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Financial Results (Q3 2025)


Gross Written Premiums (GWP)

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QAR 7.9B


Net Profit

Before the impact of Fair Tax

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QAR 645M

Net Profit

12% 

QAR 588M


Earnings Per Share:

14% 


QAR 0.135

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WEDNESDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13550

November 5, 2025


Jumada I 14, 1447 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

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Amir calls for global action on poverty eradication, inclusion and just peace

QNA
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani patronised the opening of the Second World Summit for Social Development at the Qatar National Convention Center yesterday. The opening ceremony was attended by Their Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies, leaders of sisterly and friendly countries, heads of government, and participating delegations. During the opening session, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani was elected Chair of the Second World Summit for Social Development.

“Our hosting of this summit... reflects our keenness to advance social development, support international efforts to eradicate poverty, increase job opportunities”

His Highness the Amir delivered a speech in the opening ceremony, read as follows: In the Name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful Your Excellency the President of the UN General Assembly, Your Excellency the Secretary-General of the UN, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Honourable Audience, May peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

“Qatar takes pride in its strong strategic partnership with the UN”

At the outset it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Doha, wishing you a pleasant stay. The State of Qatar takes pride in hosting this summit, which comes thirty years after the first summit held in Copenhagen in 1995. It is an event that affirms the spirit of solidarity and international cooperation in addressing the challenges that hinder economic growth, and slow down the

Amir opens 2nd World Summit for Social Development

achievement of human development goals, which will threaten social peace. Our hosting of this summit stems from our firm conviction in the importance of collective action on issues that should not be contentious in order to address common global challenges.

“We call upon the international community to redouble its efforts and extend support to the Palestinian people”

It also reflects our keenness to advance social development, support international efforts to eradicate poverty, increase job opportunities, and promote all that safeguards human dignity and social inclusion – ultimately paving the way toward a future of greater prosperity and justice for all. On this occasion, we value the tireless efforts of Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN, which embody his well-known commitment to enhancing the work of the UN. We extend our appreciation to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs for its efforts in co-ordinating and preparing this summit. Honourable Audience, social development is not a matter

of choice-it is a fundamental necessity. As we commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the UN this year, this summit provides us with an opportunity to renew our commitment to its charter, to multilateral co-operation within its institutions, and to redouble our efforts to solidify the values of social development as an essential foundation for achieving security, prosperity, and stability for all.

“Social development can never be achieved without peace and stability”

At the national level, Qatar has accorded special importance to social development and has achieved clear progress, as reflected in indicators issued by relevant international institutions. The state continues to work diligently in this regard-enhancing human development, improving quality of life, promoting prosperity and well-being, and advancing education quality, economic empowerment, healthcare, family welfare, and social protection. The state, through the Ministry of Social Development and Family, has recently launched its 2025-2030 Strategy, under the theme “From Care to Empowerment”. One of

its main pillars is to build a cohesive society founded on justice, equal opportunity, and human empowerment in line with the State's strategies and Qatar National Vision 2030.

“It is high time to end the war in Sudan and reach a political solution that guarantees Sudan's unity”

At the international level, we recognise that the challenges facing realising social development-such as poverty, unemployment, and social inequality-require collective co-operation and effective solidarity. **To Page 12**

Amir meets UN secretary-general

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025. They exchanged views on key topics on the summit's agenda and discussed ways to strengthen co-operation between Qatar and the United Nations. They also addressed a range of regional and international issues of mutual concern. Attending the meeting were HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi and several senior officials. **(QNA)**

Amir meets leaders attending summit

Education key to progress, says Sheikh Moza

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) and Chairperson of Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, participated yesterday in a high-level session entitled “Education as the Foundation of the New Social Contract”, as part of the proceedings of the Second World Summit for Social Development, held in Doha. In a speech delivered during the session, Her Highness emphasised that genuine development is rooted in the human being, both its starting point and its ultimate goal. She stressed that education remains the fundamental pillar upon which progress and national advancement are built. **Page 12**

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday with a number of heads of state on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development at the Qatar National Convention Centre. His Highness met separately with President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Dr Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Republic of Rwanda Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Kenya Dr William Ruto, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, and President of the Republic of Montenegro Jakov Milatovic. During the meetings, they exchanged views on key topics on the summit's agenda, particularly those related to supporting the summit's outcomes in the areas of poverty eradication, promoting social development, and economic transformation. They

also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations between Qatar and their respective countries in various fields of co-operation, in addition to discussing a number of regional and international issues of common interest. The meetings were attended by HE the Prime

Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE 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 al-Khulaifi, and other high-ranking officials. **(QNA)**

Palestinian Authority should take care of Gaza and West Bank: PM

Qatar wants the Palestinian Authority (PA) to be the single agency for the Palestinians to take care of Gaza and the West Bank, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has said. In an exclusive interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS, he said there were ongoing talks between all the Palestinian factions, including the Fatah and the PA, in order to make sure that this is a technocratic committee, it's apolitical.

"It will take care of Gaza in this transition period, and it will be linked somehow to the Palestinian

Authority, and once the reforms are in place, the Palestinian Authority should take over the governance in Gaza and the West Bank together."

Regarding the role that the international forces in Gaza should play, HE Sheikh Mohammed observed that "there should be a defined mandate", and Qatar is working together with the US in order to define that mandate. The role of the international forces should be "securing the Palestinians and the Israelis don't pose a threat to each other". At the outset, HE the Prime Minister stated that the "Gaza ceasefire is a very complex



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani during an exclusive interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS.

very closely in order to make sure that the ceasefire stays intact. Regarding Qatar's history of suc-

record of credibility, honesty and transparency with those parties. That's what makes Qatar a desti-

nation for mediation." Asked about relations with Iran, HE the Prime Minister pointed out that Qatar shares the largest gas field in the world with Iran. "We would like to see Iran flourishing, developing and prospering and, of course, we don't want to see an arms race in our region. We don't want to see a nuclear race in our region. That's why we've been supporting diplomacy all the time, and hoped that Iran reached a deal with the US and the Europeans in order to get its nuclear programme under supervision and to make sure that it's a peaceful programme."

Describing the US as Qatar's

ally, HE Sheikh Mohammed said the relationship has been developing in a lot of areas, not only in security and defence, but also in energy, economy and education, in many aspects. "When you look at the security guarantees that we got from US, this is a guarantee for the US interest as well, which are in the region, which are in Qatar, either it's about the air base... where we are hosting more than 10,000 US soldiers." Also referring to the presence of American universities and energy companies in Qatar, he asserted that the security guarantee is just a demonstration of the strategic relationship with the US.

World leaders endorse Doha Declaration

World leaders participating in the Second World Summit for Social Development yesterday endorsed the "Doha Political Declaration", reaffirming the global commitment to building more just and inclusive communities. The move represents a shared pledge by governments to address poverty, create decent work opportunities, combat discrimination, expand access to social protection, and safeguard human rights.

The declaration underscores that social development is not merely a moral imperative but also a prerequisite for peace, stability, and sustainable growth.

It affirms the leaders' commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration of 1995 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting social development across three trifecta pillars: poverty eradication, full and

productive employment with decent work for all, and social inclusion.

The declaration intertwines social justice with peace and human rights and pledges to leave no one behind. It also urges urgent climate action under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, reaffirming the "Rio de Janeiro Principles", including shared responsibilities.

In addition, the declaration confirms that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, welcoming the Sevilla Commitment to renew the global financing framework.

It further calls for stronger and more representative multilateral institutions, with the Social Development Committee assuming follow-up responsibilities through a five-year review process to assess progress and bridge existing gaps. (QNA)

Doha Political Declaration crucial step towards achieving inclusive social development: Baerbock

President of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Annalena Baerbock stated that yesterday's adoption of the Doha Political Declaration represents a crucial step towards achieving inclusive social development that leaves no one behind, and that Doha should be the final stage on this path that began in Copenhagen three decades ago.

In her address at the opening session of the Second World Summit for Social Development – Doha 2025, she recalled the experience shaped by the 1995 Copenhagen Conference, saying: "Copenhagen taught us 30 years ago that social development and inclusion is essential for strong societies. Today, Doha must go the last mile and teach us how to leave no one behind, end social injustice, and guarantee dignity for everyone." Baerbock added that the past three decades have seen "tangible progress," saying: "Unemployment, which stood at 1bn people, 30% of the global workforce in 1995 fell to a historic low of 5% in 2024." However, she noted that "economic growth alone has been insufficient to pull people in all regions out of poverty," as gaps widen and structural imbalances persist, leaving millions marginalised.

On these gaps, she pointed out that girls in many countries find themselves left behind for reasons beyond their control. She added, "Copenhagen has allowed millions to take a step forward. But far too many have remained stuck or have even fallen further back. 800mn people still live in extreme poverty. In some countries, half of the girls do not even go to primary school."

Baerbock continued by saying: "While unemployment has fallen to 5% globally, this hides vast disparities. For instance, unemployment stands at less than 1% in some countries, yet it amounts to more



than 20% in others. And young people remain three times more likely to be unemployed. These are undeniable facts, and we must join forces in order to make life fair for everyone work towards a world that is fair to everyone, regardless of their birthplace or circumstances."

Regarding shared challenges, she emphasised that the climate crisis is the biggest obstacle to social development, noting that climate disasters cause the collapse of social services and an immediate decline in GDP. Just last week, Hurricane Melissa barrelled through the Caribbean, causing \$2bn in losses. Such disasters directly account for at least \$200bn in annual losses, she said, adding: "If we continue like this, it is estimated that if the planet warms by more than two degrees, almost 200mn more people could face food insecurity."

She said that hunger and poverty are also drivers of displacement. And displacement, in turn, leads to insecurity and instability. Thus begins a vicious circle, stressing that the opportunity still exists to reduce emissions and keep the temperature rise below two degrees. "Fighting the climate crisis and ending hunger and poverty is not merely an act of charity. It is a matter of security and self-interest for all countries."

Baerbock also called for the adoption of interconnected solutions for social development, noting that the Doha Declaration, as well as the SDGs, call for holistic strategies because eradicating hunger cannot be achieved in isolation from education, equality, or decent work. They are not separate 17 goals, but rather an integrated framework where advancement in one area accelerates progress in others, she said.

Baerbock affirmed that the Doha Declaration was formulated with everyone's participation and delivering on this all together in unity won't be easy. "With the Declaration just adopted, with the promises we made, to level the playing field for all, once and forever," she added. It is worth noting that the opening session of the conference witnessed the formal adoption of the Doha Political Declaration by the President of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly.

The declaration was agreed upon through an intergovernmental negotiation process held at the UN in New York. According to the UN, this declaration represents a pivotal moment in the global effort to accelerate social progress, eradicate poverty, and build more inclusive, just, and sustainable societies. (QNA)

Emphasising commitment to UN standards in social development, building inclusive world

The Doha Political Declaration issued by the Second World Summit for Social Development, held in Doha, reaffirmed the commitment to previous UN frameworks in the field of social development. In the Doha Declaration, the heads of state, government, and delegations participating in the summit reaffirmed the need to build a more just, inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world by addressing gaps, assessing progress, and recommitting to the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, as well as the urgent need to address profound social challenges, especially poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion that affect every

country, and to address their underlying structural causes and distressing consequences. The Doha Declaration stressed that the three core themes of social development – poverty eradication, promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration – are interrelated and mutually reinforcing each other, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously. The Doha Declaration also affirmed that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security.

In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms "We meet thirty years after the first World Summit for Social Development and days after the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the UN, with a determination to promote social development and social justice anchored in a strengthened and effective multilateral system and we reaffirm and remain guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the UN and international law," participating leaders said. (QNA)

Rights protection, poverty and reduction of unemployment top priorities

The Doha Political Declaration issued yesterday at the Second World Summit for Social Development, currently held in Doha, reaffirmed the commitment to safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, while taking into account the regional contexts of each country. The declaration also emphasised the urgent need to eradicate poverty and protect the environment. The declaration reiterated that the pursuit of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development, must be respected, protected, and promoted, without any form of discrimination. The declaration further stressed that the elimination of poverty in all its forms and

dimensions, including extreme poverty, remains the greatest global challenge and an indispensable condition for achieving sustainable development. In the same context, the Doha Political Declaration emphasised the necessity of taking urgent and ambitious climate action in line with the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, particularly concerning mitigation, adaptation, and the provision of means of implementation to developing countries, while recognising the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The leaders stated in their political declaration that they gathered at a summit driven by renewed hope, commitment, and collective action.

While facing urgent and complex challenges, they added, the world sees new opportunities, genuine progress is possible through true solidarity, effective multilateralism, and comprehensive international co-operation, taking into account the living realities in each country and regional contexts, particularly in developing countries. The declaration welcomed the progress made toward the full implementation of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action through coordinated national, regional, and global measures. It highlighted that global wealth has grown significantly since 1995, international trade has expanded further, labour productivity has increased worldwide, and the global unemployment rate has reached a historic low. (QNA)

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Total Dividend Distribution for the year
2020 - 2025

QR 616,610,462



TOTAL SHAREHOLDER
28,789

Qatari Individuals
27,266



Qatari Corporate
148



Foreign Investors
1,375



Baladna Q.P.S.C. held its ordinary general assembly at 5.00 PM on Tuesday, 4 November 2025. The following decision was taken:

1. Approval of the proposal of the Board of Directors to distribute bonus shares at a rate of 1 share for each 14 share (equivalent to 0.071 shares for each share).

Note: Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting (EGM) have been postponed to Thursday, 6 November 2025 at 5:00 pm and held via Zoom online application as the legal quorum was not reached for the validity of EGM on 4 November 2025.

Total Dividend Distribution for the year 2020 - 2025
QR 616,610,462

Total Net Profit for the year 2020 - 2025
QR 1,042,563,070

Interim cash dividend distributions for the year 2020	QR 40,000,000
Cash dividend distributions for the year 2020	QR 100,753,000
Cash dividend distributions for the year 2021	QR 100,753,000
Cash dividend distributions for the year 2023	QR 132,119,500
Share dividend distributions for the year 2024	QR 100,052,631
Share dividend distribution from retained earnings and half year profit 2025	QR 142,932,331

Net profit for the year 2020 (13 Months)	QR 152,129,022
Net profit for the year 2021	QR 133,835,883
Net profit for the year 2022	QR 80,611,726
Net profit for the year 2023	QR 109,628,571
Net profit for the year 2024	QR 185,012,156
Net profit for the nine month period ended 30 September 2025	QR 381,345,712

GCC chief Albudaiwi lauds Qatar for hosting social development summit

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Al-budaiwi has commended Qatar for hosting the Second World Summit for Social Development, which comes 30 years after the Copenhagen Summit, noting that this reflects Qatar's pioneering role as an important regional and international partner in supporting and advancing human development and promoting joint humanitarian action.

This came in a speech delivered during the Second World Summit for Social Development yesterday, in which he praised Qatar's outstanding efforts in hosting, preparing, and organising this leading global event in co-ordination with the UN.

He noted that this reflects Qatar's high international standing and its active role in supporting global initiatives and dialogues related to human development and investment in people.

He affirmed that the goals of this summit represent a key pillar of the GCC's vision for social development pathways, which focus on promoting social justice, empowering various segments of society, and developing social protection systems – objectives that align with the strategic orientations of GCC countries toward building more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable societies.



He also reiterated the GCC's support for all international efforts aimed at enhancing social development and achieving human well-being, stressing the council's commitment to strengthening its international partnerships and exchanging expertise in ways that contribute to achieving the summit's objectives and amplifying the global impact of its programs and initiatives.

This, he said, stems from the wise guidance of the GCC leaders and the council's firm role as an active partner in global efforts to promote comprehensive human development. **(QNA)**

Shura committee concludes review of state budget draft



The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Shura Council held a meeting yesterday, chaired by Chairman of the Committee Mohammed bin Yousef al-Mana. During the meeting, the committee hosted Assistant Undersecretary for Public Treasury Affairs Abdulrahman Fouad al-Mudhahka; Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Policies Affairs Dr Abdulrahman Mohammed Jolo; and Director of the General Budget Department at the Ministry of Finance Ahmed Mohammed al-Mohannadi. The committee concluded its discussion of the draft state general budget for the fiscal year 2026 and the draft law approving the state's general budget. Officials from the Ministry of Finance responded to the inquiries and observations raised by committee members regarding the chapters and sectors of the draft budget. The committee resolved to submit its report on the draft state general budget for the fiscal year 2026 and the draft law approving it to the Council. **(QNA)**

UNDP calls for targeted government action to help over 400mn people escape poverty

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has stressed the need for targeted actions by governments world over to help over 400mn people to escape poverty in its latest report published ahead of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WWSD2) 2025 being held in Doha.

At press conference during the WWSD2 yesterday, Haoliang Xu, UNDP acting administrator said that rethinking traditional poverty measures by defining 'prosperity floors' can help vulnerable communities cope with shocks without falling back into poverty.

As many as 411mn people worldwide could move from poverty to basic security by 2030 if governments adopt context-specific 'prosperity floors' and focus on job-intensive growth, adaptive social protection systems and policies that increase wages.

Xu said: "Crossing a \$3-a-day threshold is not enough if families are still one emergency – one illness, job loss, or climate crisis – away from being unable to afford housing, food, and essential services. Our report demonstrates that, by 2030, 411mn people could move from poverty to basic security—if governments act together, and act now." The report, titled Poverty-to-Prosperity Transitions highlights strategies to ensure not just poverty reduction but



Haoliang Xu (centre) along with other UNDP officials at the press briefing yesterday in Doha. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

sustained prosperity for low-to-middle income households across the globe. According to the report, established poverty measurements identify people who cannot meet minimum needs. By contrast, a

'prosperity floor' identifies the minimum needs for people not only to subsist, but also to be able to withstand unexpected shocks such as a natural disaster or economic downturn. The report also

points out that the new benchmark will not only track progress in escaping poverty but also help safeguard against future setbacks, ensuring people remain secure and resilient in the face of unexpected emergencies. UNDP analysis across 126 developing countries finds that more than one-third of people in developing countries live below their prosperity floor. This means these individuals remain vulnerable, with a single crisis threatening to push them back into poverty.

The report cautions that relying solely on traditional poverty alleviation policies, such as cash transfers and cash-for-work programmes, will not sustain progress. Instead, UNDP urges governments to adopt a system-wide strategy

that fosters job inclusive growth, adaptable social protection, and fairer income distribution to leave no one behind. Across every region, progress on poverty reduction has slowed, and disparities have deepened. While the share of people living in extreme income poverty has fallen globally, nearly 1.1bn people still experience acute multidimensional poverty, lacking access to education, health, and decent living standards. Two-thirds of the world's population live in countries where income inequality has increased over the past decade. Poverty is increasingly concentrated in fragile and conflict-affected settings, and the effects of climate change and demographic pressures are compounding these vulnerabilities.

Qatar reaffirms commitment to advancing disability inclusion

HE the Minister of Social Development and Family, Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, has affirmed that Qatar is steadily moving toward promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities and empowering them to fully engage in the path toward sustainable development. HE al-Nuaimi stressed that this move represents one of the core pillars of Qatar's national and social policies.

She was addressing a session titled 'From commitment to capacity: accelerating the implementa-

tion of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy', organised by the ministry in collaboration with the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) as part of the second World Summit for Social Development currently convened in Doha.

Qatar is among the leading nations on the regional stage in the area of empowering persons with disabilities, thanks to key legislative and institutional breakthroughs, foremost among them Law No. 22 of 2025, on the rights of persons with disabilities, HE al-Nuaimi under-

Qatar is among the leading nations on the regional stage in the area of empowering persons with disabilities, thanks to key legislative and institutional breakthroughs

lined. She stressed that this law has deepened the principle of equality and non-discrimination and ensures the rights of persons with disabilities to education, work, and healthcare, as well as engagement in societal, cultural, and sporting


activities equivalently with others.

Through its National Strategy 2025-2030, derived from the motto 'From Care to Empowerment', the ministry works to advance holistic executive frameworks meant to provide equal services and craft

policies that meet a variety of needs for persons with disabilities, in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV2030), as well as the relevant international conventions, HE al-Nuaimi pointed out.

She further noted that inclusion does not stop at enacting legislation and policies but goes beyond to include the establishment of an integrated system of collaboration between state institutions, civil society, and the private sector, to ensure the integration of national, regional, and global efforts to achieve

shared goals in this respect. HE al-Nuaimi assured that Qatar will continue its leading role in backing the UN and regional efforts aiming to include those persons and empower them to have a dignified life, as well as full participation in public life. She emphasised that the human values underpinning QNV 2030 embody the nation's commitment to building a thriving, inclusive, just, and sustainable community that guarantees human dignity and rights without exception. **(QNA)**



Invites qualified bidders to participate in the following tender:

Sl No.	Reference and Description	Submission of Information & Interest in Participation	Tender publication in QAPCO ARIBA System	Tender fee (non-refundable)	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	RFQ 4000022303 Supply of Sodium Metabisulphate for Two Years	09 th Nov. 2025	11 th Nov 2025	QAR. 750	QAR. 100,000.00	25 th Nov 2025 12:00 Noon
2	RFP-P10-01-360 SSE/SASE Solution with Firewall Integration - For 5 Years	09 th Nov. 2025	11 th Nov 2025	QAR. 750	QAR. 100,000.00	07 th Dec 2025, 12:00 Noon

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official e-mail...etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.

ii. Non-refundable tender fee indicated above is payable to QAPCO through QNB account # 0013-001688-060 only at any QNB branch latest by **09th Nov 2025**

iii. Tender link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders. Tender Document will be accessible only after submitting the evidence of the tender fee payment by the bidder to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa). QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission.

iv. **Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):** Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to the following address latest by the Tender closing date & time:
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QAPCO HEADQUARTERS.
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Building; 12, Zone No. 92, Street No. 556
Mesaieed , Qatar
Tel: 4033 8109 / 102
Attention: Procurement Group Manager
Bidder to attach copy of tender bond to the offer in ARIBA. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.

Clarifications: Communicate queries with tender reference and description to procurement@qapco.com.qa.

Notes:

1. ARIBA Registration: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the registration process during the tendering period (Details on ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website www.qapco.com)

2. ICV: Effective from 01st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Law of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US/>) by Tender closing date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned / notified) will not be accepted. Local companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement.

For more information about QAPCO, please visit our website: www.qapco.com


Omani minister emphasises on importance of achieving social inclusion

Omani Minister of Social Development, Dr Laila bint Ahmed al-Najjar, underlined the importance of achieving social inclusion and promoting justice and equality by making them a priority in national programmes and policies.

In her address at the Second World Summit for Social Development, currently being held in Doha, the Omani Minister of Social Development stated that Oman attaches great importance to the field of social development, considering this vital sector the foundation for building the Omani citizen.

She pointed to the efforts being made to eradicate poverty, which is the first goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the launch of the social protection system. This system represents a qualitative leap towards integration and justice in the distribution of social benefits, in addition to providing direct financial support services and developing economic empowerment programs, housing and health support programmes, and free education.

She discussed her country's efforts to provide decent work through the adoption of the National Employment Strategy, which aims to balance education and training with labour market demands. This strategy includes encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation as promising pathways to creating decent job opportunities. **(QNA)**



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/SOH/7392/25 INSPECTION, CERTIFICATION, REFURBISHMENT, PAINTING, RENTAL, REFILLING, AIR QUALITY TEST OF BREATHING AIR EQUIPMENT ON CALL-OFF BASIS	05/11/2025 to 12/11/2025	0	253,000	01/12/2025

Scope of Work:
CONTACTOR shall carry out calibration of Inspection, refilling, monitoring, certification, refurbishment, and painting of BREATHING AIR equipment in onshore and offshore area on a call-off basis. with minimum requirement as below:

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- Contractor shall provide Breathing apparatus OEM certificate of authorisation for specific Breathing Apparatus Brand as service provider in Qatar including the OEM support for the respective brands.
- Other requirements as described in the Tender Document.

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

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

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

UN chief praises Qatar as ‘peacemaker’ in Middle East and beyond

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has praised Qatar's pivotal role in promoting peace in the Middle East and across the world, describing the country as a “peacemaker.”

Speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of the Second World Summit

for Social Development 2025 in Doha, Guterres said Qatar has consistently been a committed partner in peace efforts – from supporting the ceasefire agreement in Gaza to mediating between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the M23 move-

ment. He stressed the importance of ensuring both agreements hold to pave the way for lasting political solutions.

The UN chief also commended Qatar for its generous support to the UN, highlighting its global humanitarian contributions and advocacy for educa-

tion – including efforts to ensure Afghan girls continue their schooling. He noted that Qatar hosts the Doha multi-lateral process, which facilitates the international community's engagement with Afghanistan. Guterres said that by hosting the Second World Summit

for Social Development 2025, “Qatar is once again playing a decisive global role,” emphasising that the event represents a renewed commitment to placing “people, dignity, and social justice at the heart of sustainable development.” (QNA)

Guterres calls for end to Sudan conflict, Gaza ceasefire violations

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on the warring factions in Sudan for immediate end of the conflict and expressed his deep concern about the continued violations of the ceasefire in Gaza.

Speaking at a press conference at the Second World Summit for Social Development (WWSD2) 2025 yesterday, Guterres said that the horrifying crisis in Sudan is spiralling out of control as for over 18 months, El Fasher and the surrounding areas in North Darfur have been an epicentre of suffering, hunger, violence and displacement.

He said: “I once again call for an immediate end to this unimaginable violence. I call for the safe, rapid and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to all civilians in need. Since the Rapid Support Forces entered El Fasher last weekend, the situation is growing worse by the day. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are trapped by this siege. People are dying of malnutrition, disease and violence.”

“I call for the safe, rapid and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to all civilians in need. I call for an end to the flow of weapons and fighters into Sudan – which is making a desperate situation even worse,” Guterres said.

“We need an immediate cessation of hostilities. I call on both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces to work with my Personal Envoy for Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra, towards a negotiated settlement. Come to the negotiating table. Bring an end to this nightmare of violence – now. It is time for peace,” he stressed.

The secretary-general continued that he was deeply concerned about the continued violations of the ceasefire in Gaza.

“They must stop and all parties must abide by the decisions of the first phase of the peace agreement. And let's not forget the need to establish a credible political path towards ending the occupation, realising the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, and leading to a two-state solution that enables Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks to the media in Doha yesterday.

PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

and security,” he said.

He also highlighted that Qatar has long been a committed friend and partner of the United Nations and generous supporter of humanitarian relief around the world.

“It is an advocate of education – including for girls in Afghanistan, where Qatar is providing financial aid and technical support to keep girls learning while also hosting the multilateral Doha Process to support the international community's engagement with Afghanistan. And a peacemaker in the Middle East and globally – including as a permanent mediator in the Gaza conflict and in brokering a peace agreement between the government of the DRC and the M23 armed group,” he added.

He also noted that as the host of the Second World Summit for Social Development, Qatar is once again playing a decisive global role as the summit represents a renewed commitment to place people, dignity, and social justice at the heart of sustainable development.

Guterres said that the Doha Declaration emerging from the Summit is a clear and bold commitment by the global community to speed up the progress.

“The Doha Declaration represents a people's plan. Today, I am calling for action in four key areas to bring this people's plan to life: Accelerating our fight against poverty and inequality; Bringing a laser focus to job-creation and employment; Supercharging global efforts to finance development and a people's plan must include all people, leaving no one behind” he added.

EAA holds high-level sessions on youth empowerment

On the opening day of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), yesterday, the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, convened two high-level sessions in partnership with global organisations to address some of the most pressing challenges facing youth and vulnerable communities around the world.

EAA's Silatech Programme, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), hosted a high-level session titled “An Introspective Look: From Challenges to Solutions for Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment Programming.”

The session took stock of youth employability and employment programming and progress towards SDG #8 Decent Work and Economic Growth. As part of this examination, the high-level event identified meaningful solutions to move the needle forward on tackling youth unemployment through encouraging innovative approaches to decent work and social inclusion.

The aim was to highlight the importance of prioritising relevant and responsive youth employability and employment programmes and policies that respond to the major global shifts and realities of today and the future.

Speakers included QFFD director general Fahad al-Sulaiti, Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs' International

Organisations Department director Sheikha Hanouf Abdulrahman al-Thani, ILO's assistant director general for external and corporate relations Laura Thompson, youth employment unit head Susana Puerto-Gonzalez, AFD's global client solution executive director Laurent Biddiscombe, ISDB's global practice and partnerships director general Dr Issa Faye, QSTP's innovation and entrepreneurship director Hayfa al-Abdullah, US Council for International Business's global impact initiatives senior vice president Kristen Edgreen Kaufman, and German Trade Union Confederation's international department head of division Carolin Vollmann.

The panel also featured two youth changemakers, Sharon Odongo and Khalid al-Kuwari. The participants discussed how rapid technological shifts, climate change, and demographic transitions are reshaping labour markets, and underscored the need for adaptable, inclusive strategies that empower youth to thrive in evolving economies.

In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of Kenya, EAA's Silatech Programme contributed to the high-level panel “Unlocking Skills, Employment, and Resilient Food Systems in Kenya.” The discussion explored how public-private partnerships and national programmes can promote economic inclusion, adaptive social protection, and green value chains.

UN chief appeals for action on Doha Declaration

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres affirmed that the Doha Political Declaration serves as a “booster shot” for development and a comprehensive, people-centred roadmap.

He stressed that delivering on the declaration requires action in four priority areas: accelerating the fight against poverty and inequality; maintaining a strong focus on job creation and employment opportunities; mobilising adequate financing; and upholding human rights and inclusivity for all.

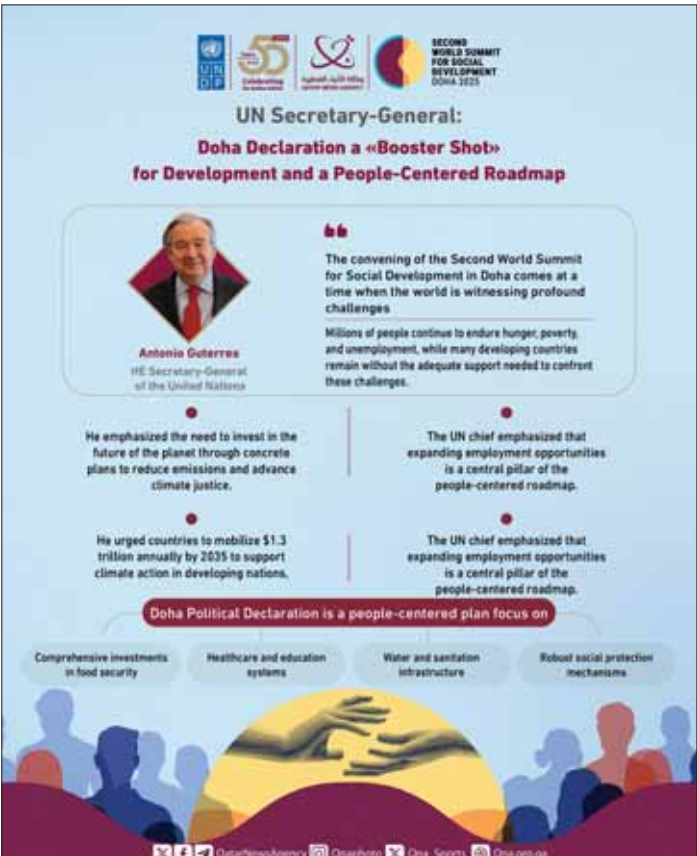
In his opening address at the Second World Summit for Social Development, Guterres emphasised that the declaration can be translated into tangible outcomes by ensuring opportunities for all, grounded in the principles of social justice, full employment, and the preservation of human dignity.

He added that the convening of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha comes at a time when the world is witnessing profound challenges, including growing uncertainty, deepening geopolitical divisions, armed conflicts, and widespread human suffering. He stressed that millions of people continue to endure hunger, poverty, and unemployment, while many developing countries remain without the adequate support needed to confront these challenges.

He explained that the Doha Political Declaration is, at its core, a people-centred plan to accelerate efforts to combat poverty and reduce inequality. It calls for comprehensive investments in food security, healthcare and education systems, water and sanitation infrastructure, adequate housing, clean and affordable energy, and robust social protection mechanisms, supported by reliable data systems to monitor progress.

He called on governments participating in the upcoming 30th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) in Brazil to present concrete plans to reduce emissions over the next decade, while simultaneously advancing climate justice for communities on the front lines of the crisis, despite having contributed least to its causes.

He also emphasised the need to



invest in the future of the planet through concrete plans to reduce emissions and advance climate justice. He urged countries to mobilise \$1.3tn annually by 2035 to support climate action in developing nations, to double adaptation financing to at least \$40bn this year, and to capitalise the Loss and Damage Fund with substantial contributions.

The UN chief emphasised that expanding employment opportunities is a central pillar of the people-centred roadmap. He stressed the need for governments and the private sector to promote decent work and fair wages, facilitate the transition of workers from the informal economy to green, digital, and care-driven sectors, and invest in training, skills development, and lifelong learning. He also highlighted the importance of bridging the digital divide and ensuring access to digital and artificial intelligence skills, guaranteeing equal opportunities for women, strengthening care systems, and protecting workers' rights. The UN Secre-

tary-General noted that the first World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, marked a moment of moral clarity in which the international community affirmed that true development is not about prosperity for a privileged few, but about ensuring opportunities for all. He highlighted that since then, more than 1bn people have been lifted out of extreme poverty, global unemployment has fallen to historic lows, and access to healthcare, education, and social protection has expanded significantly. He added that life expectancy has risen, child and maternal mortality have declined, and the number of girls attending school, along with graduation rates for all students, has increased markedly.

Guterres stressed that the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha represents a critical opportunity to rekindle hope through collective action. He called for translating the Doha Political Declaration into concrete reality through a bold global plan that addresses shared challenges. (QNA)

‘Arab region targets 45,000 new jobs for women by 2026’

By Peter Alagos
Business Reporter

At least 45,000 new jobs for women are expected to be created across the Arab region next year, an official of the UN Women announced yesterday during a panel discussion held on the sidelines of the ‘Second World Summit for Social Development’, which will run until November 6 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

Speaking at the ‘Solutions Spotlight – Jobs, Skills & Care: Scaling Inclusive Employment for People-Centred Development’, Dr Moez Doraid, UN Women Regional Director for the Arab States, explained that employment generation for women in the Arab region is part of the ‘Surging Women's Employment Initiative’ (SWEI) led by the UN Women and its partners.

He said, “One of UN Women's top priorities in the Arab region is to solve one of the most persistent problems, both in this region and globally, which is the low levels of women's labour force participation. It's a global problem, but in the Arab countries, it takes one of its most extreme manifestations: For the past three decades, women's labour force participation in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) has stagnated at around 20%. That is nearly half the global levels.” Doraid pointed out that SWEI also aims to increase women's

labour force participation by “5 percentage points in five years” and also to address and overcome “a persistent paradox” in the Mena region, which is “the contrast between women's capabilities that have advanced very rapidly primarily through educational attainment and their employment backlog.”

Despite significant gains in education – where women now outnumber men in universities and make up 57% of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) graduates – employment figures remain stubbornly low, Doraid lamented.

“Women's capabilities have advanced because women's illiteracy has been halved in the last two decades. Today, there are more women than men enrolled in universities, and 57% of STEM graduates in the Mena region are women. However, when looking at the workforce, the average labour force participation rate for women across the region is only 20%. There are notable exceptions, such as Qatar, where the participation rate is 63%, nearly three times the regional average,” Doraid further explained.

He said, “Women are increasingly represented in STEM education and entrepreneurship. For instance, in the Mena region, the percentage of women tech entrepreneurs surpasses that of Silicon Valley. Additionally, a significant growth area lies in the green economy, which addresses both en-



Dr Moez Doraid, UN Women Regional Director for the Arab States.

vironmental challenges and enhances women's employment opportunities.

“And it covers the entire spectrum of the value chain, empowering women from access to finance to sales, including both in domestic and external markets. The third is the care economy because women constitute the majority of employees in this dimension, as well as care services, such as day care services. And we are doing that by addressing three dimensions of both overcoming obstacles and enabling women.”

Doraid noted that SWEI's approach spans macroeconomic policy, legal re-

“One of UN Women's top priorities in the Arab region is to solve one of the most persistent problems, both in this region and globally, which is the low levels of women's labour force participation. It's a global problem, but in the Arab countries, it takes one of its most extreme manifestations: For the past three decades, women's labour force participation in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) has stagnated at around 20%. That is nearly half the global levels”

form, and norm-shifting programmes, such as the ‘Dare to Care’ initiative, which encourages men to take on more domestic responsibilities. Currently, women perform “4.7 hours” of unpaid domestic work daily, compared to just “one hour” by men, he also said.

He also urged governments and partners to adopt conducive macroeconomic policies, enforce laws, and support cultural shifts that allow women to balance family and career. After the panel discussion, Doraid took to LinkedIn to summarise the points he raised at the Solutions Spotlight event.

“Women in the region remain vastly underrepresented in the labour market, despite being among the most educated in the world. SWEI tackles this paradox head-on, working to create 500,000 new jobs within five years and increase women's employment by 5% by 2030.

“The initiative combines evidence-based policy reform, legal change, and social norm transformation – backed by powerful partnerships with Arab governments, the EU, Spain, Germany, and the Islamic Development Bank. It also builds on positive momentum across the region, where 72% of fathers express a desire to spend more time with their children and 86% of policymakers support extended paternity leave – strong indicators of evolving mindsets toward shared care responsibilities,” he stated.

Doraid added: “SWEI drives growth where women already lead in the Care, Green, and STEM Economies, and partners with over 700 private sector companies under the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) to open new pathways for women's leadership, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion.”

Kuwaiti PM stresses global efforts to curb current challenges

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has affirmed the importance of shoring up global efforts and responsible partnership to curb current global challenges and lay the groundwork for security and stability in all communities.

Speaking during the Second World Summit for Social Development yesterday, he said that the summit reaffirms the global commitment to the essence of the

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, which established an enduring groundwork for social development and paved the way for the UN Millennium Declaration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Pact for the Future, which embody a unified UN will affirming the shared destiny of humanity in confronting the challenges of the era.

The first summit achieved key milestones in bolstering opportunities for

education, healthcare, social protection, and curbing unemployment rates, Sheikh al-Sabah pointed out.

He noted that progress remains uneven, as the justice gap continues to expand among peoples, with some enjoying growth while others struggle for survival.

He stressed that digital gaps further divide the world between those who wield knowledge tools and those left behind, lagging in the knowledge-based economy

and its markets. Political and climatic crises are plaguing hard-won global gains, reminding that just development depends on global desire and a vision that transcends politics to humanity's horizons, Sheikh al-Sabah said.

He added that development is not a transient gain shattered by crises, but a constant responsibility shared by all to build a more just and stable world.

His Highness hoped the summit

would produce concrete outcomes reaffirming the international community's commitment to the UN trifold pillars of security and peace, human rights, and sustainable development, pillars that unify global will towards stronger collaboration, profound understanding, and inclusive solidarity, enabling comprehensive and just social development that restores human rights and equilibrium to the world. (QNA)

‘Investing in women creates sustainable solutions for societies’

Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs of Kuwait Dr Amthal al-Huwailah stated that women in the region and the world are a driving force for positive transformation and for building a more inclusive, just, and equitable future for all, adding that investing in women is not only a commitment to equality but a genuine investment in creating sustainable solutions for entire societies.

This came in her speech at the opening of the high-level side event “SheBuilds: Women Innovating Social Solutions for an Inclusive Future,” held as part of the 2nd World Summit for Social Development, and attended by Secretary-General of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi and UN Educational, Scientific and Cul-



Kuwait Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr Amthal al-Huwailah

tural Organisation (Unesco) Representative to the Gulf States and Yemen and Director of the Unesco Regional Office in Doha Salah El Din Zaki Khaled.

The Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs of Ku-

wait said that the event celebrates women's creativity in social development and their ability to devise solutions that make a real difference in communities and people's lives. She noted that women-led social innovation is inherently inclusive, grounded in a deep understanding of marginalised groups' needs and dedicated to removing barriers to participation in development.

Women do not only come up with ideas, rather they are redefining the very meaning of development and justice from a human-centred perspective, Dr al-Huwailah said, adding that the workshop will begin with a brief presentation on women-led innovation in Kuwait, showcasing real-life stories and experiences of Kuwaiti women who have creatively and constructively addressed social challenges. (QNA)

Ecosoc president says working towards tangible progress on Doha Declaration

President of the UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) Lok Bahadur Thapa said that the world looks to the future through the Doha Declaration, which will be issued at the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025, as a means to strengthen social development, noting that the declaration is the result of comprehensive and important international negotiations.

In his address at the Summit's opening session held at the Qatar National Convention Centre yesterday, he pointed out that over the past 30 years, the world has witnessed great social and economic progress, with nations becoming healthier, better educated, and more connected. However, he cautioned that there remains a long way to go to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), stating that only five goals or about 35%, have been met so far.

Thapa stressed that Ecosoc will continue to work with member states, the UN system, and partners to ensure that the Doha Declaration translates into tangible progress in people's lives, calling for moving forward in unity and determination to build societies

founded on dignity, equality of opportunity, and inclusion for all. The president of Ecosoc noted that governments are sparing no effort to achieve the UN's SDGs, even as opportunities to fulfil them continue to shrink.

He pointed out that the Doha Political Declaration underscores the urgent need to enhance the social dimension of social development and calls for all necessary measures to achieve those goals, particularly in key areas such as poverty eradication, promotion of full and productive employment, providing decent work for all, and achieving social inclusion.

Thapa highlighted that over 800mn people around the world still live in extreme poverty, while billions more live near the poverty line, facing additional challenges such as job losses, which push many people into poverty after being just above it. He noted that 80% of workers in Africa and 70% in Asia suffer from these conditions.

In this context, he pointed out that wealth has become concentrated in the hands of a few individuals, with only 5% of the population living better lives, while 2bn people



Lok Bahadur Thapa

around the world lack social safety nets, stripping them of their dignity and leaving them vulnerable to crises. This, he said, undermines public trust in government institutions, a situation worsened by misinformation or lack of information.

He emphasised that achieving the SDGs lies at the core of Ecosoc's mandate and within its commitment to protect and advance these goals. He confirmed that the UN General Assembly and the Council's system are working to translate commitments into concrete actions.

Thapa reaffirmed that Ecosoc will continue working with the UN system to ensure the Doha Declaration leads to tangible progress, guided by its principles to strengthen communities and uphold human dignity. (QNA)

Ministry attends ‘From Response to Empowerment’ panel discussion



The Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) yesterday took part in a panel discussion titled “From Response to Empowerment” within the second World Summit for Social Development. Assistant Undersecretary for Family Affairs at the Ministry of Social Development and Family, Sheikha Sheikha bint Jassim al-Thani, said the session, hosted by the UN Global Disability Fund (GDF), Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), in partnership with the International Disability Alliance (IDA), underscores the shared belief that comprehensive recovery should evolve from response to flexibility and from short-term aid to a long-term, enduring, and systematic impact.

She added that through QFFD and national partners, Qatar is steadfastly committed to strengthening innovative and hybrid funding models that ensure persons with disabilities are not left behind, but are instead included in core humanitarian planning and sustainable development. (QNA)

MSDF attends event on digital transformation, solidarity economy

The Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) participated in a high-level international event held yesterday under the theme “Digital Pathways Towards Regulating the Social and Solidarity Economy,” as part of the activities of the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Representatives from several Arab and international organisations were also in attendance.

In his address, Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs, Fahad bin Mohammed al-Khayarin, emphasised that an economy combining family solidarity, social development, and digital transformation embodies the core vision of Qatar.

He noted that global experience has proven that the government sector alone cannot meet all developmental needs.

He added that the social and solidarity economy, as a strategic approach, promotes social development and equal opportunities. He explained that Qatar places great importance on empowering vulnerable groups by creating decent job opportunities for youth, women, and people with disabilities, and by supporting productive family projects and transforming them into organised economic entities.

This contributes to strengthening family and community cohesion and providing a sustainable



social and economic safety net.

The two options highlighted the importance of utilising digital tools to organise productive families by building digital platforms that enable registration, market access, and efficient and transparent management of financial operations.

This includes facilitating smart financing and equitable access to accessible financial solutions that support the growth of small businesses and to open up opportunities for cross-border trade.

He emphasised the necessity of building the digital capacities of those working in the social sector, particularly young people, and empowering them with the skills needed to use modern technologies and transform their ideas into innovative projects that support the national economy.

He pointed out that the family represents the nurturing and driving environment for the

social economy, and that small businesses often originate within homes and rely on family solidarity.

He affirmed that the success of these projects means empowering the entire family and strengthening its vital role in achieving sustainable development.

Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs at the Ministry of Social Development and Family, Fahad bin Mohammed al-Khayarin, affirmed Qatar's commitment to continuing regional and international efforts to accelerate the transition towards a social and solidarity economy and enhance the integration of social and economic policies. This will make the family a central pillar in building a cohesive and prosperous society capable of keeping pace with transformations and achieving social justice and comprehensive development in the region. (QNA)

Second edition of Doha Photography Festival opens

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The second edition of the Doha Photography Festival, organised by the Qatar Photography Center, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, kicked

off yesterday evening. This festival affirms the importance of photography as an effective means of expressing Qatari identity and heritage.

The festival continues until November 9th, opposite Darb Al Saai in the Umm Salal area, with the participation of eight international companies specialising in cameras.

On this occasion, Dr Ghanem bin Mubarak al-Ali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, stated that the second edition of the Doha Photography Festival is witnessing a significant expansion in local and international participation, along with a diverse range of accompanying events targeting all segments of society.

He emphasised that this edition is distinguished by the crowning of the winners of the inaugural Doha Photography Award, with the winners in six main competitive categories to be announced tomorrow (November 5).

He explained that one of the festival's primary objectives is to support and encourage Qatari photographers, dedicating a special category in the award to local photographers, in addition to another category specifically for children and youth.

Dr Ghanem al-Ali added that the festival is not limited to exhibitions but also includes a variety of accompanying events, such as specialised workshops and interactive areas designed specifically for children and families, with the aim of engaging all members of the community in the festival's activities.



Dr Ghanem bin Mubarak al-Ali at the opening of the festival.

He revealed the festival's intention to expand its scope in future editions to include a greater focus on video photography. This trend was evident in the special exhibition organised as part of the current festival, titled “Space Festival,” a rare event featuring two Qatari photographers who participated in Nasa events. This highlights the international level the festival aspires to achieve.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain, director of the Qatar Photography Center, spoke to Gulf Times and said that: “We found a great turnout of photography enthusiasts and photographers at this opening, and everyone is eager for this big event that we are witnessing today. The

Ministry of Culture, through the Doha Photography Festival, seeks to provide an ideal platform for showcasing artistic works, giving local photographers the opportunity to connect effectively and directly with the public and exchange experiences with their counterparts from around the world.

He noted the participation of leading international companies such as Canon, Nikon, Sony, Fujifilm, and Insta360, in addition to Qatar 4Cam and iBrand Connect. He explained that this broad participation of international companies and local photography equipment retailers will enrich the experience of participants and visitors, allowing them to explore the latest technologies and products



Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain

in the world of photography.

The programme features a large number of exhibitions, including 24 solo exhibitions and one group exhibition. The festival will also host an exhibition dedicated to the Doha Photography Award, another exhibition focused on astrophotography. There will be exhibitions of antique photographs and cameras, as well as a film exhibition area. The festival features a main stage hosting lectures, seminars and workshops by international photographers.

The first day's events featured a lecture titled “Narrative in Photography” presented by Issa Ibrahim, and a workshop titled “Attachment in Seconds: The Art of Creating Attention-Giving Videos” presented by James Arletta.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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UDST hosts Career Fair 2025

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has inaugurated the Career Fair 2025, welcoming participation from over 95 local and international companies representing key industries across Qatar and beyond. The two-day event, organised by the Student Central Services Department, provided over 2,450 opportunities for full-time and part-time employment, sponsorships, internships, and co-operative training. The event has been inaugurated by President of UDST, Dr Salem Al-Naemi, in the presence of HE Chairman of UDST's Board of Trustees, Dr Mohammed Saleh al-Sada; and Vice-Chair of UDST's Board of Trustees and Managing Director and CEO of Qatar Petrochemical Company (Qapco), Dr Mohammed Yousef al-Mulla;



and attended by UDST students, alumni, and high school students exploring their future career paths. The fair serves as one of UDST's flagship annual events, offering students and graduates a direct

gateway to industry leaders, while helping employers connect with highly skilled and job-ready talent. Throughout the event, attendees engaged in live interviews, networking sessions, and career



development activities, reflecting UDST's applied learning approach that bridges education with real-world experience. In line with its commitment to sustainability, UDST ensured the event remained entirely paperless, with students submitting their CVs and applications through the university's digital application system. This initiative highlights UDST's ongoing dedication to adopting

eco-friendly and innovative event practices that align with Qatar National Vision 2030's sustainability goals. Dr Al-Naemi said: "Career Fair represents a pivotal milestone in the university's ongoing efforts to empower its students and alumni, preparing them for active participation in the job market. Guided by our mission of applied education, we are committed to building strong partnerships

with public and private sector institutions, ensuring that our graduates are well-equipped to contribute to a national economy driven by knowledge and innovation". With participation from sectors such as energy, construction, banking, finance, healthcare, IT, and public services, the event demonstrated UDST's growing influence in linking education to real-world careers. **(QNA)**

Qatar Luxury Classic Cars Contest, Exhibition 2025 announced



GQCCA announces the organising of the sixth edition of Qatar Luxury Classic Cars Contest and Exhibition 2025 yesterday. **PICTURES:** Thajudheen

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

The sixth edition of Qatar Luxury Classic Cars Contest and Exhibition returns to Medina Centrale, The Pearl Island, from November 19-23 in its 6th edition, showcasing an array of rare vintage vehicles from across the GCC region, the Gulf Qatari Classic Cars Association (GQCCA) has announced.

Under the honorary patronage of HE Qatar Museums (QM) Chairperson Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the event marks its regional significance through its collaboration with the International Federation of Historic Vehicles (Fiva).

Speaking at the press conference yesterday, the association's board member and general secretary, engineer Abdul Latif Ali al-Yafei, said some 71 out of the 180 registered cars have been selected to compete for 20 prizes, judged by a panel, including international experts and compliant with Fiva standards.

Al-Yafei noted that the event's 2025 edition will see a record expansion in area and participation, offering cash and in-kind prizes to heighten competition and excitement. It is also expected to bring together an elite section of luxury classic car owners from Qatar and GCC countries.

According to the organisers, 15 of the prizes will be distributed to the top three winners in each of the five age-based categories: Pre-1947, 1948-1959, 1960-1970, 1971-1981, and 1982-1995. The remaining five will be present-

ed as Excellence Awards, recognising the Best Exceptional Luxury Car, Most Iconic and Distinguished Car, Best Preserved Original Car, Best Preserved Qatari Heritage Car, and Best Car in Show.

"This exceptional edition will feature distinguished participation from GCC countries, showcasing an exquisite collection of luxury classic cars representing various historical eras. It reflects the regional prestige that this event has achieved over the years," al-Yafei said, thanking their partners and sponsors "whose generous support has been instrumental in organising this exhibition and similar events that celebrate Qatar's classic car heritage."

"Such support reinforces the synergy between the private sector and the community in elevating Qatar's tourism and cultural landscape. The event aims to inspire classic car owners, especially youth, to preserve, restore, and celebrate the timeless artistry of these vehicles, ensuring that Qatar remains a hub for automotive heritage and innovation," he stressed.

The Association partnered with leading organisations, including United Development Company (UDC), Social and Sports Activities Support Fund (Daam), Qatar Museums, Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum, and Alfardan Automobiles Group, and Alfardan Hospitality, among others.

Six judges, four international experts with extensive experience in classic car evaluation and two from Qatar who have served in four previous editions form part of the jury.

Mohammed Zaidan al-Zaidan, deputy CEO for Operations at QM, said

Qatar Auto Museum will take part in the event, showcasing one vehicle as a symbolic presence, without competing, joining the judging committee.

QM, he added, will organise an educational programme designed to introduce students to classic cars as cultural and artistic artifacts combining engineering, design, and heritage.

Mishaal al-Jaber, director of HR and Administrative Services at UDC, said: "At UDC, we believe such events foster community engagement and revive heritage in a modern form that reflects authenticity and refined taste."

Hassan Yousef al-Obaidli, director of Programmes at Daam, said: "Our continuous sponsorship of the event for the fourth time stems from our commitment to support activities that strengthen Qatar's cultural and social identity and highlight its role as a distinctive destination for unique events."

Alfardan Automobiles' chief marketing officer Hussein Omar Alfardan said: "Alfardan Automobiles is proud to serve as a main sponsor for this prestigious event, reinforcing our strategic vision to support Qatar's tourism and economic sectors.

"In line with our commitment to the classic car community, we have launched the BMW Classic Car Club, the first of its kind in the Middle East, offering enthusiasts exclusive opportunities to preserve and enjoy their automotive heritage."

Alfardan Hospitality COO Wissam Suleiman added: "Our partnership reflects our dedication to supporting national events that enhance Qatar's global image as a hub of luxury, innovation, and cultural sophistication."

QIIB organises blood donation campaign



QIIB organised a blood donation campaign at its headquarters in collaboration with the Qatar National Blood Donation Centre.

QIIB organised a blood donation campaign at its headquarters in collaboration with the Qatar National Blood Donation Centre (QNBDC), as part of the bank's ongoing commitment to social responsibility and its dedication to supporting national efforts aimed at strengthening Qatar's healthcare sector and meeting the Blood Bank's needs for donors.

The campaign witnessed wide participation from QIIB employees across various departments and divisions, led by CEO, Dr Abdulbasit Ahmad al-Shaibei, along with members of the senior management.

Dr al-Shaibei stated: "At QIIB, we consider humanitarian work a cornerstone of our corporate culture. The blood donation campaign we organised today is a tangible expression of this firm commitment to our community.

"Our bank places great importance on health-related projects and initiatives that contribute to enhancing quality of life. We take pride in being part of the national efforts led by healthcare institutions, and we actively encourage all our employees to participate



QIIB's blood donation campaign witnessed wide participation from bank employees across various departments and divisions led by CEO, Dr Abdulbasit Ahmad al-Shaibei.

in such initiatives that embody the values of solidarity and giving."

Dr al-Shaibei concluded: "As we organise this blood donation campaign, we reaffirm the Bank's continued support for health, social, educational, environmental, and sports initiatives, as well as other activities that create a lasting positive impact. These efforts are in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, which emphasises the importance of human and social development in building a prosperous future for all."

Ashghal completes comprehensive rehabilitation works of Doha Corniche

As part of its ongoing efforts to develop the road network in Qatar and improve the quality of life in vital areas, the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) announced the completion of comprehensive rehabilitation works and upgrading of Doha Corniche, one of the most prominent tourist destinations in the country. The work carried out along a 7km stretch of the Corniche included upgrading the asphalt layers using the latest advanced paving technologies. Around 30,500 tonnes of asphalt were used to ensure high quality and durability for years. Road markings and sidewalks were repainted, and concrete maintained according to the highest specifications adopted.

In implementing the project, Ashghal relied on modern laser camera technology that allows measuring and testing the depth required to remove the old asphalt layer. The upgrading works aimed to enhance traffic safety and facilitate the traffic flow for drivers, pedestrians and bicycles, in addition to improving road infrastructure, reducing congestion and increasing the lifespan of assets.

To ensure the smooth flow of traffic during the implementation of works, Ashghal team



co-ordinated directly with the relevant authorities and the General Directorate of Traffic to secure the closures without affecting public movement, with most of the works being carried out during the night hours and weekends.

The Authority also launched a media guidance campaign through its official channels, which included messages, videos, and interactive maps showing the locations of closures, alternative routes, and appropriate speeds on the road, enabling the public to plan in advance and move around easily during the work duration.

Honor X9d 5G launched at LuLu Hypermarket

Honor, in partnership with Tradetec Group, announced the official launch of its latest smartphone, the Honor X9d 5G, at LuLu Hypermarket Gharafa, one of the largest full-line retailers in the GCC.

The launch event featured Honor Qatar country head Gao Dong, LuLu Hypermarket Qatar buying manager Shiyas, operations manager Basheer, marketing manager Mohamed Shihab, Honor's marketing head Chengjunsong, sales director Hanish Hamza, Tradetec Group brand manager Nisar and industry partners. Attendees had the opportunity to experience the Honor X9d 5G firsthand, witnessing its cutting-edge technology, sleek design, and exceptional performance, a statement said. Engineered for durability and equipped with a long-lasting battery, the Honor X9d ensures reliable



performance for daily use, setting a new benchmark for mid-range smartphones in Qatar. A spokesperson from LuLu Hypermarket highlighted the brand's dedication to delivering the latest technology to its customers, noting that LuLu Qatar achieved the number one position in pre-orders for the Honor X9d. The spokesperson

reiterated Lulu's mission to make global technology experiences accessible to all shoppers. The Honor X9d 5G is now available at all LuLu Hypermarket outlets across Qatar - a durable, high-performance smartphone that redefines value and innovation for tech enthusiasts and everyday users alike, the statement added.

Winner of LuLu-Parachute e-raffle receives car key



LuLu Hypermarket, in collaboration with Parachute Advanced, has celebrated the winner of the 'Shop to Win' e-Raffle Campaign with a special key handover ceremony. Leandro Ordonez (coupon number 40-45-09-79-95-22-57) received the keys to a brand-new MG ZS 2025 (1.5Ltr STD Blue) from LuLu Hypermarket regional director Shanavas Padiyath. LuLu Hypermarket congratulated Ordonez and thanked all customers who participated in the campaign.



‘Qatar a model of humanitarian commitment towards Palestine’

Palestinian Minister of Social Development and Acting Minister of State for Relief Affairs Dr Samah Hamad emphasised that Qatar, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, represents a pioneering model of moral and humanitarian commitment towards Palestine, defending the legitimate political, humanitarian, and developmental rights of its people.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), she said that the continuous support and genuine partnership with Qatar are highly appreciated, as they embody the depth of Arab solidarity and a unified stance in defending Palestinian rights. She explained that

Palestine’s participation in the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha aligns with its commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, with a focus on social protection and ensuring human dignity.

The participation aims to highlight the unprecedented social challenges faced by Palestinian families under occupation and to develop innovative solutions to provide social protection and justice for Palestinian households, she added.

Regarding the hosting of the summit in Qatar, she noted its significant implications, as Qatar is recognised for investing in human and social development and for successfully combin-

ing economic growth with social justice, strengthening its role as a hub for Arab dialogue on development.

The Palestinian minister underlined that Qatar plays an influential role in supporting social protection programmes, education, healthcare, and humanitarian response during crises.

She noted that this support has contributed to enhancing the resilience of Palestinian families in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through initiatives for orphans and low-income families, and through development programmes implemented in co-operation with the Qatari government, Qatar Charity, and the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD).

The Palestinian Ministry of Social Development collaborates with Qatari institutions, the UN, and civil society to ensure the sustainability of social protection programmes through data exchange and a national social registry, ensuring co-ordination and avoiding duplication in aid delivery, while emphasising economic empowerment, employment programmes, and social and educational services, she added. Regarding the challenges facing Palestine, Dr Samah Hamad explained that the ministry continues to provide emergency humanitarian, food, and cash assistance to families affected by war and occupation, including orphans, persons with disabili-

ties, and the elderly, alongside implementing psychosocial support programmes for children and affected families.

On the summit’s contribution to enhancing Arab integration, she said that it represents an opportunity to strengthen Arab co-operation in the social field, exchange experiences, and launch collective Arab initiatives to support countries affected by conflicts and crises, foremost among them Palestine, ensuring the protection of human dignity and promoting comprehensive development.

She expressed deep appreciation to Qatar, its leadership and people, for its ongoing support of the Palestinian people. (QNA)



Palestinian Minister of Social Development and Acting Minister of State for Relief Affairs Dr Samah Hamad.

Food parcels delivered to 1mn Gazans since ceasefire: UN

AFP
Geneva

The United Nations said yesterday it had distributed food parcels to 1mn people in Gaza since the ceasefire, but warned it was still in a race to save lives.

The UN’s World Food Programme stressed all crossing points into the Gaza Strip should be opened to flood the famine-hit Palestinian territory with aid, adding that no reason was given why the northern crossings with Israel remained closed.

“Three and a half weeks into the ceasefire in Gaza, we have distributed food parcels to around 1mn people across the Gaza Strip,” said the WFP’s Middle East spokeswoman Abeer Etefa.

“That’s part of the broad operation to push back hunger in Gaza,” she told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Cairo.

WFP aims to reach 1.6mn people in the territory with parcels, which provide enough food for a family for 10 days.

However, to get operations running at the level required, “we really need more access, more border crossings to be opened and more access to key roads inside Gaza,” said Etefa.

The US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas came into effect on October 10.

Etefa described how the WFP was scaling up operations in Gaza and opened 44 of the 145 food distribution points it hopes to run.

An estimated 700,000 people are now receiving fresh bread daily, supplied through 17 WFP-supported bakeries: nine in south and central Gaza, and eight in the north.

The agency is hoping to get 25 up and running.



A young displaced Palestinian girl reacts as she receives a portion of food, at a shelter where families have been living, in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip.

Etefa said while food consumption levels had increased slightly thanks to the humanitarian aid and commercial trucks now allowed to enter, they remained well below pre-conflict levels.

Furthermore, at this stage, households are still eating mostly cereals and pulses, with meat, eggs, vegetables and fruit being consumed “extremely rarely”.

Nour Hammad, WFP’s spokeswoman in Gaza, said commercial food prices were still beyond the reach of most families, saying an apple now costs as much as a kilogramme of apples did before the war broke out in October 2023.

The WFP said it had only been able to bring in roughly half of what was required to meet the food needs of people in Gaza.

“The needs are overwhelming,” said Etefa, adding: “We are in a race to save lives.”

She said WFP trucks were still only coming through the Kerem Shalom and Kissufim crossings, severely limiting the amount of aid that can enter Gaza, and posing a major obstacle to getting aid to the north.

“We actually haven’t been given clear answers on why the northern crossing points are still closed,” she said.

Oscar-winning Palestinian films daily ‘Israeli impunity’ in West Bank

AFP
At Tuwani

Armed with his camera, Oscar-winning Palestinian filmmaker Basel Adra has spent years in the occupied West Bank documenting what he describes as the impunity Israelis enjoy in their mistreatment of Palestinians.

From his terrace, he points to the nearby Israeli settlement of Maon, just a short distance away. The view appears calm, but he said incidents involving settlers and Israeli soldiers take place almost daily.

The situation has only worsened since the start of the war in Gaza in October 2023, said Adra, the co-director of “No Other Land”, a documentary he made with Israeli filmmaker Yuval Abraham that this year won an Academy award.

“The world allows Israelis — and gives them the impunity — to commit crimes,” the 29-year-old filmmaker said at his home in the village of At Tuwani.

In the nine months after accepting his Oscar in Hollywood, Adra has given score of interviews and captured hundreds of videos capturing settler violence allegedly carried out under army protection.

“Dozens of Palestinian communities, villagers fled from their homes in this time due to the settler and occupation forces violence and attacks and killings,” Adra said.

Taking a team of AFP journalists on a tour to illustrate the difficulties of life for Palestinians in the West Bank, Adra headed to the nearby Bedouin village of Umm al-Khair.

To reach it, one must pass an Israeli settlement.

On a wall, an inscription in Arabic warns: “No future for Palestine.” Since the war in Gaza began with Hamas’s October 2023 storming of Israel, settler and army attacks in the West Bank have killed around 1,000 Palestinians, according to the Palestinian health ministry in Ramallah.

TARGETED

Even the presence of international and Israeli activists, intended to deter violence, has done little to change reality for Palestinians in the West Bank.

Adra recalled the killing of a close friend, fellow activist Awdah Hathaleen, on July 28.

Hathaleen, he said, was filming “settlers with a bulldozer going through his family land, destroying their olive trees and fence”.

His death, widely filmed by other activists and reported in the media, prompted Israeli police to open an investigation, though they did not classify it as murder.

“A couple of days after this criminal settler committed these crimes, he was allowed to come again to the same place, to continue digging the same land,” Adra said.

The young filmmaker, who displayed the Oscar statue, has also been targeted.

“I’ve been arrested several times by the army,” Adra said.

“Once, settlers came onto our land, they started pushing us, throwing stones. They had sticks, and



In this photograph taken recently, Oscar-winning Palestinian filmmaker Basel Adra poses with his Oscar trophy in the village of At Tuwani, in the occupied West Bank.

one of them had a gun. Two of my brothers were slightly injured. We called the police. They arrived, but the attack continued while they watched.” The military said it had received reports that “several fighters” had hurled rocks at Israeli civilians near At Tuwani injuring two of them.

“Upon receiving the report, the security forces were dispatched to the scene, conducted searches in the area and questioned suspects,” the military said.

Adra said that in Masafer Yatta, the cluster of villages that includes At Tuwani, settler activity is unrelenting.

“They keep building settlements and illegal outposts 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” he said. After a long legal battle, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the army in 2022, paving the way for the eviction of residents from eight Palestinian villages in the area. In the village of Umm Al-Khair, a few concrete houses are surrounded by settler structures — mobile homes flying Israeli flags and permanent structures encircling the Bedouins.

At his desk, community leader Khalil Hathaleen — brother of the slain activist — spreads out 14 demolition orders received on October 28.

According to army documents in Hebrew and Arabic, residents have 14 days to appeal.

“Even if the entire village is demolished, we will stay on this land and we will not leave,” Hathaleen said. “Because there is nowhere else to go.” Like other communities in the area, the approximately 200 residents of Umm Al-Khair are descendants of Bedouins expelled from the Negev desert in southern Israel in the early 1950s.

About 3mn Palestinians live in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967. Some 500,000 Israelis live there in settlements deemed illegal under international law.

At the end of October, the Israeli parliament voted to advance two far-right-backed bills calling for annexation of the territory.

“Growing up, I believed very much in international law,” Adra said. “I believe that the materials that I’m filming, the documentation, when they are seen abroad, somebody is going to do something.”

VIOLENCE

Nigerian army says 19 bandits killed in Kano clash, troops among dead

Nigeria’s military yesterday said 19 armed bandits were killed in a firefight in Kano state, marking a rare outbreak of violence in the northwestern commercial hub, Reuters reported from Abuja. Army spokesman Babatunde Zubairu said in a statement that two soldiers and a local vigilante also died in the operation. The clash occurred in Shanono, where troops backed by other security agencies raided a bandit hideout, the army said. The operation is part of a broader military campaign to curb escalating insecurity across northern Nigeria, where armed groups have killed and kidnapped thousands in recent years.

CAUTION

Tanzania police warn over graphic images

Tanzanians expressed hope yesterday that days of election violence, in which the opposition says hundreds were killed, was over, as police warned that sharing graphic images was a criminal offence, AFP reported from Nairobi. President Samia Suluhu Hassan won the October 29 poll with 98% of the vote, the electoral commission said, but the opposition has declared the election a “sham”. A total Internet blackout in place since protests broke out on election day has been partially eased, but verifiable information out of the east African country remains difficult.

APPROVAL

Ivory Coast confirms Ouattara re-election

Ivory Coast’s Constitutional Council yesterday confirmed the re-election of President Alassane Ouattara for a fourth term by a 89.77% landslide in a vote his main rivals were barred from, AFP reported from Abidjan. Ouattara, 83, won the west African country’s October 25 ballot with the opposition’s top two candidates, ex-president Laurent Gbagbo and former Credit Suisse banker Tidjane Thiam, both prevented from running by the courts.

Sudan defence minister says army to keep fighting after US truce proposal

AFP
Port Sudan

Sudan’s defence minister said yesterday that the army would press on with fighting the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) after the country’s security and defence council met to discuss a US proposal for a ceasefire.

“We thank the Trump administration for its efforts and proposals to achieve peace,” Hassan Kabroun said in a speech broadcast on state television, adding that “preparations for the Sudanese people’s battle are ongoing.”

“Our preparations for war are a legitimate national right,” he said, following the council meeting in Khartoum.

No details of the US truce proposal have been made public.

The war, which has killed tens of thousands of people and dis-

placed millions more over the past two years, has spread to new areas of Sudan in recent days, sparking fears of an even greater humanitarian catastrophe.

After mediating in other conflicts in Africa and the Middle East in recent months, the US administration under Donald Trump is now pushing for a ceasefire in Sudan.

The army-aligned authorities had rejected an earlier truce proposal under which both they and the paramilitaries they are fighting would be excluded from a transitional political process.

The latest discussions follow an escalation on the ground, with the paramilitary RSF appearing to prepare an assault on the central Kordofan region after it captured El-Fasher, the last army stronghold in the vast Darfur region. People forced to flee El-Fasher have described to AFP intimidation and violence from



Injured displaced Sudanese people who fled violence in El-Fasher receive treatment at a makeshift clinic run by Medecins Sans Frontieres, amid ongoing clashes between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese army, in Tawila, North Darfur.

the RSF. Mohamed Abdullah, 56, told AFP he was stopped by RSF fighters while fleeing El-Fasher on Saturday, just hours before its fall. “They demanded our phones, money, everything. They kept searching us thoroughly,” he said of the RSF.

On his way to Tawila, about 70

kilometres to the west, he saw “a body left on the street that looked like it had been eaten by a dog”.

Trump’s envoy to Africa, Mas-sad Boulos, held talks in Sudan’s neighbour Egypt on Sunday with Cairo’s Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and then on Monday with the Arab League.

ACCIDENT

Eight killed in train collision in central India

At least eight people were killed and several injured when a passenger train collided with a goods train in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh yesterday, officials said. The goods train was stationary at the time of the accident, and the passenger train crashed into it from behind, damaging the passenger train's first few carriages, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao told reporters. Television footage showed the mangled first carriage of the passenger train partially perched atop the last carriage of the goods train, as police and rescue teams tried to pull out survivors and a crowd watched from the parallel tracks.

TRAGEDY

Fierce mountain storms kill nine in Nepal

Days of ferocious snowstorms and an avalanche in Nepal's treacherous Himalayan peaks have killed nine people, including five Italian climbers, officials said yesterday. The deaths occurred in two separate accidents since Friday. On Monday, an avalanche hit a group of 12 people at the base camp of 18,471-foot Yalung Ri peak. Seven people died in that disaster, including three Italians, two Nepalis, a German and a French climber, Phurba Tenjing Sherpa, from expedition organiser Dreamers Destination, said. Sherpa, whose company had arranged the expedition for some of the group, said he had "seen all the seven bodies".

OUTBREAK

UK orders poultry restrictions as avian flu spreads

The UK government yesterday ordered all poultry in England to be kept inside due to escalating cases of avian influenza. The order takes effect from tomorrow. "The new measures mean bird keepers across the whole of England must house all poultry and captive birds if they keep more than 50... or if they sell or give eggs away," a statement said. Similar limited restrictions were made in parts of north, central and eastern England last week. The risk to human health remained "low" and that "properly cooked" poultry and eggs were safe to eat, the department for environment, food and rural affairs said.

VERDICT

UK activist Tommy Robinson cleared of terror offence

UK activist Tommy Robinson, who organised a huge far-right march in London earlier this year, was yesterday cleared of refusing to divulge his telephone PIN to counter-terrorism police in 2024. District judge Sam Goozee found 42-year-old Robinson not guilty of a charge brought under Britain's Terrorism Act. Robinson was stopped in the southeastern port of Folkestone driving a silver Bentley that was not registered in his name, and found to have around £13,000 in cash. Clearing Robinson, Judge Goozee said he was not satisfied that the police action was "in accordance with statutory purpose" of the law used.

India ramps up aid to Afghanistan after quake

Reuters
New Delhi

India is ramping up aid to Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and branding itself as the region's "first responder" after Monday's deadly earthquake, seeking to counter China's efforts to fill the void left by the West, officials and analysts said.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar was among the first to call his Taliban counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi on Monday, pledging more support after New Delhi shipped 15 tonnes of food. Medical supplies would follow soon, he said, as his ministry promoted the hashtag #IndiaFirstResponder on X.

China yesterday said it too was ready to assist after the quake near Mazar-i-Sharif killed at least 20 people and injured more than 900.

Both Asian giants are keen to deepen engagement with the Taliban, said Harsh Pant, head of foreign policy studies at the Observer Research Foundation think tank in New Delhi. India's ties with Afghanistan have warmed in recent weeks, even as relations between both countries and Pakistan have soured.

"Behind India's outreach to Afghanistan is the idea to create a certain resonance and goodwill among the local population as a form of soft power," Pant said. "It's unlikely

India can fill the gap left by Western nations, but if it does not make an effort then China will."

India hosted Muttaqi last month for six days and announced plans to reopen its embassy in Kabul, shut since 2021. It also pledged co-operation on hydroelectric projects and support for healthcare and public infrastructure.

"The reopening of the Indian embassy sends a political signal, short of India's recognition of the Taliban, of a stronger Indian presence on the ground," an Indian official said, adding that more aid would follow.

Muttaqi's visit coincided with worsening Taliban-Pakistan relations after border clashes. Last week, India secured a six-month US sanctions waiver to operate Iran's Chabahar port, boosting trade with Afghanistan and reducing Kabul's reliance on Pakistan's Karachi port.

China, which maintains close ties with Pakistan, told Afghanistan in August it was keen to explore mining and mineral opportunities and urged Kabul to formally join its Belt and Road Initiative.

Chinese and Indian support is crucial for the Taliban, which seized power after US-led Nato forces withdrew in 2021.

"Afghanistan's isolation from the international banking system and the absence of normal co-ordination channels have made it far harder for aid and development funds to move," said Ibraheem Bahiss of the International Crisis Group.



Toledo City fire station personnel help evacuate people on a makeshift boat made from a discarded refrigerator from their flooded homes following heavy rains brought about by Typhoon Kalmaegi in Toledo City, Cebu province, central Philippines, yesterday.

Dozens killed, copter crashes as typhoon batters Philippines

Reuters
Cebu, Philippines

The death toll from Typhoon Kalmaegi in the Philippines hit 46 yesterday, officials said, including six crew of a military helicopter that crashed during the powerful storm that unleashed heavy rains and floods across the central region.

The Huey helicopter went down in Agusan del Sur on the island of Mindanao, where it was conducting a humanitarian disaster response mission, the military said. Six bodies of the crew were recovered and an investigation was underway.

The crash took place before noon about 270km from the island of Cebu, the worst-hit region, where local authorities said 39 people had been killed by drowning or falling debris. One person was reported dead on the neighbouring island of Bohol.

The Philippines, which is hit by an average of 20 tropical storms each year, is recovering from a run of disasters including earthquakes and severe weather events in recent months. In September, Super Typhoon Ragasa swept across northern Luzon, forcing schools and government offices to shut down as it brought fierce winds and torrential rain.

Although Kalmaegi, locally named Tino, has gradually lost strength since making landfall early yesterday, it continued to lash the country with winds of 120kph and gusts of 165kph as it swept across the Visayas islands headed for northern Palawan and towards the South China Sea.

Tens of thousands were evacuated across the Visayas region, including parts of southern Luzon and northern Mindanao, ahead of a storm that submerged homes and caused widespread flooding.

Cebu provincial information officer Ajeliz Orong said the number of casualties in

the province had jumped suddenly, from three reported earlier in the day, as rescue operations were underway and information had just started to come through.

"Search and rescue efforts continue and there are missing and unaccounted individuals," Orong said by phone.

Floods in Cebu City had subsided late yesterday but power was still out in many places and telecommunications services were intermittent.

Verified videos circulating on social media showed cars and streets under water, with some vehicles carried away in the flow.

After the flood receded in one area of Cebu City, cars shifted by fast-flowing water were left piled up on top of each other, some overturned.

"We were really anxious because the longer the rains continued, the higher the floodwaters rose," said John Patajo, a housekeeper in the area.

India launches mass overhaul of voter rolls

India launched a revision of its voter rolls yesterday, expanding a contentious exercise that activists warn could fuel disenfranchisement in the world's largest democracy. The three-month voter registration overhaul - known as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) - kicked off in 12 states and territories, many of which are slated to hold local elections next year. Tens of thousands of election officials and nearly half a million volunteers will go door-to-door to help residents complete voter enumeration forms. Officials "will help the elector fill the enumeration form, collect it and submit it", Election Commission of India chief Gyanesh Kumar said. Earlier this year, the ECI conducted a similar revision in the eastern state of Bihar, home to more than 130mn people, ahead of its state elections beginning November 6. The process led to the exclusion of around 6.5mn names, which the ECI said was necessary to prevent the inclusion of "foreign illegal immigrants".



Former England footballer David Beckham poses next to his wife singer and fashion designer Victoria Beckham and his parents Ted and Sandra with his medal at Windsor Castle yesterday.

Beckham hails knighthood as 'proudest moment'

AFP
London

Former England football captain David Beckham yesterday received his knighthood from King Charles III at Windsor Castle, calling it his "proudest moment".

The football star, 50, who played 115 times for England as well as for some of the world's most high-profile clubs including Manchester United and Real Madrid, was knighted for services to sport and charity. Beckham said it was "quite a moment" for a boy from the east end of London to be "here at Windsor Castle, being honoured by His Majesty the King - the most important and the most respected institution in the world".

"This is without doubt my proudest moment," he told the PA news agency.

Beckham, known as a stylish

dresser, wore a grey suit made by his pop star-turned fashion designer wife Victoria.

She accompanied him to the ceremony at Windsor, west of London, along with his parents Ted and Sandra.

Beckham has been known as "Sir David" since the honour was announced in June while Victoria, a former member of the Spice Girls, became "Lady Beckham".

Asked whether he managed to speak to Charles during the ceremony, Beckham said Charles had been "quite impressed with my suit".

"He's kind of the most elegantly dressed man that I know, so he inspired quite a few of my looks over the years and he definitely inspired this look. "I looked at old pictures of him when he was quite young in morning suits and I was like, OK, that's what I want to wear, so I gave it to my wife and she did it," he added.

UK's Reeves paves way for tax rises in her next budget

Reuters
London

British Finance Minister Rachel Reeves yesterday paved the way for broad tax rises to avoid a return to "austerity", framing her second annual budget as one of "hard choices" to protect public spending while reducing Britain's debt.

Just three weeks before delivering the budget, Reeves set out the difficult economic backdrop she is wrestling with, pointing to a surge in debt due to the Covid-19 pandemic, years of low productivity and stubborn inflation.

That suggested she could make the politically unpalatable choice to break the Labour Party's election pledge not to raise any of the major taxes, to try to reassure investors she is keeping a firm grip on borrowing.

British government borrowing costs are the highest of any major advanced economy, though they have been falling in recent weeks. Reeves' comment that "we will all have to contribute" helped 30-year gilt yields - which hit their highest since 1998 in September - drop to their lowest since April.

Reeves said she remained committed to her goal of balancing the government budget by 2029-30,

excluding investment spending.

"As I take my decisions on both tax and spend, I will do what is necessary to protect families from high inflation and interest rates ... to protect our public services from a return to austerity," she told a news conference.

She said she would not follow her predecessors and look for "short-term sticking plaster solutions", saying anyone who advocated that was being "irresponsible".

Her words, which firmly put the blame for the state of the economy on previous Conservative administrations, suggested the Labour government could break its pledge and raise one of

the key taxes - income tax, value-added tax or social security contributions.

The Resolution Foundation think tank - whose former head Torsten Bell is now a minister advising Reeves - predicts she will need to increase taxes by £26bn (\$35bn).

One Labour lawmaker, who did not wish to be named, said the parliamentary party was split over the probable tax rises, with some fearing how damaging a broken election pledge would be to the party.

But the lawmaker said others were aware of the need to fix the public finances, so they do not get caught in the same cycle of need-

ing to increase taxes again, saying: "A lot just don't realise how bad it's going to be."

Reeves declined to directly answer questions on whether she was readying Britain for tax rises, but said the economic backdrop had deteriorated since her first budget, in October last year, when she raised taxes by £40bn - the largest increase since the 1990s.

The burden fell mostly on businesses and Reeves said at the time the increases were meant to be a one-off.

Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch described Reeves' speech as a "laundry list of excuses" and said any higher taxes

would be the fault of Labour's decisions since it came into office in July 2024.

Richard Tice, deputy leader of poll frontrunner Reform UK, said the government's plans would "hammer working people", a day after the populist party struck a more pragmatic tone with its own fiscal plans.

Reeves also again indicated she wanted to create headroom between tax receipts and spending commitments.

Economists believe Reeves has lost all of the £9.9bn she gave herself against meeting her target of bringing day-to-day spending into balance with tax revenue by 2029.

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GULF TIMES

BYD faces bumpy road ahead amid price war, sales drop

BYD is battling to remain dominant in its home market of China amid a prolonged price war and government concerns that cut-throat competition could damage product quality. The Shenzhen-based company spent the last five years racing ahead. In 2024, with the help of government support, aggressive pricing and overseas expansion, the Chinese carmaker surpassed Tesla to become the world's top seller of electric vehicles.

Now, BYD faces a reality check. Its challenges initially came to light when it reported a shock 30% plunge in second-quarter profit, and the EV maker has continued to struggle with stalling sales that even saw it lose its title as China's best-selling automaker to state-owned SAIC Motor Corp in September. Total revenue in the three months ended September 30 dropped about 3% to 194.98bn yuan, missing analyst estimates for 216bn yuan.

Since authorities earlier this year stepped up scrutiny of the bruising price war in China that helped fuel BYD's rise, the automaker's sales momentum has stalled.

What was expected to be another blockbuster year has instead become the company's toughest stretch since 2020.

Outside of China, BYD is faring well.

An aggressive and expensive global push has helped the automaker win fresh customers with its affordable, high-performing EVs.

In the UK, for example, sales in September surged by 880% year-on-year, making the country BYD's largest international market for the first time.

BYD has continued to struggle with stalling sales that even saw it lose its title as China's best-selling automaker to state-owned SAIC Motor Corp in September

targets. Instead of an original goal of 5.5mn cars for 2025, it now expects to sell 4.6mn vehicles, according to Li Yunfei, a senior company executive.

The higher prices that BYD can charge abroad is helping to absorb some, but not all, of the pressures to the business.

In August, BYD — an acronym for Build Your Dreams — reported its first quarterly decline in profit in more than three years with a 30% slump in net income. In October, the company posted its second consecutive quarterly decline, with net income falling 33% in the three months to the end of September.

Since May, BYD has been facing the full force of regulatory intervention in its home market. Chinese officials have cracked down on the domestic price war driven by excessive competition that kicked off in early 2023.

One of BYD's main problems is that a major overhaul of its lineup — featuring models with new technologies and capabilities — won't hit the market until 2026, putting it at a disadvantage to rivals currently rolling out more appealing vehicles.

China now has tens of millions of electric cars on its roads, and sales are rising at a rapid clip.

BYD shares neared the lowest in almost nine months on Monday after the automaker posted its second consecutive drop in sales, again falling to No 2 in the Chinese market.

October sales fell 12% from a year earlier to 441,706 vehicles, the Shenzhen-based manufacturer said Sunday.

Since BYD's market capitalisation peaked at \$175bn in late May, its shares have tumbled on the back of regulatory curbs and the summer sales slowdown.

There are other challenges that lie ahead.

A number of overseas markets, such as Europe and Mexico, are now seeking to limit the rapid expansion of cheaper Chinese EV imports. That's already on top of Chinese carmakers being effectively shut out of the US market by high tariffs, as well as restrictions on Chinese-made technology in cars that are due to come into effect in 2027.

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COP30: From promises to proof

Turning climate finance into a shared engine for resilience and growth

By Syeda Rizwana Hasan
Dhaka

This year's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Brazil (COP30) comes at a decisive moment, not just for the climate agenda but for international co-operation more broadly. Following last year's "finance COP" in Baku — where countries agreed to triple the global target for climate finance — this year's gathering is being framed as the "implementation COP."

After years of negotiations, the time for ambitious commitments has passed. We now need concrete action. That means actually mobilising climate finance, not as an act of charity, but as a strategic investment in global resilience, shared prosperity, and mutual security.

Developing countries are not coming to the table empty-handed. We are bringing ambitious climate plans, national commitments, and domestic financing of our own. Bangladesh, for example, draws 75% of its climate finance from its own resources, and allocates 6-7% of its annual budget to climate-related efforts.

Many developing countries are also submitting updated Nationally Determined Contributions (the Paris climate agreement's term for emissions-reduction plans), strengthening their policy frameworks, and pioneering locally driven solutions that can inform global best practices. Thus, Bangladesh recently submitted its "NDC 3.0", which sets an unconditional emissions-reduction target of 6.39% by 2035 (in the business-as-usual scenario), and a conditional target of 13.92%.

But the total investment required to implement our NDC is a staggering \$116bn. That

KEY POINTS

- Implementation COP: After years of pledges, COP30 in Brazil focuses on turning commitments into concrete, accountable action — ensuring climate finance flows predictably and fairly
- Developing nations lead: Countries like Bangladesh are investing heavily from domestic resources, submitting ambitious emission targets, and pioneering co-ordinated climate platforms such as the BCDP
- Shared responsibility: The \$300bn annual target must be the baseline — delivered transparently and as grants, not debt — to build a sustainable, equitable global future

is why we have also created the Bangladesh Climate and Development Platform (BCDP), a nationally owned mechanism designed to scale up climate finance and integrate national climate strategies. With strong political support, the BCDP brings together more than ten ministries, marking a significant milestone in coordinated, country-led climate action.

As a coastal country, Bangladesh is home to some of the world's most fragile ecosystems, including the Sundarbans mangrove forest and the world's largest river delta. These ecosystems provide essential services such as climate regulation, carbon sequestration, and disaster-risk reduction. Protecting them is vital not only for Bangladesh, but for the planet. Doing so, however, requires international support.

The same message applies across the Global South. While developing countries are stepping up, their plans require external support. The COP29 commitment to mobilise \$300 billion per year in international climate finance, starting next year, must be the baseline. This figure still represents only a small fraction of what is needed, and we still need to ensure that financing is managed with a higher level of accountability. Developed

countries must be held to their commitments, so that new funding is truly additional, rather than being repurposed from existing development aid.

Another priority concerns the quality of financing, which must be well structured, accessible, and effective. That means clarifying how much each developed country will contribute; how resources will be balanced between mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage; and how delivery will be made predictable and fair.

Loans that push developing countries further into debt are not sustainable. A much larger share of finance must come in the form of grants and highly concessional flows. The world cannot build climate resilience on the back of fiscal instability. This was already a recurring theme in Baku, and now COP30 gives us a chance to translate it into a clear policy framework.

Climate finance is sound economics, representing opportunity, not just obligation. Studies show that every \$1 invested in adaptation can generate more than \$10 in long-term benefits. For developed countries, supporting adaptation and resilience abroad helps stabilise supply chains, reduce disaster risks, and prevent future crises that will spill over borders.

At the same time, developing

countries hold vast, often untapped, potential to drive the global energy transition, safeguard food systems, and power sustainable growth. Bangladesh, for example, is the world's third-largest rice producer. Helping us achieve resilience against climate shocks is critical for domestic and global food security. We also contribute to global value chains through seafood, textiles, and a dynamic, skilled workforce. With young people comprising 28% of our population, we have the potential to be a key partner in many growth industries of the future.

As an investment in our shared future, climate finance requires partnerships that will benefit everyone — economically, socially, and environmentally. But merely increasing our financing targets is not enough. Last year, developing countries engaged in good faith to reach an agreement on climate finance, even though the outcome did not fully reflect our needs. That commitment to dialogue must now be matched by a commitment to clarity and delivery. We need all countries to engage constructively in shaping the structure of climate finance. The question is not just how much, but how it flows, and how it can best be used to drive long-term transformations.

Already, Brazil and Azerbaijan are co-leading efforts to build a roadmap to scale climate finance to \$1.3tn annually by 2035. But we cannot reach that goal without laying the foundation for it. That means delivering the promised \$300 billion per year through mechanisms that are transparent, fair, and effective.

With multilateralism in crisis, we must restore faith in the process. Multilateralism has delivered before, and it can do so again. COP30 is where we can prove that the international system is capable of moving from commitment to implementation, and from division to cooperation. We have the tools, and we have the knowledge. What we need now is the will to turn climate finance into a shared engine for growth, security, and a fairer future. — Project Syndicate

• Syeda Rizwana Hasan is Adviser for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of Bangladesh.



PM meets world leaders on sidelines of WSSD



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met with the Albanian President Bajram Begaj on the sidelines of the Second Global Summit for Social Development 2025, currently underway in Doha. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations and explored ways to strengthen co-operation between Qatar and Albania. They also exchanged views on issues featured on the summit's agenda, as well as other topics of mutual interest. (QNA)



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met with Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 currently being held in Doha. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and exchanged views on the issues on the summit's agenda. They also discussed several topics of mutual interest. (QNA)



Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari met yesterday with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development currently being held in Doha. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them whilst exchanging views on the topics on the conference agenda, and explored several issues of common interest. (QNA)



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held talks with the President of the 80th UN General Assembly, Annalena Baerbock. The talks — held on the sidelines of the Second Global Summit for Social Development 2025 currently underway in Doha — focused on ways to further strengthen co-operation and partnership between Qatar and the UN. The two sides also exchanged views on key issues featured on the summit's agenda, along with a range of topics of mutual interest. (QNA)



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met with Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development currently being held in Doha. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral relations and means to support and strengthen them, exchanged views on the topics on the summit's agenda, and addressed several topics of common interest. (QNA)



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held talks with Prime Minister of Mozambique, Maria Benvinda Levi, on the sidelines of the Second Global Summit for Social Development 2025, currently underway in Doha. The talks focused on ways to strengthen bilateral relations. The two sides also exchanged views on key issues featured on the summit's agenda, along with a range of issues of mutual interest. (QNA)

EDGE named main sponsor of 9th edition of Dimdex

The Organising Committee of the Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (Dimdex 2026) has announced that EDGE, one of the world's leading advanced technology groups, will be the Main Sponsor of the ninth edition of the event, set to take place from 19 to 22 January 2026 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

Held over four days, Dimdex 2026 takes place under the esteemed patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, and is hosted and organised by the Qatar Armed Forces, under the theme: "A Global Hub for Defence Innovations: Invest in Possibilities to Shape a Secure Tomorrow."

Participating for the first time in Qatar's flagship international defence and security exhibition, EDGE's sponsorship underscores the growing global interest in Dimdex, which has evolved into a premier international platform for exhibitors to showcase the latest technological breakthroughs, cutting-edge defence systems, and state-of-the-art maritime equipment. The partnership further enhances opportunities for commercial exchange, industry collaboration, and international investment.

The signing ceremony was held at the



Ministry of Defence in the presence of HE the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed Forces Lt Gen (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai, and Sr Manager, Executive Office and Special Projects at Office of the MD and CEO of EDGE Rashed AlHashmi.

The agreement was inked by Chairman of the Dimdex Organising Committee Staff Brigadier (Sea) Abdulbaqi Saleh al-Ansari and SVP of Marketing and Communications at EDGE Salma AlMansoori. HE the Chief of Staff of Qatar Armed

Forces Lt Gen (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai stated: "Through close collaboration with neighbouring nations and regional stakeholders, we strive to anticipate emerging challenges and deploy advanced solutions, building a resilient and secure future grounded in collective progress. Strengthening security and stability across the region requires fostering robust partnerships, enhancing our capabilities, and leveraging shared expertise to address evolving defence and

security needs effectively."

Commenting on the announcement, Chairman of the Dimdex Organising Committee Staff Brigadier (Sea) Abdulbaqi Saleh al-Ansari said: "We are delighted to welcome EDGE as the Main Sponsor of the ninth edition of Dimdex, in addition to being an exhibitor in the event. With its strong global reputation as a leader in advanced defence-related technology, Dimdex offers the ideal platform for EDGE to showcase its innovations to an international audience, opening new avenues to expand its global presence and business opportunities, while also strengthening the region's capabilities to meet evolving defence and security challenges. We look forward to a successful collaboration with EDGE and to witnessing the positive impact of their participation at this edition of Dimdex."

Managing Director and CEO, EDGE Hamad al-Marar said: "EDGE joins Dimdex 2026 as the Main Sponsor for the first time, demonstrating the scale of our ambition and our determination to lead in advanced defence and maritime technologies. This debut highlights the strength of our portfolio, the value we place in regional and global collaboration, and our focus on delivering solutions designed for export."

Launched in 2019 in the UAE, EDGE is one of the world's leading advanced technology groups, established to develop agile, bold and disruptive solutions for defence and beyond.

Focusing on harnessing Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies, EDGE is advancing sovereign capabilities for global export and national security. Working with customers and international partners, EDGE's portfolio of highly competitive solutions includes next-generation land and naval systems, autonomous capabilities, smart weapons, propulsion systems, and advanced electronic warfare solutions.

The Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (Dimdex) has grown into a premier international event on the global maritime defence and security calendar. Beyond its role as an exhibition, it serves as a strategic platform for showcasing innovation, forging partnerships, and facilitating high-level dialogue vital to strengthening defence co-operation at both national and international levels.

By promoting investment, innovation and sustainable collaboration, Dimdex continues to underline Qatar's pivotal role in advancing global security and shaping the future of maritime defence. (QNA)

CRA, Ehsan Center conduct workshop to promote digital privacy awareness

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), in collaboration with Center for Empowerment and Care of the Elderly (Ehsan), held an awareness workshop to empower consumers to protect their personal data and promote safe use of mobile phones, as part of the National Initiative to Celebrate 160 Years of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The workshop comes as a part of CRA's ongoing series of initiatives launched to raise awareness about the safe and responsible use of digital technologies to reinforce confidence in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Qatar, in alignment with the Qatar National Vision 2030 that aspires to create an informed and secure digital community. CRA experts conducted interactive sessions that demonstrated how users can manage privacy settings on their mobile phones, identify potentially unsafe applications, and control data access permissions effectively. The workshop also featured practical discussions on



enhancing privacy on messaging and social media platforms such as WhatsApp, with participants learning how to adopt safe digital habits that reduce exposure to online risks. On this occasion, Director of the Consumer Affairs Department at CRA Amel Salem al-Hanawi stated: "Enhancing awareness is the cornerstone of digital protection. Through this workshop, we aimed to empower elderly people to take control of

their digital privacy and make informed decisions about their data. We remain committed to engaging directly with the community and translating our consumer protection mandate into tangible action that builds trust and strengthens digital resilience." Acting Director of Social Awareness and Community Outreach Department at Ehsan Center Shaikha Ahmed al-Horaib stated: "The collaboration between the Center for Empowerment and Elderly Care, Ehsan, and the Communications Regulatory Authority comes as part of our ongoing efforts to promote safe digital literacy among the elderly and to empower them to use modern technologies with confidence and security". She added: "This partnership reflects the Center's commitment to supporting the elderly in keeping pace with digital transformation, enhancing their ability to protect their personal data and private information, and enabling them to interact with technology in a conscious way that contributes to their digital safety and quality of life." (QNA)

Mol participates in 2nd Kids Expo

The Ministry of Interior (Mol) is participating in the second edition of the Kids Expo, which opened yesterday at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center under the theme "Our Children are a Trust." The opening ceremony was attended by Director General of Civil Defence Major General Hamad Othman al-Duhaimi, and a number of department directors and officers from the Ministry of Interior. This five-day expo is a specialised event for children and a distinguished platform that brings together those interested and working in the field of raising awareness among children and youth, and promoting children's rights in all aspects of life. Director of the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior Major General Abdullah Khalifa al-Muftah stated on this occasion that the Ministry of Interior's participation in and sponsorship of the expo comes as part of its national commitment to enhancing community awareness, especially regarding children, instilling values of security and safety, guiding the younger generations towards safe behaviours, and protecting them from risks. He added that the ministry dedicates a significant portion of its annual awareness plans to children,



which are implemented by the Public Relations Department in co-ordination with the relevant departments. He said the Ministry of Interior is participating through a series of field awareness events targeting children, recognising the importance of providing greater care, attention, and awareness to this vital segment of society. Participating departments within the Ministry are working to promote positive values, deepen national identity, and instil a spirit of loyalty and belonging in children, while also educating them on various security and safety issues appropriate to their age group. He clarified that raising awareness

among children is crucial for building a safe and cohesive society, and it is a shared responsibility among relevant institutions, families, schools, and the community. Major General al-Muftah stated that modern technology has provided various avenues for interaction among individuals, making all types of social interaction possible. Undoubtedly, crime is one such type of interaction, as children and young people spend a significant amount of time online through their mobile phones, which connect them to the digital world. This may expose them to cybercrimes or lead them to adopt behaviours that, intentionally or unintentionally, result in the commission of cybercrimes. (QNA)

Amir calls for global action on poverty eradication, inclusion and just peace

From Page 1

Qatar takes pride in its strong strategic partnership with the UN, and has never faltered in fulfilling its commitments. It ranks among the leading supporters of the UN across various domains.

The State of Qatar will remain an active partner in the international community and a supporter of social development efforts through its contributions and assistance to many countries and communities via Qatar Fund for Development, Qatar Charity, and others.

Honourable Audience, the minimum measure of seriousness in addressing humanity's shared challenges — such as environmental and climate issues, poverty, displacement, and human rights — lies in honouring commitments.

In the case of social development, this requires translating the pledges made by countries in the Copenhagen Declaration into tangible reality, by addressing implementation gaps and prioritising innovative solutions, effective partnerships, and persistence in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The Doha Declaration, adopted at this summit, is the fruit of diligent and dedicated work, as well as extensive consultations held in New York. It constitutes an ambitious document aimed at achieving the desired social development. We commend the valuable efforts of the Representatives of Morocco and Belgium to the UN for their sincere efforts in leading and facilitating the intergovernmental negotiations.

We are confident that the Doha Declaration, which reaffirms a

political, economic, and ethical vision for social development grounded in human dignity, human rights, equality, and peace, will lend new momentum to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and will serve as a roadmap and solid foundation for addressing social development issues, particularly poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion.

Social development can never be achieved without peace and stability. We believe that the last-

ing peace — unlike temporary settlements — is the just peace. It is no secret that the brotherly Palestinian people are in dire need of all possible support to address the catastrophic consequences of the brutal Israeli aggression and to resist the establishment of an apartheid system in Palestine.

We call upon the international community to redouble its efforts and extend support to the Palestinian people in reconstruction and meeting the basic needs of this steadfast people until justice is achieved and their legitimate rights are exercised on their soil and their homeland.

In the context of peace and stability, I cannot conclude this address without referring to our collective shock at the horrific atrocities committed in the city of El-Fasher in the Darfur region of Sudan, and our unequivocal condemnation of these acts. Did we need further proof to understand that neglecting violations of states' security, sovereignty, and stability, and turning a blind eye to civil wars and their atrocities inevitably leads to such tragedies. Sudan has endured the horrors of this war for two and a half

Amir hosts luncheon banquet for leaders

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani hosted a luncheon banquet in honour of Their Majesties and Excellencies, including heads of state, prime ministers, and senior officials attending the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025, now underway in Doha. The banquet was attended by HE the Prime Minister and

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi. Also present were ministers, senior officials, representatives of regional and international organisations, and other distinguished guests of the conference. **(QNA)**

years, and it is high time to end it and reach a political solution that guarantees Sudan's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Honourable Audience, our success will be measured by our ability to translate our commitments into tangible actions that achieve social development for all — especially in developing countries. Together, we can make this summit a pivotal milestone, ensuring that our deliberations lead to practical and effective steps that contribute to transforming the slogans of peace, social development, and prosperity into a tangible reality for all, without discrimination.

In conclusion, I once again wel-

come you to Doha, wishing that this summit will achieve its envisioned objectives.

Thank you.

May Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you.

The opening ceremony was attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi, a number of ministers and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the state, members of delegations, representatives of regional and international institutions and organisations, and guests.



By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Highlighting that education is the core pillar for development, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, United Nations Advocate for the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Founder of Education Above All (EAA) Foundation and the Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF) noted yesterday that there can be no development amidst discrimination, no stability with marginalisation, no prosperity amid exclusion.

She was delivering the keynote address at the high-level session on 'Education as the Foundation of the New Social Contract for Social Justice and Development' at the Second World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) being held at Qatar National Convention Centre.

Her Highness noted that the world must never accept the reality that there are 272mn out-of-school children, according to 2023 Unesco figures.

She explained: "The grim figures and statistics carry with them a distressing message, one that appeals to the conscience of humanity. They call for our immediate mobilisation to transform policies and mandates into actions and achievements. Social development is not a fixed matrix, nor is it a set of hollow rhetoric, or a publicity stunt, or a façade masking veiled truths. Rather, it is the story of an individual who uplifts

their community when given a fair chance, and who achieves the extraordinary when granted a genuine opportunity to innovate.

"Education is the core pillar for development; there can be no development without knowledge and no renaissance without an enlightened mind. Education is not a luxury, nor a privilege, nor a favour to be granted. It is a right, a responsibility, and a tool to liberate the mind, build human capacity, safeguard our values and generate ideas to reshape our world. To achieve a real sustainable development as we envision it, education must be recognised as equal in importance to development itself, advancing together on the same track."

The founder of EAA Foundation said that much is said about development, but people often refrain from closely examining its true essence.

"Its most prominent pillar is human beings themselves, who make up the heart of social development and its ultimate purpose. If we consider human beings our most valuable assets, then education remains the most enduring form of capital investment. They are the spring from which the streams of progress flow and the foundation upon which the pillars of sustainable development are erected," Her Highness highlighted.

She said that success in achieving sustainable development is not only reserved for those with more abundant resources, but for those who possess the wisdom to invest and manage it effectively.

"This is the vision that drove us in Qatar to establish a path of development that places young people in their rightful role as shapers of the future, as learners, innovators, entrepreneurs, and citizens engaged in decision-making. This inspiring vision has led to remarkable achievements by Qatar: successfully utilising natural resources, empowering human



capital, and generating meaningful job opportunities that replace traditional job duplication. With a deep-rooted belief that the Sustainable Development Goals are interconnected, Qatar has exerted every effort to instil the foundations of peace and the pillars of diplomacy as the cornerstones of its social development goals," stressed the QF Chairperson.

She noted that education is the sum of all sectors saying: "There can be no economy, politics, healthcare, culture or even a sustainable ecosystem without education. And if we fail to ad-

vance education with innovative sustainable solutions that align with the accelerating technological advancements of our world, then no development project, be it economic, cultural, or social, will succeed, and we will remain trapped in the cycle of failure, regression, and powerlessness, and we will lose our footing in the landscape of development. To the extent that we invest in education, we can better shape a future for humanity."

"This is an ongoing effort that enables the individual to demand from their nations what is un-

Sheikha Moza: education is the core pillar for development

Sheikha Moza meets UN chief



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All (EAA) Foundation and member of the UN Advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals, met yesterday with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development. It emphasised education as a core pillar of social development and explored ways to foster the partnership between EAA Foundation and the UN system in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while ensuring education as a fundamental right and promoting youth empowerment. **(QNA)**

Her Highness meets Chair of Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and Chairperson of Education Above All Foundation, met yesterday with Chair of the Board of the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria Roslyn Morauta, on the sidelines of the Second World Summit on Social Development, currently taking place in Doha.

The meeting discussed areas of co-operation between Education Above All Foundation and the Global Fund, particularly in integrating health services within schools and communities in countries where the Foundation operates. The discussions also touched on Qatar Foundation's efforts to support innovation in the health sector and to strengthen international partnerships through the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH). **(QNA)**

attainable elsewhere: a sense of contentment in belonging and the legitimacy to dream: To dream of a future with unlimited potential, one that encompasses the breadth of the human condition, everything from the primordial cave to the mysterious frontiers of space, from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge. Let us dream of a more luminous dream

— a shared all-encompassing dream: the dream of development," said Her Highness Sheikha Moza.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres delivered another keynote address at the session, highlighting that education is the foundation of a renewed social policy, anchored in human rights, social justice, and inclusion.



Doha Political Declaration 'a pivotal framework for translating social priorities into action'



HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi affirmed that the Doha Political Declaration, adopted yesterday during the Second World Summit on Social Development, constitutes a pivotal framework for translating social priorities into joint international action.

She emphasised Qatar's readiness to continue co-operating with all partners to build more inclusive, just, and sustainable societies that are better equipped to face future challenges.

HE al-Nuaimi highlighted that Qatar views poverty reduction, enhancing decent work opportunities, and social inclusion as interconnected pillars requiring co-ordinated and comprehensive efforts.

She noted that the Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030), aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030, aims to balance sustainable economic growth, human development, and social cohesion, ensuring that all members of society benefit from the progress achieved.

This statement was delivered during her

keynote at the high-level roundtable held as part of the Second World Summit on Social Development, convened at the invitation of President of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly Annalena Baerbock, under the theme "Strengthening the Three Pillars of Social Development: Poverty Eradication, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All, and Social Inclusion".

HE al-Nuaimi added that Qatar's approach is based on integrated co-operation among various sectors, government institutions, civil society, and the private sector, within a

comprehensive framework that ensures everyone participates in achieving development goals.

She also pointed out that the Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs' Strategy (2025-2030), under the slogan "From Care to Empowerment", focuses on modernising social protection systems, strengthening family stability, empowering women, and supporting the participation of all segments of society in economic and social development, particularly the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities. **(QNA)**