) should be implemented immediately,” he said of the plan unveiled in March.

Türkiye has been instrumental in backing Hamas, whose October 2023 storming of Israel sparked the war in Gaza.

Fidan said it was crucial that the emerging International Stabilisation Force that will monitor the Gaza ceasefire under Trump's plan, have a “mandate defined by a UN Security Council resolution and a framework for legitimacy”.

Washington is currently working with Arab and international partners to decide on the composition of the force, with Turkey hoping to play a role, despite fierce opposition from Israel.

“The countries we’ve spoken with say they will decide whether to send troops based on ... the ISF's mandate and authority,” Fidan said. “First, a general consensus needs to be reached on a draft, then it needs to be approved by the members of the Security Council.

“And it needs to be free from vetoes by any of the permanent (UNSC) members,” he said of a blocking move frequently used by key Israel ally Washington.

# Sudan violence could be war crimes: ICC

**AFP**  
The Hague

The prosecutor's office at the International Criminal Court warned yesterday that atrocities committed in the Sudanese city of El-Fasher could constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

After 18 months of siege, bombardment and starvation, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) seized control of the city on October 26, dislodging the army's last stronghold in Sudan's western Darfur region.

The ICC prosecutor's office (OTP) voiced “profound alarm and deepest concern” over reports from El-Fasher about mass

killings, physical violations, and other crimes allegedly committed.

“These atrocities are part of a broader pattern of violence that has afflicted the entire Darfur region since April 2023,” said the OTP in a statement.

“Such acts, if substantiated, may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute,” the founding text of the ICC, added the OTP.

The UN has said more than 65,000 people have fled El-Fasher, including around 5,000 to the nearby town of Tawila, but tens of thousands remain trapped.

Before the final assault, roughly 260,000 people lived in the city.

Since the RSF takeover, reports have emerged of executions, physical violations, looting, attacks on

aid workers and abductions in and around El-Fasher, where communications remain largely cut off.

The RSF traces its origins to the Janjaweed, a militia accused of genocide in Darfur two decades ago.

Reports since El-Fasher's fall have raised fears of a return to similar atrocities.

Last month, the ICC convicted a feared Janjaweed chief for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur more than two decades ago.

The ICC found Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-al-Rahman, also known by the nom de guerre Ali Kushayb, guilty of multiple crimes, including abuse, murder and torture carried out between August 2003 and at least April 2004.

# Tanzania president sworn in amid post-election violence

**AFP**  
Nairobi

Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan played down days of bloody protest as she was inaugurated yesterday, with an Internet blackout still in place as the opposition says hundreds were killed.

The electoral commission said Hassan won 98% of the vote.

The main opposition party, Chadema, which was barred from running, has rejected the results. It has called for fresh elections, saying last Wednesday's vote was a “sham”.

In her speech, Hassan called for “unity and solidarity” but also alleged that some of the young protesters came from “outside Tanzania”.

“Our defence and security agencies continue to investigate and examine in detail what happened,” she said, promising a return to normalcy as she addressed officials and foreign dignitaries in the capital Dodoma.

The ceremony was held in State House without the public, rather than a stadium is usually the case.

A total Internet blackout has been in place since protests broke out on election day, meaning only a trickle of verifiable information

has been getting out of the east African country. A diplomatic source said there were credible reports of hundreds – perhaps even thousands – of deaths registered at hospitals and health clinics around Tanzania.

Chadema said it had recorded “no less than 800” deaths by Saturday, but none of the figures could be independently verified.

The government has not commented on any deaths, except to reject accusations that “excessive force” was used. Schools and colleges remained closed yesterday, with public transport halted and reports of some church services not taking place on Sunday.

# Gaza's psychological trauma brings large numbers to seek help

**Reuters**  
Gaza Strip

Gaza residents are suffering “a volcano” of psychological trauma from Israel's devastating military campaign that has become clear since last month's truce, according to Palestinian mental health specialists.

Two years of intense Israeli bombardment and repeated military incursions that local health authorities say have killed more than 68,000 people, along with widespread homelessness and hunger, have affected all of Gaza's 2.3mn inhabitants. The crisis is evident in the large numbers now seeking treatment from the Gaza City Mental Health Hospital team, now working out

of a nearby clinic because their building is damaged, said its head Abdallah al-Jamal. “With the start of the truce, it was like a volcano erupting in patients seeking mental health services. Even the stigma that used to be present before, the fear of visiting a psychologist, does not exist anymore,” he said, describing “a very large increase” in numbers from before the conflict.

Jamal and a colleague are working as best they can, but with the hospital having suffered significant damage their resources are limited and they have to share a room, depriving their patients of consultations in privacy.

“That is honestly insulting in the way services are provided, but we are trying as much as possible to find alternatives,” he said

of the more than 100 patients they see there every day. Among children, there are widespread reports of night terrors, bed-wetting and other symptoms including an inability to focus, say mental health specialists for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.

“Gazan children are now suffering from shortages of food, water, shelter, and clothing,” said Nivine Abdelhadi, a specialist from the organisation, which is offering activities for children that include games and stories.

The ceasefire came into effect on October 10 although there have been repeated outbreaks of violence since then. It brought a halt to major warfare in the conflict, which was triggered by the Hamas storming of Israel in October 2023.



A member of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society plays with children as part of mental support and recreational activities at the organisation's centre, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

# Khamenei says will not co-operate with US while it backs Israel

**AFP**  
Tehran

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday that Tehran would only consider co-operation with the United States if it changed its policy in the region including supporting Israel.

“If they completely abandon support for the Zionist regime, withdraw their military bases from here (the region), and refrain from interfering in this region, then it (co-operation) can be considered,” said Khamenei.

“The arrogant nature of the United States accepts nothing other than submission.”

The remarks came during a gathering with students in Tehran marking the anniversary of the 1979 takeover of the US embassy following the Revolution which toppled the Western-backed Shah.

In mid-June, Israel launched an unprecedented bombing



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with students in Tehran, yesterday.

campaign against Iran, triggering a war which saw the US join briefly with strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

The 12-day war with Israel, which prompted an Iranian response with missile and drone strikes, derailed nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington which had begun in April.

A ceasefire between Iran and Israel has been in place since June 24.

“If the country becomes strong and the enemy realises

that confronting this strong nation will not yield profit but will bring loss, the country will certainly gain immunity,” Khamenei added.

Iran has been reeling under years of international sanctions, especially after the United States in 2018 withdrew from a nuclear accord and reimposed sanctions.

In September, the United Nations reinstated sanctions under the so-called “snapback” mechanism after Britain, France and Germany triggered the process.

On Sunday, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in an interview with Al Jazeera that Tehran remained “ready to enter negotiations” with Washington, but only on its nuclear programme, ruling out any talks on its missile capabilities.

He added that talks could resume “whenever the Americans are ready to negotiate on an equal footing and based on mutual interests. Apparently, they are not in a hurry. We are not in a hurry either.”

# Lebanon says Israeli strikes kill two

**AFP**  
Beirut

Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon killed two people and wounded seven others yesterday, the Lebanese health ministry said, as Israel said it killed two members of Hezbollah.

Israel in recent days threatened to expand its attacks against the Lebanese armed group.

In a preliminary toll, the ministry said that an “Israeli enemy strike” on the town of Doueir in Nabatieh district killed one person and wounded seven others.

The second strike on Aita al-Shaab in the Bint Jbeil district also killed one person, according to the ministry.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported that an Israeli drone targeted a car in Doueir, causing it to catch fire.

The Israeli military said it killed Mohammed Ali Hadid, alleging he was “a commander in Hezbollah's Radwan Force in the Nabatieh area” who tried to “reestablish Hezbollah fighter infrastructure sites”.

In Aita Al-Shaab, the army said it killed a Hezbollah member who “was observed attempting to gather intelligence on (Israeli) troops”.

## ELECTION

### Guinea Bissau leader launches campaigning

Campaigning for Guinea-Bissau's legislative and presidential elections has officially started, as incumbent Umaro Sissoco Embalo rallied supporters in the capital ahead of a November 23 vote in which the main opposition has been disqualified, AFP reported from Bissau. Embalo was the only of 12 presidential candidates to begin campaigning on the first day of the three-week period. He gathered thousands of supporters who wore T-shirts bearing his image and the same red-and-white keffiyehs that he often wears on his head. His arch-rival Domingos Simoes Pereira met several presidential candidates seeking his support.



Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan is sworn in during a ceremony in Dodoma, Tanzania, yesterday.



TRAGEDY

24 killed, 18 injured in bus-truck crash in India

At least 24 people were killed and 18 others injured when a passenger bus collided with a truck in the southern Indian state of Telangana. Indian police said the accident occurred as the bus, carrying about 70 passengers, was travelling to Hyderabad, the state capital. Reports indicate that the truck, which was transporting gravel, collided with the bus at high force, trapping several passengers inside. Initial investigations suggest that excessive speed and loss of control by the truck driver were the likely causes of the accident. Police said the dead included the drivers of the bus and the truck, as well as a 10-month-old baby and its mother.

POLITICS

Bangladesh ex-PM Zia to contest elections: party

Former Bangladeshi prime minister Khaleda Zia will contest elections expected in February, her party said yesterday. The 80-year-old has been a dominant figure for decades in the country's turbulent power struggles, and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party is seen as the frontrunner in the elections. Her participation was announced by Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, a senior BNP leader, who said she will contest in three constituencies. The uncompromising leader has been in poor health following years of imprisonment under her arch-enemy Sheikh Hasina, who was overthrown in August 2024.

PEOPLE

Two Italian climbers missing on Nepal peak

Two Italian climbers have gone missing in Nepal while scaling a remote peak, tourism officials said yesterday, after Cyclone Montha disrupted weather in the region. The climbers, Farronato Stefano and Caputo Alessandro, were attempting to scale the 22,595-foot Panbari mountain in western Nepal as part of a three-member team. Himal Gautam of Nepal's tourism department said the search was ongoing for the missing climbers. "The two were stuck in camp one because of heavy snowfall and have been out of contact since Saturday," Gautam said. The team leader, who was at the base camp, was safe and rescued by helicopter Sunday, Gautam added.

ACCIDENT

UK train derailment leaves four injured

A train derailed yesterday morning after a reported landslide in the remote hills of northwest England, leaving four people with minor injuries, emergency and rail services said. Dozens of passengers were led off the 4.28am Avanti West Coast service train from Glasgow in Scotland to London Euston station after it derailed at Shap, Cumbria, a gateway to the more mountainous Lake District. "The incident followed a suspected landslip in the area which has been experiencing significant adverse weather conditions and extremely heavy rainfall continues to compound the issue," Network Rail said.

UK train stabbing suspect 'may be linked to three other incidents'

AFP/Reuters  
London

The suspect in the UK train stabbing spree at the weekend may have been involved in three earlier knife incidents including one in which a 14-year-old was stabbed, police said yesterday. Anthony Williams, 32, has been charged with offences including 11 counts of attempted murder – 10 on a London-bound train on Saturday evening and one at a station in east London in the early hours of the same day.

Cambridgeshire Police in eastern England said British Transport Police were leading the overall investigation into the train rampage but that it would also include "three incidents" that took place in the town of Peterborough on Friday and Saturday. The attack, on a London-bound train which then stopped at Huntingdon about 80 miles north of London, shocked the country, and prompted statements from Prime Minister Keir Starmer and King Charles, who sent their sympathies to those affected.

Williams, who is from Peterborough in eastern England, appeared at Peterborough Magistrates Court yesterday.

Transport Minister Heidi Alexander yesterday confirmed the man was not known to security services. She declined to comment on whether he was known to mental health services.

Five of the injured had been dis-

charged from hospital by late on Sunday.

Meanwhile a critically wounded train worker was yesterday hailed as a hero for stepping in to protect passengers.

"He went in to do his job and he left work a hero. And there are people who are alive today because of his actions and his bravery," Alexander said.

The minister also praised the train's driver, whose quick thinking ensured it was able to make an unscheduled emergency stop at Huntingdon in central England that allowed passengers to escape the train. The train had been travelling from northern England to London's King's Cross Station at about 7.40pm (1940GMT) on Saturday.

Passengers told of seeing victims with stab wounds fleeing through the train warning others to escape.

Chief investigation officer Stuart Cundy also paid tribute to the injured train company employee.

"Having viewed the CCTV from the train, the actions of the member of rail staff were nothing short of heroic and undoubtedly saved people's lives," he said.

Four other people remained in hospital though their condition was not life-threatening.

Alexander said there would be an increase in visible police patrols on trains in coming days to reassure the public.

The incident had been "absolutely horrific" but the UK rail network was generally among the "safest forms of public transport anywhere in the world", she told Sky News.



People take shelter at a school as they evacuate in Balangkeyan in Eastern Samar yesterday, ahead of the landfall of Typhoon Kalmaegi.

Thousands shelter as typhoon slams into Philippines

AFP  
Manila

More than 150,000 people took shelter in coastal provinces of the Philippines yesterday as powerful Typhoon Kalmaegi made landfall in a region hit by some of the country's deadliest storms.

The typhoon, with winds of 150kms per hour and gusts of up to 205kph, made first contact in Dinagat Islands province, part of the Visayas island chain, before 11pm (1500GMT), the national weather service said.

Barely an hour earlier, 34-year-old Miriam Vargas sat in the darkness with her two children after the storm knocked out their electricity.

"As of now, there is strong rain and winds

starting. We're sitting on the stairs and praying while trying to gauge the typhoon's strength," the single mother said from Dinagat.

"The wind is whistling and there are sounds of things falling. The electricity went out about an hour ago, and we cannot see anything."

Roel Montesa, a disaster official on Leyte Island, said earlier that evacuations were "ongoing in Palo and Tanauan", naming two of the towns hardest hit by storm surges in 2013, when Super Typhoon Haiyan killed more than 6,000 people there.

Thousands of residents have also been evacuated since Sunday on neighbouring Samar island, where 10-foot surges are predicted, according to civil defence official Randy Nicart.

"Some local governments are resorting to forced evacuations," he said.

As of 8pm, "close to 156,000 individuals" had been preemptively evacuated, Office of Civil Defence deputy administrator Rafaelito Alejandro told a press briefing.

The Philippines is hit by an average of 20 storms and typhoons each year, routinely striking disaster-prone areas where millions live in poverty.

With Kalmaegi, the archipelago country has already reached that average, state weather service specialist Charmaine Varilla said, adding that at least "three to five more" storms could be expected by December's end.

Just south of Leyte, in Dinagat Islands province, governor Nilo Demerey said 10,000 to 15,000 people had been pre-emptively moved to safer areas.

ED freezes properties worth \$351mn of Anil Ambani Group

India's financial crime agency has provisionally frozen Rs30.84bn (\$351mn) worth of real estate assets linked to Reliance Anil Ambani Group as part of a money-laundering investigation, it said in a statement yesterday. The case relates to loans from India's YES Bank in excess of \$569mn taken out by the group between 2017 and 2019 and involves what the enforcement directorate alleges was the diversion and laundering of public funds. Reliance Group, owned by the younger brother of billionaire Mukesh Ambani, did not immediately respond to a request for comment and has not communicated publicly on the investigation. YES Bank did not respond to a request for comment. The ED said in its statement that it had blocked any transactions from taking place on residential units and land parcels across Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai, including industrialist Anil Ambani's family residence in Mumbai.

Military veterans' reception



100-year-old WW2 veteran Dorothea is welcomed as she attends a military veterans reception by Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer at 10 Downing Street in London, Britain, yesterday.

Air India crash survivor has painful memories

AFP  
London

The only survivor of June's Air India crash has told UK media of the mental and physical anguish he has endured since surviving the deadly disaster in the Indian city of Ahmedabad.

Vishwash Kumar Ramesh said in the interviews aired and published yesterday that the months following the crash, which killed 241 passengers on the London-bound plane and another 19 people on the ground, had been "very difficult".

The British citizen, who lives Leicester, central England, walked away from the plane wreckage, in what he has called "a miracle", but lost his brother.

"It completely brought down my family... it's very difficult for me and my family," the 39-year-old told Britain's domestic Press

Association news agency.

He added that his brother, Ajay, "was my strength" and "my everything".

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad in western India on June 12, smashing into a medical college.

A preliminary investigation report by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AaIB) said fuel to the jet's engines was cut off moments before impact.

It did not offer any other firm conclusions or apportion blame for the disaster.

It emerged last month that the father of one of the pilots has asked India's top court for an independent investigation, arguing the official probe was unfairly blaming the crew.

In the interviews, which included several to British broadcasters, Ramesh was reluctant to talk about the crash, saying it was still "very painful".

Farage waters down tax pledges in pitch for economic credibility

Reuters  
London

Nigel Farage, leader of Britain's populist Reform UK, watered down some of his pledges yesterday, saying his party could not immediately implement substantial tax cuts if it won power because of what he called the dire state of public finances.

Reform, which has maintained around a 10-point lead over the governing Labour Party in the polls for months, had pledged to cut taxes by £90bn (\$121bn) a year – a

plan economists described as fanciful – if it won the next national election.

But yesterday, veteran Brexit campaigner Farage said such tax cuts could only be introduced after the party had convinced the markets it had fixed some of the British economy's problems.

It is the latest step by Reform, better known for its sometimes chaotic campaigning against illegal immigration, to show a more pragmatic side before the next election.

"We are being mature, we are being sensible, and we are not

over-promising," Farage told a press conference in the City of London, the capital's financial district.

"Do we want to have a smaller state? Yes. Are we going to cut the benefits bill? Yes. Will the civil service be smaller? Yes. Will we get a grip on public sector pensions? Yes. But we can't have massive tax cuts until the markets can see we've at least got these things in hand."

Prime Minister Keir Starmer won a large majority in parliament last year and does not need to call an election until 2029.

But Farage argues a national poll could come earlier, in 2027, predicting that markets will eventually push Finance Minister Rachel Reeves into implementing an austerity budget that could force the Labour government to call an early election.

Reeves, who says her priority is growing the economy, is expected to raise tens of billions of pounds in taxes in her November 26 budget.

Farage's comments appeared to be an acknowledgement that his party would have to convince the markets that a Reform government

could be fiscally responsible after their reaction helped to force out former Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss over her largely unfunded tax-cutting mini-budget in 2022.

Labour criticised Farage's plans, saying they would "take us back to austerity", while the opposition Conservatives accused his party of being a "one-man band with no experience of government" which could not be taken seriously on the economy.

But Farage blamed the Labour government and earlier Conservative administrations for failing to

manage Britain's high rate of borrowing and large debt burden.

And he again said only Reform could sort out an economy by cutting spending, convincing the richest to return to Britain and becoming the party of both business and working people, representing "alarm clock Britain".

He said the party would make some modest tax changes immediately, such as removing an inheritance tax on family farms and family-run businesses and raising the income tax thresholds, but more substantial tax cuts would have to wait.



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GULF TIMES

Why Russia is pushing so hard to take strategic Ukraine city

Russian forces are advancing inside the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, destroying trapped Ukrainian military formations and repelling Ukrainian efforts to break out of encirclement, the Russian Defence Ministry said yesterday.

Ukraine's top military commander Oleksandr Syrskiy, who has estimated that Russia has over 100,000 troops fighting in the area, says his forces are pushing hard to try to dislodge Russian forces and are broadly holding their ground.

Following are key facts about Pokrovsk, which Russians call by its Soviet-era name of Krasnoarmeysk, and the long battle for its control which began in earnest in mid-2024.

Pokrovsk is a road and rail hub in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region with a pre-war population of some 60,000 people. Most people have now fled, all children have been evacuated and few civilians remain amid its pulverised apartment buildings and cratered roads.

Ukraine's only mine producing coking coal - used in its once vast steel industry - is around six miles west of Pokrovsk. Ukrainian steelmaker Metinvest said in January it had suspended mining operations there.

The city lies on a key road which has been used by the Ukrainian military to supply other embattled outposts. A technical university in Pokrovsk, the region's largest and oldest, now stands abandoned, damaged by shelling.

Capturing Pokrovsk and Kostiantynivka to its northeast would give Moscow a platform to drive north

- Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. It would also give Moscow its most important single territorial gain inside Ukraine since it took the ruined city of Avdiivka in early 2024.

Russian President Vladimir Putin says Donbas is now legally part of Russia. Kyiv and most Western nations reject Moscow's seizure of the territory as an illegal land grab. Some Western military analysts, like Rob Lee, a senior fellow at the US-based Foreign Policy Research Institute, say that capturing Pokrovsk would hand Russia an important win, especially if it can do it by the end of the year.

But though important for operational reasons, Lee says taking Pokrovsk would still leave Russia a lot of work to do when it came to taking control of the rest of Donetsk and the two important fortress cities of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.

Russia has been threatening Pokrovsk for more than a year. Instead of the full frontal assaults it used in earlier battles like the bloody campaign for the similar-sized city of Bakhmut, Russia's military is using a pincer movement to gradually encircle Pokrovsk and threaten Ukrainian supply lines.

Russian forces harry Ukrainian troops by sending in small units and drones to disrupt logistics and sow chaos to their rear before sending in larger reinforcements.

Ukraine says Russia's offensive has seen its forces sustain huge losses. Moscow says it is Ukraine, with its significantly smaller population, that is at risk of running out of men and that its own slower tactics are designed to minimise casualties.

An incursion into Russia's Kursk region by Ukrainian forces last year, which Moscow fought back, slowed the Russian attack on Pokrovsk too. Ukraine has rushed to strengthen positions in the city.

"There is fierce fighting in the city and on the approaches to the city... Logistics are difficult. But we must continue to destroy the occupiers," President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday. Russia's top general, Valery Gerasimov, Chief of the General Staff, told Putin on Sunday that Russia had blocked a large number of Ukrainian soldiers in the area. DeepState, a Ukrainian project that maps the front line based on verified open source images, shows Russian forces pushing into the city, though much of it is still in grey, beyond firm control of either side.

"The situation in Pokrovsk is on the verge of critical and continues to deteriorate to the point that it may be too late to fix," DeepState said.

Reuters was unable to verify battlefield reports from either side due to reporting restrictions in the war zone. - Reuters

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Nuclear curveball: Trump's testing plan raises fears, confusion in Washington

By Phil Stewart, Idrees Ali, David Brunnstrom and Simon Lewis  
Washington

If US Navy Vice-Admiral Richard Correll thought he was going to have an easy confirmation hearing on Thursday to become the commander of America's nuclear forces, those hopes surely vanished at 9:04pm the night before he was to testify. That was when President Donald Trump shocked the world by announcing on social media that he had asked the US military to "start testing our Nuclear Weapons", saying the United States could not fall behind Russia and China.

"Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years," Trump said.

During a roughly 90-minute hearing on Thursday morning at the Senate Armed Services Committee, Correll faced repeated questions about Trump's comments from puzzled US lawmakers, embodying the confusion that the Republican president unleashed in Washington and beyond.

The top Democrat on the committee, Senator Jack Reed, asked Correll whether a resumption of US nuclear explosive testing would be destabilising, triggering a global nuclear arms race.

"If confirmed as the commander of STRATCOM, my role would be to provide military advice on any discussions on the way ahead with respect to testing," Correll said.

The vice-admiral, who Trump nominated in early September to

lead the US military's Strategic Command, or STRATCOM, which focuses on nuclear deterrence and strike capabilities, kept answering questions carefully throughout the hearing.

At one point, Senator Angus King, an independent, asked whether Trump's post could be about testing delivery systems such as missiles rather than explosive testing of nuclear devices.

"I don't have insight into the president's intent. I agree that could be an interpretation," Correll said.

US moratorium

US officials on Thursday did not clarify whether Trump was calling for testing of nuclear weapon delivery systems or ending a 33-year moratorium on explosion tests, which experts said would be disruptive and carry the risk of provoking escalation from rivals, evoking anxious memories of the Cold War.

Vice-President J D Vance said testing was part of ensuring the US nuclear arsenal functions properly.

The US and other nuclear powers have long stopped detonating actual nuclear warheads and instead use advanced computer simulations to maintain the readiness of their arsenals.

"There is no good reason for the United States to resume explosive nuclear testing - it would actually make everyone in the US less safe," said Tara Drozdenko, director of the global security program at Union of Concerned Scientists.

"The US has so much to lose

and so little to gain from resuming testing," she said.

Sending a message to Moscow and Beijing

Many analysts said that Trump, who often tries to project strength as a negotiation tactic, likely was seeking to send a message to Moscow and Beijing.

In his social media post issued ahead of his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea, the president said he had instructed the Pentagon to start testing "on an equal basis" and added: "That process will start immediately."

Only North Korea has conducted a nuclear test explosion in this century, the last in 2017. Russia, which has tested two new nuclear-powered weapons in recent days, has been accused by Washington of conducting so-called low-yield tests and of lacking transparency in its nuclear program, but has not conducted a full-scale nuclear explosion. Russian President Vladimir Putin had cautioned that if any country tested a nuclear weapon, then Moscow would too, a Kremlin spokesperson said on Thursday.

China has repeatedly rebuffed efforts across US administrations to hold talks on nuclear arms. While Beijing is undertaking efforts to dramatically increase its nuclear weapons stockpiles it has expressed little interest in negotiating with Russia and the US, arguing those countries' nuclear forces are currently considerably larger.

"If the goal is to generate leverage to force China to negotiate, I think that's unlikely

to work," said James Acton, co-director of the nuclear policy program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. China hopes the US will abide by its commitment to a moratorium on nuclear testing and obligations under a test ban treaty, Beijing's foreign ministry said on Thursday.

Benefiting US adversaries

Breaking the moratorium on US nuclear tests could benefit Washington's nuclear rivals by allowing them to conduct more tests, said Ploughshares, a foundation focused on reducing nuclear threats.

The United States has conducted the majority of all nuclear test explosions and retains data gathered from its 1,030 tests since 1945.

STRATCOM, where Correll is the current No 2, had just certified the US military's nuclear arsenal in January.

"A return to testing will benefit US adversaries by allowing them to catch up in nuclear research and weapons development," Ploughshares said in a statement.

A source at the Department of Energy, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said any test would take place deep underground at a Nevada site, which is mandated to be ready to conduct tests within 36 months.

At the hearing, Senator Jacky Rosen said her home state of Nevada had suffered from being the site of US nuclear explosive tests from 1951-1992, and vowed to prevent Trump from resuming them: "I'm going to be crystal clear: I will not let this happen. Not on my watch." - Reuters



US President Donald Trump speaks to members of the media on board Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. (AFP)



## Gaza peace plan: The Istanbul round



Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar attends a meeting with foreign ministers from Muslim countries to discuss the Gaza peace plan, in Istanbul yesterday. Türkiye yesterday hosted a string of top diplomats from the Islamic world to bring their influence to bear on the future of Gaza as fears grow for the increasingly fragile truce. The October 10 ceasefire in the two-year-long Israeli aggression, brokered by US President Donald Trump, has been sorely tested by continued Israeli strikes. (AFP)

# Trump says Russia, China, Pakistan and North Korea secretly tested N-arsenals

AFP  
Washington

President Donald Trump has alleged that countries including Russia and China have conducted underground nuclear tests unknown to the public, and that the United States would follow suit.

“Russia’s testing, and China’s testing, but they don’t talk about it,” he told CBS’s 60 Minutes programme, in an interview released Sunday.

“I don’t want to be the only country that doesn’t test,” he said, adding North Korea and Pakistan to the list of nations allegedly testing their arsenals.

Confusion has surrounded Trump’s order that the United States begin testing, particularly if he meant conducting the country’s first nuclear explosion since 1992.

The 79-year-old Republican first made his surprise announcement by social media post on Thursday, minutes before entering a summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in South Korea.

The announcement came in the wake of Russia saying it had

tested a new nuclear-powered cruise missile, the Burevestnik, and a nuclear-powered and nuclear-capable underwater drone.

Asked directly if he planned for the United States to detonate a nuclear weapon for the first time in more than three decades, Trump told CBS: “I’m saying that we’re going to test nuclear weapons like other countries do, yes.”

No country other than North Korea is known to have conducted a nuclear detonation for decades.

Russia and China have not carried out such tests since 1990 and 1996 respectively.

Pressed on the topic, Trump said: “They don’t go and tell you about it.”

“As powerful as they are, this is a big world. You don’t necessarily know where they’re testing.”

“They test way underground where people don’t know exactly what’s happening with the test. You feel a little bit of a vibration,” he added.

Asked about the comments yesterday, China’s foreign ministry denied conducting nuclear weapons tests.

As a “responsible nuclear-weapons state, China has al-

ways... upheld a self-defence nuclear strategy and abided by its commitment to suspend nuclear testing”, spokeswoman Mao Ning said at a regular press conference in Beijing.

She added that China hopes the United States will “take concrete actions to safeguard the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and maintain global strategic balance and stability”.

Trump’s energy secretary on Sunday downplayed that the United States was planning to set off a nuclear explosion.

“I think the tests we’re talking about right now are system tests. These are not nuclear explosions,” Chris Wright said in a Fox News interview.

“These are what we call ‘non-critical explosions,’ so you’re testing all the other parts of a nuclear weapon to make sure they deliver the appropriate geometry and they set up the nuclear explosion,” he said.

The United States has been a signatory since 1996 to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which bans all atomic test explosions, whether for military or civilian purposes.

# Afghan earthquake kills 20

AFP  
Samangan

A strong earthquake killed at least 20 people in northern Afghanistan, authorities said yesterday, just months after another deadly tremor that left the country reeling.

The 6.3-magnitude quake struck overnight at a depth of 28km with the epicentre near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, according to the US Geological Survey.

“All the houses were struck and people were hurt,” resident Ahmad Khan told AFP in Tashqurghan village as people searched through the rubble.

“We’re asking the government to help with reconstruction.”

Across Samangan and Balkh provinces “534 people have been injured and more than 20 fatalities have been taken to hospitals”, health ministry spokesman Sharafat Zaman told journalists.

In Mazar-i-Sharif, one of Afghanistan’s largest northern cities, an AFP correspondent saw residents scrambling out into the streets.

The city’s famed Blue Mosque, a 15th-century landmark known for its vibrant tiles, was also damaged.

Pieces of the structure, particularly from one of its minarets, broke off and lay scattered across the mosque’s grounds, one of the country’s few remaining tourist spots.

The culture ministry pledged to immediately take “the necessary measures to assess and repair the damage”.

Correspondents in the capital Kabul, around 420km by road to the



People stand on the debris of damaged buildings in the aftermath of an earthquake in Samangan province yesterday. (Reuters)

south, also felt shaking.

Poor communication networks and infrastructure in mountainous Afghanistan have hampered disaster responses in the past, preventing authorities for hours or even days from reaching far-flung villages to assess the extent of the damage.

The defence ministry said it had cleared and reopened the main road between Mazar-i-Sharif and the town of Kholm, and that it had rescued people who had been stranded there overnight.

“Numerous homes have been destroyed, and significant material losses have been incurred,” Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesman for the Taliban authorities, wrote on X, without specifying a number.

It is the latest natural disaster for the Taliban government, which has faced three major deadly earthquakes since taking over Afghanistan in 2021, even as the foreign aid that formed the backbone of the

country’s economy has dramatically dropped.

In August, a shallow 6.0-magnitude quake in the country’s east wiped out mountainside villages and killed more than 2,200 people.

According to the World Bank, the August earthquake caused an estimated \$183mn worth of damage to buildings and infrastructure.

The UN’s humanitarian agency, OCHA, estimates 221,000 people are still in “acute need” of assistance in the east.

Save the Children, which is dispatching a team to Samangan, warned “thousands of children in the earthquake-devastated east of the country are facing the winter with only tents for protection”.

“Now, families in the north are also experiencing fear and uncertainty,” said Samira Sayed Rahman, the charity’s programme development and advocacy director for Afghanistan.

# Pakistan eyes 2026 launch for the first Chinese submarine in \$5bn arms deal

■ Pakistan’s submarines will project power towards Middle East: Admiral ■ Islamabad orders eight submarines as part of the deal

Reuters  
Beijing

The Pakistan Navy expects its first Chinese-designed submarine to enter active service next year, the country’s top admiral told Chinese state media, bolstering Beijing’s bid to counter regional rival India and project power toward the Middle East.

A deal under which Islamabad will take delivery of eight Hangor-class submarines by 2028 is “progressing smoothly,” Admiral Naveed Ashraf told the *Global Times* in an interview published Sunday, adding the submarines would boost Pakistan’s ability to patrol the North Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.

The update on the Chinese submarine deal follows Pakistan’s air force using Chinese-made J-10 fighter jets in May to shoot down an Indian Air Force Rafale aircraft, made by France.

The altercation between the nuclear-armed neighbours surprised many in the military community and raised questions over the superiority of Western hardware over Chinese alternatives.

Under the terms of the submarine agreement – reportedly worth up to \$5bn – the first four diesel-electric attack submarines will be built in China, with

the remaining vessels assembled in Pakistan to improve the South Asian nation’s technical capabilities.

Pakistan has already launched three of the submarines into China’s Yangtze River from a shipyard in the central province of Hubei.

“Chinese-origin platforms and equipment have been reliable, technologically advanced and well-suited to Pakistan Navy’s operational requirements,” Ashraf told the tabloid, which is published by the ruling Communist Party’s *People’s Daily*.

“As modern warfare evolves, emerging technologies such as unmanned systems, AI and advanced electronic warfare systems are becoming increasingly important. The Pakistan Navy is focusing on these technologies and exploring collaboration with China,” Ashraf was also quoted as saying.

Islamabad has long been Beijing’s top arms customer, and over the 2020-2024 period bought over 60% of China’s weapons exports, data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute shows.

Along with billions in arms sales, Beijing has heavily invested in building out its connections to the Arabian Sea through a 3,000km economic corridor stretching from China’s Xinjiang

to Pakistan’s deep-water port of Gwadar.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, part of President Xi Jinping’s flagship ‘Belt and Road’ infrastructure initiative, aims to secure a route for the world’s largest energy importer to bring in supplies from the Middle East, bypassing the Straits of Malacca – a strategic chokepoint between Malaysia and Indonesia that could be blocked in wartime.

The initiative also extends China’s sphere of influence toward Afghanistan and Iran and onto Central Asia, and effectively encircles India, given Beijing’s ties to the junta in Myanmar and good relations with Bangladesh.

India currently operates three indigenously developed nuclear-powered submarines, along with three classes of diesel-electric attack submarines acquired or developed over decades with France, Germany, and Russia.

“This co-operation (with China) goes beyond hardware; it reflects a shared strategic outlook, mutual trust, and a long-standing partnership,” Ashraf said.

“In the coming decade, we expect this relationship to grow, encompassing not only shipbuilding and training, but also enhanced interoperability, research, technology sharing and industrial collaboration.”

## 2 arrested in Michigan allegedly planned IS-inspired attack

AFP  
Washington

Two Michigan men have been arrested for allegedly plotting to carry out an attack on behalf of the Islamic State (IS) over the Halloween weekend, according to US court documents unsealed yesterday.

FBI Director Kash Patel announced on Friday that the bureau had thwarted a “potential terrorist attack” in the northern US state and made multiple arrests but provided few details about the alleged plot.

The criminal complaint accuses Mohammed Ali, Majed Mahmoud and other unnamed co-conspirators of planning to stage an attack in Ferndale, a Detroit suburb, with clubs and bars the potential target.

Ali and Mahmoud, who are both US citizens, allegedly purchased firearms and ammunition and visited a gun range as part of a plot to “commit a Federal crime of terrorism,” the complaint said.

In an early Friday raid on Ali’s and Mahmoud’s residences in Dearborn, another Detroit suburb, FBI agents seized three AR-15 style rifles, two shotguns, four handguns and more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition, according to the complaint.

It said the social media accounts of the two men contained numerous references to “Islamic extremist and IS-related content.”

Multiple references to “pumpkin” in online chats and telephone conversations led the FBI to believe the attack was planned for Halloween weekend, according to the complaint.

Attorney General Pam Bondi said the suspects had a “detailed plan to carry out an attack on American soil.”

“This plot was stopped before innocent lives were lost,” Bondi added on X.



President of Valencia’s Region Carlos Mazon during the press conference where he announces his resignation at Valencia’s Palau de la Generalitat yesterday. (AFP)

## Spain regional leader quits a year after deadly floods

AFP  
Valencia

The heavily criticised leader of Spain’s Valencia region said yesterday he was stepping down, a year after the area was hit by floods that were the country’s deadliest natural disaster in a generation.

“The reality is that today I am the focus of criticism, noise, hatred and tension,” Carlos Mazon said in a televised address.

“I can’t go on any more.”

Mazon will remain as a lawmaker in the Valencia regional parliament and is expected to be replaced as the region’s leader by another member of his conservative Popular Party (PP).

He has faced fierce scrutiny over his handling of the October 29, 2024, catastrophe that killed more than 230 people, swept away 130,000 vehicles and damaged thousands of homes.

But has consistently rebuffed calls for his resignation.

Last week, relatives of the victims shouted “murderer,” “coward” and “get out” at Mazon when he arrived for a state memorial service for the victims in the regional capital, also called Valencia.

Mazon’s regional administration – primarily responsible for the emergency response under Spain’s decentralised system – sent an alert to residents’ mobile phones when flooding had

already started in some places.

The alert, which told residents to shelter in place, came more than 12 hours after the national weather agency had issued its highest alert level for torrential rains.

Critics allege the regional delay in raising the alarm cost lives.

Despite signs of severe flooding, Mazon did not change his schedule.

He went ahead with a lengthy lunch with a journalist and appeared in photos tweeted by his staff attending an event on Valencia’s sustainable tourism strategy.

Mazon said yesterday he “should have had the political vision” to cancel his appointments and visit the affected areas on the day of the disaster.

“I know I made mistakes. I acknowledge them and I will live with them all my life,” he added.

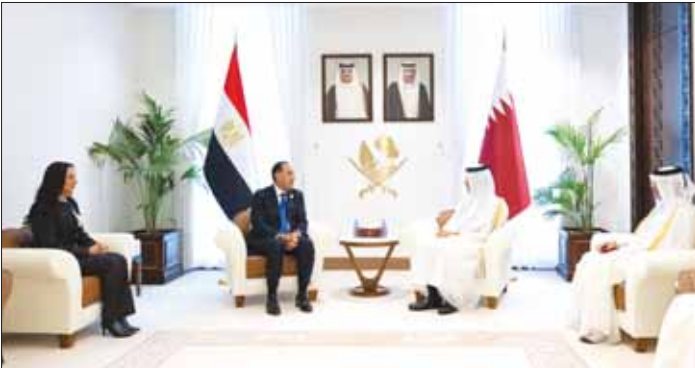
“I have asked for forgiveness and today I repeat it. But none of them were due to political calculation or bad faith.”

Mazon, whose conservative PP sits in opposition to the Socialist-led national government, has argued his administration did not have the information needed to be able to warn people sooner.

“We did our best under unimaginable circumstances, yet in many cases it was not enough,” he said last week before the state memorial.



# Prime Minister meets visiting leaders



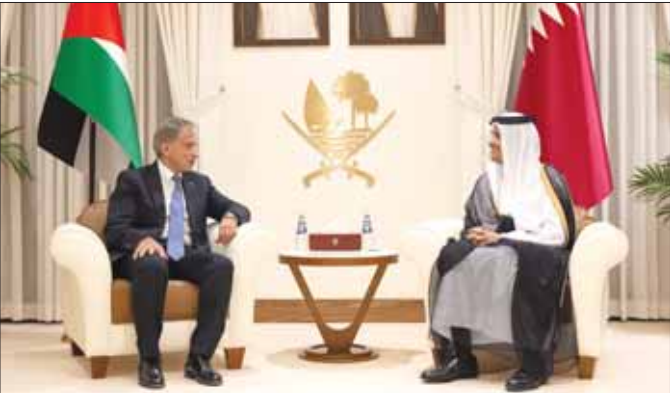
HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mostafa Madbouly, who is in Doha to attend the Second World Summit for Social Development. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and explored ways to strengthen co-operation between the two countries. They also exchanged views on developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories in light of the ceasefire agreement in the Strip, in addition to a range of issues of shared concern. HE Sheikh Mohammed stressed the need for concerted regional and international efforts to ensure the full implementation of the agreement, paving the way towards achieving lasting peace and stability in the region. **(QNA)**



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Yemen's Prime Minister, Salem Saleh bin Braik, who is visiting Qatar to participate in the World Summit for Social Development. The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways to bolster them; the latest developments in Yemen; and host of topics of mutual interest. During the meeting, HE Sheikh Mohammed affirmed Qatar's unwavering support for Yemen and its continued assistance to its brotherly people until they achieve their aspirations for security, stability, and development. **(QNA)**

## Leaders arrive to attend 2nd World Summit for Social Development

Several world leaders and their delegations arrived in Doha yesterday to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development, hosted by Qatar from Nov 4 to 6. They were welcomed among other by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani and HE the Director of Protocol Ibrahim bin Yousif Fakhro. Those who arrived so far yesterday included Uzbekistan's President Dr Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya Dr Mohamed al-Menfi, President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, Hungarian President Tamas Sulyok, Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan, Iraqi President Dr Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Jordanian Prime Minister Dr Jaafar Hassan, President of the Union of the Comoros Azali Assoumani, Speaker of the Council of the Nation of Algeria Azzouz Nasri and Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa and Kenyan President Dr William Ruto **(QNA)**



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with the visiting Jordanian Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Dr Jafar Hassan. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them. They also discussed the developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, in light of the ceasefire agreement in the Strip, besides topics of common interest. HE Sheikh Mohammed stressed the need for concerted regional and international efforts to ensure the full implementation of the agreement, paving the way for achieving sustainable peace and the desired stability in the region. **(QNA)**



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with the visiting Commander of the US Central Command Admiral Charles Bradford Cooper. The meeting discussed the close strategic relations between Qatar and the US and ways to support and strengthen them, primarily in the areas of military and defence co-operation. The two sides also discussed a host of topics of common interest. **(QNA)**



## PM meets President of Haitian Transitional Presidential Council

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Anthony Franck Laurent Saint Cyr, President of the Transitional Presidential Council of Haiti, who is visiting the country to attend the Second World Summit for Social Development. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and explored ways to strengthen co-operation between the two nations. They also addressed a range of issues of shared interest. **(QNA)**



## 'Rock on Top of Another Rock' unveiled at MIA Park

Chairperson of Qatar Museums, HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani yesterday unveiled 'Rock on Top of Another Rock', a large-scale public artwork by the celebrated Swiss artists Peter Fischli (b. 1952) and David Weiss (1946-2012). Installed in Doha's Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) Park, this striking sculpture transforms two granite boulders into a profound meditation on strength, fragility, and the human dialogue with nature. The event was attended by Acting Deputy CEO of Exhibitions, Public Art, and Rubaiya Qatar at Qatar Museums, Sheikhha Reem al-Thani and many other dignitaries. The monumental sculpture, standing approximately 5.5m (18ft) high, is poised at the boundary between the organic world and human construction, suggesting both permanence and precariousness. Fischli and Weiss, collaborators for more than 30 years before Weiss's death in 2012, are best known for combining, rearranging, and experimenting with media to present everyday objects in unexpected configurations. Rock on Top of Another Rock embodies their fascination with the line between stability and instability, turning the seemingly heroic act of piling up massive boulders into a meditative artistic statement.



Sheikhha Reem al-Thani said: "At Qatar Museums, we believe that public art has the power to inspire reflection, provoke ideas, and create moments of connection. Rock on Top of Another Rock embodies art's ability to transform our relationship with the spaces we inhabit. By placing this artwork in MIA Park, we invite visitors to step into dialogue with nature, architecture, and the city and experience the poetry of this sculpture's remarkable simplicity." For over three decades, Peter Fischli and David Weiss collaborated on a body of work that transformed the ordinary into the extraordinary through

sculpture, photography, and film. Blurring the boundaries between art and everyday life, their practice embraced humour, curiosity, and precision. They are best known for The Way Things Go (1987), a film in which a chain reaction of commonplace objects unfolds with mesmerising logic, and for works such as Wursterie (Sausage Series, 1979), Polyurethane Objects (begun 1982), and Visible World (1986-2012). Their work has been presented at major institutions worldwide, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Museo Jumex, and at Documenta and the Venice Biennale, where

they received the Golden Lion in 2003. Peter Fischli commented saying: "To put one rock on top of another rock in the wilderness is the first thing you do if you want to make a mark. When you walk and you want to find your way back, you make this mark. It is a very archaic, simple thing. We wanted to make something that forces youtube stop your car and get out to take a photograph." Originally presented in London's Hyde Park, with a parallel commission in Norway, Rock on Top of Another Rock is a legacy project of the Qatar-UK 2013 Year of Culture. Its presentation in Doha extends the cultural dialogue begun between the two nations more than a decade ago, showing how artistic exchange can bridge cultures and inspire reflection. Qatar Museums' public art programme presents artworks in dialogue with the city, the desert, and the sea. This permanent public art installation has been unveiled as part of Evolution Nation, an 18-month campaign honouring Qatar's cultural journey over the past 50 years. Curated by Qatar Creates, the national movement positioning Qatar as a global hub for art, culture, and creativity, Evolution Nation highlights the nation's cultural milestones and its aspirations for the future. **(QNA)**

# Sheikha Moza meets Colombian president

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF) and Education Above All Foundation (EAA), met yesterday with the visiting Colombian President Gustavo Petro. Talks during the meeting centred on the ongoing projects with EAA in Colombia, aimed at reducing the number of out-of-school children, alongside co-operation with QF in the domains of innovation, scientific research, and sustainability. **(QNA)** PICTURES: AR al-Baker



## Belgian king meets QM chairperson



King Philippe of Belgium, and his accompanying delegation, visited the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) yesterday, where he met with HE the Chairperson of Qatar Museums Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. During his tour of the museum,

the king viewed the most important exhibits in the various galleries and listened to a detailed explanation of the valuable content of the museum's displays. Director of the National Museum of Qatar Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Hamad al-Thani accompanied the King during the visit. **(QNA)**

## Chinese VP visits NMoQ



Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng, and his accompanying delegation, visited the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) yesterday evening, on the sidelines of his visit to the country to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development. HE the Chairperson of Qatar Museums Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani accompanied the vice-president during his tour of the museum. He viewed the museum's most important collections in its various galleries and listened to a detailed explanation of the valuable content of the exhibits. Also present during the tour were CEO of Qatar Museums Mohammed Saad al-Remaihi and Director of the National Museum of Qatar Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Hamad al-Thani. **(QNA)**