



Qatar Insurance
Financial Results (Q3 2025)

Gross Written Premiums (GWP)

9%▲
QAR 7.9B

Net Profit

23%▲
QAR 645M

Net Profit

12%▲
QAR 588M

Earnings Per Share

14%▲
QAR 0.135

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Saudi targets wider tourist market

Saudi Arabia is building up its mid- and upper-mid-range tourism options and plans to increase access to hotel accommodation for religious pilgrimages after years focused on developing expensive luxury resorts, the kingdom's tourism minister said. "We started with building luxury destinations for luxury travellers. And we have already started building destinations for the middle class and upper middle class," Saudi Tourism Minister Ahmed al-Khatteeb said.

US-led agency to oversee Gaza aid

US forces are taking part in overseeing and co-ordinating aid transfers into the Gaza Strip together with Israel as part of US President Donald Trump's ceasefire plan, an official said yesterday. The Washington Post reported on Friday that the US-led Civil-Military Co-ordination Center (CMCC) will replace Israel in overseeing aid into Gaza. It cited a US official as saying Israel was part of the process but that CMCC would decide what aid enters Gaza and how.

Guelleh announces candidacy for 6th term

Djibouti's 77-year-old President Ismail Omar Guelleh, in power since 1999, confirmed yesterday that he would run for a sixth term in elections next year, after parliament removed a constitutional barrier that had prevented him from running again. The Horn of Africa nation is a stable state in an often troubled region. **Page 6**

Google expands Opal AI tool to 160 countries

Google has announced the global expansion of its Opal tool, designed for building miniature AI applications without the need for coding, which is now available in over 160 countries, up from an initial 16. Opal empowers users to construct fully integrated applications capable of executing complex, multi-step tasks, such as data analysis, extracting information from the web, and storing results directly in Google Sheets.

Sudan city living in fear as RSF advances

AFP
Port Sudan

Residents of the southern Sudanese city of El-Obeid have said they are living in fear as paramilitaries appear to prepare for an assault, with the army reporting shooting down a drone targeting the city on yesterday.

The North Kordofan state capital, about 400km southwest of the national capital Khartoum, is a regional hub and a strategic prize for the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), at war with Sudan's army since April 2023.

While the RSF announced Thursday it had accepted a truce proposal put forward by mediators, the UN subsequently said it saw "preparations for intensified hostilities", issuing a warning about the deteriorating situation

Loyalty, duty stressed in QND 2025 slogan

The Organising Committee for the National Day celebrations has unveiled the slogan for Qatar National Day 2025: "Bekum Ta'lu W' Minkum Tan-tazer" (The nation rises with you, waits for you).

The slogan is inspired by an address delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the youth during his visit to Qatar University in 2016. It reflects the nation's belief that investing in people is the most valuable path to progress and ensures the sustainability of the country's achievements.

On this occasion, HE Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, Minister of Culture, said that the slogan carries an inspiring quote from His Highness the Amir – renewing the call to continue the journey of building and giving. He emphasised that nation-building goes hand in hand with empowering its people, and that the country's prosperity is rooted in the dedication and contribution of its citizens.

Investing in people: National Day slogan draws inspiration from Amir's speech

He added that while Qataris take pride in the rights guaranteed to them in various fields, they also understand that these rights are fulfilled only when accompanied by a sense of duty. "True citizenship," he said, "is not a privilege granted, but an ongoing contribution born out of love for the homeland – much like honouring one's mother, for which no reward is expected."

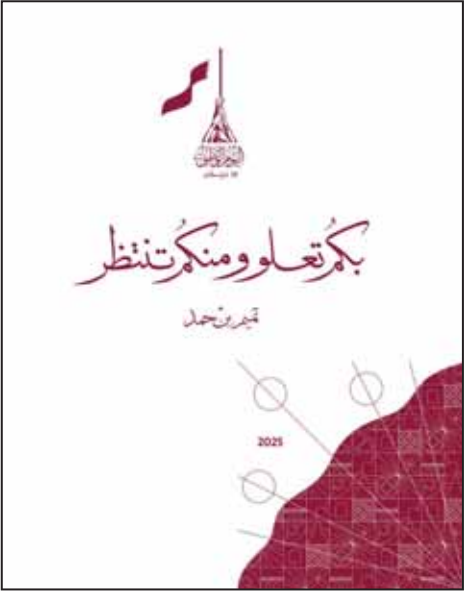
HE the Minister highlighted that successive generations of Qataris have demonstrated that belonging to the homeland is a deeply rooted cultural value, passed down with loyalty and love. With every stage of progress, Qataris have embraced knowledge, science, and hard work so that the nation's flag may continue to fly with pride.

HE Sheikh Abdulrahman also under-

scored the country's achievements:

"Qatar's modern journey has become a shining example to the world, achieving comprehensive development across sectors and securing its place among nations. The homeland is like a mother who gives generously to her children, and the children reciprocate with loyalty, effort, and sacrifice for the elevation of their nation. Today, the people of Qatar, steadfast in their values and proud of their heritage, continue on the path of progress with confidence and determination toward a future worthy of this blessed land."

Qatar celebrates its founding on December 18 each year, marking its establishment in 1878 by the founder, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, may God have mercy on him.



New batch of Qatari aid enters Gaza Strip



Qatar Charity has announced the arrival of a new batch of Qatari relief aid to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing, in support of the brotherly Palestinian people. In a statement, Qatar Charity said the shipment includes 2,790 shelter tents in addition to essential humanitarian supplies, provided by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar Charity, and the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS).

The organisation explained that this batch comes as part of the ongoing aid efforts previously dispatched under the maritime bridge established by Qatar. It reflects Qatar's swift response to urgent humanitarian needs and its continued commitment to alleviating the suffering of civilians in Gaza. **(QNA)**

Qatar-US mediation pushes DRC, Rwanda to advance peace pact

QNA
Doha

The governments of Qatar, the United States of America, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Togo (as the African Union mediator), and the African Union Commission issued the following statement on the occasion of the fourth meeting of the Joint Oversight Committee, held this week in Washington, DC.

Qatar provided an update on the ongoing negotiations in Doha between the DRC and AFC/M23, highlighting progress on key issues, including prisoner exchanges

On November 7, 2025, representatives from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Rwanda, along with Qatar, the United States, the Republic of Togo (as the African Union mediator), and the African Union Commission convened to assess implementation of the peace agreement, signed on June 27, 2025, in Washington, DC.

In a significant step forward, representatives from the DRC and Rwanda initialled the full text of the Regional Economic Integration Framework (REIF) on Friday, overseen by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States, Allison Hooker, and Presidential Envoy and Senior Advisor for Africa at the US Department of State, Massad Boulos.

The REIF outlines key areas for fostering economic co-operation and development between the two nations, demonstrating the tangible benefits of peace and creating opportunities for investment and growth that directly benefit people in the region. Its implementation remains contingent upon the satisfactory execution of the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and Operational Order (OPORD) under the Peace Agreement, underscoring the critical link between peace, stability, and economic progress.

The committee recognised lagging progress and committed to redouble efforts to implement the Washington Peace Agreement.

The parties agreed on specific near-term actions in line with their respective obligations for neutralising the FDLR armed group and its associated groups and advancing disengagement of forces/lifting of defensive measures by Rwanda, reviewed preparations for military operations in a named area of interest, adopted an implementing agreement, and acknowledged the efforts of both of the parties to translate their obligations into tangible actions on the ground.

The parties reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from hostile actions or rhetoric, particularly political attacks or language that would undermine or complicate the full implementation of the peace agreement, including in international fora.

The REIF outlines key areas for fostering economic co-operation and development between the two nations, demonstrating the tangible benefits of peace

Qatar provided an update on the ongoing negotiations in Doha between the DRC and AFC/M23, highlighting progress on key issues, including prisoner exchanges.

The committee welcomed the first convening of the Doha ceasefire monitoring mechanism on November 5. The committee expressed strong support for these efforts and emphasised the critical role of the Doha process in advancing the broader implementation of the peace agreement.

The parties expressed a shared commitment to maintaining momentum in the peace process and continuing to build on the progress achieved.

The governments of the DRC and Rwanda expressed their gratitude to Qatar, the United States, the African Union, and Togo for their steadfast support in advancing peace and stability in eastern DRC and the broader Great Lakes region.



Trucks transport displaced people from El-Fasher, in a camp in Al-Dabbah, Sudan.

in the Kordofan region in particular.

"We are especially worried after what happened in El-Fasher," Soaad Ali, from El-Obeid's Ka-rima neighbourhood, said referring to the RSF's capture of the last army stronghold in western

Darfur after an 18-month siege.

That takeover was followed by reports of mass killings, sexual violence, abductions and looting, triggering fears the conflict could spread into oil-rich Kordofan.

El-Obeid, which hosts an air-port, sits on a key supply route

linking Darfur and Khartoum.

Last month, the RSF captured Bara, north of El-Obeid, forcing more than 36,000 people to flee that town and four others in North Kordofan in less than a week, according to the UN.

The group said last week it had massed forces in Bara to retake El-Obeid, "advising civilians to steer clear of military targets".

"We are living in fear," said a resident of El-Obeid's Qubba neighbourhood, who asked to remain anonymous for security reasons.

"Officials try to reassure us, but... after what happened in Bara, our fears are growing."

The fall of El-Fasher two weeks ago gave the RSF control of all five state capitals in the vast western region, in addition to parts of the south.

The army controls most of Sudan's north, east and centre, including Khartoum.



Sport lies at heart of social development agenda: Sheikha Alya

QNA
Doha

HE Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani took part in the opening segment of a high-level dialogue organised by Qatar in partnership with the Principality of Monaco, the International Organisation for Migration, and Mission 89.

The event was held on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development under the theme ‘Copenhagen to Doha: Tackling Vulnerability and Exploitation Linked to Sport – Supporting Safe and Inclusive Pathways for Youth to Realize Their Dreams’.

In her remarks, HE Sheikha Alya explained that the dialogue comes at a critical time, following the adoption of the ‘Doha Political Declaration’, in which world leaders reaffirmed the transformative role of sport as a tool to promote inclusion and social cohesion, advance sustainable development, and integrate sport into national policies.

She noted that the declaration emphasised investment in sports infrastructure, youth engagement programs, and expanding inclusive access as key pillars for achieving the three overarching goals of eradicating poverty, ensuring decent work, and promoting social



inclusion. She added that the dialogue aims to shed light on practices that undermine the integrity and social purpose of sport, stressing that these challenges require collective action and innovative solutions to eliminate exploitation in the sports sector, including addressing frameworks to combat human trafficking through sport, protecting children and youth, and fostering safe, inclusive environments that nurture the values of discipline, teamwork, and fair play among future generations.

HE Sheikha Alya reaffirmed that Qatar firmly believes sport lies at the heart of the social development agenda. She described sport as an effective tool for promoting peace, sustainable development, and building bridges between cultures and peoples, as well as for encour-

aging healthy lifestyles, preventing violence, creating decent job opportunities, empowering youth, and combating crime and drug abuse.

HE Qatar’s Permanent Representative to the UN emphasised that sport represents a core pillar of Qatar National Vision 2030, which seeks to advance human development, empower young people, promote social inclusion, and encourage healthy living. She pointed out that Qatar has made substantial investments in sports infrastructure and has become a global hub for hosting major international sporting events.

She also highlighted Qatar’s commitment to advancing the UN agenda on sport, noting that the country, together with the Principality of Monaco, submits every

two years a draft resolution entitled “Sport: a global accelerator of peace and sustainable development”. Qatar also supports the work of the Group of Friends on Sport for Development and Peace, which seeks to strengthen multi-lateral cooperation in this field.

HE Sheikha Alya concluded by underscoring that Qatar’s continued efforts reflect its firm commitment to global partnerships and international co-operation to promote safe and inclusive pathways for youth in sports by ensuring their protection from exploitation and empowering them to fulfil their potential in a secure environment. She affirmed Qatar’s dedication to ensuring that sport remains a force for upliftment and protection of children and young people around the world.



Qatar hosts high-level event on women’s leadership and digital innovation

QNA
Doha

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN in New York hosted a high-level dinner discussion for women leaders participating in the Second World Summit for Social Development, on women’s leadership and digital innovation for sustainable development. The event was held at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha in honour of President of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly Annalena Baerbock, and Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Amina Mohammed.

The dinner was attended by HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi; Executive Director of UN Women Sima Bahous, as well as a number of heads of delegations and women leaders participating in the Summit.

In her remarks, HE al-Misnad affirmed Qatar’s steadfast commitment to strengthening multi-lateral co-operation aimed at closing the digital divide and ensuring that the benefits of innovation are accessible to all. She stressed the importance of making technology serve human-

ity and measuring its success by how it benefits the most vulnerable groups, such as children, women, and persons with disabilities, particularly in conflict-affected areas. She also called on women leaders to work toward implementing and designing policies that contribute to building an inclusive digital future for all.

For her part, HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi said that Qatar’s approach to social development is centred on a human-focused vision that integrates innovation into policy design and data-driven decision-

making. She noted that technology, when guided by ethical and inclusive values, can serve as a powerful tool to enhance human well-being.

HE Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, who moderated the discussion during the dinner, emphasised that the event provided an opportunity to celebrate women’s leadership and its role in shaping a more inclusive digital future.

It also served as a platform for reflecting on how innovation can support the implementation of the Doha Political Declaration on Social Development and advance the broader goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Annalena Baerbock highlighted the United Nations’ continued commitment to supporting women’s leadership and ensuring that digital transformation becomes a driving force for inclusion, equality, and sustainable development for all. She added that strengthening women’s leadership in the digital sphere enhances the effectiveness of development solutions in addressing global challenges.

Amina Mohammed commended Qatar’s role in advancing sustainable social development and promoting international co-operation toward a more just and inclusive future.

She also praised Qatar’s initiatives to empower women and foster innovation as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Similarly, Sima Bahous praised the Second World Summit for Social Development for providing a platform to reflect on how to place women at the heart of policies and strategies that leverage digital innovation, particularly artificial intelligence, to promote inclusive and sustainable development and help shape a fairer and more equitable future, in line with the goals set forth in the Doha Political Declaration on Social Development.

More than 103 health facilities part of flu vaccination campaign

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) announced the implementation of the national seasonal influenza vaccination campaign, which was launched in the second half of September in co-operation with Hamad Medical Corporation, Primary Health Care Corporation, and both governmental, semi-governmental, and private health facilities.

In a statement, MoPH stressed: “This forms part of the annual strategy to raise awareness, strengthen prevention, and limit the spread of influenza during the winter season”. “Influenza vaccines are available free of charge this year at more than 103 health facilities, including 31 health centres affiliated with the Primary Health Care Corporation,



57 private sector health facilities covering all major hospitals, and 15 semi-governmental facilities, among them Qatar Energy and the Qatar Red Crescent,” it added.

The statement said: “MoPH provides influenza vaccinations in ministries, government insti-

tutions, and private companies as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at facilitating access to vaccination services for all members of society, thereby enhancing coverage rates and safeguarding public health”.

MoPH urged all members of

the community, especially those groups most at risk of complications, “to come forward and obtain the seasonal influenza vaccine at the earliest opportunity. It affirms that prevention begins with vaccination and that health awareness is the first line of defence”.

“Groups prioritised for influenza vaccination include individuals with chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, heart and lung diseases, kidney impairment, and weakened immunity, as well as senior citizens (over 60 years old), children aged between 6 months and 5 years, pregnant women, and healthcare workers,” the statement clarified.

For enquiries about the national seasonal influenza vaccination campaign, the ministry explained, people may contact the Qatar Health Sector Unified Call Centre at 16000.

WCM-Q certificate in lifestyle medicine attracts participants globally

More than 60 healthcare professionals from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Cameroon, Croatia, the United Kingdom, and Canada attended this year’s Certificate in Lifestyle Medicine (CLM) programme. The course was organised by the Institute for Population Health (IPH) at Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q).

The CLM is a 60-hour certificate programme that equips healthcare practitioners with the education and competencies to aid in the evaluation, prevention, and management of lifestyle-related chronic health conditions.

The programme emphasises evidence-based practices focused on lifestyle-related interventions, including regular physical activity, healthy nutrition, adequate sleep, tobacco cessation, stress management, and social connections.

Additionally, the course enables healthcare practitioners to improve overall quality of life and patient outcomes by engaging in meaningful discussions with patients about the potential of lifestyle medicine. Dr Ravinder Mamtani, WCM-Q professor of population health sciences and vice dean for population



Participants with WCM-Q officials.

health and lifestyle medicine, and professor of medicine at the Centre for Global Health, said: “Integrating lifestyle medicine practices into mainstream healthcare is essential for advancing the quality and effectiveness of care.

The course’s eighth offering reflects a rising urgency to integrate evidence-based lifestyle medicine into healthcare delivery.”

The CLM programme featured a selection of local and international experts, including Dr Mamtani; Dr Sohaila Cheema, associate profes-

sor of clinical population health sciences and assistant dean for IPH; Dr Amit Abraham, assistant professor of clinical population health sciences and assistant director of IPH; Sarah Burshan, psychologist/learning support specialist and wellness counsellor at WCM-Q; Dr Ahmad al-Mulla, senior consultant of public health and disease control, and director of the Tobacco Control Center at Hamad Medical Corporation; and Dr Shahrad Taheri, professor of medicine at WCM-Q and senior consultant in diabetes

and endocrinology at the National Obesity Treatment Centre at Hamad Medical Corporation.

Dr Cheema said: “This year’s programme featured an impressive lineup of experts who provided participants with world-class insights and practical strategies to integrate lifestyle medicine in medical practice. We are also proud that the program reached full capacity, a clear sign of the high demand for, and growing recognition of lifestyle medicine as an essential component of healthcare.”

HMC schedules over 1mn clinical imaging appointments remotely in a year

QNA
Doha

The Clinical Imaging Appointment Center at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has significantly transformed the patient experience by providing them with the opportunity to book and manage imaging appointments easily and conveniently over the phone.

Since its launch in 2020, the centre has continued its leading role by scheduling more than 1mn appointments annually for imaging services including MRI, CT scans, ultrasound, X-ray, interventional radiology, nuclear medicine, and mammograms.

This is achieved through a unified automated scheduling system that has helped reduce patient waiting times and improve access to services, resulting in a 92% patient satisfaction rate.

The centre adheres to a defined time frame to ensure fast scheduling. Appointments are scheduled within three working days from the date the physician submits the test request, ensuring faster access to

diagnosis. Digital transformation has been the key driver of this success. The WhatsApp Business service (4439 3377) stands out as one of the most important tools that has enabled patients to confirm, reschedule, or cancel appointments, as well as request preparation instructions easily. More than 175,000 patients have benefited from this service since its launch.

The SMS notification system, used to confirm bookings and send reminders has contributed to a 25% reduction in missed appointments, helping reduce waiting times and allowing cancelled slots to be offered to other patients.

The integration of the Radiology Information System (RIS) with the centre has enhanced coordination between facilities. AI-powered dashboards and internal alerts enable staff to monitor appointments in real time, improving overall performance and responsiveness. The Clinical Imaging Appointment Center continues to play a leading role in improving access to healthcare services through innovative digital solutions that support system efficiency and ensure patient satisfaction across HMC facilities.



talabat joins Qatar Cancer Society's 'Relay for Life' for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

talabat has participated alongside Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) in 'Relay for Life', a community event dedicated to raising breast cancer awareness.

The event brought together families, survivors, and supporters from across Qatar in a walk of solidarity and hope. talabat employees joined the walk and hosted a talabat mart booth offering complimentary snacks.

As part of its continued collaboration with QCS, talabat also led other awareness initiatives throughout October. Pink ribbon pins were available for purchase on talabat mart for QR1, with all proceeds donated to the QCS. In addition, a cancer awareness session was held for employees, creating a safe and informative space to learn more about early detection.

Francisco Miguel de Sousa, managing director of talabat Qatar, stated: "At talabat, we are proud to stand with our community in support of breast cancer awareness. Partnering with Qatar Cancer Society for 'Relay for Life' is a meaningful opportunity to promote health, unity and hope - by standing in solidarity with those affected by breast cancer. Together, we can make a lasting impact - one step at a time."

Through initiatives like 'Relay for Life', tala-



bat continues to strengthen its commitment to community wellbeing and social responsibility. The company remains dedicated to working with local partners and organisations to give back, drive impact, and make a difference.

Customers can download the talabat app via the IOS App Store, Google Play Store, or Huawei App Gallery.

Qatar attends Minamata Convention on Mercury meeting in Geneva

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), participated in the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Having convened official delegations and experts from a variety of countries around the world, the meeting was part of global efforts to prevent mercury contamination and reduce its deleterious impacts on human health and the environment. It addressed a range of subjects aimed at enhancing the convention's provisions, foremost among them combating the illicit trafficking of mercury, reducing emissions from artisanal gold mining, and enforcing the ban on skin-lightening products containing mercury compounds. The meeting further discussed measures for phasing out mercury dental fillings and moving towards safer, environmentally friendly alternatives. Overall, Qatar's participation underscored its commitment to international environmental agreements while reinforcing national measures to protect the environment and public health, consistent with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the SDGs. (QNA)



Qatar Sustainability Week activities conclude

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Department of Public Relations and Communication, has concluded the activities of Qatar Sustainability Week 2025 by participating in the Sustainable Development Marathon, organised by the Ministry of Sports and Youth, represented by the Qatar Sports for All Federation in co-operation with the Ambassadors of Sustainable Development Goals Centre, at Oxygen Park in Education City.

The event was part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to raise environmental awareness and promote the principles of sustainability through interactive, community-oriented activities. The marathon witnessed wide participation from families and individuals of all age groups, and was distinguished by its combination of physical activity and environmental awareness in a healthy, family-friendly atmosphere, encouraging community members to adopt a sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyle.

The Sustainable Development Marathon aimed to raise awareness of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to emphasise the importance of integrating them into individual behaviour and daily practices, particularly those related to physical health



and well-being, quality of life, climate action, and the preservation of natural resources.

The event saw strong public engagement, with many participants praising the high level of organisation and the innovative idea of combining sports

with environmental awareness in an open green space. They also highlighted the importance of such events in promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging the community to adopt positive behaviours that contribute to environmental protection.

QU attends World Summit for Social Development

Qatar University (QU) participated in the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 hosted by Qatar in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

QU's participation came as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen its role as a leading national institution dedicated to preparing qualified graduates capable of driving social development through student-centred education, applied research, and active community engagement.

Through its booth at the Solutions Square exhibition, the university showcased a selection of student projects from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education. These projects demonstrated QU's commitment to addressing social issues and promoting innovation and social responsibility among its students.

The university emphasised that presenting student projects at this international event provided a valuable opportunity to highlight their creativity before a global audience - reinforcing QU's image as a centre of knowledge and innovation serving both Qatari and international communities.

The showcased projects featured innovative solu-



tions and practical initiatives addressing key topics, such as community engagement, social care, and educational initiatives, reflecting QU's vital role as a national academic institution contributing effectively to sustainable development.

The Social Work Programme from the College of Arts and Sciences participated in the exhibition by presenting field-based initiatives developed by students as part of the Development Initiatives course. This programme

remains the only academic track in Qatar dedicated to preparing social work professionals for family, educational, medical, and community fields in support of Qatar National Vision 2030. Students presented examples of their community-based projects carried out in collaboration with national institutions, which contributed to community development and promoted values of participation and social responsibility.

Female students from the Department of Art Education at the College of Education showcased a series of compelling artworks highlighting critical social issues, including access to education for underprivileged communities, equal rights, social justice, and women's empowerment. Displayed on the pavilion's digital screens, the pieces drew strong engagement from visitors, resonating for their powerful blend of artistic expression and the humanitarian mission of education.

QU's booth drew significant interest from participating delegations and representatives of international organisations, who praised the academic and creative quality of the student projects and commended the integration of education, research, and community engagement in advancing sustainable development goals.

'Years of Culture' opens Antarctica expo at Qatar National Library

The 'Years of Culture' initiative, in collaboration with the Chilean Antarctic Institute and with the support of the Division of Cultural Affairs of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs has opened the Antarctica exhibition at Qatar National Library.

The captivating photographic showcase, on view through the end of November, invites visitors to explore one of the most remote, fragile, and inspiring places on Earth.

Through more than 40 powerful photographs, the exhibition highlights the extraordinary beauty and scientific significance of Antarctica, celebrating the continent as a global symbol of co-operation and discovery. Organised around three core themes, climate change, life and biodiversity, and scientific collaboration, the exhibition captures the essence of humanity's shared responsibility for this unique environment.

From receding glaciers and research missions to the resilience of penguins, whales, and seabirds, each image offers a glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of life at the edge of the world. A special section is dedicated to Qatari explorers who have embarked on expeditions to Antarctica, reflecting Qatar's growing engagement in global environmental dialogue and the spirit of exploration that connects Qatar to Argentina and Chile.

The section features Hamida al-Kuwari, the first Qatari woman



to reach Antarctica; Sheikh Mohammed al-Thani, who journeyed there in 2011; and Fahad Badar, who took part in an expedition in 2020.

"This exhibition reflects the deep friendship between Chile and Qatar and our shared commitment to the peaceful and scientific exploration of Antarctica," said Patricio Díaz Broughton, ambassador of Chile to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. "It also highlights Chile's longstanding leadership in Antarctic research and our determination to promote international co-operation for the protection of this extraordinary continent."

Representing the Division of Cultural Affairs of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, director, Mauricio Hurtado added: "The Antarctica exhibition embodies the values that unite our nations - science, culture, and dialogue. Through the Years of Culture partnership, we are able to build bridges between Chile and

Qatar that extend to the very ends of the Earth." "We are honoured to host this exhibition on Antarctica in collaboration with Years of Culture," said Tan Huism, executive director of Qatar National Library. "Today, as we reflect on these images, we are reminded of our collective responsibility to document and share knowledge to protect our planet. By promoting global understanding and awareness of the delicate balance of our world, we contribute to a sustainable future; a commitment that lies at the heart of everything we do at Qatar National Library."

Designed to evoke the majesty of glaciers and icebergs, the exhibition's immersive environment combines lightbox displays, authentic Antarctic soundscapes, and visuals that transport visitors to the heart of the White Continent. Each of the eleven exhibition units presents a distinctive sound journey, allowing visitors to experience the serene atmosphere of Antarctica.

QSC partners with Doha Municipality to launch tree-planting campaign

The Qatar Scientific Club (QSC), affiliated with the Ministry of Sports and Youth, organised a tree-planting campaign in co-operation with Doha Municipality.

The initiative covered the club's premises and surrounding areas, as part of its ongoing efforts to raise environmental awareness among youth and promote sustainable development values within the community. The campaign also aligns with the activities of Qatar Sustainability Week 2025.

The campaign aimed to educate participants on the importance of trees and vegetation cover, highlighting their role in improving air quality and preserving biodiversity.

It also provided practical instruction on the basics of agriculture, tree-planting, and environmental sustainability principles. Emphasis was placed on fostering individual environmental responsibility, encouraging teamwork, and promoting volunteerism as a societal value that supports environmental and community service.

Participants from the club planted a variety of native trees and plants suited to Qatar's climate, under

the supervision of specialists from the Parks Department at Doha Municipality. These experts offered hands-on guidance on proper planting techniques and plant care.

QSC's Deputy Executive Director Engineer Abdulrahman Saleh Khamis said this initiative reflects the club's commitment to strengthening co-operation with government entities and national institutions in service of the public good and in support of Qatar's sustainability goals.

He added that they believe environmental awareness begins with the younger generation, which is why they prioritise practical activities like this campaign to instil environmental protection values and encourage youth participation in green initiatives.

For his part, Head of Parks at the Services Affairs Department of Doha Municipality Salem Abdullah al-Marri emphasised the importance of such environmental campaigns in raising awareness among the new generation.

He noted that these activities offer students a valuable hands-on experience in tree planting and contribute to expanding green spaces. (QNA)

Long-time Qatar resident dies

Prominent Indian businessman and long-time Qatar resident, Abbas Haji Mathath (68) passed away in Doha yesterday. A native of Kuthuparamba, Poyiloor, in the Kannur district, Mathath was the managing director of Abu Matar Supermarket, Plus Hypermarket, and Highland Hypermarket. He was the former vice-president of Qatar KMCC, former Muslim League state councillor, former Panchayat vice-president, among other positions. He is survived by his wife Mariam and children: Afsal, Anas, Rafi, Basith, Muhammed and Ayisha. His body will be flown home after completing the formalities and the burial will take place today at the Poyiloor Juma Masjid, community sources said.



Amir condolences with president of Suriname

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to President Jennifer Geerlings-Simons of the Republic of Suriname on the death of former president Ronald Venetiaan. (QNA)

Qatar’s envoy presents credentials



Permanent Secretary for Protocol and Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam Haji Muhammad Fakhri bin Haji Muhammad received a copy of the credentials of Abdullah Hamad Ali al-Adham al-Marri as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam. (QNA)



Hungary’s first lady tours Warif Academy in Doha

First Lady Zsuzsanna Nagy of Hungary and her accompanying delegation have visited Warif Academy, the first-of-its-kind in Qatar that offers inclusive educational opportunities and qualitative services for students with severe and multiple disabilities based on the best global practices. She toured various sections of the academy and listened to a detailed explanation from Executive Director of the Academy Matthew Campion, about its nature of operation and mission. Nagy was received by President of Qatar Foundation’s Pre-University Education (PUE) Abeer al-Khalifa, Director of the Special Education and Inclusive Education Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoE-

HE) Fatima al-Saadi, and Director of the Schools and Student Affairs Department at MoEHE Maryam al-Buainain. Warif Academy is a specialised public school that provides inclusive pedagogical and qualitative services for students with severe and multiple functional limitations, whose tasks are laser-focused on empowering those students to access educational activities and engage in them based on their individual needs. The academy further provides ancillary technological tools that enhance students’ independence and capabilities of learning, moving, and communicating within a comprehensive educational environment under the superintendence of a team of experts in special education fields, occupational therapy, physi-

cal therapy, as well as speech-language therapy. It operates to hone the skills of social communication and interaction, promote the Qatari tenets and culture, supply students with educational and pilot opportunities ahead of their upcoming life in the future, alongside guidance and psychological programmes for their families, designed to bolster and safeguard the quality of their lives. In addition, the academy’s approach serves to empower students to up-scale the maximum amount of physical, thoughtful, and social potential, as well as their independence and self-confidence to be effective individuals and contributors in their communities. (QNA)

Qatar Charity, OCHA host dialogue on humanitarian accountability

Qatar Charity (QC), in partnership with the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), organised a high-level panel discussion titled ‘Building a Shared Vision for Humanitarian Accountability’ on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development, held in Doha from November 4-6. The session underscored the critical importance of enhancing accountability in humanitarian work. Discussions focused on resource-conscious humanitarian response, ensuring that limited aid reaches the most vulnerable through transparent, people-centred approaches that uphold dignity and address real needs. The panel also emphasised the centrality of localisation, empowering local actors and communities to lead humanitarian action, as a cornerstone for trust, relevance, and sustainability. It further explored ways to integrate development efforts into humanitarian response to support recovery and resilience, paving the way for a dignified life



through principled humanitarian action. This session took place at a pivotal moment, as the Humanitarian Impact Forum prepares for its first high-level meeting in 2026, which will be co-organised by Qatar Charity and OCHA. The forum seeks to redefine, measure, and achieve impact in humanitarian response. Yousuf bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, CEO of Qatar Charity, and Joyce Msuya, assistant secretary general for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency

Relief Coordinator, United Nations opened the session. Al-Kuwari emphasised the urgency of the topic, stating: “We gather at a time when the humanitarian landscape is facing unprecedented challenges. Crises are growing in number and complexity, while resources and trust are under increasing strain. In such circumstances, humanitarian accountability is no longer a principle, it is a collective responsibility that gives our work meaning and integrity.”

GTA unveils ‘Account Manager’ to enhance service quality

The General Tax Authority (GTA) has announced the launch of the “Relationship Account Manager” service, as part of its efforts to improve the tax service ecosystem and strengthen partnerships with key taxpayers by providing dedicated support and direct follow-up that contribute to enhanced service quality, and improve taxpayer experience. In a statement, the authority explained that this service is designated for a selected group of major taxpayers according to specific criteria. It represents a modern framework for work that reflects the evolution of organisational and administrative concepts. The initiative aims to enhance the efficiency of services by providing high-quality solutions that address the needs of major taxpayers and align with best practices in tax system management. The “Relationship Account Manager” service acts as a strategic tool aimed at building strong, trust-based relationships and transitioning from traditional interactions to a more structured and proactive engagement approach focused on planning and service quality. This service also plays a key role in promoting voluntary compliance and reducing instances of non-compliance by providing support tailored to the nature of each taxpayer’s business. (QNA)



الهلال الأحمر القطري
Qatar Red Crescent

Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

Tenders Announcement: -

Sr. #	Tender No.	Description	Temporary Tender Bond	Documents Fees (Non-Refundable)	Closing Date
1	QRC/WHC/18-2025	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Four Autoclave Machines and Two Ultrasonic Cleaners	17,000 Q.R	500 Q.R	23/11/2025

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm till the closing date or by sending email along with the requested documents below.

Required Documents:

- 1.Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
- 2.Company’s Commercial registration copy.
- 3.Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents not refunded & account details:
 - Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
 - Bank: Al Rayan.
 - Account Number: 0011199970200
 - IBAN Number: QA83MAFR000000000011199970200

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



قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG

QatarEnergy LNG

Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/AKC/7403/25 SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF CURTAINS & BLINDS FOR AL KHOR COMMUNITY (AKC) HOUSING UNITS & AL KHOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (AKIS) ON CALL-OFF BASIS	05/11/2025 to 20/11/2025	0	0	01/12/2025

Scope of Work:
QatarEnergy LNG, requires services of reputed companies on a call-off basis for supply, installation, service and maintenance of all domestic household curtains, blinds, and associated fixtures and fittings for Al Khor Community (AKC) housing units and Al Khor International School (AKIS) for a duration of three (3) years, with an option to extend for further 2 years.

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

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

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



Qatar Chemical Company Limited
Al Dafna – Amwal Tower – First Floor
P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar – Tel. 44847111 – Fax 44847695
Website: www.qchem.com.qa

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDERS

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	QC/TC/MP/111/25	Tanks Bottom Plate Replacement Work at Q-Chem and Q-Chem II	QR 955,500/-	15:00 hrs. on 07 th January 2026
Brief Scope: Contractor shall carry out bottom plate replacement of five tanks at Q-Chem II and one tank at Q-Chem. Contractor shall also procure and supply materials, support pre-commissioning and commissioning activities.				
2.	QC/STC/MAT/230/25	Five Years Call-Off Supply Agreement of Prescription Safety Glasses for Q-Chem, Q-Chem II, RLOC & RLP	QR 136,500/-	15:00 hrs. on 8 th December 2025

Tender Documents for the above description can be obtained as follows:

A. Pay to Bank and send the original receipt with authorization letter via email
For each tender pay a **non-refundable document fee of QR 1,000/-** Payable to Q-Chem, Bank Account (Contract Services - Tender) – Account Number 001-242007-003 with HSBC Bank) and submit the original receipt with an Authorization letter on Tenderer Company Letterhead with ID copy of the Tenderer representative via email to tadvertisment@qchem.com.qa In the authorization letter Tenderer shall nominate a single focal point with contact mobile number, **official email address**, office number, fax number for the communications related to this tender for the transfer and receipt of the tender documents. **The Bank receipt must indicate the tender number and the tenderer name (company name).**

B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email
Tender documents issuance from **from 9th November 2025 to 13th November 2025, 8am-12noon**

C. Proposal details
Proposals should be valid for **240 days** from the tender closing date.

D. Submission of Proposals
Guidelines for Electronic Bids Submission is attached in the Tender documents.

West Bank’s ancient olive tree a ‘symbol of Palestinian endurance’

AFP
Al Walajah

As guardian of the occupied West Bank’s oldest olive tree, Salah Abu Ali prunes its branches and gathers its fruit even as violence plagues the Palestinian territory during this year’s harvest.

“This is no ordinary tree. We’re talking about history, about civilisation, about a symbol,” the 52-year-old said proudly, smiling behind his thick beard in the village of Al-Walajah, south of Jerusalem.

Abu Ali said experts had estimated the tree to be between 3,000 and 5,500 years old. It has endured millennia of drought and war in this parched land scarred by conflict.

Around the tree’s vast trunk and its dozen offshoots – some named after his family members – Abu Ali has cultivated a small oasis of calm.

A few steps away, the Israeli separation wall cutting off the West Bank stands five metres (16 feet) high, crowned with razor wire.

More than half of Al-Walajah’s original land now lies on the far side of the Israeli security wall.

Yet so far the village has been spared

the settler assaults that have marred this year’s olive harvest, leaving many Palestinians injured.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967, and some of the 500,000 Israelis living in the Palestinian territory have attacked farmers trying to access their trees almost every day this year since the season began in mid-October.

The Palestinian Authority’s Colonisation and Wall Resistance Commission, based in Ramallah, documented 2,350 such attacks in the West Bank in October.

Almost none of the perpetrators have been held to account by the Israeli authorities.

Israeli forces often disperse Palestinians with tear gas or block access to their own land, AFP journalists witnessed on several occasions.

But in Al-Walajah for now, Abu Ali is free to care for the tree. In a good year, he said, it can yield from 500 to 600 kilograms of olives.

This year, low rainfall led to slim pickings in the West Bank, including for the tree whose many nicknames include the Elder, the Bedouin Tree and Mother of Olives.

“It has become a symbol of Palestinian endurance. The olive tree represents the Palestinian people themselves, root.

ed in this land for thousands of years,” said Al-Walajah mayor Khader al-Araj.

The Palestinian Authority’s agriculture ministry even recognised the tree as a Palestinian natural landmark and appointed Abu Ali as its official caretaker.

Most olive trees reach about three metres in height when mature. This one towers above the rest, its main trunk nearly two metres wide, flanked by a dozen offshoots as large as regular olive trees.

“The oil from this tree is exceptional. The older the tree, the richer the oil,” said Abu Ali.

He noted that the precious resource, which he called “green gold”, costs four to five times more than regular oil. Tourists once came in droves to see the tree, but numbers have dwindled since the start of the war in Gaza in October 2023, Abu Ali said, with checkpoints tightening across the West Bank.

The village of Al-Walajah is not fully immune from the issues facing other West Bank communities.

In 1949, after the creation of Israel, a large portion of the village’s land was taken, and many Palestinian families had to leave their homes to settle on the other side of the so-called armistice line.

After Israel’s 1967 occupation, most of what remained was designated Area C – under full Israeli control – under the 1993 Oslo Accords, which were meant to lead to peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

But the designation left many homes facing demolition orders for lacking Israeli permits, a common problem in Area C, which covers 66% of the West Bank.

“Today, Al-Walajah embodies almost every Israeli policy in the West Bank: settlements, the wall, home demolitions, land confiscations and closures,” mayor Al-Araj told AFP.

For now, Abu Ali continues to nurture the tree. He plants herbs and fruit trees around it, and keeps a guest book with messages from visitors in dozens of languages.

“I’ve become part of the tree. I can’t live without it,” he said.



Palestinian protesters pray on their land, threatened by Israeli settlement expansion, in Beit Lid, near Tulkarm, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

After luxury push, Saudi Arabia targets broader tourist market, minister says

Reuters
Riyadh

Saudi Arabia is building up its mid and upper-mid-range tourism options and plans to increase access to hotel accommodation for religious pilgrimages after years focused on developing expensive luxury resorts, the kingdom’s tourism minister said.

“We started with building luxury destinations for luxury travellers. And we have already started building destinations for the middle class and upper middle class,” Saudi Tourism Minister Ahmed al-Khateeb told Reuters.

“We will not ignore this segment,” he

said on the sidelines of the UN’s yearly tourism conference, being hosted in Riyadh for the first time.

Attracting tourists is a central pillar of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s Vision 2030 plan to diversify the kingdom’s economy away from oil and transform society in the kingdom.

Under the plan, Saudi Arabia aims to attract 150mn tourists per year by 2030, at least a third of them from abroad.

With flagship Red Sea coast resorts running at around \$2,000 per night, few mid-income travellers currently have hotel options.

Khateeb said 10 new resorts due to open in the coming months on the

Red Sea’s Shebara Island would offer a “much lower price point” than existing options, without providing figures.

Religious tourism remains at the core of Saudi Arabia’s economic plans.

Khateeb said Saudi Arabia planned to nearly double the number coming to the kingdom for pilgrimage to the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah to 30mn by 2030, enabled by tens of thousands of new hotel rooms.

Saudi Arabia is looking to encourage people in the region to come to the kingdom, including via a plan to create a Schengen-style visa for Gulf Co-operation Council countries.

Khateeb said that should become available “in 2026, maximum 2027”.

Tehran to restrict water as Iran battles drought

AFP
Tehran

Iran was laying plans yesterday to cut off water supplies periodically to Tehran’s 10mn-strong population as it battles its worst drought in many decades.

Rainfall in the capital has this year been at its lowest level in a century, local officials say, and half of Iran’s provinces have not seen a drop fall in months.

Now, to save water, the government is planning water cuts in Tehran – and several local news outlets have already reported pipes running dry overnight in some areas.

“This will help avoid waste even though it may cause inconvenience,” Iran’s Energy Minister Abbas Ali Abadi said on state television.

In a speech broadcast on Friday, Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian had warned that Tehran might have to be evacuated if no rain falls before the end of the year.

But he gave no details about how such a vast operation would be conducted.

Tehran nestles on the southern slopes of the Alborz mountains and has hot dry summers usually relieved by autumn rains and winter snowfall.

Tehran is by far the country’s biggest city and its inhabitants use three million cubic metres of water per day, according to local media.

The main Amir Kabir dam on the Karaj river, one of five reservoirs serving the capital, is running dry and holds only



File photo shows Iranians drinking water from a public street fountain in Tehran.

14mn cubic litres, according to Behzad Parsa, director general of the Tehran water company, cited by the official news agency IRNA.

During the same period last year, the reservoir held 86mn cubic metres, he added, but now it only has enough to maintain supplies to the Tehran region for less than two weeks.

Yesterday, state television broadcast images of several dams, serving the central city of Isfahan and Tabriz in the

northwest, showing significantly lower water levels compared to previous years.

Hassan Hosseini, the deputy Iran’s second-largest city Mashhad, told IRNA agency on Thursday that night-time water cuts were being considered to address the water shortage.

And over the summer on July and August, two public holidays were declared in Tehran to save water and energy, at a time when power outages were almost daily during the intense heatwave.



A Palestinian man wearing a gas mask walks holding the Palestinian flag, during a protest against the confiscation of land by Israeli settlers near the village Kfar Qaddum, east of the Israeli occupied West Bank city of Nablus.

UN says settler attacks against Palestinians reached record number in October

Reuters
United Nations

Israeli settlers carried out at least 264 attacks against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank during October, marking the biggest monthly total since United Nations officials began tracking such incidents in 2006, the UN said yesterday.

In a statement warning against the sharp rise in violence, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs said the attacks, which resulted in casualties and property damage, amounted to an average of eight inci-

dents per day. “Since 2006, OCHA has documented over 9,600 such attacks. About 1,500 of them took place just this year, roughly 15 per cent of the total,” the UN body said in a statement.

Home to 2.7mn Palestinians, the West Bank has long been at the heart of plans for a future Palestinian state existing alongside Israel, but successive Israeli governments have expanded settlements rapidly, fragmenting the land.

The United Nations, Palestinians and most countries regard settlements as illegal under international law. Israel disputes this. Over half a million Israeli

settlers live in the West Bank. OCHA also said that according to OCHA-confirmed data as of Wednesday, 42 Palestinian children had been killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank so far this year. “That means one in every five Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank in 2025 has been a child,” OCHA said.

Israel’s mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The West Bank attacks came despite a US-brokered ceasefire in the war in Gaza in October, which has calmed most fighting and led to the return of hostages.



QATARI INVESTORS GROUP PROPERTY

INVITATION TO SUBMIT A BID

SER. NO.	Tender No.	DESCRIPTION	Tender Fees (Qrs.)	Tender Bond (Qrs.)	Deadline of Bid Submission Date
1	QIGP/T/07/25	Facilities Management (FM) Services at Qatari Investors Group (QIG) Tower- Lusail	1000	300,000	27/11/2025

General conditions:

- 1) The duration of the contract is minimum of 1 year and can be extended up to 3 years based on the performance of the service provider.
- 2) The tender fees shall be through bank payment and non-refundable. Interested bidders must contact the Qatari Investors Group Property office via e-mail at procurement@qigproperty.com for payment instructions and tender document collection.
- 3) Offers validity should be 90 days from **BID CLOSING DATE**.
- 4) Offers should be sent in sealed envelope on order before **November 27, 2025**. Any offer after this date and time will be automatically rejected.



Tender - Waseef

Waseef Asset Management (Waseef) would like to invite competent Service Providers for the below Open Tenders:

Tender Number	Subject	Bid Bond (QAR)	Non-refundable Tender Fee (QAR)	Bid Submission Closing Date
GTC/WSF/BAS/FAFF/55/2025	TENDER FOR FIRE ALARM, FIRE FIGHTING, ACMV AND PASSIVE SYSTEM EXECUTION, INTEGRATION AND TESTING AND COMMISSIONING WORKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH QCDD STANDARDS AT BARWA AL SADD (QCDD GRADE A APPROVED COMPANIES)	62,000	1,000	November 30, 2025
GTC/WSF/MSD/CONS/56/2025	TENDER FOR THE CONSULTANCY SERVICES OF DC1 AND DC2 WORKS IN MESAIEED VILLAGE (CLASSIFICATION MINIMUM GRADE A - CONSULTANCY FROM MME)	12,000	500	November 30, 2025
GTC/WSF/MSD/DC1&2/57/2025	TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, EXECUTION AND TESTING & COMMISSIONING (T&C) OF CIVIL, MEP, FIRE SAFETY AND QCDD WORKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH AUTHORITIES REGULATIONS AND APPROVED DRAWINGS/ DOCUMENTS FOR MESAIEED LABOR CAMPS (QCDD GRADE A APPROVED COMPANIES)	200,000	2,500	November 30, 2025

The Tender Document will be available from November 9, 2025 onwards upon submission of the below documentation to tender@waseef.qa

To collect please provide the following:

1. Authorization Letter on Company letterhead, copy of Commercial Registration and valid Identification of the representative.
2. Bank deposit slip carrying tender number and subject details. Tender fee shall be deposited to Account Name - Waseef Asset Management Co., Account Number 0002-105222-200 with Masraf Al Rayan Bank.

To collect please provide the following:

1. Bidders should submit a bid bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 120 days from the closing date (April 30, 2026)
2. Technical and Commercial offers must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes and delivered to the below-mentioned address: GTC Secretary, 10th floor, Waseef Head Office, Al Owaina Tower, Old Salata, Museum Park Street, Doha, Qatar.





Nairobi rally for climate justice



More than 300 Greenpeace Africa volunteers gathered in Nairobi yesterday, to create a giant human banner of the African continent ahead of the UN Tax Convention negotiations, scheduled to take place in Nairobi from November 10 to 19. They called on governments to tax the super-rich to fund climate finance. **Page 8**

Tanzania police arrest senior opposition party official

Reuters
Nairobi

Police in Tanzania arrested a senior official from opposition party CHADEMA yesterday and authorities named nine others being sought in relation to violent protests that followed last week's elections. CHADEMA and some human rights activists say that security forces killed more than 1,000 people. The government has called those numbers exaggerated without offering its own death toll. CHADEMA said its deputy secretary-general, Amani

Golugwa, was arrested by police. Golugwa was named by police along with nine others as wanted in connection with the investigation into the unrest, a day after prosecutors charged 145 people with treason. "The police force, in collaboration with other defence and security agencies, is continuing a serious manhunt to find all who planned, co-ordinated and executed this evil act," the police said in a statement. CHADEMA's leader, Tundu Lissu, was charged with treason in April, and his exclusion from the ballot, along with another leading opposition contender, has largely driven the protests.

The electoral commission declared incumbent President Samia Suluhu Hassan the winner with nearly 98% of the vote. She was sworn in on Monday. Those being sought for arrest include CHADEMA's secretary-general John Mnyika and the party's head of communications, Brenda Rupia, the police statement said. CHADEMA accused the government of forcing party leaders and members to confess to organising demonstrations. "The government intends to charge our leaders with treason in an attempt to cripple the party's leadership and paralyse its operations," the party said in a statement. African Union observers

said the vote was not credible and that they had documented ballot-box stuffing. The government has dismissed criticism of the process and said the election was fair. Violent protests broke out on October 29 in the cities of Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and Mbeya, as well as several regions across the country, police said in yesterday's statement, laying out the extent of the unrest for the first time. People were harmed during the violence, police said without giving details, while private and public property, including bank teller machines and government offices, was destroyed.

Kenyan prosecution welcomes detention of UK ex-soldier

AFP
Nairobi

Kenya's prosecution service yesterday welcomed the detention of a British ex-soldier accused of murdering a woman in the east African country more than a decade ago.

Robert James Purkiss, 38, was remanded in custody by a judge after being arrested on Thursday, Britain's National Crime Agency said in a statement. Purkiss is wanted in Kenya on suspicion of killing 21-year-old Agnes Wanjiru in 2012, in a case that has caused diplomatic tensions between the two countries. The body of the young mother was found in a septic tank two months after she reportedly

went partying with British soldiers at a hotel in Nanyuki, a town in central Kenya where Britain has a permanent army garrison. Kenya's Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) welcomed the "significant development" in a statement on X, adding it was a result of an "extensive and co-ordinated effort" between the British and Kenyan authorities.

Djibouti's President Guelleh announces candidacy for sixth term

AFP
Addis Ababa

Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh, in power since 1999, confirmed yesterday that he would run for a sixth term in elections next year, after parliament removed a constitutional barrier that had prevented him from running again. The 77-year-old accepted the nomination from his People's Rally for Progress (RPP) party during a congress in the capital, a statement from the presidency said. The Horn of Africa nation is a stable state in an often troubled region, operating a major port that hosts military bases for the US, France, China, Japan and Italy. Guelleh promised to reaffirm his commitment to "unity, stability, and development amid global challenges" ahead of presidential elections set for April 2026. He is the latest ageing African leader to seek to remain in power, after the recent re-elections of 92-year-old Paul Biya in Cameroon and 83-year-old Alassane Ouattara in Ivory Coast. His re-election is virtually guaranteed, with his Union for the Presidential Majority coalition holding a majority of seats in parliament, and after winning the last election in 2021 with 97% of

the vote. His candidacy comes less than a week after parliament voted to remove the 75-year age limit for presidential candidates from the Constitution. The Constitution had already been changed in 2010 to remove a two-term limit for the presidency. Djibouti is regularly criticised by human rights organisations for alleged repression of dissenting voices. It ranks 168th of 180 in the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) World Press Freedom Index for 2025, with the NGO saying "the media landscape is completely controlled and limited almost exclusively to state media". Guelleh succeeded Hassan Gouled Aptidon, the father of Djibouti's independence, in 1999 after serving as his chief of staff for 22 years. "All I can tell you is that I love my country too much to embark on an irresponsible adventure and be the cause of divisions," Guelleh told the magazine *Africa Report* in May when asked about his candidacy. He also addressed persistent rumours around his health, admitting he "probably" needed to "lose a few pounds" but "Otherwise, everything is perfect". Djibouti, with around 1mn inhabitants, is on the strategic trade route of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea.

Kenyan activists released after abduction in Uganda

AFP
Nairobi

Two missing Kenyan activists have been released after they vanished in Uganda where they were attending a political opposition event, legal and rights groups said yesterday. Bob Njagi and Nicholas Oyoo went missing in October after travelling to the neighbouring east African nation to support Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine, who intends to run against long-time incumbent Yoweri Museveni in elections next year. In a brief joint statement on X, rights groups Amnesty Kenya, Vocal Africa and the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) said they "welcome the release of Nicholas Oyoo and Bob Njagi last night in Busia after 38 days of their enforced disappearance". The statement, posted by LSK head Faith Odhiambo, did not give any further details but said they were "facilitating their transfer to Nairobi". It expressed thanks to human rights groups, as well as to the foreign ministries and to active citizens who "tirelessly campaigned for this moment". Oyoo's older brother, Nobert Ochieng, 53, said his family was "elated" at the news.



Kenyan activists Bob Njagi and Nicholas Oyoo are received after being freed following 38 days in disappearance and abduction in Uganda, at the Kisumu International airport in Kenya, yesterday.

"It was a big relief, because it's been a very tormenting and difficult month for us," he said. Kenya's foreign minister Musalia Mudavadi confirmed that the two were released late Friday after "sustained diplomatic engagement". Arrangements were underway to "ensure the two Kenyans reunite safely with their families", he added in a post on X. The pair went missing last month, with the Ugandan police

denying either activist was in custody. Rights groups and the men's families in Kenya have agitated for their return, appealing to the Uganda court and urging the government to disclose their whereabouts. The head of Kenyan rights group Vocal Africa, Hussein Khalid, said last month that eyewitnesses had reported that the two men were taken by "masked, uniformed and armed men, suggesting strong

evidence of state involvement in their disappearance. "It is our suspicion that the two may be detained alongside other Ugandan political detainees in military facilities," he said. In May, Kenyan activist Boniface Mwangi and Ugandan activist Agather Atuhaire say they were abducted and tortured by security forces in Tanzania, and received little support from their own governments.

Israeli strikes in Lebanon kill three

AFP
Beirut

Israeli strikes in Lebanon killed three people and wounded several more yesterday, according to the Lebanese health ministry, with Israel announcing one of the attacks had hit arms smugglers from a group affiliated with Hezbollah. Lebanon's official National News Agency reported that two brothers from the town of Shebaa were hit while driving on a road on the slopes of Mount Hermon in the southeast, "causing their SUV to catch fire and resulting in their deaths". The Israeli military confirmed it had conducted a strike near Shebaa that killed two smugglers from the Lebanese Resistance Brigades, a group allied with Hezbollah. "The fighters were involved in smuggling weapons used by Hezbollah and their activities constituted a blatant violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon," the military said, referring to the ceasefire that sought to end more than a year of hostilities with the fighter group. "The IDF (military) will continue to operate in order to remove any threat posed to the State of Israel," it warned.

Lebanon's health ministry confirmed the death toll in Shebaa, and later reported that another strike on a car in the southern village of Baraashit had killed one person and wounded four. The Israeli military later claimed the strike in Baraashit, saying it had killed a Hezbollah member who "was involved in attempts to rehabilitate Hezbollah military infrastructure". Another Israeli strike yesterday morning on a car near a hospital in the southern city of Bint jbeil wounded seven people, according to the health ministry. The latest attacks came as the European Union added its voice to international concern over Israel's continued strikes despite the nearly year-old truce. "Focus by all parties must be on preserving the ceasefire and the progress achieved so far," the European Commission's foreign affairs spokesman Anouar El Anouni said. Israel argues that Lebanon is acting too slowly to disarm Hezbollah and insists it has the right to carry out operations to protect its border and citizens from attack. On Thursday it announced a series of strikes in southern Lebanon in advance, and urged civilians to evacuate the targeted areas.

A third Tunisian opposition leader launches hunger strike

Reuters
Tunis

Jailed Tunisian opposition leader Rached Ghannouchi, 84, began a hunger strike, joining two prominent politicians who are protesting what they call "unjust imprisonment," lawyers said yesterday, marking the latest escalation in a standoff with President Kais Saied. Most of the country's opposition leaders are in jail. Ghannouchi follows opposition politician Jawhar Ben Mbarek who has been on a "wildcat" hunger strike since last week. And Republican Party leader Issam Chebbi started a hunger strike on Friday, demanding his release. Ghannouchi, head of the Ennahda party and a fierce critic of Saied, has been detained since 2023 and was sentenced to 37 years in prison across multiple cases, including illicit foreign financing and conspiracy against the state. He has refused to appear in court, saying he won't face judges who only follow Saied's orders. Lawyers, family, and rights

groups say Ben Mbarek's health has sharply deteriorated, he is refusing treatment and is at risk of dying. The Tunisian Prisons Authority denied that the prisoners' health had deteriorated due to the hunger strikes, saying medical examinations showed conditions were "normal and stable," without giving additional details. This year, courts handed prison sentences ranging from five to 66 years to opposition leaders including Ben Mbarek and Chebbi on charges including "conspiracy against state security." Human rights groups say these prosecutions targeted political opponents. Lawyer Dalila Ben Mbarek said Jawhar informed her that he would soon leave the prison "either free or dead." His father said Saied was responsible for any harm that came to his son. The opposition says Saied's sudden closure of the elected parliament in 2021 and his move to rule by decree was a coup. Saied denied this, saying his actions were necessary to save Tunisia from years of chaos; he has called jailed opposition leaders criminals, traitors and terrorists.

UPS, FedEx ground MD-11 cargo planes after deadly crash

AFP
Washington

Freight carriers UPS and FedEx said they have grounded their fleets of MD-11 cargo planes, after one of them was involved in a deadly crash in Kentucky this week.

A McDonnell Douglas MD-11 aircraft operated by UPS exploded into flames when it crashed shortly after departing on Tuesday from the airport in the US city of Louisville, killing at least 14 people. A three-person crew was aboard.

Both carriers said they were acting on a recommendation from the plane's manufacturer to halt use of these planes. McDonnell Douglas originally made the MD-11 but was acquired by Boeing in 1997.

"Out of an abundance of caution and in the interest of safety, we have made the decision to temporarily ground our MD-11 fleet," UPS said Friday.

"The grounding is effective immediately. We made this decision proactively at the recommendation of the aircraft



Smoke and flames rising from the site of a UPS cargo plane crash outside Louisville International Airport in Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday. (AFP)

manufacturer," the courier added. It said around nine percent of UPS's fleet are MD-11s. FedEx said yesterday it, too, had grounded its 28 MD-11s out of a total fleet

of around 700 aircraft as it conducts a safety review.

"With safety as our top priority, we recommended to the three operators of the MD-11 Freighter that they suspend flight operations while additional engineering analysis is performed," Boeing said in a statement.

Besides UPS and FedEx, the only other carrier using the MD-11 is Western Global Airlines.

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear said another crash victim had been located, bringing the total number to 14.

"Please pray for these families, the Louisville community and everyone affected by this terrible event," he said on X.

The plane, filled with around 38,000 gallons of fuel for the long-haul flight to Hawaii, narrowly missed a major Ford vehicle assembly plant that employs about 3,000 people.

Aerial footage of the crash site showed a long trail of debris as firefighters poured water on the flames, with smoke billowing from the area.

Investigators have said the accident was caused by one of the engines catching fire and detaching during takeoff.

Todd Inman, a member of the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), said this week that investigators had identified the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder — known as a plane's black boxes — and would send them to Washington for analysis.

The crash was reportedly the deadliest in UPS history. Its main hub, Worldport, is in Louisville, where it employs thousands of people.

According to the NTSB, the plane was built in 1991 and was modified into a cargo aircraft. McDonnell Douglas merged with Boeing in 1997.

The crash comes amid the longest government shutdown in US history, with Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy warning this week of "mass chaos" in the skies due to a lack of air traffic control staff.

Inman said the NTSB was not aware of any staff shortages at Louisville's airport at the time of the crash.

Hungary: Waiver from US sanctions on Russia oil and gas is indefinite

Reuters
Budapest

Hungary said yesterday it had obtained an indefinite waiver from US sanctions for using Russian oil and gas, contradicting a White House official who said it had been granted a one-year exemption.

Last month, US President Donald Trump imposed Ukraine-related sanctions on Russian oil companies Lukoil and Rosneft that carried a threat of further sanctions against entities that buy oil from those firms.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, a long-time Trump ally, met with Trump at the White House on Friday to press for a reprieve. Hungary relies heavily on Russian energy and Orban, 15 years in power, faces the prospect of a close election next year.

"The prime minister was clear. He has agreed with the US president that we have obtained an indefinite exemption from the sanctions," Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said on Facebook.

"There are no sanctions on oil and gas shipments to Hungary for an indefinite period."

The White House official had

noted that, in addition to the sanctions exemption, Hungary had committed to buying US liquefied natural gas with contracts valued at some \$600mn.

Hungary has maintained its reliance on Russian energy since the start of the 2022 conflict in Ukraine, prompting criticism from several European Union and Nato allies.

Speaking in Washington late on Friday, Orban also said Hungary had received an indefinite exemption for energy imports via the TurkStream gas pipeline and the Druzhba oil pipeline.

"There are no sanctions that would restrict Hungary's supply through these routes or make it more expensive. This exemption is general and has no time limit," Orban said.

International Monetary Fund figures show Hungary bought 74% of its gas and 86% of its oil from Russia in 2024, warning that an EU-wide cutoff of Russian natural gas alone could cost Hungary more than 4% of its GDP.

Orban said that, without the agreement, energy costs would have surged, hitting the wider economy, pushing up unemployment and generating "unbearable" price rises for households and firms.

Trump says no US officials to attend G20 in South Africa

President Donald Trump said no US officials would attend the G20 summit in South Africa, reviving debunked claims of white Afrikaners being systematically "killed and slaughtered" in the country.

Trump had announced in September that Vice-President JD Vance would travel to the meeting later this month instead of him, but has now said that US representatives will skip it entirely.

"It is a total disgrace that the G20 will be held in South Africa," Trump said on his Truth Social network.

"No US Government Official will attend as long as these Human Rights abuses continue." Trump said that Afrikaners — descendants of the first European settlers of South Africa — "are being killed and slaughtered, and their land and farms are being illegally confiscated."

He added that he looked forward to hosting the 2026 G20 summit in the United States — which the billionaire US president will controversially hold at his own golf resort in Miami, Florida.

The South African foreign ministry called Trump's comments "regrettable" and said it was looking forward to hosting a "successful" summit set for November 22-23. "The characterisation of Afrikaners as an exclusively white group is ahistorical. Furthermore, the claim that this community faces persecution is not substantiated by fact," it said in a statement.



Ukrainian rescuers work at the site of a heavily damaged residential building following an air attack in Dnipro. (AFP)

Russian attack hits Ukraine energy infrastructure: Kyiv

AFP
Kyiv

A Russian attack hit Ukraine's energy infrastructure, killing four people and prompting power cuts in several regions, Ukrainian authorities said yesterday.

Moscow has in recent months escalated attacks on energy infrastructure in Ukraine, damaging natural gas facilities which produce the main fuel for heating in the country.

Experts have said Ukraine risks heating outages ahead of the winter months.

"Russian strikes once again targeted people's everyday life. They deprived communities of power, water, and heating, destroyed critical infrastructure, and damaged railway networks," Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said.

Russia launched 458 drones and 45 missiles at Ukraine overnight, said the Ukrainian air force, adding that it had downed 406 drones and nine missiles.

"In Dnipro, a Russian drone struck directly at a residential building; as of now, it is known that three people have died in the city. Sadly, there is also a fatality in Kharkiv," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Attacks forced emergency power cuts in the capital Kyiv and in the northern city of Kharkiv, authorities and energy company DTEK said.

They also interrupted water supplies in Kharkiv, where the mayor said there was a "noticeable shortage of electricity."

There was no electricity, water, and partial heating in Kremenchuk, in the eastern Poltava region, the administration said.

There were also significant train delays, Restoration Minister Oleksiy Kuleba said, accusing Russia of stepping up its attacks on locomotive depots.

"We are working to eliminate the consequences throughout the country. The focus is on the rapid restoration of heat, light and water," Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said.

The attack was the ninth massive attack on gas infrastructure since early October, energy company Naftogaz said.

Russia has targeted Ukraine's power and heating grid throughout its almost four-year invasion, destroying a large part of the key civilian infrastructure.

As with previous waves of attacks, Russia's defence ministry said it struck "enterprises of the Ukrainian military-industrial complex and gas and energy facilities that support their operation."

The attacks on energy infrastructure have raised concerns of heating outages in Ukraine as the war enters its fourth winter.

Kyiv's School of Economics estimated in a report that the attacks shut down half of Ukraine's natural gas production. Ukraine's top energy expert, Oleksandr Kharchenko, told a media briefing Wednesday that if Kyiv's two power and heating plants went offline for more than three days when temperatures fall below minus 10 degrees Celsius, the capital would face a "technological disaster".

Ukraine has in turn stepped up strikes on Russian oil depots and refineries in recent months, seeking to cut off Moscow's vital energy exports and trigger fuel shortages across the country.

On Friday evening, drone attacks on energy infrastructure in southern Russia's Volgograd region caused power cuts there too, governor Andrei Botcharov said on Telegram.

Taliban: Pak ceasefire to hold despite talks failing

AFP
Kabul

Afghanistan's Taliban government said yesterday its ceasefire with Pakistan would remain even though their latest talks failed, blaming Islamabad's "irresponsible and unco-operative" approach.

The two sides met on Thursday in Turkiye to finalise a truce agreed on October 19 in Qatar, following deadly clashes between the South Asian neighbours.

Both have remained tight-lipped on the content of the discussions, which are known only to have addressed long-standing security issues.

"During the discussions, the Pakistani side attempted to shift all responsibility for its security to the Afghan government, while showing no willingness to take responsibility for either Afghanistan's security or its own," Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid wrote on social media.

"The irresponsible and unco-operative attitude of the Pakistani delegation has not yielded any results," he said.

At a news conference later on, Mujahid stressed that the ceasefire "will hold".

"There is no issue with the ceasefire previously agreed upon with Pakistan, it will hold," he said.

Neither Islamabad nor mediators immediately commented on the announcement that the talks had failed.

Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar had previously hinted that negotiations in Turkiye were falling through, saying that the onus lay on Afghanistan to fulfil pledges to clamp down on terrorism, "which so far they have failed".

"Pakistan shall continue to exercise all options necessary to safeguard the security of its people and its sovereignty," he wrote.

Relations between the one-time allies, who share a 2,600km frontier, have soured in recent years over Islamabad's accusations that Afghanistan harbours militant groups which stage attacks in Pakistan.

Nobel winning DNA pioneer James Watson dead at 97

AFP
New York

James Watson — the Nobel laureate co-credited with the discovery of DNA's double-helix structure, but whose reputation was tainted by his repeated racist remarks — has died aged 97.

The eminent American biologist died Thursday in hospice care on Long Island in New York, said the Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory, where he was based for much of his career.

Watson went down as among the 20th century's most storied scientists for his 1953 discovery of the double helix, a breakthrough made with research partner Francis Crick.

Along with Crick and Maurice Wilkins, Watson shared the 1962 Nobel Prize for their momentous work that gave rise to modern biology and opened the door to insights including on genetic code and protein synthesis.

That ushered in a new era of modern life, allowing for revolutionary technologies in medicine, forensics and genetics,

like criminal DNA testing or genetically manipulated plants.

Watson was just 25 when he joined in on one of science's greatest discoveries. He later went on to do groundbreaking work in cancer research and mapping the human genome.

His 1968 memoir *The Double Helix* was a best-seller praised for its breezy writing about fierce competition in the name of scientific advancement.

But on a personal level Watson was known as at best cantankerous and frank, at worst mean and bigoted.

He routinely disparaged female scientists, including Rosalind Franklin, whose work on X-ray diffraction images of DNA offered the clue that made Watson and Crick's modelling possible.

Franklin, who worked with Wilkins, did not receive the Nobel. She died in 1958, and the prestigious prize is neither shared by more than three people nor given posthumously.

Watson faced few consequences for his behaviour until 2007 when he told a newspaper he was "inherently gloomy about the prospect of Africa" because "all



Dr James Watson poses with the original DNA model ahead of a press conference at the Science museum in London, May 20, 2005. (AFP)

our social policies are based on the fact that their intelligence is the same as ours — whereas all the testing says not really."

He apologised — but was swiftly re-

moved as his lab's chancellor and his public image never recovered.

Born on April 6, 1928 in Chicago, Illinois, at the age of 15 James Dewey Watson won a scholarship to the University of Chicago.

He received a PhD in zoology in 1950 from Indiana University Bloomington, and embarked on an academic path that took him to European universities including Cambridge, where he met Crick and began a historic partnership.

Working with X-ray images obtained by Franklin and Wilkins, researchers at King's College in London, Watson and Crick started parsing out the double helix. Their first serious effort came up short.

But their second attempt — an image of Franklin's proved key, and the duo had it without her knowledge — resulted in Watson and Crick presenting the double-helical configuration.

The now iconic depiction resembles a twisting ladder.

Their model also showed how the DNA molecule could duplicate itself, answering a fundamental question in the field of genetics.

Watson and Crick published their findings in the British journal *Nature* in 1953 to great acclaim.

Watson taught at Harvard for 15 years before becoming director of what today is known as the Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory, which he transformed into a global hub of molecular biology research.

From 1988 to 1992, Watson was one of the directors of the Human Genome Project at the National Institutes of Health, where he oversaw the mapping of the genes in the human chromosomes.

He shared two sons, Rufus and Duncan, with his wife Elizabeth.

And he received honorary degrees from dozens of universities, wrote many books and was heavily decorated. Jeff Goldblum played him in a BBC-produced film about the double helix.

On Friday his former lab commended his "extraordinary contributions."

But the institution had ultimately severed ties with the scientist, including stripping him of his emeritus status — in a PBS documentary that aired in 2019, Watson once again made "reprehensible" remarks.

WORLD IN PICTURES



More than 300 Greenpeace Africa volunteers gather in Nairobi yesterday to create a giant human banner of the African continent ahead of the UN Tax Convention negotiations, scheduled to take place in Nairobi from Nov 10 to 19. They call on governments to tax the super-rich to fund climate finance.



Bolivia's new President Rodrigo Paz (right) and new Vice-President Edman Lara acknowledge attendees after being sworn in during their inauguration ceremony at the National Assembly in La Paz yesterday.



This photograph shows a rare Patek Philippe - Reference 1518 steel watch manufactured in 1943 and expected to fetch more than \$10mn at the Phillips auction house in Geneva yesterday.



This handout photograph taken and released yesterday by Turkish news agency DHA (Demiroren News Agency) shows rescuers and firefighters working at the site of a perfume warehouse where a fire broke out in the Dilovasi district of Kocaeli, killing six people. The fire was brought under control by firefighters, rescue teams and municipal staff.



Police officers detain a protester in the Sacré-Cœur 3 neighbourhood during a banned demonstration by Senegal's opposition yesterday. The protest coincides with Senegal's Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko calling on his supporters to rally in Dakar on the same day.



An aerial view shows damaged buildings after a tornado hit Rio Bonito do Iguacu, Parana state, Brazil, yesterday.

Taiwan vice-president makes rare trip to Europe for parliament speech

Reuters
Taipei

Taiwan Vice-President Hsiao Bi-khim made an unusual visit to Belgium on Friday and spoke at a meeting with lawmakers at the European Parliament, part of an increasingly bold outreach to Europe by the Chinese-claimed and democratically governed island. Taiwan's only formal diplomatic ties in Europe are with the Vatican, but countries from Britain and France to Lithuania and Poland have disregarded Beijing's complaints to allow visits by acting or former senior Taiwan officials.

While Taiwan foreign ministers on occasion visit Europe and other parts of the world that have no formal ties to Taipei, it is rare for an official as senior as the vice president to do so, given the risk of Chinese backlash against

the host nation. Hsiao spoke at the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China's annual summit, held in the European Parliament in Brussels. "Europe has defended freedom under fire. And Taiwan has defended democracy under pressure," the alliance quoted Hsiao as telling the meeting. "I stand here as a voice for a society deeply committed to the ideals that animate the parliaments of democracy around the world," she added.

China's mission to the European Union said in a press briefing on Saturday that Hsiao's visit "gravely violates the one-China principle, constitutes serious interference in China's internal affairs, and severely undermines political mutual trust between China and the EU".

China views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory and has never renounced use of force to "reunify" with the is-

land. Taiwan's government says it has the right to engage with other countries and that China has no right to claim the island or to dictate Taipei's actions.

Taiwan's presidential office said Hsiao, a fluent English speaker who was previously the de facto ambassador to the US, was accompanied by Taiwan Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung. Hsiao said stability across the Taiwan Strait was a cornerstone of global prosperity.

"Despite being excluded from international organisations, Taiwan has stepped up. We contribute to humanitarian aid. We uphold global standards even when we are not allowed a seat at the table," she said.

Former Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen will visit Berlin to address a conference next week. In September, Lin travelled twice to Europe, visiting Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Italy.

The Lady Mayor's Show in London



Participants prepare to parade along the Victoria Embankment during The Lady Mayor's Show celebrating the appointment of the 697th Lord Mayor of London, Dame Susan Langley DBE, the third woman to hold the post in over 800 years, in London.

Philippines halts search for typhoon dead as huge new storm approaching

AFP
Manila

Rescue work was suspended and preemptive evacuations began yesterday as Typhoon Fung-wong bore down on the Philippines, days after another storm killed at least 204 people. Fung-wong, expected to be a "super typhoon" before making landfall, bears a huge footprint, with a radius that could cover "almost the entire country," a government meteorologist said.

"Apart from the strong winds, we can also expect heavy rains... 200 mm (eight inches) or higher rainfall, which can cause widespread flooding, not just in low-lying areas," meteorologist Benison Estareja told a press briefing yesterday. "It's also possible that our major river basins will overflow."

As of 11am, the typhoon was moving westward toward the Philippines' main island of Luzon, with wind speeds of 140kph and gusts of 170kph. In coastal Aurora province, where Fung-wong is expected to make landfall by late Sunday or early Monday morning, rescuers were going door to door encouraging residents to head for higher ground. "We are preemptively evacuating people in areas that may be high-risk for flooding," provincial rescuer Elson Egargue told AFP by phone.

Farther south, on Catanduanes, a small island the state weather service said could take a "direct hit", residents were tying down



Residents evacuate from their flooded homes due to heavy rain brought by Typhoon Fung-wong in Remedios T Romualdez, on the southern island of Mindanao in the Philippines yesterday.

The typhoon was moving westward towards the Philippines' main island of Luzon, with wind speeds of 140kph and gusts of 170kph

their houses and putting weights on their roofs. "They decided to do our tradition of strapping down the roofs with big ropes and anchoring them on the ground, so they won't be blown away by the wind," provincial rescue official Roberto Monterola told AFP.

Earlier this week, Typhoon Kalmaegi sent floodwaters rushing through the towns and cities of Cebu province, sweeping away cars, riverside shanties and massive shipping containers. The

typhoon, the deadliest of 2025 according to disaster database EM-DAT, killed at least 204 people and left 109 missing, according to the latest government figures.

At least five more people were killed as it churned across Vietnam on Friday. On Saturday, rescue official Myrra Daven told AFP the approaching storm had forced the suspension of search and rescue activities in the province, home to nearly 70% of Kalmaegi's deaths. "We were ordered to temporar-



A motorist wades through a flooded highway due to heavy rain brought by Typhoon Fung-wong in Remedios T Romualdez, on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday.

ily stop the search, rescue and retrieval at 3pm today," she said. "We cannot risk the safety of our rescuers. We don't want them to be the next casualties." The government tally of 57 missing in the hard-hit province, meanwhile, would likely rise, Daven said. "We're expecting this number to increase, because there are still areas we cannot penetrate. Some access routes are still blocked by soil and other things," she said. Farther north, provincial officials in Typhoon Fung-wong's path are focused on preventing similar loss of life. "We are hoping that there will be no casualties," said Monterola, the Catanduanes rescuer. "The Philippines has faced a lot of disasters already."



Coast guard personnel assisting residents to evacuate before Typhoon Fung-wong makes landfall in Mobo, Masbate province.

Chinese ship scouts deep-ocean floor for mining potential in South Pacific

A Chinese research vessel docked in the Cook Islands yesterday as it probed the Pacific nation's deep-sea mining potential, a fledgling industry of mounting interest to both Beijing and Washington. The Da Yang Hao docked in the palm-shaded port of Avatiu on a "scientific research cruise" through the tropical archipelago, the Cook Islands' Seabed Minerals Authority said.

Huge areas of seabed around the Cook Islands are carpeted in polymetallic nodules, lumpy rocks studded with rare earths and critical minerals such as cobalt, nickel and manganese.

The Cook Islands — which lays claim to one of the world's biggest deposits of polymetallic nodules — signed a contentious deep-sea mining co-operation deal with China earlier this year. "This cruise is about learning by doing," said Seabed Minerals Authority spokesman Edward Herman. "Our team is actively participating in all activities to build our knowledge and capacity in marine research."

This included mapping the seabed with sonar arrays and dredging up sediment samples, said the authority. Fringed by sparkling lagoons, South Pacific nation the Cook Islands has opened its vast ocean territory for deep-sea mining exploration.

With existing supplies of critical minerals heavily exposed to



Chinese research vessel Da Yang Hao arrives at Avatiu Harbour in the Avarua district of the Cook Islands as part of a mission to support research into potential deep-sea mining.

trade disputes, both the United States and China have this year ramped up interest in the highly contentious industry. Critical minerals, such as cobalt and nickel, are in hot demand for electric vehicles, rechargeable batteries and advanced military technology. The United States secured its own agreement to pursue deep-sea mining research with the Cook Islands in August.

AFP photos showed the near-100m (330ft) Da Yang Hao vessel cutting through the Cook Islands' sleepy main harbour before docking on Saturday morning. The ship was emblazoned with the logo of China's Ocean Mineral Resources Research Association, which is tasked with the exploration of seabed minerals. Chinese research vessels have been accused of carrying out surveillance and other military activities under the aus-

pices of scientific work.

Pacific island nation Palau, a staunch US ally in the region, in 2021 alleged that the Da Yang Hao had entered its exclusive economic zone without proper permissions.

The Da Yang Hao arrives in the Cook Islands less than one month after a deep-sea research voyage backed by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. While exploration for deep-sea mining is far advanced, no company or nation has started production on a commercial scale. Critics fear deep-sea mining will smother marine life with waste and the noise of heavy machinery will disrupt oceanic migrations.

International regulators are still trying to thrash out environmental rules governing the industry. (AFP)

North Korea threatens 'offensive action', condemns US-South Korea security talks

Reuters
Seoul

North Korea's defence minister No Kwang-chol threatened yesterday to take "more offensive action" as he condemned US security talks with Seoul and the arrival of a US aircraft carrier in South Korea.

A day earlier, North Korea fired a ballistic missile towards the sea off its east coast, after denouncing on Thursday fresh US sanctions against North Korean individuals and entities that Washington said were involved in cyber-related money-laundering schemes.

South Korea's defence ministry yesterday condemned the missile launch, while saying the North's criticism of the US-South Korea meeting was regrettable.

No criticised a recent visit by US and South Korean defence chiefs to the border between North and South Korea, as well as their subsequent security talks in Seoul, alleging they were conspiring to step up deterrence efforts towards the North and to integrate their nuclear and conventional forces.

"This is a stark revelation and an unveiled intentional expression of their hostile nature to stand against the DPRK to the



A North Korean flag flutters at the propaganda village of Gijungdong in North Korea, in this picture taken near the truce village of Panmunjom inside the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas, South Korea.

end," No said, referring to the country's formal name - the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Tuesday the core of the alliance with Seoul will remain focused on deterring North Korea, although Washington will look at flexibility for US troops stationed in South Korea to operate against regional threats.

No also said the visit of the US nuclear-powered aircraft car-

rier George Washington to South Korea's southeastern port city of Busan this week following US-South Korean joint air drills with Seoul had escalated tensions on the peninsula.

"We will show more offensive action against the enemies' threat on the principle of ensuring security and defending peace by dint of powerful strength," No said, according to North Korean state media KCNA.

South Korea's navy said the carrier's visit was to replenish supplies and grant leave for the crew.

While visiting South Korea last week, US President Donald Trump repeated his willingness to sit down with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. No meeting took place, but Trump said he was willing to return to the region to meet Kim.

Last week, North Korea also test-fired cruise missiles to the west of the Korean peninsula just as Trump and other leaders were set to gather in South Korea for regional meetings. Regarding the latest missile launch, the US Indo-Pacific Command said on Saturday that it "does not pose an immediate threat to US personnel or territory, or to our allies". "The missile launch highlights the destabilising impact" of North Korea's actions, it added.

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GULF TIMES

COP30 puts Amazon at heart of global climate action

The upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil, is a major milestone in the global effort to combat climate change and promote sustainable development. What makes COP30 (taking place from November 10 to 21) especially important is its location – in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, one of the most vital ecosystems on Earth! Analysts say hosting COP30 in Belém carries a powerful symbolism. The Amazon is often called the “lungs of the planet” because of its immense capacity to absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. Amazon is home to millions of people, countless species of plants and animals, and plays a crucial role in regulating the global climate. Yet, it is also under severe threat from deforestation, mining, and the effects of rising temperatures. By holding the conference there, the world’s attention is focused directly on the urgent need to protect forests and biodiversity as part of the fight against climate change. The main goal of COP30, as the organisers put it, is to move from promises to implementation. Previous COPs produced ambitious commitments – including the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The roadmap shows how climate finance can be scaled up to \$1.3tn a year by 2035 through collective efforts

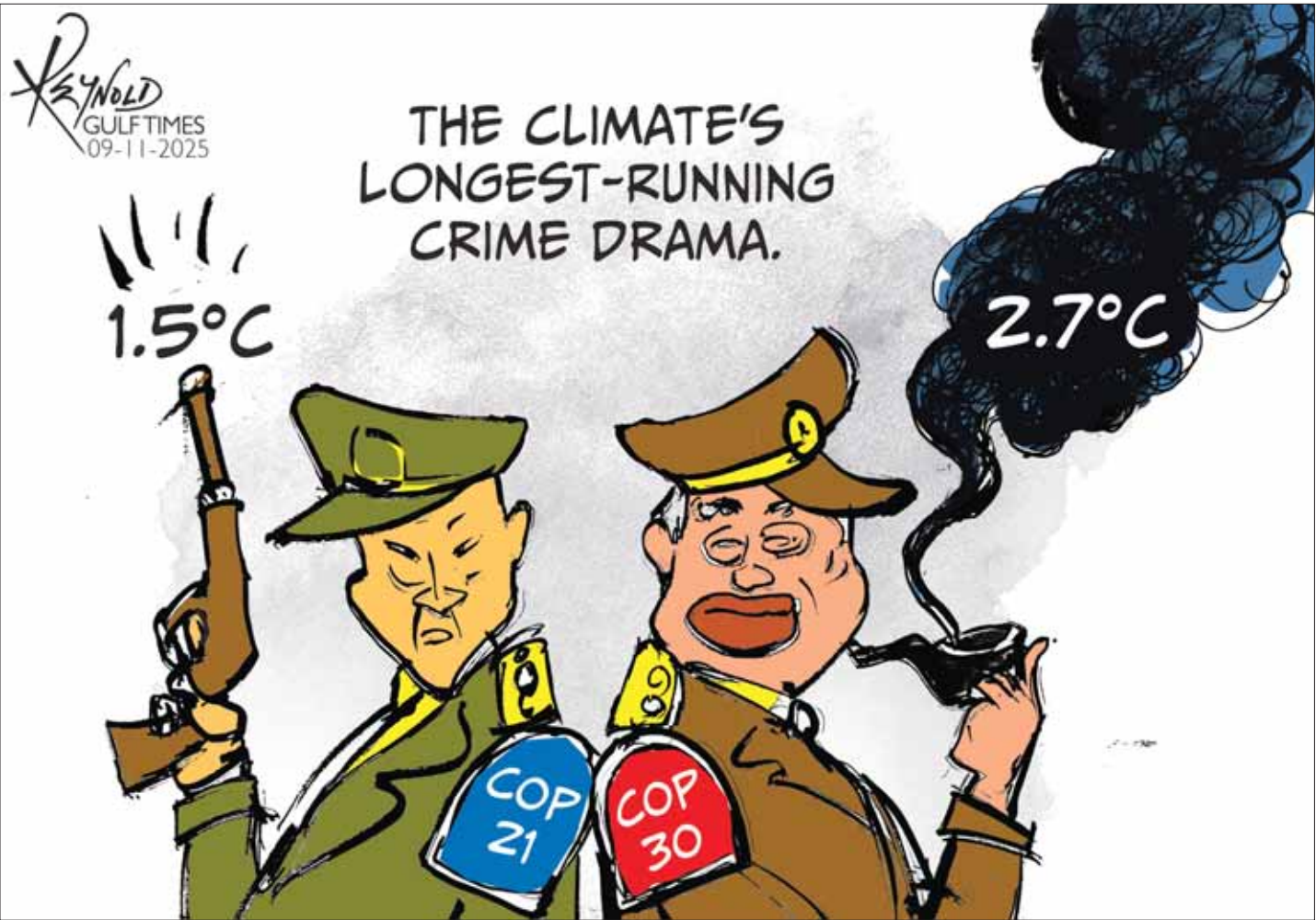
However, progress has been uneven. COP30 aims to ensure that countries turn their pledges into real action, with clear timelines, funding, and accountability. According to analysts, Brazil’s government sees COP30 as an opportunity to show leadership in climate diplomacy and to demonstrate how protecting the Amazon can go hand in hand with sustainable economic growth. The event is also expected to bring lasting benefits to Belém and the wider region through infrastructure upgrades, improved sanitation, and greater global visibility. The COP30 agenda seems to cover a broad range of topics that reflect the complexity of the climate challenge. These include energy transition – accelerating the move from fossil fuels to renewable sources such as solar, wind, and bio-energy, forests and biodiversity – protecting natural ecosystems and supporting Indigenous and local communities who depend on them, agriculture and food systems – promoting sustainable farming that supports both food security and environmental goals, and cities, infrastructure, and water – helping urban areas adapt to climate impacts and reduce emissions. It also focuses on finance and technology – mobilising funds, investments, and innovations, especially for developing countries, inclusion and justice – ensuring that women, youth, and indigenous peoples are active participants in shaping solutions. Each day of the conference has been tasked to focus on specific themes, such as forests, health, industry, or finance. The aim is to encourage practical dialogue among governments, businesses, scientists, and civil society. COP30 is also expected to produce the ‘Belém Declaration’, a document outlining renewed global commitments to reduce emissions, strengthen adaptation, and protect nature. COP30, many believe, represents a turning point – a moment for the world to act decisively on climate change, inspired by the natural beauty and urgency of the Amazon. If successful, it will mark a shift from words to results, showing that global cooperation can protect both people and planet for generations to come. Meanwhile, COP30 stakeholders have taken a step to reshape how climate action is funded around the globe. The ‘Baku-to-Belém Roadmap’, unveiled jointly by the COP29 and COP30 Presidencies recently, lays out a plan to mobilise at least \$1.3tn annually by 2035 for developing countries. “For the first time, more than 200 governments, banks, businesses, and communities have joined forces to outline workable solutions for mobilising climate finance,” said UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell. “The roadmap shows how, by working together, we can scale up climate finance towards \$1.3tn a year by 2035, helping developing countries meet their climate goals,” Stiell added.

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Who is setting fire to Amazon?

By Anna Pelegri with data analysis by Luiza Agnol and Michelly Neris Sao Felix do Xingu, Brazil

“Red John” is an old acquaintance of landowners and ranchers in the Brazilian Amazon. He helps clear pastures cheaply, but also leaves blackened earth and charred trees in his wake – threatening the planet’s largest tropical forest. In northern Brazil’s cowboy country, fire is so entrenched in ranching that locals nicknamed it “Joao Vermelho” (Red John). Abandoning it is almost unthinkable. “Fire is a cheap way to maintain pasture. Labour is expensive, pesticides are expensive. Here we don’t have any public funding,” Antonio Carlos Batista, who owns 900 head of cattle in the municipality of Sao Felix do Xingu, told AFP. During dry season, a bit of gasoline and a match are enough to get the job done. When someone goes to light a fire, they say, “I’m going to hire the worker Red John!” said Batista, 62. But Red John is a worker who cannot be controlled – and an unprecedented drought in 2024 linked to climate change sent fires blazing out of control, scorching nearly 18mn hectares (44.5mn acres) of the Brazilian Amazon. Deforestation has declined for the fourth straight year in a row, falling 11 percent in the 12-month period ending in July, the government said, in an update of preliminary data, while adding the figure would have been far lower if it were not for the fires. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has pledged to eradicate deforestation by 2030. For the first time, more tropical forest burned than grassland. Most of the fires began on cattle ranches and spread through dry vegetation to forested areas. Sao Felix do Xingu recorded the highest number of fire outbreaks in Brazil – more than 7,000. In the Amazon, today “the big challenge is deforestation caused by fires,” Environment Minister Marina Silva told AFP. Experts say solving it will require firefighters, stricter sanctions, and, above all, a cultural shift. Sao Felix is in Para state, which will host the COP30 UN climate conference next week – the first to take place in the Amazon – in its capital Belem. Para is almost the size of Portugal, with 65,000 inhabitants and the largest herd of cattle in Brazil, with 2.5mn head, partly for export. The municipality is also responsible for Brazil’s worst carbon dioxide emissions due to deforestation, according to 2023 data. In 2019, Sao Felix took centre stage on the so-called “Fire Day” when landowners deliberately set blazes to support the climate-sceptical policies of then-president Jair Bolsonaro, sparking international outrage. Here, miles of dusty roads stretch past vast, deforested expanses. Many of the biggest ranches, their headquarters in distant cities like Sao Paulo, do not identify themselves. Some – like the Bom Jardim ranch, home to 12,000 cattle – are identified only by a wooden fence. Bom Jardim’s young foreman Gleyson Carvalho, seated in the shade outside the stable in a black cowboy hat, with a silver buckle glinting on his belt, admits that using fire is increasingly risky. “On the one hand, it’s good,” he said, because the burned vegetation acts as a natural fertiliser, enriching soil and stimulating growth of more nutritious grass for cattle to eat. However, last year, the fires – which Carvalho insists came from outside the ranch – “devoured everything” “There was no food, the cattle lost weight. We had to fight hard to prevent any animals from dying,” he said. According to satellite data from the Mapbiomas monitoring network analysed by AFP, more than two-thirds of the ranch burned. The property belongs to the former mayor of Sao Felix, Joao Cleber, who has been repeatedly fined for deforestation and other environmental crimes. Located on the banks of the Xingu River, it

borders a Kayapo Indigenous village, whose families suffered from the clouds of toxic smoke from the fires. “There were days when you couldn’t even breathe,” said Maria de Fatima Barbosa, a teacher at the village school. “During the night, it was difficult to sleep because the sheets, the bed, everything smelled of smoke.” A 2021 Greenpeace report notes that the ranch has indirectly sold cattle to Brazilian meatpacking giants Frigol and JBS, which export some of the meat abroad, especially to China in the case of Frigol. Flying over Sao Felix during the dry season, clouds of smoke can be seen rising over patches of scorched pasture. “It’s very sad because you arrive in a region where everything is green, and then the fire comes and destroys everything,” said Jose Juliao do Nascimento, a 64-year-old small-scale rancher in the rural neighbourhood of Casa de Tabua, north of the Bom Jardim ranch. He was like many farmers in the region, who arrived in the Amazon from the south of the country from the 1960s and 1970s onwards, encouraged by the military regime to clear the land, exploit it and enrich themselves. “A land without men, for men without land,” read the slogan of the time. Last year, the out-of-control flames reached his pasture, as did terrified cows from other properties that had travelled for kilometres in search of food. The lush forest visible from his small wooden house was burned to the ground. Although Para state completely banned pasture maintenance fires last year to avoid a major catastrophe, enforcement is weak. “Everyone has WhatsApp, a phone. When a police car or a car from (environmental watchdog) Ibama shows up, they alert you. That way, even if someone is working with a tractor, they can hide the machine and flee,” he told AFP. Government representatives are scarce in the region. Ibama president Rodrigo Agostinho told AFP that when officials from the watchdog are called to issue fines, they receive “threats”. Small farmers say they feel powerless while large agricultural corporations thrive. “They call us criminals of the Amazon, responsible for the fires and deforestation, but no one helps us,” said Dalmi Pereira, a 51-year-old small-scale farmer living in Casa de Tabua. “Here we have no rights. When the police come, we have to hide.” Facing some of the small farmers is Agro SB, an agricultural giant in the region. The company bought land in 2008 to build its Lagoa do Triunfo complex, a ranch the size of a large city. The ranch has received six environmental fines since 2013, and has yet to pay any of them. The property recorded more than 300 fires in 2024, according to data analysed by AFP. That same year, it received the “More Green Integrity” seal from Brazil’s ministry of agriculture and livestock for “its social responsibility and environmental sustainability practices”. Pereira complains that Agro SB receives

preferential treatment when dealing with the government, while “we remain at the door”. He and other ranchers are engaged in a standoff with Agro SB over land titles, claiming right of ownership of some of the company’s land by usucapion, a legal process that allows people to claim land they have occupied and used for a certain period. Agro SB told AFP the ranchers are “invaders” who it is suing for allegedly starting all the fires recorded on its farm. In the Amazon, traditional communities and small producers use fire culturally. However, the main offenders in razing trees are large farms, followed by illegal miners, said Cristiane Mazzetti, forest coordinator for Greenpeace Brazil. The mayor of Sao Felix do Xingu, Fabricio Batista, emphasised that most people do not have titles for their land. “The first thing we must do is document the people,” he told AFP at a parade of cowboys on horseback. “People who are documented will be careful with their heritage, because when they don’t have documents, they sometimes do illegal things.” Batista also owns a ranch and was himself fined for deforestation in 2014. He appealed, and the fine was cancelled. He said Sao Felix needs more federal support to fight fires. “There isn’t a single fire brigade here. When there’s a fire, who puts it out? We need infrastructure,” he said. Regino Soares, a 65-year-old farmer and president of the Agricutu small-scale livestock association, lost a fifth of his animals in a fire last year. He called for controlled burning to be done in a better way. “You have to light the fire at the right time, make firebreaks” by removing dry vegetation around the pasture, “let neighbours know when something’s going to burn,” he said. This year, the Amazon is experiencing a reprieve, with fires at their lowest level since records began in 1998. Ane Alencar, scientific director of the Amazon Environmental Research Institute, attributes this to a combination of the climate and human factors. “The drought persists in some areas, but rainfall has been more evenly distributed this year because the Amazon is in a neutral phase, unaffected by either El Nino or La Nina,” she said. “There was also greater oversight by authorities and the effect of trauma on some producers, who were more cautious after what happened in 2024.” The Ibama president, Agostinho, said the state has intensified surveillance in the Amazon since Lula’s return to office, which followed years of a hands-off approach under Bolsonaro. Despite deploying record numbers of firefighters, vehicles and aircraft, the effort still looks small against the immensity of a territory spanning 5mn sq km. Finding and punishing the person who lights the match is also an uphill battle for authorities. – AFP



This aerial view shows a field fire in Sao Felix do Xingu, Para state, Brazil, on June 20, 2025. (AFP)

Internal documents show Meta is earning a fortune on a deluge of fraudulent ads

 **Company projected 10% of 2024 revenue would come from ads for scams, banned goods**

 **Meta's platforms show users 15bn scam ads a day, internal document estimates**

 **Company tactic for discouraging fraudsters: charging a premium on ads**

 **Meta staff produced weekly reports on 'Scammiest Scammers' on its platforms**

By Jeff Horwitz
Reuters

Meta internally projected late last year that it would earn about 10% of its overall annual revenue — or \$16bn — from running advertising for scams and banned goods, internal company documents show.

A cache of previously unreported documents reviewed by Reuters also shows that the social-media giant for at least three years failed to identify and stop an avalanche of ads that exposed Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp's billions of users to fraudulent e-commerce and investment schemes, illegal online casinos, and the sale of banned medical products.

On average, one December 2024 document notes, the company shows its platforms' users an estimated 15bn "higher risk" scam advertisements — those that show clear signs of being fraudulent — every day. Meta earns about \$7bn in annualised revenue from this category of scam ads each year, another late 2024 document states.

Much of the fraud came from marketers acting suspiciously enough to be flagged by Meta's internal warning systems. But the company only bans advertisers if its automated systems predict the marketers are at least 95% certain to be committing fraud, the documents show. If the company is less certain — but still believes the advertiser is a likely scammer — Meta charges higher ad rates as a penalty, according to the documents. The idea is to dissuade suspect advertisers from placing ads.

The documents further note that users who click on scam ads are likely to see more of them because of Meta's ad-personalisation system, which tries to deliver ads based on a user's interests.

The details of Meta's confidential self-appraisal are drawn from documents created between 2021 and this year across Meta's finance, lobbying, engineering and safety divisions. Together, they reflect Meta's efforts to quantify the scale of abuse on its platforms — and the company's hesitancy to crack down in ways that could harm its business interests.

Meta's acceptance of revenue from sources it suspects are committing fraud highlights the lack of regulatory oversight of the advertising industry, said Sandeep Abraham, a fraud examiner and former Meta safety investigator who now runs a consultancy called Risky Business Solutions.

"If regulators wouldn't tolerate banks profiting from fraud, they shouldn't tolerate it in tech," he told Reuters.

In a statement, Meta spokesman Andy Stone said the documents seen by Reuters "present a selective view that distorts Meta's approach to fraud and scams". The company's internal estimate that it would earn 10.1% of its 2024 revenue from scams and other prohibited ads was "rough and overly-inclusive", Stone said. The company had later determined that the true number was lower, because the estimate included "many" legitimate ads as well, he said. He declined to provide an updated figure.

"The assessment was done to validate our planned integrity investments — including in combatting frauds and scams — which we did," Stone said. He added: "We aggressively fight fraud and scams because people on our platforms don't want this content, legitimate advertisers don't want it and we don't want it either."

"Over the past 18 months, we have reduced user reports of scam ads globally by 58 percent and, so far in 2025, we've removed more than 134mn pieces of scam ad content," Stone said.

Some of the documents show Meta vowing to do more. "We have large goals to reduce ad scams in 2025," states a 2024 document, with Meta hoping to reduce such ads in certain markets by as much as 50%. In other places, documents show managers congratulating staffers for successful scam reduction efforts.

At the same time, the documents indicate that Meta's own research suggests its products have become a pillar of the global fraud economy. A May 2025 presentation by its safety staff estimated that the company's platforms were involved in a third of all successful scams in the US. Meta also acknowledged in other internal documents that some of its main competitors were doing a better job at weeding out fraud on their platforms.

"It is easier to advertise scams on Meta platforms than Google," concluded an internal Meta review in April 2025 of online communities where fraudsters discuss their trade. The document doesn't lay out the reasons behind that conclusion.

The insights from the documents come at a time when regulators worldwide are pushing the company to do more to protect its users from online fraud. In the US, the Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating Meta for running ads for financial scams, according to the internal documents. In Britain, a regulator last year said it found that Meta's products were involved in 54% of all payments-related scam losses in 2023, more than double all other social platforms combined.

The SEC and the UK regulator didn't respond to questions for this report. Meta's Stone referred Reuters to the company's latest SEC disclosures, which state that the company's efforts to address illicit advertising "adversely affect our revenue, and we expect that the continued enhancement of such efforts will have an impact on our revenue in the future, which may be material."

The regulatory pressure on Meta to do more to fight scams occurs as the company, in a race with competitors, is pouring money into artificial intelligence and plans as much as \$72bn this year in overall capital expenditures. While acknowledging the spending is "a massive amount of capital," chief executive Mark Zuckerberg has sought to reassure investors that Meta's advertising business can bankroll it.

"We have the capital from our business to do this," he said in July, when announcing that to support AI,



Meta was constructing a data centre in Ohio that will be the size of New York City's Central Park.

In the internal documents, Meta weighs the costs of beefing up its enforcement of scam ads against the toll of financial penalties from governments for failing to protect its users.

The documents make clear that Meta aims to reduce its illicit revenue stream in the future. But the company is concerned that abrupt reductions of scam advertising revenue could affect its business projections, according to a 2025 document that discusses the impact of "violating revenue" — income from ads that violate Meta's standards, such as scams, illegal gambling and dubious health products.

The documents note that Meta plans to try to cut the share of Facebook and Instagram revenue derived from scam ads. In the meantime, Meta has internally acknowledged that regulatory fines for scam ads are certain, and anticipates penalties of up to \$1bn, according to one internal document.

But those fines would be much smaller than Meta's revenue from scam ads, a separate document from November 2024 states. Every six months, Meta earns \$3.5bn from just the portion of scam ads that "present higher legal risk," the document says, such as those falsely claiming to represent a consumer brand or public figure or demonstrating other signs of deceit. That figure almost certainly exceeds "the cost of any regulatory settlement involving scam ads".

Rather than voluntarily agreeing to do more to vet advertisers, the same document states, the company's leadership decided to act only in response to impending regulatory action.

Stone disputed the strategy documents' assertions that Meta should only act if forced. That isn't the company's policy, he said.

Meta has also placed restrictions on how much revenue it is willing to lose from acting against suspect advertisers, the documents say. In the first half of 2025, a February document states, the team responsible for vetting questionable advertisers wasn't allowed to take actions that could cost Meta more than 0.15% of the company's total revenue. That works out to about \$135mn out of the \$90bn Meta generated in the first half of 2025.

"Let's be cautious," wrote the manager overseeing the effort, noting that the allowed revenue hit included both scam ads and "benign" ones that were mistakenly blocked. "We have specific revenue guardrails."

Meta's Stone said that the 0.15% figure cited came from a revenue projection document and was not a hard limit.

Amid intensifying pressure to do more to combat scams on Meta's platforms, executives presented Zuckerberg with a plan in October 2024 for what they called a moderate approach to scam enforcement. Instead of a rapid crackdown, the company would focus its efforts on countries where it feared near-term regulatory action, according to a document that outlined the strategy.

Following the meeting with the CEO, Meta executives in charge of enforcing the integrity of the company's platforms settled on trying to reduce the percentage of revenue attributable to scams, illegal gambling and prohibited goods from an estimated 10.1% in 2024 to 7.3% by the end of 2025. By the end of 2026, Meta aims to further cut that figure to 6%, and then to 5.8% in 2027, the strategy memo and other documents show.

In 2022, a document from that year notes, Meta discovered a six-figure network of accounts pretending to be members of the US military deployed in war zones. The accounts were sending millions of messages a week trying to charm Facebook users into losing their money. Sextortion — in which scammers obtain sexual images of a user, often a teenager, under false pretenses and then blackmail them — also was becoming commonplace on Meta's platforms. And a torrent of fake accounts pretending to be celebrities or represent major consumer brands were bamboozling users worldwide.

But despite the surge in online fraud, another 2022 document notes the company's "lack of investment" in automated scam detection back then. Meta classified scam ads as a "low severity" problem — viewing them as a bad "user experience," the document says.

Internal documents show that Meta directed staffers then to focus mainly on fraudsters masquerading as celebrities and usurping major brands. Such "impersonation scams" risked

Brian Mason, an Edmonton Police investigator, was able to help track C\$65,000 of the victims' stolen funds to Nigeria. But recovering the money would likely be difficult or impossible, he told Reuters, because "the money was converted into bank accounts in Nigeria that we can't touch".

Meta declined to comment on the air force recruiter's hacked account or its victims.

Internally, Meta refers to scams like this one as "organic", meaning they don't involve paid ads on its platforms. Organic scams include fraudulent classified ads posted for free on Facebook Marketplace, hoax dating profiles and charlatans touting phony cures in cancer-treatment groups.

According to a December 2024 presentation, Meta's user base is exposed to 22bn organic scam attempts every day. That's on top of the 15bn scam ads presented to users daily.

Meta polices fraud in a way that fails to capture much of the scam activity on its platforms, some of the documents indicate.

After police in Singapore gave the company a list of 146 examples of scams targeting that country's users last fall, Meta staff found that only 23% actually violated the platform's policies. The other 77% "violate the spirit of the policy, but not the letter", a Meta presentation about the police reports notes.

The deceptive marketing flagged by Singaporean police that Meta didn't act on included "too good to be true" offers of 80% off a designer fashion brand, promotions for fake concert tickets, and job ads posted by entities falsely claiming to be major tech companies.

Other Meta safety staffers also documented instances in which the company's rules on scams didn't appear to cover obviously bad behaviour. In April, staffers noted that they'd discovered \$250,000 in scam crypto ads from an account claiming to belong to Canada's prime minister.

"Current policies would not flag this account!" an internal document says. Meta's Stone said the ads were removed for other reasons. The prime minister's office didn't reply to a request for comment.

Even when advertisers are caught red-handed, the rules can be lenient, the documents indicate. A small advertiser would have to get flagged for promoting financial fraud at least eight times before Meta blocked it, a 2024 document states. Some bigger spenders — known as "High Value Accounts" — could accrue more than 500 strikes without Meta shutting them down, other documents say.

Fraudulent ad campaigns can reach massive size: Four removed by Meta earlier this year were responsible for \$67mn in monthly advertising revenue, a document reviewed by Reuters shows.

To draw attention to the company's perceived failures, an employee earlier this year began issuing reports highlighting that week's "Scammiest Scammer". The report profiled whichever advertiser had earned the most user complaints about scams in the past week.

Colleagues praised the initiative. But being name-checked in the report wasn't always enough for such accounts to get shut down. A check by Reuters of five accounts cited in one Scammiest Scammer report found that two were still live more than six months later, including one that was running ads for unlicensed online casinos. After Reuters flagged those two accounts to Meta, they were taken down.

Reuters was unable to reach the entities behind the accounts.

The company last year developed a novel approach to reduce scam advertising and keep its enforcement costs low: It began charging suspected fraudsters more.

To advertise on Meta's platforms, a business has to compete in an online auction. Before the bidding, the company's automated systems calculate the odds that an advertiser is engaged in fraud. Under Meta's new policy, likely scammers who fall below Meta's threshold for removal would have to pay more to win an auction.

Documents from last summer called such "penalty bids" a centrepiece of Meta's efforts to reduce scams. Marketers suspected of committing fraud would have to pay Meta more to win ad auctions, thus impacting their profits and reducing the number of users exposed to their ads.

For Meta, the financial impact was mixed: While the company would sell fewer scam ads, it would make more money from those that it did, offsetting some of the lost revenue.

Stone said that the goal of the effort was to reduce overall scam advertising by making suspicious advertisers less competitive in Meta's ad auctions.

In the months following the implementation of the penalty bid program, he said, testing showed both a decline in scam reports and a slight decline in overall ad revenue.



Phase One tests of Sheikh Jassim Qur'an competition roll on

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs has announced that Phase One tests are rolling for male and female residents in both full and partial memorisation of the Holy Qur'an, as part of the 30th Sheikh Jassim bin Muhammad bin Thani Noble Qur'an Competition organised by the ministry.

Fahad Ahmed al-Mohammed, member of the organising committee, clarified that memorisers of both genders are competing in one of the most honoured sciences, with 15 participants qualifying for the second phase from each category, including 15 full memorisers and 15 males and females in partial memorisation.

The competition is distinguished by its encouragement of memorisers, male and female, to recite in multiple Qur'anic readings and to preserve this



knowledge by heart, a unique feature that sets it apart from international Qur'an competitions, where winners in full memorisation with a specific narration are required to participate with a different narration in the subsequent

competition, al-Mohammed highlighted.

He explained that this prerequisite encourages memorisers to learn a variety of narrations, helping to spread this branch of Qur'anic science.

This year's competition registers



68 competitors of both genders to compete across 13 different narrations, with a total of 1,493 male and female participants from 57 nationalities in the first phase, including 731 who memorised portions of the Holy Qur'an and 384 full memorisers,

he pointed out.

Khawas Huffaz (full memorisers) refers to Qur'an teachers, male and female, outstanding reciters, well-known Qaris, Imams, Mu'adhins, previous competition winners, or any winners of international competitions.

The number of female participants registered stands at 79 in this category and 299 in the partial memorisation category. Oversight of the tests is conducted through 11 committees for male participants, each composed of a chair, a committee member, and a representative from the organising committee, while female participants are supervised by 8 judging committees for both categories.

The first phase tests are scheduled to roll until Nov 12, with male participants tested at Imam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahab Mosque during morning and evening sessions.

The morning session starts at 7:30am, and the evening session starts at 3pm. Female participants are tested at the Women's Activity Centre in the Al Waab area during the evening session, beginning at 2:30pm. **(QNA)**



Qatar Boat Show Day 3 highlights



The third day of Qatar Boat Show 2025 brought together dive shows, fishing activities, and solo musicians, while visitors enjoyed the lively atmosphere and waterfront dining. The show's third day also welcomed a distinguished lineup of VIP guests, most notably the HE Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah, Minister of Municipality.

The Ministry of Transport hosted a panel discussion titled "Inspection and Supervision of Ships - Ensuring the Safety and Security of Maritime Navigation," featuring experts from the ministry, Milaha, and Lloyd's Marine



Services at the Media Press Conference Room at the show.

The Oshar Art Gallery at the Qatar Boat Show brought Qatar's maritime heritage to life through contemporary works by local artists, offering visitors a unique cultural immersion by the sea.



'Made in Qatar' initiative to showcase 10 homegrown films

Doha Film Festival unveiled the anticipated 'Made in Qatar' programme, which features homegrown creativity and storytelling excellence from the nation's emerging filmmakers.

Presented by Doha Film Institute (DFI), this showcase reaffirms its unwavering commitment to nurturing Qatar's vibrant creative community and amplifying authentic voices that capture the essence of the nation's evolving cultural identity.

A diverse selection of 10 short films from Qatari and Qatar-based filmmakers, 'Made in Qatar' highlights the depth, diversity, and bold imagination that define the country's cinematic landscape today. The programme is a launchpad for homegrown storytellers whose work gains international recognition and offer a fresh perspective on contemporary life in Qatar - that is imaginative, emotionally resonant, and deeply human.

Festival Director and CEO of DFI, Fatma Hassan al-Remaihi said: "Supporting local filmmakers is not only a duty - it is a privilege and a source of great pride for the institute. Our storytellers open windows to our world, share our unique culture, and connect others to our own narratives. Through the 'Made in Qatar' programme, we celebrate the courage and creativity of filmmakers who are defining our cinematic identity and shaping a cultural legacy that extends far beyond our borders."

Underlining the evolution of Qatar's film ecosystem, 'Made in Qatar' includes films supported by the institute's training programmes, Grants and the Qatari Film Fund.

This year's 'Made in Qatar' jury led by actress, director and producer Afef Ben Mahmoud, who alongside Head of Development at Katara Studios Fahad al-Kuwari and producer and distributor Alaa Alasad, will recognise this exciting new generation of homegrown talent.

Films in DFF 2025 'Made in Qatar' are *Al-Aqiq: Darkness of Virtuality* (Qatar) by Mohammed al-Suwaiddi and Kummam al-Maadeed; *Baba is Melting* (Qatar) by Karim Emara; *Fahad the Furious* (Qatar) by Justin Kramer; *Is This A Sign* (Qatar) by Maria Joseph; *Project Aisha* (Qatar) by Fahad al-Nahdi; *Qadha' w Qadar* (Qatar) by Maryam al-Mohammed; *A Palm Branch* (Qatar) by Mahdi al-Ali; *Theatre of Dreams* (Qatar) by Fatma al-Ghanim; *Yom El Juma'* (Qatar) by Haya al-Kuwari; and *Villa 187* (Sudan/Qatar) by Eiman Mirghani.



Fahad al-Kuwari



Qadha' w Qadar



A Palm Branch



Al-Aqiq: Darkness of Virtuality



Yom El Juma

corner of the globe, to reaffirm art's power to inspire, to unite, and to spotlight voices that deepen our shared understanding.

Designed to reflect the diversity and ambition of the region through a wide selection of films, inspiring conversations and engaging events, DFF will provide a truly meaningful shared cultural experience in Doha. **(QNA)**

Key Partners of DFF include Katara, Media City Qatar I Film Committee and Visit Qatar. The festival will transform iconic locations across Doha, including Katara Cultural Village, Msheireb Downtown Doha, and the Museum of Islamic Art, into vibrant hubs of cultural exchange, bringing together filmmakers, storytellers, and audiences from every



Afef Ben Mahmoud



Alaa Alasad



Baba is Melting



Project Aisha



Fahad the Furious

Modern technology and devices help enhance traditional falconry

Falconry and hunting with falcons has been seeing a growing popularity among Qatari youth, who are increasingly embracing modern technologies such as drones and advanced tracking systems to train their birds.

Local Arabic daily *Arrayah* reported there is a remarkable enthusiasm among Qatari young people who view falconry as more than just an inherited tradition, as they see it as a school for learning patience, leadership, and the spirit of challenge, in addition to participating in local and international competitions.

Accordingly, falconry enthusiasts affirm that digital technologies have made falcon training more precise and efficient, especially in tracking birds over long flight distances. Besides, they stressed the importance of medical and nutritional care for falcons, including providing vitamins and minerals to ensure their endurance over long flights, as well as monitoring weather conditions before going out to hunt. They noted that strong winds may cause a bird to get lost or injured. Further, they pointed out that Qatari



falconry has evolved from a traditional practice into a modern hobby that combines authenticity and technology, led by a passionate generation capable of using modern tools to serve a deep-rooted cultural heritage. This transformation reflects Qatar's vision of preserving its traditions while developing them in harmony with the spirit of the times.

Naif al-Otaibi, who learned falconry in his childhood, said that training these days has become much more advanced thanks to modern equipment. He explains that he regularly visits specialised clinics, notably the Souq Waqif clinic, and uses drones to train different types falcons. He stresses



that "the falcon is a trust in its owner's care," requiring precise feeding and continuous attention.

Meanwhile, Saheem al-Kuwari, an enthusiast of falcons, affirms that successful hunting depends on understanding weather conditions and using electronic tracking tools that make it easier to retrieve birds if they fly too far. He adds that digitalisation has strengthened the spread of this hobby among the younger generation, as it has become common to see children owning and training their own falcons under family supervision.

Sultan al-Dosari said he trains his pure



gyrfalcon daily using various methods, including drone-assisted luring or direct hunting of pigeons and seagulls. Al-Dosari, who has taken part in competitions such as Marmi, stressed that hunting with falcons is an integral part of the Qatari culture and that technology has helped develop the hobby without diminishing its traditional essence.

Jassim Saeed, who owned his first falcon at the age of six, said that training has become much easier these days thanks to modern apps that monitor a bird's health and activity. He stresses that the hobby is



practiced with deep respect for the legacy of forefathers.

Ahmed al-Kuwari, who has been practicing falconry for five years, said that specialised exhibitions such as Suhail have raised awareness among young people and provided opportunities to learn about different falcon species and training methods. He points out that tracking technologies have enabled enthusiasts to train in wide-open areas both inside and outside the country, ensuring the birds' safety.