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BUSINESS | Page 1

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Qatar F1 GP: Sheikh Joaan crowns Verstappen champion



HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, yesterday crowned Max Verstappen, Red Bull Racing driver as the winner of the Qatar Airways Formula 1 Grand Prix 2025. Held at Lusail International Circuit, the Qatar Grand Prix served as round 23 and the penultimate race of the Formula 1 World Championship season. Joining HE Sheikh Joaan in the podium ceremony were, Mohammed Ben Sulayem, President of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), Badr Mohammed al-Meer, CEO of Qatar Airways, Abdulrahman al-Mannai, President of the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation, and Abdulaziz al-Mohannadi, CEO of Lusail International Circuit. The Dutch driver clinched first place after completing the 57-lap race in a time of 1:24:38.241 hours, finishing ahead of Australia's Oscar Piastri of McLaren, who took second place, while Spain's Carlos Sainz of Williams secured the third place. **Sport Page 1**

Amir attends closing of F1 Qatar GP

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani attended yesterday evening the closing ceremony of Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2025, organised by Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) at Lusail International Circuit. President of the Republic of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, along with a number of Their Excellencies the Ministers, senior officials and guests of the award attended the race. **(QNA)**

Amir sends condolences to Subianto

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 yesterday cables of condolences to President of the Republic of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto on the victims of the floods and landslides that hit Sumatra Island and different other regions in Indonesia, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. **(QNA)**

Sri Lanka cyclone toll rises to 334

The death toll from floods and landslides triggered by Cyclone Ditwah rose sharply to 334 yesterday, Sri Lanka's disaster agency said, with nearly 400 missing and more than 1.3mn people across the island affected by the record rains. President Anura Kumara Disسانaya, who declared a state of emergency to deal with the disaster, vowed to build back with international support. "We are facing the largest and most challenging natural disaster in our history," he said. **Page 11**

US-Ukraine talks productive: Rubio

AFP
Hallandale Beach, US

A meeting between US and Ukrainian officials in Florida yesterday was "very productive," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, adding that work still remains towards

ending Russia's war in Ukraine. "There are a lot of moving parts, and obviously there's another party involved here that will have to be a part of the equation, and that will continue later this week, when Mr Witkoff travels to Moscow, although we've also been in touch in varying degrees with the Russian



Rubio (centre left), flanked by Witkoff and Kushner, speaks during a meeting with Ukrainian officials headed by Umerov (centre right) in Hallandale Beach, Florida yesterday.

side, but we have a pretty good understanding of their views as well," Rubio told reporters. Rubio yesterday hosted high stakes talks with a Ukrainian delegation on Washington's plan to end Russia's war with its neighbour - discussions a source close to Kyiv's team characterised as "not easy." The talks in Florida come as Kyiv faces mounting military and political pressure, along with the fallout from a corruption scandal. They could set the stage for next week's visit to Moscow by President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff, who is expected to discuss Ukraine diplomacy. "This is not just about peace deals. It's about creating a pathway forward that leaves Ukraine sovereign, independent and prosperous," Rubio said at the start of the negotiations. Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner were also attending the meeting in Hallandale Beach, north of Miami. **Page 11**

Amir opens FIFA Arab Cup today

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will patronise the opening the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 today evening at Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor. His Highness the Amir will witness the tournament's opening and the official opening match between Qatar and Palestine. **(QNA)**

- Two-time Asian champions Qatar will kick off the proceedings on day one of the FIFA Arab Cup 2025 when they take on Palestine in a Group A clash at Al Bayt Stadium today.

Syria will face Tunisia in another Group A clash today at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium.



to participation or trying out some players. Rather, we aim to win, develop, and prepare for the upcoming stages." Influential player Afif will lead the home charge today. Afif is not only a star of the Qatar Stars League; he is one of the most influential players in the Arab world. A mercurial attacking threat, the versatile forward is a two-time winner of the AFC Player of the Year award and also claimed MVP honours as Qatar tasted continental success last year. Palestine, coached by Ehab Abu Jazar, last week qualified for the 16-team Arab Cup with a sensational play-off win against Libya in Doha. Palestine will hope Oday Dabbagh, 26, fires for the Arab side. Powerful, quick, strong in the air and on the ground, Dabbagh boasts European experience in the Portuguese, Belgian and Scottish leagues and is sure to be central to his nation's hopes of progression in Qatar.

The Qatar game kicks off at 7:30pm today. **Sport Page 4**

Key points:
Group stage: December 1 to 9
Quarter-finals: December 11 and 12
Semi-finals: December 15
Third-place playoff: Dec 18
Final: December 18



Qatar, coached by Julen Lopetegui, will rely on the goal poaching reputations of Akram Afif and Mohammed Muntari, the two players who featured for the home side at the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Qatar, who qualified for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in October, have dropped veteran players Almoz Ali, Hasan al-Haydos, Boualem Khoukhi, Karim Boudiaf and Pedro Miguel for the 16-team tournament that will be played across 6 stadiums. Lopetegui said at a press conference yesterday: "We have turned the page on the past and are striving to write a new chapter in the history of Al Annabi (the Qatari national team). We have many new players in this tournament, and our goal is not limited

QF to present operetta 'Qatar Jannah' in celebration of QND

QNA
Doha

Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education is preparing to launch the national operetta "Qatar Jannah", a production that brings together students from across its schools in a performance celebrating Qatari identity and national pride. Organised as part of the Qatar National Day celebrations, the operetta offers a unified platform where students will present scenes inspired by Qatari heritage, reflecting the sense of unity across the Qatar Foundation (QF) school community. The operetta will be presented on 11 and 13 December, with two shows held each day. Each public show will be preceded by pre-

show activities, featuring the traditional Qatari "Ardah" and accompanying entertainment activities delivered by "Siraj," QF's educational edutainment programme, with the beloved characters Rashid and Noora welcoming children and engaging with them. All performances will be held at Qatar National Convention Centre, with the first show being from 3pm-4pm, and the second show from 5pm-6pm. Buthina al-Derham, Director of Communications and Outreach at QF's Pre-University Education, said: "This year's national operetta reflects our vision of creating a shared educational and artistic experience that brings together all QF students under one identity and one spirit." "We are not simply presenting a performance; we are building a



platform that connects students with their national values and strengthens their sense of belonging to their country and its leadership," she stressed.

"What makes this operetta truly special is that it gives students the opportunity to express their love for Qatar through art, whether through singing, movement, or

theatrical scenes that highlight the unity of our school community," al-Derham added. Al-Derham explained that the production has been shaped by a strong spirit of collaboration, with QF schools contributing a range of ideas and creative perspectives that reflect their own interpretations of national identity. These contributions were developed and refined into a single script that brings everyone together while preserving the unique character of each school. Azlaa Hamad al-Qahtani, Head of Culture and Identity at QF's Pre-University Education, said: "This approach reflects the commitment of QF's Pre-University Education to shared learning, teamwork, and celebrating diversity within a unified national framework." **To Page 9**



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UDC hosts festivities at The Pearl, Gewan islands for FIFA Arab Cup tourney

As excitement builds across Qatar ahead of the FIFA Arab Cup 2025, The Pearl Island and Gewan Island are gearing up to welcome football fans, families and visitors from across the region.

With world-class facilities, waterfront settings, and vibrant community atmosphere, both destinations are preparing to transform into dynamic hubs of celebration throughout the tournament.

In celebration of the highly anticipated event, United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of both islands, is launching a rich and festive season of cultural, family, and sports activities designed to bring together entertainment, community spirit, and the cultural vibrancy of the Arab world.

The lineup aims to enhance the visitor experience and create memorable moments that reflect Qatar's role as a leading destination for major international events.

During the tournament, both islands will transform into vibrant hubs of celebration, offering two dedicated fan zones equipped with large outdoor screens for live match broadcasts.

The first fan zone will be located at the amphitheatre in Porto Arabia, while the second will be set up in Medina Centrale, providing spectators with an immersive and family-friendly viewing experience in safe and lively settings.

The viewing areas will be complemented by a rich lineup of family activities, cultural programmes, and entertainment experiences across Gewan Island and Qanat Quartier, creating a dynamic atmosphere that celebrates the spirit of the tournament. Meanwhile, the festive ambi-



ence of the Medina Centrale Carnival will continue throughout the championship period, extending its colourful celebrations and interactive attractions to welcome fans and visitors from all around the region.

The initiative reflects UDC's ongoing commitment to supporting major national events and enriching Qatar's tourism and cultural landscape.

By transforming its destinations into dynamic, inclusive environments, UDC continues to elevate the standard of community experiences while contributing to the realisation of Qatar National Vision 2030, which aims to build a sustainable and socially connected nation.

With their world-class infrastructure, scenic waterfronts, and welcoming public spaces, The Pearl and Gewan islands promise unforgettable moments that blend sports, culture, and celebration, reaffirming their position as two of Qatar's most iconic destinations for modern island living.

Msheireb Downtown Doha all set to welcome fans for Arab Cup

Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD) is fully prepared to serve as a premier destination for the upcoming FIFA Arab Cup 2025, with comprehensive activations scheduled from December 1 to 18 across multiple locations within the city.

MDD will host extensive fan experiences at Barahat Msheireb, Sikkat Wadi Msheireb, and Al Kahraba Street, operating daily from 3pm to 11pm.

During the tournament period, MDD will become a lively centre for football celebrations, featuring: The Premium Fan Experience at Barahat Msheireb with live match screenings; Interactive football activations along Sikkat Wadi Msheireb and Al Kahraba Street; and a diverse programme of live performances and family-friendly experiences.

Dr Hafiz Ali Abdulla, senior director of Corporate Communication at Msheireb Properties, said: "With engaging activations across our central streets and public spaces, visitors can fully experience the excitement of the tournament whilst enjoying a welcoming and sustainable urban environment".

The Arab Cup celebrations mark the beginning of Msheireb's Winter Season, a citywide programme running from December 2025 to January 2026. In the lead-up to the season's launch, Msheireb Properties formalised key partnerships through official signing ceremonies with leading organisations. On November 23, Vodafone Qatar joined as the Exclusive Telecom Platinum Sponsor through two separate agreements covering both the Winter and Ramadan seasons. The following day, BYD Mannai formalised its position as the Exclusive Automotive Platinum Sponsor.

Additionally, a partnership with digital food delivery platform Rafeeq was signed on November 24.



Msheireb Properties formalised key partnerships through official signing ceremonies with leading organisations.



These partnerships complement the existing collaboration with Visit Qatar as Strategic Partner, Qatar National Bank as Platinum Sponsor, and ME Visual as valued sponsor, whilst AlKass Sports Channel serves as Media Partner for the season. Following the tournament, the city will welcome visitors to a diverse lineup of events, including the much-anticipated return of Sweet Sikka with its Candy Zone at Sahat Al Nakheel, and the open-air Baraha Cinema.

QND celebrations will unfold across MDD in mid-December, featuring cultural installations, performances, and family-friendly experiences celebrating the nation's heritage and unity. The season will further be enriched by art exhibitions at Msheireb Museums and M7, fashion pop-ups at Doha Design District, and educational workshops, ensuring a bustling and engaging atmosphere for residents and visitors throughout the winter months.



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Shura Council takes part in Kuala Lumpur parliamentary conference

QNA
Kuala Lumpur

The Shura Council took part in a three-day parliamentary conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the theme “The Role of Parliaments in Shaping the Future of Responsible Artificial Intelligence”. The event was jointly organised by the Malaysian House of Representatives, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the UN Development Programme, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Shura Council members Abdulla bin Jaber al-Lebdah and Mohammed bin Omar al-Mannai represented the Council at the conference.

Participants discussed a range of issues related to the development of artificial intelligence (AI), including its impact on societies, accompanying economic shifts, and ways to establish effective regulatory and legislative frameworks to ensure its safe and responsible use.

Discussions also addressed digital governance, privacy and data protection, and the role



of parliaments in oversight, narrowing the digital divide, and strengthening public trust. Participants highlighted the need for international co-operation and unified standards to confront cross-border challenges.

In their final statement, participants underscored the need for global AI regulation that ensures responsible and equitable use of the technology, prevents monopolisation, and avoids its misuse in ways that could un-

dermine institutional trust. They also called for accelerated legislation and oversight, harmonising laws with international standards, boosting transparency, governance and data protection, building parliamentary capacities, launching national dialogues and clear ethical frameworks, raising public awareness, establishing specialised regulatory bodies, and sharing expertise through international co-operation.

Amir congratulates Barbados president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of Barbados Sandra Mason on the anniversary of her country's Independence Day. **(QNA)**

Qatar, Bangladesh discuss boosting humanitarian ties



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad has held talks in Doha with the visiting Bangladeshi National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman. The meeting focused on bilateral relations and ways to bolster co-operation, particularly in the humanitarian field. The visit comes as Qatar continues to position itself as a key humanitarian actor in the region and beyond. **(QNA)**

GRSIA unveils new corporate identity ‘Daman’ to empower retirees

Under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, the General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority (GRSIA) launched yesterday its new corporate identity and strategy under the name “Daman”. Participating in the launch ceremony were ministers, high-ranking officials, and representatives of public and private agencies. This transition is part of GRSIA's contribution to promoting interdependence, sustainability, and improving quality of life, thereby keeping up with the nation's pathway toward building a stable, tight-knit, and enduring community. Addressing the ceremony, GRSIA Director-General HE Ahmed bin Ali al-Hammadi said the new identity ushers in a new era of social insurance in the nation, emphasising that “Daman” is not merely a new designation, but rather a credible expression of the essence of the authority's true mission and role in citizens' lives.

Today's step forward isn't merely a transition in identity or an upgrade in form, but it heralds a new phase of insurance protection in Qatar, to double down on efforts in pursuit of making safety a reality and not a promise, through which the vision is morphed into a concrete impact for every single citizen and family in order to elevate the community to a sustainable future, al-Hammadi underlined.

Al-Hammadi stated that the role starts from the first business day for citizens, who would be accompanied in their careers, whose present would be protected, and whose future would be secured. He stressed they would have GRSIA's support even after they leave, as long as GRSIA remains their partner in every step of their life journey. The new strategy is structured into four themes: trust, transparency, care, and sustainability, as GRSIA has become a true partner in citizens' lives and not merely a terminal, he noted. Finally, al-Hammadi underscored the authority's commitment to continuing its role in bolstering social insurance systems in the nation toward a sustainable future. The new identity, in question, includes the launch of a bundle of sophisticated digital services, aiming to optimise the subscribers' experience and streamline procedures, most notably the AI virtual assistant “Sara”, which enables subscribers to manage all their transactions and services

December fuel prices set

QatarEnergy announced yesterday the fuel prices for December. The price of diesel remained unchanged from last month at QR2.05 a litre, while 95-octane gasoline (super) and 91-octane gasoline (premium) prices increased to QR2.05 and QR2 per litre, respectively. **(QNA)**

seamlessly, alongside the Digital-Contact Center, which delivers live video service with GRSIA staff, and the modern website that offers a comprehensive digital experience. As part of its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of retirees and recognising their contributions after years of service, GRSIA announced the

development of the retirees' discounts programme under its new identity, “Al Safwa” Programme, which provides retirees with exclusive benefits and privileges in collaboration with a select group of partners across various sectors. The programme is a natural extension of Daman's role in taking care of subscribers

and their families even after retirement, as the Al Safwa card will be issued alongside the retirement card with its new configuration, “Daman Card”, to be directly sent to homes via postal service, in a move that aims to streamline access to advantages and enhance the retirees' experience. **(QNA)**

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Issued by: One Nine Six Nine Fitness Hub

Tender Issue Date: 20th October 2025

Tender Opening Date: 30th November 2025

Tender Closing Date: 11th December 2025

Location: 1969 Fitness Hub, Fereej Al Soudan, P.O Box 2122 Doha, Qatar

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- Submit tenders on or before 11th December 2025 to:
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How to Tender


Expression of Interest (EOI) Form and Scope of Services/Works can be downloaded from the company's website:
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QNL lines up events to mark National Day

Qatar National Library (QNL) is to organise a series of diverse cultural activities and events during December to celebrate Qatar National Day, bringing the community together to honour the country's heritage and values.

QNL said that highlights include the 'Dakka' and 'Our Heritage, Our Pride' festivals, a heritage seminar, and family-friendly events that reflect Qatar's rich history and its forward-looking vision.

The celebrations kick off on Dec 6 with the Dakka Festival, a vibrant tribute to QNL inspired by the traditional Dakka, a long seat symbolising unity and togetherness.

The library invited families to enjoy cultural performances and interactive activities as part of the Cultural Mosaic series, which highlights the beauty of Islamic culture and the global diversity that enriches the cultural landscape.

On Dec 8, QNL's Heritage Library will host a special seminar, 'The History of Qatar and the Arabian Gulf Through Archival Documents'. The event will explore key moments in Qatar's history and its cultural influence in the Gulf and Arab world. An elite of historians will speak at the seminar, including Dr Hamad al-Ghadeed from Qatar University, Dr Philippe Petriat from Sorbonne University, and Dr Abdulrahman Alebrahim from the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, as they will analyse archival records to shed light on pivotal events in Qatar's past.

The National Day celebrations continue on Dec 13 with 'Our Heritage, Our Pride', an outdoor family event that celebrates Qatari culture, where visitors will be able to experience cultural tents, interactive workshops, and traditional storytelling. Children will also have the chance to meet Ramli, the library's beloved mascot.

On Dec 14, architect Fatma Ibrahim al-Sahlawi will present 'An Architectural Vision Through Innovative Qatari Eyes', discussing Qatar's urban transformations and a future-focused vision centred on innovation and architectural excellence.

On Dec 15, artist Haifa al-Khuzai will lead 'Cultural Mosaic: Qatari Identity Through Art', a hands-on workshop that uses creative expression to explore Qatari heritage and identity. Participants will create artistic pieces that blend traditional and contemporary styles in a celebration of cultural craftsmanship.

In addition to National Day events, QNL will offer a range of activities throughout December. QNL's Winter Camp, running from Dec 21-Jan 1, will offer children and young adults a mix of storytelling, creative workshops, STEM programmes, and 3D modelling sessions designed to inspire curiosity and learning over the winter break. **(QNA)**

QIB announces Visa cards '100mn Loyalty Points' international spend campaign grand winners

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has announced the grand winners of its '2025 Visa Debit and Credit Cardholders International Spend Campaign', concluding a successful season of rewarding customers for their card usage. In total, the campaign awarded 100mn loyalty points to a total of 370 winners, reinforcing QIB's commitment to offering valuable rewards and exceptional payment experiences to its Visa cardholders.

The campaign rewarded 70 grand winners with 1mn loyalty points each (Avios, Marriott Bonvoy, Meera Rewards, or Absher based on their card). It also awarded a total of 300 monthly winners with 100,000 points each. All draws were conducted electronically in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and QIB. D Anand, QIB general manager - Personal Banking Group, said: "We are pleased to celebrate our grand winners and to close another successful campaign with Visa. Rewarding



our customers for their everyday needs, especially while travelling, reflects our ongoing commitment to deliver exceptional and rewarding digital experiences. We congratulate all the winners and thank our customers for their continued trust." QIB Visa cards combine everyday convenience with robust protection and rewards. Cardholders enjoy cashless payments, e-commerce security with click-to-pay secure digital codes, instant spend alerts and card controls through the QIB

Mobile App, and easy access to global offers from Visa. Customers can also link their cards to leading loyalty programmes (such as Avios, Marriott Bonvoy, Meera Rewards, and Absher), redeem points for travel and lifestyle benefits, and manage everything digitally, ensuring a seamless experience at home and abroad. To apply for the QIB credit cards, customers can do so instantly through the QIB Mobile App. For more information, visit www.qib.com.qa/en-visapromotion

Qatar officially joins WorldSkills Asia

QNA
Chinese Taipei

Qatar has officially joined the membership of WorldSkills Asia, following a unanimous vote during the organisation's General Assembly meeting held in Chinese Taipei, coinciding with the city's hosting of the WorldSkills Asia Competition 2025.

The unanimous approval came after a presentation by the delegation of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, which highlighted key features of Qatar's educational system-particularly its vocational, technical, and specialised education pathways.

This milestone marks an important step in Qatar's ongoing efforts to strengthen its vocational education and training sector and to elevate the presence of national talent on regional and international platforms. It also aligns with the ministry's vision to enhance students' skills and prepare them for the future job market.

Qatar also participated with a student delegation in the competition, held from Nov 25-30, with the aim of enhancing applied skills and knowledge, improving the country's ranking in regional and global skills indices, and encouraging youth to pursue technical and technological disciplines.

Qatari students competed in 16 diverse skills categories, including: cybersecurity, cloud computing, network cabling, welding, electronics, electrical installa-



tions, autonomous robotics, mechanical engineering drawing, graphic design, IT software solutions, painting and decoration, in addition to junior skills.

Student Jassim Mohammed al-Kubaisi achieved the delegation's highest score, earning recognition as the top competitor among the Qatari participants.

The competitors' participation followed an intensive training and preparation program overseen by the ministry through technical and specialised schools. Students

from several educational institutions took part, including: Doha University for Science and Technology, Community College of Qatar, Qatar Technical Schools, Qatar Science & Technology Secondary School for Boys, and Qatar Banking Studies and Business Administration School.

This participation builds on Qatar's success in hosting and organising the Gulf Skills Competition 2025 in October.

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education affirmed that Qatar's accession to the organisation reflects the state's commitment to supporting education, vocational and technical development, and empowering youth with the skills needed for the labour market. The ministry emphasised that this step enhances students' readiness for regional and international competition, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and its goal of building a knowledge-based economy. **(QNA)**

Qatar named 'Favourite Cruise Destination' at Wave Awards 2025

Qatar Tourism (QT) has announced that Qatar was named "Favourite Cruise Destination" at the Wave Awards 2025, one of the United Kingdom's leading events celebrating the cruise and travel industry.

The accolade was presented during a ceremony held on November 26 in London, underscoring Qatar's growing position as a preferred cruise destination for international travellers.


Qatar secured the title following a public vote by readers of *World of Cruising* magazine. Winners were selected after an in-depth judging day held earlier this year at The Independent's headquarters in Finsbury

Square, London, overseen by an independent panel of 40 judges. Qatar was one of seven destinations nominated in this category, alongside Norway, Barbados, Greece, Alaska, Antarctica, and the Canary Islands.

Omar Abdulrahman al-Jaber, chief of the Tourism Development Sector at QT, said: "This recognition reflects Qatar's growing status as a leading and preferred cruise destination in the region and globally. It reaffirms travellers' confidence in the high-quality cultural and maritime experiences the country offers, supported by advanced infrastructure and a rich selection of leisure options that make Doha

an essential stop on regional and international cruise itineraries. At QT, we remain committed to developing our offerings and enhancing visitor experiences to ensure Qatar's position as one of the world's foremost cruise destinations is further strengthened in the years ahead."

Earlier this year, QT announced the launch of the 2025/2026 cruise season with the arrival of the luxury vessel MSC Euribia at the Doha Port Cruise Terminal. The season, running from November 2025-May 2026, is expected to see 72 cruise calls, including 40 transit calls, 15 turnaround calls, and three inaugural visits to Qatar.



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/MM/MFO/61/2025	TENDER FOR MODIFICATION AND FIT OUT WORKS (CIVIL, MEP, CCTV, LIFE SAFE) FOR BARWA MASAKIN MESAIMEER CLUBHOUSE	17,000	500	December 22, 2025
GTC/WSF/SCH/CLN/58/2025	TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF THREE (3) YEARS CLEANING SERVICES FOR SCHOOL PROJECTS MANAGED BY WASEEF	250,000	5,000	January 4, 2026
GTC/WSF/CLN/59/2025	TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF THREE (3) YEARS CLEANING SERVICES FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS MANAGED BY WASEEF	750,000	5,000	January 18, 2026



The Tender Document will be available from December 1, 2025 onwards upon submission of the below documentation to tender@waseef.qa

To collect please provide the following:

- Authorization Letter on Company letterhead, copy of Commercial Registration and valid Identification of the representative.
- 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:

- 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 22, 2026; May 4, 2026 and May 18, 2026)
- 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.

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شركة الكهرباء والماء القطرية ش.م.ع.ق
QATAR ELECTRICITY & WATER CO. Q.P.S.C

Announcing the Opening of Nominations for Membership of the Board of Directors of Qatar Electricity & Water Company

Messrs. Esteemed Shareholders,

Based on the Companies Law No. (11) of 2015, as amended by Law No. (8) of 2021 amending some of its provisions, and the Code of Governance for Companies Listed on the Main and Second Markets issued by the Board of Directors of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority Resolution No. (5) of 2025, and the Company's Articles of Association, please be informed that it has been decided to open nominations for memberships in the Company's Board of Directors for the three years (2026,2027,2028). Please note that nominations will be open for a period of 15 days, starting from 8 AM the morning of Monday corresponding to 1/12/2025 until Monday corresponding to 15/12/2025 at 2 pm (The Nomination Period). Every person/ shareholder who meets the nomination conditions and wishes to run for membership on the Board of Directors of Qatar Electricity & Water Company for the new term (2026/ 2028) shall receive, fill out and submit the nomination application available at the Company's main headquarters in the area of Al-Dafna Qatar Navigation Tower, Maysaloun Street or obtain it from the Company's website www.qewc.com. Anyone who wishes to apply shall have the right to submit the form and all the documents required by the Company electronically or in paper format. The applicant whose application has been rejected shall have the right to submit a complaint to the Company and then to the Authority in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Complaints Rules and Procedures issued by Resolution No. (6) of 2009 of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority, amended by Resolution No. (2) of 2018.

All nomination requirements and documents are detailed in the nomination forms published on the company's website.

For further information or any inquiries, please contact the Secretary of the Nominations, Remuneration, and Salaries Committee on +974 4485 8572 or via email: BOD@qewc.com.

10, 20, 30 promotion begins at Safari outlets today

The 10, 20, 30 Promotion begins today (Monday, Dec 1) at Safari, one of Doha's leading hypermarket chains. This is one of Safari's most popular promotions, eagerly awaited by a large number of customers, including both residents and expatriates, a statement said. A wide range of products are being made available at Safari outlets through this 10, 20, 30 promotion, including fruits, vegetables, fish, meat, bakery items, hot food, other food products, cosmetics, household items, readymade garments, footwear, electronics, computer accessories, groceries, grains, fabrics, and many daily use essentials. In addition to thousands of items priced at QR10, QR20, and QR30, this year Safari has also included many products at QR15 and QR25. Some of the key attractions include: a blood pres-



sure monitor for QR30, two packs of Bayara nuts (300g) for QR10, Salwa water (24 bottles) for QR10, a 1,300g Sadiya chicken for QR10, Persil Deep Clean (2.5L) for QR25, two packs of Tide detergent powder (2.5kg) for QR30, and a Santro gas burner for QR30, among many other offers. Safari bakery and hot food section has also prepared a wide variety of dishes, including Western, South Indian, North Indian, Arabic, and Chinese

cuisines, along with special combo offers. Items such as chicken biriyani, chicken majboos, pizza, and more are available. In addition, the fresh food daily section includes Roumi cheese, butter blocks, Awafi pizza cheese, Sadiya mortadella, Italian mixed pickle, plain cheese, cheddar cheese, beef mortadella, and more items under the 10, 20, 30 promotion. Juice, drinking water, chicken parts, chicken nuggets, various types of ice cream, milk and dairy products, and many frozen food items are also available at QR10, QR20, and QR30. The grocery section is stocked with a wide selection of snacks, food products, and grains. The household section features a wide range of multipurpose products. In the cosmetics section, products from leading brands such as Enchanteur, Dove, Sebamed, Pantene, Lux, Olay, and Johnson &

Johnson are available, along with perfumes, body spray, makeup set, soaps, face wash, body lotions, and other health and beauty care items. The stationery section offers a large collection of school and office items, including Faber-Castell and Mapped school kits and many other stationery sets. A wide range of items in the toys and sports sections are also available at QR10, QR20, and QR30. In the garments and readymade section, a premium collection of men's wear, ladies' churidar and materials, ladies' denim jackets, kids' wear, footwear, ladies' bags and newborn baby collections are available for QR10, QR20, and QR30. The electronics section offers a wide variety of products such as emergency light, trimmers, torches, calculators, headsets, smart watches, and many other devices at attractive discounted prices, the statement added.

Justice minister lays out four strategic pathways to advance legal services

HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi has convened a meeting with the ministry's functionaries as part of strengthening internal communication and the institutional culture of corporate work. Having weighed in on the ministry's key current and future plans and programmes, HE the Minister highlighted the ministry's strategic vision and orientations, initiatives of advancing the workplace environment and employees' empowerment, the outgrowth of legislative and legal updates and digital transformation, in addition to streamlining access to justice services. Al-Mohannadi underscored the importance of deepening the culture of work in the spirit of one team and fostering integration among various departments. The minister further elaborated on the legislative and regulatory developments throughout 2024, which included devising novel sectors that had substantially helped upgrade performance and empower the national workforce, as well as advance systems and programmes that promoted the services offered to stakeholders. He pointed out that the ministry has been granted several recognition awards in support of its development efforts. Throughout the meeting, HE al-Mohannadi laid out four strategic pathways that keep up with the execution of the ministry's strategic plan 2025-2030. The first one pertains to serving the public and is laser-focused on promoting justice services, particularly those related to real estate registration and documentation, to ensure the provision of a smooth and integrated experience. The second pathway pertains to legal services offered to public entities, including advancing legal



training conducted by the Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies and Agreements and International Co-operation Services, in addition to developing the services of managing the nation's cases after restructuring, thereby contributing to achieving justice and enhancing the quality of legal outputs and litigation mechanisms, HE al-Mohannadi said. The third strategic pathway, he outlined, is dedicated to the advancement of legal professions, with the objective of elevating the standards of legal practice and reinforcing support and collaboration with its members, who serve as essential partners within the justice system. The fourth pathway prioritises the ministry's internal operations by strengthening interdepartmental collaboration, empowering national personnel, enhancing the workplace environment, and advancing the digital transformation agenda. HE al-Mohannadi said digital transformation has become an indispensable option. He reviewed a host of projects being commissioned by the ministry, including the Agreements and International Co-operation Services, Experts, Lawyers, and Arbitration Project, which introduces 100 new elec-

tronic services as part of the ministry's digital transformation pathway. In addition, it includes the launch of the new SAK portal, the enhancement of the Qatar Legal Portal (Al Meezan), and the Official Legal & Judicial Magazine and Official Gazette Digital Portal. The initiative, he clarifies, focuses on the digitisation of legal profession services through dedicated electronic portals for lawyers, arbitrators, and experts, as well as the digitalisation of the State-Cases Programme, carried out in collaboration with the Supreme Judiciary Council. These projects contribute to shoring up performance quality, streamlining procedures, and achieving electronic integration with public agencies, offering integrated legal services for a wide diversity of the state institutions, HE al-Mohannadi explained. The minister further emphasised that optimising the workplace is a core pillar of the ministry's strategy, recalling the advancement of the occupational pathways within the new organisational structure, thereby strengthening the role of the national workforce and growing its capability in the legal field. (QNA)



ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **PRIYA ELSA THOMAS THOMAS KURIAN**

holder of

Indian Passport No. S6908834
QID No. 29135641269

hereby change my name

from

PRIYA ELSA THOMAS THOMAS KURIAN

to

PRIYA ELSA THOMAS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **VAHI DJLEKIAN**

holder of

ARMENIA Passport No. AL0475014
QID No. 28242200227

hereby change my name

from

VAHI DJLEKIAN

to

VAHI DJLEFIAN

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

Workers' Fund to hold Arab Cup associated activities from today

On the occasion of FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025, the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund will be organising associated activities in Asian Town, Barwa Baraha, Kreeq Sports and Al Khor Barwa Recreation Complex in Al Khor Industrial Area from today (Dec 1, Monday). The activities will continue on December 4, 5, 11, 12 and 18 from 4pm to 9pm. The associated activities include free screening of the matches, cultural and traditional shows by communities and school teams, musical concert by local bands and Talent shows by the audience. The organising committee has also arranged prizes for the public through raffle coupons, safety and security awareness programmes by various departments of the Ministry of Interior as

well as free diabetic and blood pressure checkup by private clinics. The Workers' Support and Insurance Fund announced it will organise four major events across different locations as part of its associated activities programme. The activities will be held at the car parking area of the cricket stadium in Asian Town within the Doha Industrial Area, as well as the football ground of Barwa Baraha managed by Waseef. In addition, a musical concert featuring artists from Pakistan will take place on all event days at Kreeq Sports Stadium, located behind Barwa Village and opposite Madinatna. The associated activities in Al Khor will be hosted by the Barwa Recreation Complex in the Al Khor Industrial Area.

UDST hosts ninth International Symposium on Bioinformatics



University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) successfully hosted the 9th International Symposium on Bioinformatics (InSyB 2025), a prestigious flagship event of the Asia-Pacific Bioinformatics Network (APBioNET), one of the oldest and most prominent regional networks promoting bioinformatics in the Asia-Pacific. The symposium, in partnership with Hamad Medical Corp, aimed to advance bioinformatics capacity and collaboration in Qatar and the region through a dynamic programme of thematic sessions, workshops, and expert panels. InSyB 2025 brought together leading scientists, researchers, and educators from across Qatar, the GCC, and beyond to exchange

knowledge and explore emerging developments in computational biology, genomics, health informatics, and artificial intelligence. The event also served as a platform to highlight Qatar's growing bioinformatics ecosystem and the pivotal role of UDST's Centre of Excellence in Bioinformatics in supporting the nation's research and innovation goals. Aligned with the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, InSyB 2025 echoed UDST's commitment to nurturing a knowledge-based economy through applied research, innovation, and education. The symposium supported local and regional capacity-building, encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration, and provided opportunities for students and early-career research-

ers to engage with global experts in the field. Reflecting on the occasion, UDST President Dr Salem Al-Naeimi said: "At UDST, we believe that bioinformatics holds the key to transformative progress in healthcare, environmental sustainability, and biotechnology. Hosting InSyB 2025 reinforced our mission to advance applied research and to empower the next generation of scientists and innovators who will drive discovery and development in Qatar and beyond." The symposium was organised in collaboration with the Centre for Clinical Precision Medicine and Genomics, Hamad Medical Corp (HMC) and the APBioNET, highlighting UDST's strong partnerships in advancing applied research and scientific innovation. (QNA)

QU students' projects focus on safe driving, environment awareness

Two students in the Media Department at Qatar University (QU) completed two graduation projects aimed at serving the community and promoting awareness and positive behaviour among young people. Student Mohammed al-Marri launched the "Don't Speed, Take It Easy... We Want You Safe" campaign to reduce speeding accidents on roads, which are among the leading causes of traffic accidents that result in loss of life and property, and significantly impact families and society. The campaign focuses on spreading a culture of safe driving, emphasising that arriving late is better than risking one's life, especially among young people who represent a large segment of car users. Student Ibrahim Mohammed Saleh completed the "Camp with awareness" campaign to promote sustainable camping and environmental awareness among young people and the Qatari community by encouraging environmentally friendly practices such as litter collection, protecting natural plants, and committing to using alternative energy sources. The campaign aims to



instil values of environmental responsibility and promote sustainable behaviours in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. They told Arabic daily *Arrayyah* that these projects highlight the vital role of youth in proposing innovative solutions to societal problems and transforming academic knowledge into practical initiatives that serve the environment and road safety, contributing to building a conscious, sustainable, and safe society for all citizens and residents of Qatar.

Student Ibrahim Mohammed Saleh, from the Department of Media at QU, whose project, titled "A Quality Camping to Preserve Our Qatar," aims to spread the culture of sustainable camping and promote environmental awareness among the youth. Ibrahim said that the campaign focuses on the importance of preserving the sites after the end of camping, the sustainability of alternative energy sources, the commitment to protecting natural plants, and avoiding pollution in all its forms.

Al Majd Law Firm Honored with Three Distinctions at Qatar Business Law Forum 2025

Firm Receives Recognition for Excellence in Legal Services Across Key Practice Areas
Al Majd Law Firm has been honored with three prestigious distinctions at Qatar Business Law Forum 2025, organized by LexisNexis. The firm received the following awards:

- Qatar Law Firm of the Year – Honorable Mention
- TMT Team of the Year – Honorable Mention
- Intellectual Property Team of the Year – Honorable Mention

This year's forum served as an inspiring platform that brought together leading legal professionals, industry experts, and prominent figures from Qatar's legal community. The event featured insightful discussions, knowledge exchange, and notable recognition for excellence across the sector. It highlighted the strength of Qatar's legal landscape, marked by professionalism, collaboration, and a shared commitment to progress.

The awards reflect Al Majd Law Firm's unwavering dedication to providing high-quality legal services grounded in professionalism, integrity, and a clear strategic vision. Since its establishment in 2018 under the leadership of Chairman Mohamed bin Lahdan Al-Hassan Al-Muhannadi, the firm has grown rapidly and earned a strong reputation among clients across diverse sectors.

Built on a foundation of clear values, honesty, dedication, and ambition. Al Majd has positioned itself as one of Qatar's fastest-growing and most trusted law firms. Its team operates with a disciplined approach, ensuring thoughtful judgment, precise legal work, and a steadfast commitment to client interests.



Over the years, the firm has expanded its services to cover a wide range of practice areas, including litigation, corporate and commercial law, arbitration, regulatory consulting, construction, banking and finance, insurance, technology, media and telecommunications, intellectual property, and labor law. This comprehensive offering supports clients with a holistic approach that meets evolving needs and consistently exceeds expectations.

The 2025 awards highlight the firm's achievements at the national level and reinforce its ambition to broaden its impact internationally. They also reflect the dedication of its team, the trust of its clients, and the guidance of its leadership factors that have shaped the firm's steady rise within Qatar's legal sector.

Al Majd Law Firm extends its sincere appreciation to LexisNexis, its valued clients, and every member of the firm whose efforts made this recognition possible. With continued commitment and confidence, the firm looks forward to achieving new milestones and contributing further to the advancement of the legal profession in Qatar.

Al Majd continues to demonstrate excellence in litigation and dispute resolution, representing clients before courts and judicial authorities with accuracy and professionalism. The firm has established itself as a trusted partner in both local and international arbitration, following a practical and effective approach to dispute management.



Carrefour hosts Indian ambassador



Carrefour Qatar welcomed the Indian ambassador Vipul to its flagship store in City Center Doha. In his tour, the envoy saw the wide range of Indian products that Carrefour Qatar showcases, and discussed the expanding business relationships between Carrefour Qatar and Indian producers and exporters, a statement said.

Rawabi Hypermarket Izghawa marks 1,000th Day with mega offers



Rawabi Hypermarket Izghawa is celebrating its 1,000th day of operations with a three-day mega promotion running until tomorrow (Tuesday, Dec 2).

The milestone marks the store's strong and growing presence in the Izghawa community since its opening on March 2, 2023, a statement said. Spread across 120,000sq ft with 26 checkout counters and more than 500 parking spaces, the hypermarket offers customers a smooth and convenient single-floor shopping experience that covers every essential category.

From Fresh Food and Supermarket essentials to a dedicated Fashion Zone, Organic Section, and an extensive range of pet food products, Rawabi Hypermarket Izghawa continues to position itself as a complete destination for family shopping, it was explained.

The official inauguration of the 1,000th Day Celebration was held yesterday at Rawabi Hypermarket Izghawa. The celebration features 'exceptional pricing' on major electronics, home appliances, fresh food, and grocery items, including the iPhone 17 Pro 256GB at QR4,189, iPhone 17 Pro Max 256GB at QR4,439, China carpet 160x230cm at QR27, Impex drum Vacuum cleaner at QR139, Pakistan beef with bone at QR16.50 per kg, Kellogg's Corn Flakes 750g at QR12.50, Lotus Jasmine Rice 5kg at QR16.75, First Choice Sugar 5kg at QR10.75, and many more deals across all departments. As part of the 1,000th Day celebration, customers who make a purchase of QR1,000 and above will also receive a complimentary Rawabi Gift Voucher worth QR100. Rawabi Hypermarket Izghawa has also introduced a

special Half Pay Back Offer in the Fashion Department. Customers who spend QR100 on selected garments, footwear, and ladies' bags will receive a QR50 shopping voucher. This exclusive promotion will run until December 29.

Speaking on the occasion, Kannu Baker, group general manager of Al Rawabi Group, expressed his appreciation for the continued support of the community. "Since opening in 2023, this hypermarket has become a key shopping landmark for families in the area. We thank our customers for their trust and loyalty, and we remain dedicated to delivering an exceptional retail experience with every visit."

The 1,000th day celebration also features special media engagements, live customer interaction activities, and giveaways for selected shoppers, the statement added.

Educational institutions key to develop national capacities: minister

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie, affirmed that educational and academic institutions play a pivotal role in developing national capacities.

He noted that diligence, hard work, and perseverance are essential elements that enable young people to build their skills, achieve their aspirations, and contribute to Qatar's advancement.

He made the remarks during a lecture delivered at Qatar Foundation's Academic Bridge Program (ABP), attended by ABP students, members of the senior management team, and the President of Pre-University Education at Qatar Foundation, Abeer al-Khalifa.

During his visit to the ABP headquarters, the minister was briefed on a selection of student



projects focusing on environmental sustainability and artificial intelligence applications, in addition to the educational and training programmes and services the ABP provides for pre-university students.

Established in 2001 by a decision of Her Highness Sheikha

Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation and Education Above All Foundation, the Academic Bridge Program is one of Qatar's leading academic centres, preparing and qualifying students for admission to Education City universities and top local and international institutions. (QNA)

Qatar participates in Manama meeting



Qatar participated yesterday in the preparatory ministerial meeting for the 46th session of the GCC Supreme Council, held in Manama, Bahrain. The Qatari delegation was headed by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi. (QNA)

Qatar attends Arab League event to mark Palestine Solidarity Day

Qatar took part in an event organised yesterday by the General Secretariat of the Arab League at its headquarters in Cairo to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Deputy Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the Arab League, Maryam Ahmed al-Shaibi, led Qatar's delegation to the event. The event was held in response to the UNGA resolution issued in 1977 to revive this day annually, with the aim of reaffirming the just Palestinian cause and standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their



legitimate struggle to end the occupation and restore freedom and independence. It underscores their independent and sovereign statehood, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative. Overall, the event featured

solidarity speeches and the screening of a short film prepared by the General Secretariat, showcasing the plight of the Palestinian people, marked by decades-long ethnic cleansing, forced displacement, and deprivation of their right to self-determination due to the long-standing injustice caused by the persistent Israeli occupation. The event was intended to highlight the role of those who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights across the world, in addition to their steadfast commitment to the principles of humanity, justice, and respect for human rights. (QNA)

Qatar Charity, Unicef launch hygiene and nutrition projects in Pakistan

As part of its humanitarian efforts to assist communities impacted by natural disasters, Qatar Charity (QC) has signed a Contingency Project Co-operation Agreement (CPCA) with Unicef Pakistan.

The agreement aims to strengthen emergency response systems and ensure the timely delivery of relief services during crises across the country.

The partnership focuses on implementing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions alongside nutrition services during emergencies, with a strong emphasis on supporting vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

Under this collaboration, QC and Unicef launched a Nutrition in Emergencies initiative in four districts of Punjab - Rajanpur, Jhang, Muzaffargarh and Multan - to support those affected by the 2025 floods.

The initiative seeks to improve access to treatment for acutely malnourished children as well as pregnant and lactating women.



The programme includes the provision of micronutrient supplements for children aged 6-59 months and breastfeeding women, along with counselling on maternal nutrition, nurturing care, early childhood development, and Infant and Young Child Feeding practices. It also incorporates capacity building, co-ordination, and information management to strengthen emergency nutrition systems. A WASH emergency project has been activated to assist flood-affected communities. It aims to provide climate-resilient sanitation facilities for

20,000 people, including toilets, bathing areas, and washing points designed to be culturally sensitive, gender-appropriate and disability-inclusive.

Additionally, 100,000 people will benefit from improved awareness of key hygiene practices, disaster risk reduction messaging, and the effective use of hygiene kits. Furthermore, 5,000 children will gain access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in 20 schools, 10 temporary learning centres, 10 child-friendly safe spaces and 10 health facilities.

QRCS offers equipment, medical supplies to Niger eye clinics

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) implemented a project to support the Nigerien Ministry of Health (MoH) by supplying ophthalmology equipment and eye care medications to health centres across the country.

Implemented under a partnership agreement with MoH's National Eye Health Programme (NEHP), this initiative was aimed at enhancing vital eye health care services in underserved areas. It involved five ophthalmology clinics at health centres in Loga, Dioundiou, and Tibiri, as well as the maternal and childhood centre (Dosso Region), and another in Gazoua (Maradi region). Five pharmacies at

these centres were supplied with medications and medical consumables for eye diseases.

A joint field delegation from QRCS' office in Niger and NEHP delivered medical equipment and pharmaceutical supplies recently. In terms of pharmaceutical supplies, the target clinics were provided with a various stock of ointments, eye drops, examination tools, corrective lenses, and other medical supplies.

By giving the locals access to specialised medical services without having to travel long distances, it helps reduce the rates of blindness and visual impairment resulting from treatable conditions such as cataracts.

Medical examinations and surgeries are also

in progress as part of QRCS' medical convoy for ophthalmology in Niger. Co-implemented with Hamad Medical Corporation and NEHP, the mission involves medical examinations for a total of 6,000 patients, 1,436 cataract surgeries, distribution of medications for free, and eye health education programme.

QRCS is planning to launch a new medical convoy focused on school students. To raise the required QR400,000, donations can be received via QRCS' website (www.qrcs.qa), mobile app (QRCS), donor service (66666364), home donation collection (33998898), or donation collection points at malls and shopping centres.



QRDI Council launches Qatar Social Sciences RDI Community

Qatar Research, Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council has launched the Qatar Social Sciences RDI Community, a flagship initiative that brings together researchers, innovators, and policymakers working in the field of social sciences and humanities.

As part of QRDI Council's National RDI Communities programme, this community aims to foster collaboration, bridge sectors, and generate evidence-based solutions to Qatar's most pressing societal challenges.

Launched as a pre-event to World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE 12), the community also sets the stage for deeper conversations on the role of research, innovation, and development in shaping the future of education and society.

The Qatar Social Sciences RDI Community was launched at a dedicated event that brought together more than 350 attendees, including high-level government officials, academic leaders, industry experts, and representatives of civil society. Opening remarks were delivered by Omar Ali al-Ansari, Secretary-General of the QRDI Council.

The programme also featured welcoming remarks with HE Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, Minister of Education and Higher Education, who emphasised the need for social sciences to play a more prominent role in shaping policies and national development strategies.

The launch event included a keynote address, interactive roundtables, and a panel discussion exploring how research, innovation, and policy can align to drive so-



HE Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhater, Minister of Education and Higher Education.



Omar Ali al-Ansari, Secretary-General of the QRDI Council.

cial progress. Senior representatives from QRDI Council, academia, and government engaged in dialogue on advancing equitable education, mental well-being, inclusive governance, and social cohesion through interdisciplinary collaboration.

This community is anchored in the Third National Development Strategy, which identifies the social sciences as a foundational pillar of Qatar's innovation ecosystem. By bridging gaps between research, policy, and innovation, the community will serve as a trusted space for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and the co-creation of evidence-informed solutions.

Al-Ansari highlighted: "This community is built on a central and simple idea: Innovation must serve people, and that society

guides and determines the course of innovation. Through this Community, we are empowering researchers, government entities and industry partners to come together, share perspectives, and shape solutions that contribute to a more inclusive, knowledge and innovation-based economy."

The key objectives of the Qatar Social Sciences RDI Community are to connect diverse stakeholders to build a shared understanding of Qatar's most pressing social issues, generate evidence-informed recommendations that can influence policy-making, elevate the role of social sciences within the national development agenda and translate academic research into real-world impact through practical applications and cross-sector collaboration.

QF to present operetta "Qatar Jannah" in celebration of QND

From Page 1

Al-Qahtani explained that the operetta offers students a holistic learning experience, saying: "Students from different grade levels gain valuable skills, from teamwork, responsibility, and discipline, to building confidence by performing on stage in front of a large audience. They also get the chance to express themselves artistically using the Arabic language, which we are committed to nurturing through our culture and identity programs."

Al-Qahtani emphasized that this production

is part of QF's commitment to supporting educational arts that blend learning with creativity, in line with its vision of building a society rooted in knowledge, innovation, and identity. She noted that this year's operetta presents an artistic vision that brings together Qatari heritage and contemporary identity.

"We developed artistic scenes inspired by Qatari heritage and the stories of our ancestors, while incorporating modern elements and technologies to create a blend that truly resonates with students," al-Qahtani explained.

"Our goal is to show students that identity is not a distant past, it is something alive in their daily lives. Belonging is not only a feeling; it is a practice reflected in one's behavior, values, and interactions with others."

Al-Qahtani concluded by highlighting the enthusiastic engagement from students and schools, and said: "The strong participation in this year's operetta reflects how deeply students connect with this initiative. It also reaffirms the power of the arts in strengthening national awareness and pride.

QM launches 'JEDARIART' initiative as part of Qatar-Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture

QNA
Doha

Years of Culture and Qatar Museums' Public Art Department have launched the JEDARIART initiative in Buenos Aires, the Argentine capital, as part of the Qatar-Argentina and Chile 2025 Year of Culture.

The project arrived in Chile and Argentina, transforming public spaces into open-air galleries that celebrate friendship, hospitality, and the universal language of art.

Qatari artists Aisha al-Fadhala and Mu-barak al-Malik joined forces with Chilean collaborators through a partnership with Edgar Endress, Professor at George Mason University, and a member of the Institute for Public Art (IPA). Together, they painted large-scale murals on the Municipality Building of Valdivia and the Architecture Department at Universidad Austral de Chile, filling its walls with symbols of Chilean nature and Qatari tradition.

Al-Malik's mural, Love and Hospitality, captured the heart of this collaboration. Known for his use of the battoollah, the traditional face mask worn by Qatari matriarchs, al-Malik combined Qatari motifs such as the mabkhara (incense burner) with Chilean wildlife, featuring the strong-voiced and elusive chucaco bird. He incorporated textile patterns worn by Qatari women alongside the copihue flower,

uniting Valdivia's natural colours with Qatari designs to create an easy fusion of both cultures.

Aisha al-Fadhala, known artistically as ALFA, worked with the University to develop a piece that reflects the culture and beauty of Valdivia. Often described as the gateway to Chilean Patagonia, Valdivia is surrounded by dramatic landscapes and stunning natural scenery, elements that deeply influenced her mural A Sip of Cultures.

Inspired by the region's mountains, sunsets, and intense colour palette, ALFA placed the traditional Qatari ghawa cup at the heart of the composition, encircled by Valdivia's natural motifs.

Henna-inspired patterns, shaped by her research into textiles from the Los Rios region, appeared across the design, merging Qatari and Chilean aesthetics. Additional elements included the dandurria bird soaring across the backdrop and delicate chilco flowers draping from the corners.

A few days later, JEDARIART moved eastward to Buenos Aires, where two Qatari artists, Abdulla Alemadi and Abdulla al-Sallat, worked in an up-and-coming neighbourhood of Buenos Aires.

Alemadi's mural visualised the meeting of cultures at the centre of this exchange: beneath the shade of a date palm, Argentina's Sun of May, its national emblem, is draped in a Qatari bisht, sharing coffee and mate, the beloved herbal drink of

Latin America, with the rufous hornero, Argentina's national bird.

An empty chair was originally placed in the scene to invite viewers to join, symbolising welcome, generosity, and cultural connection.

The mural then evolved into a true collaboration when Argentinian artist Lucho Montolivo, known as Olivo, joined the project. Olivo's contribution featured his signature character, a travelling boy. By incorporating this character, Olivo added a sense of wander and shared storytelling to the mural.

His fellow artist, al-Sallat, took a more introspective approach. His mural, titled for the roses is a deeply personal piece inspired by the Andalusian philosopher Ibn Hazm al-Andalusi. "It suggests that meaning lies not on the surface, but in what can be felt or understood by those who truly seek. Just as poetry reveals itself differently to every reader, this mural offers each viewer the chance to discover their own version of its story," al-Sallat said.

"JEDARIART has always been about creating conversations through art," said Dimitrije Bugarski, Public Art Planning Specialist at Qatar Museums. "Through the Years of Culture initiative, we're taking that dialogue beyond Qatar, allowing artists to immerse themselves in new environments and exchange ideas with local communities. These murals in Argentina and Chile are stories told through colour and form.

Arab Book Award arrives at 48th Kuwait International Book Fair

The Arab Book Award, headed by Dr Hanan al-Fayyad, the award's media adviser, and including Dr Imtinan al-Samadi, a member of the media committee, participated in one of the 48th Kuwait International Book Fair's cultural events with a critical session titled: "Literary Awards: Between Honouring Creativity and Building Presence."

Dr al-Samadi pointed out that literary awards are not merely a matter of honouring and recognising an individual, but extend to a broader and more far-reaching framework, transcending mere celebration to exert a real influence on the cultural landscape. She explained that the most important question is not simply, "Who won the award?" but rather, "What is their impact on culture?" She emphasised that awards confer significant power, generating fame, adding financial value, and facilitating translation, thus making their impact deeper and more



profound than what can be directly observed. She added that awards face the challenge of maintaining their presence, because their demise means a loss of value, highlighting the importance of keeping them vibrant and dynamic.

As for Dr al-Fayyad explained that creative individuals constantly experience a state of creative anxiety, and that one of their characteristics is that they are not easily satisfied with their work. They also face suspicion when they boast about their work without hesitation. This is where awards play a crucial role

in shifting the creative individual from anxiety to conscious confidence, based on rigorous standards that are free from deception or favouritism. This is achieved by placing the work against its artistic foundations. If it passes this test, the creative individual gains legitimacy that qualifies them to influence their society.

Dr al-Fayyad pointed out that the Arab Book Award provides a platform that celebrates outstanding works and grants creators greater opportunities for dissemination and influence. She added that the award not

only honours authors but also contributes to building new pathways for the flourishing of writing through the transfer of knowledge and the exchange of ideas, making it a vital contributor to strengthening intercultural communication.

She further explained that the Arab Book Award continues to play its role in elevating the Arab cultural landscape by honouring works of high intellectual value and encouraging knowledge creators to produce content that raises public awareness and enriches the Arab cultural scene.

She considered the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and the Arab Book Award to be two of the most important Qatari cultural prizes, alongside the many other state awards with institutional affiliations. These awards, she noted, represent two essential pillars in supporting Arab creativity and enhancing its role in enriching human culture.

Ooredoo awarded GSMA Advance People Excellence Partner status

Ooredoo Group has been awarded People Excellence Partner status by GSMA Advance, the learning and skills division of the GSMA - marking an important milestone in the group's mission to build a future-ready workforce across its global footprint.



The collaboration allows Ooredoo employees across all markets access to GSMA's expansive curriculum of accredited courses and certification pathways, covering domains such as 5G, IoT, Mobile Privacy & Security, Public Policy & Regulatory Best Practice, Non-Terrestrial Networks, Roaming, Sustainable Governance, Spectrum Management and more.

Fatima Sultan al-Kuwari, Group Chief HR and Sustainability Officer, said: "Becoming a GSMA Advance People Excel-

lence Partner reinforces our commitment to investing in the skills and capabilities needed for the next decade of digital leadership." Dr Drew MacFarlane, Head of GSMA Advance, said: "Not only is Ooredoo Group clearly committed to building capacity and skills through initiatives like their Learning Academy, but they are also an inspiring operator - working across multiple countries and demonstrating some of the best-in-region ESG principles which align very well with GSMA's commitments in this area."

WHOOOP announced as Official Wearable Partner for Doha Marathon by Ooredoo

Ooredoo has announced WHOOOP as the Official Wearable Partner for the 2026 and 2027 Doha Marathon by Ooredoo. The agreement was signed by Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, vice-chairman of the Doha Marathon Organising Committee, and Stephan Muller, director of WHOOOP - GCC.



The two-year collaboration brings together Ooredoo's commitment to community health, fitness, and sports innovation through world-class technology. As the Official Wearable Partner, WHOOOP will play a central role in enhancing athlete performance, training insights, and overall race experience for participants of the Doha Marathon by Ooredoo. Al-Kuwari said, "This partnership represents a significant step forward in how we support our running community.

WHOOOP has advanced performance insights, from recovery to sleep data to real-time strain and live tracking, and will provide participants, from first-time runners to elite athletes, with a deeper understanding of their bodies throughout the marathon journey." Muller said, "WHOOOP empowers members of all levels to better understand their bodies and unlock deeper insights into recovery, sleep, and strain."

Qatar Museums announces December programmes

Qatar Museums' (QM) is set to present the December lineup of its newly-launched, Architecture and Design - Turning Vision Into a Universal Dialogue programme, introduced as part of the landmark exhibition I M Pei: Life is Architecture at Al Riwaq.

Part of a wider, ongoing initiative, the December programme brings together architects, designers, and students from around the world through lectures, workshops, and public events, nurturing cross-generational collaboration and global dialogue on contemporary questions in architecture and design.

Throughout the month, visitors can enjoy a rich lineup of screenings in collaboration with the Doha Film Institute (DFI), expert-led lectures, and panel discussions that offer new perspectives on today's designscape.

The cultural programme at Al Riwaq offers a diverse series of film screenings, architectural lectures, and discussions throughout December 2025. The series begins on December 4 with a screening of *ButoHouse*, directed by Ila Beka and Louise Lemoine, from 8pm.

On December 8, the DFI presents an engaging celebration of regional storytelling at 7pm. The showcase features seven short films, including Maysaa al-Mumin's *And I Was Left Behind* and Jassim al-Rumaihi's *The Palm Tree*.

The lineup also includes *Emsahar* by Hassan al-Jahni; *Makhbz* by Aisha al-Muhammad; Rawda al-Thani's dreamlike *I Have Been*

Watching You All Along; Amal al-Muftah's adventurous *Sh'hab*; and *Voices from the Urbanscape* by Shaima al-Tamimi and Mariam Salim. The creators will be present to share insights into their work.

The programme continues on December 11 with a screening of *Rehab From Rehab* from 7pm to 8.30pm, hosted by experts Beka and Lemoine. This sensitive, personal film examines how hospitals design spaces for the vulnerable. Architectural theory takes centre stage on December 14 with RGB, a lecture by Elena Manferdini from 7pm.

Manferdini returns on December 15 for a two-part event. She will deliver the lecture *Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue*, examining the impact of artificial intelligence on design through the lens of the 2025-26 Rome Opera House project. This is followed by a panel discussion at 8pm, where Manferdini will be joined by Alfredo Cramerotti and Amal Ali.

The month concludes on December 25 with a second DFI showcase at 7pm. This session features four films centred on local culture: Tarek Abu-Esber's animation *Doha: Al Muqana3*; *Treasures of the Past* by Rawan al-Nassiri and Nada Bedair, which celebrates traditional crafts; *Khurshid* by Mazen Shafea and Mohamed Elamin, a narrative on the life of a goldsmith; and AJ al-Thani's *Kashta*, a desert narrative about a father's lesson turned tragedy. The filmmakers will be in attendance for a post-screening discussion.

QM launches Green Humanitarian Design Competition

Qatar Museums (QM) has announced the launch of the Green Humanitarian Design Competition, a major cross-cultural initiative conducted under the Unesco Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

The competition brings together creative talent from Doha and Asahikawa, Japan, inviting young designers to develop sustainable, humanitarian-focused solutions that address pressing global challenges. The competition is open to innovators aged 16 to 30 from both Unesco Cities of Design, encouraging participants to create practical, affordable, and sustainable objects that make a tangible impact.

Dr Fatema Hassan al-Sulaiti, Director of International Co-operation and Government Affairs at Qatar Museums, said: "The Green Humanitarian Design Competition illustrates how creativity can drive meaningful change. Through our collaboration with Asahikawa under the Unesco Creative Cities Network, we are empowering young designers to transform local challenges into innovative and sustainable solutions."

"This initiative reflects Doha's ongoing commitment to cross-cultural dialogue, advancing social impact through design, and positioning Qatar as a

global leader in creative exchange." Participants are tasked with transforming local waste materials into functional and innovative objects, including furniture, tools, or small-scale systems, while integrating cultural motifs from the partner city. This requirement emphasises cultural diplomacy and highlights Qatar Museums' commitment to leveraging design for social impact and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

The competition will run from November 2025 to July 2026, featuring mentorship sessions, evaluations by an expert jury, and exchange visits between Doha and Asahikawa. Interested designers must register by Dec 15, by e-mailing internationalqm.org.qa with their full name, occupation, education, email address, and mobile number. Full competition guidelines are available on the Qatar Museums website.

The launch coincides with Qatar Museums' Evolution Nation campaign, an 18-month initiative celebrating Qatar's cultural journey over the past 50 years, since the founding of the National Museum of Qatar. Curated by Qatar Creates, the campaign highlights the nation's artistic milestones and cultural ambitions, reinforcing Qatar's role as a global hub for art, culture, and creativity. (QNA)

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GULF TIMES

Serf music and its alternatives

For a glimpse of what our AI-driven future could be, consider what is happening in the music business. It was through music that the market for non-rare products and services began, where remuneration for the works of the mind was first imagined. JS Bach had to hold coffeehouse concerts to support his vast family, but with the Industrial Revolution, mass production, and the extreme division of labour that it brought, much larger markets became available.

The digital economy took this further. Musicians who once relied on the lords who commissioned them, then on the bourgeois consumers who bought concert tickets, and finally on the record companies that paid them royalties, today are remunerated by streaming services and other online platforms.

Now, AI is turning the industry on its head. Generative AI tools can produce music without human composers, using the immense catalogue of existing works to train themselves. The virtual band The Velvet Sundown passed the one-million mark in streams on Spotify in a matter of weeks, and *Heart on My Sleeve*, posted to TikTok by an anonymous user who “used AI to make a drake song ft. the weeknd,” has racked up millions of views.

One can also find artificial DJs capable of hosting a party like a human, complete with speeches and playlists, as well as AI-generated film soundtracks and voiceovers that imitate artists’ voices and styles. In each case, pretty much anyone can generate low-cost music and audio for use across a broad range of applications.

The evolution is dizzying. The International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) expects the market for music and audiovisual content created by generative AI to skyrocket, from around €3bn (\$3.5bn) currently to €64 billion by 2028, with generative AI music possibly accounting for approximately 20% of streaming platforms’ revenues. CISAC also notes that creators’ revenues are at risk; for music, the total could fall by about 24% by 2028.

To protect artists’ copyrighted material, policymakers in some jurisdictions are beginning to take legislative action. The European AI Act requires those who publish and distribute AI-generated material to be transparent about its sources. There are also several European projects exploring watermarking and blockchain-based solutions to identify source material and automatically pay out micro-royalties. But such protections will likely prove illusory. The artists of tomorrow will have to be remunerated in other ways. The arrival of a new kind of economy means everything must change.

After all, anyone with a computer or mobile phone can create, arrange, mix, master, and produce a music video, or adapt their own works for video games, interactive advertising, marketing campaigns, and other uses. One possibility, then, is that generative AI will further enable some artists to forego arrangements with record companies and other traditional intermediaries. In doing so, they may try to maintain a personalised dialogue with their fans, whom they can offer customised experiences.

Sensing the changes that are coming, music distribution platforms are trying to get ahead of the game by allying themselves with legacy record companies, which are themselves in grave danger of extinction. For example, Spotify has signed an agreement with three major record companies promising to use AI with and for human artists, thus guaranteeing them transparency, consent, remuneration, and protections against cloned voices. But these legacy players will be unable to keep their promise, because the remuneration mechanisms provided for in these agreements will be largely illusory: too small and without real control.

Thus, if artists are not careful, the upheaval introduced by AI will amount to a change of master: after the feudal lord, the bourgeois, and the all-powerful record company will come the triumph of the algorithm. Copyright protections will evaporate, and musicians will become mere employees of the algorithm, if not its slaves. The only way that artists can escape this fate is by becoming entrepreneurs of their own creations, harnessing AI’s formidable potential themselves, and also capitalising on the irreplaceability, already visible and lasting, of the in-person concert performance

Meanwhile, consumers, who could become passive subjects of algorithmic control, could assert themselves. They could become co-composers, determining the form to be given to the work they listen to (by choosing the music style, the instruments, and the singers) and, like the artist, privileging the actual, direct, living, irreplaceable exchange of the concert performance.

The only true freedom, in music as elsewhere, is to create and control the fruit of one’s creation. AI could amplify this freedom if we act now by focusing on the development of creativity at school and elsewhere. But as matters stand, it seems well on its way to doing the opposite. — Project Syndicate

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Honduras goes to polls



A woman places her finger on a biometric identification device at a polling station during the general election in Tegucigalpa yesterday. Hondurans began voting for president yesterday amid threats by US President Donald Trump to cut aid to the country if his preferred candidate loses. (AFP)

Hong Kong’s deadliest fire in decades followed a year of safety complaints

By Clare Jim, James Pomfret, Donny Kwok, Antoni Slodkowski and Claire Fu
Hong Kong/Beijing/Singapore

Residents of the housing complex that was engulfed in Hong Kong’s deadliest blaze in seven decades were told by authorities last year that they faced “relatively low fire risks” after complaining repeatedly about fire hazards posed by ongoing renovation works, the city’s Labour Department told Reuters. People living at Wang Fuk Court in northern Hong Kong had raised concerns over maintenance activity in September 2024, including about the potential flammability of the protective green mesh contractors had used to cover the bamboo scaffolding raised around the buildings, a department spokesperson said in an email.

The department subsequently reviewed safety certification for the mesh, which was used as a net for falling debris, and told residents the material’s “flame-retardant performance” met standards, said the agency, which helps enforce construction standards set by the Building Department.

Hong Kong police said on Thursday, however, that the exterior walls of the complex’s buildings “had protective nets, membranes, waterproof tarpaulins, and plastic sheets suspected of not meeting fire safety standards.” Three people associated with renovation contractor Prestige Construction have been arrested on suspicion of manslaughter.

The exact cause of Wednesday’s inferno, which has claimed at least 128 lives, has not been determined.

What is clear, however, is that the fire spread rapidly through the renovation infrastructure outside, said Jiang Liming, a fire-safety expert at Hong Kong Polytechnic University who reviewed video footage of the blaze.

Jiang said early observations of the fire did not take into account the foam boards over windows.

Prestige, which secured a HK\$330mn (\$42.4mn) renovation contract for the complex in January 2024, did not respond to repeated calls. The three arrested people, who authorities have not named, could not be reached. Metal shutters were pulled down

over the entrance of Prestige’s office when a reporter visited on Friday morning.

Asked about the Labour Department’s review of the mesh’s safety certification, Hong Kong police referred to a Thursday statement in which it said it would “gather evidence and conduct a thorough investigation to ascertain the cause of the fire” once the blaze was fully extinguished.

The Labour Department told Reuters that when it told residents they faced low fire risks as long as processes like welding were avoided, that did not mean that potential hazards were ignored. It also said it had reminded the contractor to implement fire-prevention measures.

The agency added that it had carried out 16 safety inspections at Wang Fuk Court between July 2024 and November 2025. The department issued six improvement notices to the contractor over its work at the complex and initiated three prosecutions, it said, without providing further specifics.

Reuters could not determine the outcome of those proceedings or the firm’s response.

Wednesday’s blaze spread at shocking speed.

Firefighters were first alerted to fire at one of Wang Fuk Court’s towers at 2:51pm. Within the five minutes it took them to reach the site, the blaze had scattered across the scaffolding, entered the interior of the building and spread to other towers in the complex, according to a fire department statement.

In about four hours, seven of the complex’s eight 32-story towers were engulfed in flames. Thick smoke made it hard for first responders to reach higher floors.

Hundreds of the 4,600 people living in the complex were placed in temporary shelter. About 200 were missing as of Friday.

Jiang, an assistant professor at Polytechnic University’s department of building environment and energy engineering, compared the blaze to London’s 2017 Grenfell public-housing fire, in which 72 people died.

A subsequent investigation revealed failings by the British government, the construction industry and firms involved in fitting the building’s exterior with flammable cladding.

“It’s a very similar kind of fire travelling mechanism: from the facade, the fire then entered the rooms” of apartments, he said.

Hong Kong leader John Lee has said the government will review the use of bamboo scaffolding. The Building and Labour departments separately said Thursday that they would be conducting emergency checks on buildings undergoing renovations to ensure that scaffolding and nets meet fire-safety standards.

Police on Wednesday also said they had discovered foam at the complex that might have been responsible for the fast expansion of the fire.

Facebook user Peter Leung had posted photos of burning white material on the “Wang Fuk Court Resident Exchange” group in September 2024, alongside the caption: “the window insulation is flammable.”

Leung did not respond when contacted by Reuters via Facebook.

Foam “burns quickly and produces thick, toxic smoke,” Chau Sze Kit, chairman of the Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union, told Reuters.

The material can help prevent dust and glass damage to windows during construction, he said, but “did the management team and site supervisors consider this risk?”

Resident Tommy Au Wai-chi said foam installed near their windows prevented his parents from noticing the giant flames and heavy smoke outside their home.

“They didn’t realise there was a fire until I called them,” said the 58-year-old truck driver. His parents were rescued and are in a stable condition in hospital.

Chris Wong, who on Thursday was still waiting for news of her 72-year-old mother, who she believes remains trapped, expressed anger at how her apartment’s windows were blocked with foam.

“The government has laws, but do they enforce on the quality of materials and safety? I have my doubts.”

A Reuters review of the minutes of meetings held over the past year between homeowners and building management revealed additional fire-safety concerns.

Management told the homeowners’ committee in October 2025 that among the items needing repair or maintenance in the complex were fire water inlets, hose components such as fire nozzles, fire alarm bells, fire extinguishers and fire hose reels, as well as lighting fixtures with batteries.

In July 2025, the committee was also told that “some hoses inside the fire tanks showed signs of aging and corrosion during waterproofing work.” Meeting participants recommended replacing the hoses.

And in November 2024, the committee expressed concern that the number of solar panels on the towers’ rooftops “might violate fire safety regulations.” It suggested consulting the fire department. Reuters could not determine if action had been taken to address those concerns. Hong Kong Security Chief Chris Tang said on Friday fire alarms in the complex had not been working properly, confirming earlier complaints from some residents.

The management of Wang Fuk Court did not respond to calls and an e-mail.

Residents have also complained about contractors smoking around the scaffolding.

Jacky Cheung, who described himself as a former resident in the complex, sent Reuters a video he said he had taken that depicted a construction worker smoking next to the scaffolding. The news agency was able to verify that the video was shot at Friday fire alarms in the complex had not been working properly, confirming earlier complaints from some residents.

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Cheung said he had complained about smoking incidents and sent management the video in February, but that they did nothing in response. — Reuters



Officers from the Disaster Victims Identification Unit (DVIU) working inside an apartment block in the aftermath of a fire at the Wang Fuk Court residential estate in Hong Kong’s Tai Po district. (AFP)

Indonesia, Thailand race to find missing as flooding toll tops 600



Rescue personnel evacuate a sick villager on a raft to be taken to the nearest hospital in Bireuen, Aceh province, following flash floods and landslides in northern Sumatra. (AFP)

AFP
Padang (Indonesia)

Indonesian and Thai authorities raced yesterday to clear debris and find hundreds of missing people as the death toll from devastating floods and landslides across Southeast Asia topped 600.

Heavy monsoon rain overwhelmed swaths of Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia this week, leaving thousands of people stranded without shelter or critical supplies.

At least two areas of Indonesia's worst-affected Sumatra island were still unreachable yesterday, and authorities said they had deployed two warships from Jakarta to deliver aid.

Central Tapanuli and Sibolga city "require full attention due to being isolated", National Disaster agency head Suharyanto said in a statement, adding that the ships were expected in Sibolga today.

The death toll in Indonesia rose

to 442, while 402 were still missing, according to a tally published yesterday by the disaster authority.

It said at least 646 people had been injured.

In Sungai Nyalo village, about 100km from West Sumatra's capital Padang, floodwaters had mostly receded yesterday, leaving homes, vehicles and crops coated in thick grey mud.

Authorities had not yet begun clearing roads, residents told AFP, and no outside assistance had arrived.

"Most villagers chose to stay; they didn't want to leave their houses behind," said Idris, 55, who, like many Indonesians, goes by one name.

Across the island towards the north coast, an endangered Sumatran elephant lay buried in thick mud and debris near damaged buildings in Meureudu town.

In Thailand, where at least 162 people were killed in one of the worst floods in a decade, authorities continued to deliver aid and

clear the damage.

Relief measures rolled out by the Thai government include compensation of up to 2mn baht (\$62,000) for households that lost family members.

However, there has been growing public criticism of Thailand's flood response, and two local officials have been suspended over their alleged failures.

Two people were killed in Malaysia after floods left stretches of northern Perlis state underwater.

The annual monsoon season, typically between June and September, often brings heavy rain, triggering landslides and flash floods.

A tropical storm has exacerbated conditions, and the tolls in Indonesia and Thailand rank among the highest in floods in those countries in recent years.

Climate change has affected storm patterns, including the duration and intensity of the season, leading to heavier rainfall, flash flooding and stronger wind gusts.

Lanka floods, landslides death toll rises to 334

The death toll from floods and landslides triggered by Cyclone Ditwah rose sharply to 334 yesterday, Sri Lanka's disaster agency said, with many more still missing.

It is the worst natural disaster to hit the island in two decades, and officials said the extent of damage in the worst-affected central region was only just being revealed as relief workers cleared roads blocked by fallen trees and mudslides.

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said the death toll had risen to 334, up from 212 earlier yesterday, with nearly 400 missing and more than 1.3mn people across the island affected by the record rains.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who declared a state of emergency to deal with the disaster, vowed to build back with international support.

"We are facing the largest and most challenging natural disaster in our history," he said in an address to the nation. "Certainly, we will build a better nation than what existed before."

The losses and damage are the worst since the devastating 2004 Asian tsunami that killed around 31,000 people and left more than a million homeless.

Rain had subsided across Sri Lanka but low-lying areas of the capital were flooded on Sunday and authorities were bracing for a major relief operation.

A Bell 212 helicopter carrying food for patients stranded at a hospital just north of Colombo crashed into a river last evening. All five crew members were taken to a nearby hospital.

Another helicopter sent from India rescued 24 people yesterday, including a pregnant woman and a man in a wheelchair, marooned in



Women and children ride on a boat after being rescued from a flooded area, following Cyclone Ditwah in Kelaniya yesterday. (Reuters)

the central town of Kotmale, about 90km northeast of Colombo, officials said.

Pakistan was also sending rescue teams, the Sri Lankan Air Force said, while Japan will also send a team to assess Sri Lanka's immediate needs and has pledged assistance.

The air force said two infants and a 10-year-old child had also been rescued from a hospital in the northern town of Chilaw, which was submerged on Saturday.

Authorities said flood levels in the capital would take at least a day to recede, while dry weather was also forecast. Cyclone Ditwah moved north towards India on Saturday.

Selvi, 46, a resident of the Colombo suburb of Wennawatte, left her flooded home yesterday, carrying four bags of clothes and valuables.

"My house is completely flooded. I don't know where to go, but I hope there is some safe shelter where I can take my family," she told AFP.

Receding water levels in the town of Manampitiya, 250km northeast

of Colombo, revealed massive destruction.

"Manampitiya is a flood-prone town, but I have never seen such a volume of water," said 72-year-old resident S Sivanandan.

He told the local News Centre portal that businesses and property had been extensively damaged. A car had flipped upside down in front of his shop, he said.

A woman in central Wellawaya said she heard a loud noise and went outside to see boulders rolling down a mountainside before stopping near her home.

"I saw trees falling and moving with the boulders. We are afraid to go back to our homes," she told reporters after moving to a shelter on safer ground.

The National Blood Transfusion Service said supplies were short even though there have been relatively few injuries.

The National Building Research Organisation, which monitors the stability of hills, said there was a high risk of further landslides because mountain slopes were still saturated with rainwater.

Netanyahu seeks pardon in corruption cases

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on trial facing corruption charges, announced yesterday he had submitted a pardon request, saying the long-running cases were tearing the country apart.

US President Donald Trump wrote to Israeli President Isaac Herzog earlier this month, asking him to pardon Netanyahu, who has repeatedly denied wrongdoing in the proceedings.

"The trial in my case has been ongoing for nearly six years, and is expected to continue for many more years," Netanyahu said in a video statement, without admitting guilt.

He explained he wanted to see the process through until acquittal, "but the security and political reality – the national interest – dictate otherwise. The State of Israel is facing enormous challenges."

"The continuation of the trial is tearing us apart from within, arousing fierce divisions, intensifying rifts," he added.

The cases against Netanyahu have exposed divisions in Israeli society between his supporters and opponents.

The premier and his wife Sara are accused in one case of accepting more than \$260,000 worth of luxury goods such as cigars and jewellery from billionaires in exchange for political favours.

He is also accused of attempting to negotiate more favourable coverage from two Israeli media outlets in two other cases.

Netanyahu said the demand for him to testify three times a week had "tipped the scales", calling it an "impossible requirement".

"An immediate end to the trial will greatly help to lower the flames and promote the broad reconciliation that our country so desperately needs."

Netanyahu's statement was accompanied by a 111-page letter his lawyers submitted to Herzog which likewise did not admit culpability.

Herzog's office confirmed it had received Netanyahu's request.

"This is an extraordinary request which carries with it significant implications. After receiving all of the relevant opinions, the president will responsibly and sincerely consider the request," the head of state's office said in a statement.

US officials host crucial Ukraine talks in Florida

AFP
Hallandale Beach

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held high stakes talks with a Ukrainian delegation in Florida yesterday, as the United States pushes to end Russia's war against its neighbour.

The negotiations come as Kyiv faces mounting military and political pressure, along with the fallout from a corruption scandal. They could set the stage for next week's visit to Moscow by President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff, who is expected to discuss Ukraine diplomacy.

"This is not just about peace deals. It's about creating a pathway forward that leaves Ukraine sovereign, independent and prosperous," Rubio said at the start of the negotiations.

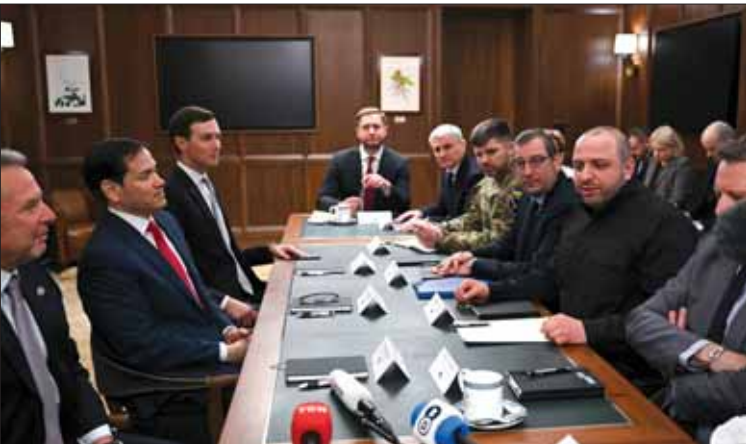
Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner were also attending the meeting in Hallandale Beach, north of Miami.

Ukraine's security council secretary Rustem Umerov led Kyiv's delegation, which also included Andrii Hnатов, the chief of staff of Ukraine's armed forces, and presidential adviser Oleksandr Bevz.

"We are discussing about the future of Ukraine, about the security of Ukraine, about no repetition of aggression of Ukraine, about prosperity of Ukraine, about how to rebuild Ukraine," Umerov said as the talks kicked off.

The US talks come amid turbulence for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and his government. A blockbuster corruption probe forced him to sack his chief of staff and top negotiator, Andriy Yermak, on Friday.

Rubio had met with Yermak only a week ago during another round of



(L to R) White House Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Jared Kushner listen as Rustem Umerov (R) speaks while leading Ukrainian delegation during a meeting in Hallandale Beach, Florida. (AFP)

talks in Geneva that both sides hailed as "constructive". In a separate post on the platform X, Umerov said he was in "constant contact" with Zelensky as the Florida meeting progressed.

"We have clear directives and priorities: safeguarding Ukrainian interests, ensuring substantive dialogue, and advancing on the basis of the progress achieved in Geneva," Umerov wrote.

"We are working to secure real peace for Ukraine and reliable, long-term security guarantees. The delegation will report to the president of Ukraine following the conclusion of today's meetings."

Washington has put forward a plan to end the nearly four-year conflict and is seeking to finalise it with Moscow and Kyiv's approval.

An initial 28-point proposal - drafted without input from Ukraine's European allies - would have seen Kyiv withdraw from its eastern

Donetsk region and the United States de facto recognise the Donetsk, Crimea and Lugansk regions as Russian.

The United States pared back the original draft following criticism from Kyiv and Europe, but the current contents remain unclear.

After the Florida negotiations, French President Emmanuel Macron is set to host Zelensky for talks in Paris today.

Separately next week, Rubio is set to skip a meeting of Nato foreign ministers despite allies' concerns about the US plan for Ukraine. However, Witkoff is expected in Moscow to discuss Ukraine diplomacy.

The flurry of diplomacy comes as the war - which has killed tens of thousands of civilians and military personnel and displaced millions of Ukrainians - shows no sign of easing.

Ahead of the Florida talks, Russia's forces targeted Ukraine's capital and the region for two nights in a row as they advanced on the front line.

Pakistan rejects UN warning over lifetime immunity for military chief

AFP
Islamabad,

Pakistan dismissed yesterday a warning by the UN rights chief of potential "far-reaching consequences" for the rule of law in granting the head of the all-powerful military legal immunity.

The foreign ministry said Pakistan was "fully committed to protecting... basic freedoms and the rule of law as enshrined in the constitution", responding to criticism from UN rights chief Volker Turk.

A constitutional amendment approved by parliament earlier this month, shielding Field Marshal Asim Munir and other top officials from prosecution for life, has raised alarm among rights group.

The change also created a new Federal Constitutional Court, stripping the Supreme Court of some of its powers and tightening oversight of judges.

"These changes, taken together, risk subjugating the judiciary to political interference and executive control," Turk said in a statement on Friday.

He warned of a risk of "far-reaching consequences for the principles of democracy and rule of law which the Pakistani people hold dear".

In its statement yesterday, the foreign ministry in Islamabad called the remarks "baseless" and said "it is regrettable that Pakistan's views and ground realities were not reflected".

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of more than 250mn people, has long struggled to balance civilian authority with the military's role in politics.

Widely seen as Pakistan's most powerful institution, the military has governed the country for nearly half its existence via a series of coups since independence in 1947.

Swiss reject compulsory civic duty, climate tax for super rich

AFP
Geneva

Swiss voters yesterday resoundingly rejected a proposal to replace the current men-only military conscription with a compulsory civic duty for all and another on taxing the super-rich to fund the climate fight.

Final results from across the country's 26 cantons showed voters spurning the initiatives, which had generated significant discussion in the wealthy Alpine nation.

The so-called Civic Duty proposal, which called for requiring every Swiss cit-

izen, regardless of gender, to do national service in the army or in a civilian capacity, was snubbed by a whopping 84% of voters nationally.

The "Initiative for a future", which called for a new climate tax on big inheritances, was meanwhile rejected by over 78% of voters, official results showed.

The Swiss government and parliament had come out against both items, arguing that they would entail huge costs and could threaten the economy.

Recent opinion polls had also indicated the proposals had little chance of passing, but the extent of the rejection in the vote, in which 43% of eligible voters took part, still came as a surprise.

Both landed among the worst results in a quarter century among popular votes held every few months under Switzerland's direct democratic system.

The committee behind the Civic Duty initiative had argued that requiring men and women alike to serve the nation would strengthen social cohesion.

The initiative aimed for "true equality", committee head Noemie Roten told AFP before the vote.

She described the current system as discriminatory - for men, but also for women, who are largely excluded from useful networks and experiences obtained during service.

Opponents of the initiative had denied

it would enhance equality, pointing out that women already accounted for the vast majority of unpaid tasks in Swiss society, and insisting it was unfair to require them to do more.

"Women of course continue to have the option to perform military or civilian service if they wish," Defence Minister Martin Pfister told reporters after the vote.

The government had also argued that doubling the number of recruits would far outstrip the needs and would double the costs of Switzerland's current conscription system.

As the results began flooding in, Roten told public broadcaster RTS that she was "proud" to have helped "put fundamental

questions on the table".

She pointed out that it often takes time for big societal projects to gain ground in Switzerland, pointing to the first effort to push through women's right to vote, which was rejected by 67 percent of voters in 1959, only to finally pass by nearly 66% in 1971.

"The idea of a civic duty is not dead with today's vote. It will continue and I think it will win out in coming decades," she said.

The "Initiative for a future", put forward by the youth wing of Switzerland's Socialist Party, had meanwhile called for a 50-percent inheritance tax on fortunes above 50mn Swiss francs (\$63mn) - estimated to affect some 2,500 households.

Students at QF schools envision greener future



Students at Qatar Foundation (QF) schools are showing how small, practical actions can create lasting environmental change – and help build a cleaner, greener future.

At Qatar Leadership Academy, part of Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education, a group of students are giving cooking oil, expired olive oil, and food waste a new purpose by using it to make eco-friendly soap and compost – turning everyday waste into products that benefit both their school, and the planet.

Saoud Abdulaziz al-Muraikhi, a 15-year-old student from Qatar, explains the recycling process. "First, we filter and clean the oil, then mix it with lye – sodium hydroxide for solid soap and potassium hydroxide for liquid soap," he says. "Then we add natural fragrances made from basil, lemon, and rosemary leaves, and let the mixture rest until it becomes soap. Once it's ready, we use the soap for cleaning in our school and share it during environmental awareness events."

He and his peers now hope to expand the project in collaboration with local partners, including farmers, to recycle larger quantities of waste, and to establish it as a model initiative for other schools nationwide.

Meanwhile, at QF school Qatar Academy Sidra (QAS) students



are cultivating herbs and vegetables, like lavender, tomato, mint, and lettuce, in their on-site garden through the 'Greenhouse Initiative'. Entirely student-led, its young participants collaborate to decide what to plant and how to care for the garden, while also monitoring growth and recording observations. They are encouraged to lead workshops, share their

learnings with others, and propose new initiatives.

The 'Greenhouse Initiative' has also become an integral part of QAS's Units of Inquiry, connecting learning across subjects. Students are applying science and math concepts in real-life contexts – exploring plant life cycles and sustainability, measuring growth, and representing data. Language and

art lessons are supporting reflection and creativity through writing, sharing ideas, and designing projects with recycled materials. Next semester, the school aims to launch the Greenhouse Café to link learning with healthy, environmentally conscious food choices.

Maria Dahmali, aged 8, explains why she decided to join the programme, saying: "I got involved in the project because I love the idea of helping the earth and learning how things grow. One of our values at Qatar Academy Sidra is sustainability, so I wanted to live this value and do something positive for the environment."

"Working in the garden helps us appreciate how much effort goes into growing food, so we waste less. It shows us that scraps can become useful again. It makes us care more about the environment because we can see how plants and insects all work together to keep nature healthy."

Sara Dawood, a teacher at QAS Primary School and part of the 'Greenhouse Initiative,' added: "Our school, being an International Baccalaureate school, plays a key role by providing experiences that connect knowledge to action, through activities like gardening, recycling projects, and eco-workshops. Students learn that their choices matter, and, by doing this, schools can also nurture leadership, responsibility, and awareness."



QBG develops unique mudball for FIFA Arab Cup 2025

The Qur'anic Botanic Garden (QBG), a member of Hamad Bin Khalifa University, has developed a unique mudball to commemorate the FIFA Arab Cup 2025 taking place in Qatar from December 1-18.

This initiative aligns with the QBG's mission to highlight Qatar's natural environment and deepen public engagement with nature through creative experiences that blend heritage with environmental awareness.

QBG partnered with the design company taking the opportunity to showcase Qatar's reputation for innovation, excellence, and sustainable practice.

Beyond the technical aspects, the project offers a distinctive environmental experience. Each fan receives a clay ball they can plant in their garden or personal pot. As the ball naturally dissolves in water, the basil seeds inside begin to sprout, creating a vibrant connection that extends beyond the tournament.

Fatima Saleh al-Khulaifi, director, QBG, said: "This project embodies the vision and mission of

QBG. Our contribution to developing the mudball is not simply an artistic endeavour, it is a message to the world that Qatar's environment carries a heritage that can be creatively and compellingly reimagined. This initiative also reflects QBG's role in preserving plant resources, raising environmental awareness, and offering models that connect society with nature within the context of a major international sporting event."

Mohamed Hassona, horticulturist at QBG, and lead developer of the mudball, added: "The primary challenge was the ball weight, as clay is naturally heavy and unsuitable for general handling. Also, maintaining the seed viability during the shaping process, which required precise moisture control and drying techniques to ensure it remained capable of germination without affecting the ball's structure posed a challenge. To overcome these, we used modern materials such as biochar, various lightweight fibrous soils, and Qatari clay to produce one of the lightest clay balls used in planting applications."

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ملبكات جبنة بوك ١٢٠ جم x ٥ حبة
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WAS QR 18
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أمريكا نفايق دجاج ٣٠٠ جم x ٦ حبة
Americana Chicken Franks 300 gm x 6 pcs

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WAS QR 18
QR 15

جورمية ستريپس دجاج حار
Gourmet Chicken Strips Spicy /Regular 750 gm x 1 pc

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WAS QR 13
QR 10

ساديا دجاج شواية ١٣٠٠ جم
Sadia Chicken Griller 1300 gm

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QR 10

بيتزا دجاج نكا ١ حبة
Chicken Tikka Pizza 1 pc

WOW

WAS QR 20
QR 10

بابارا مكسرات عربية مشكيلة ٣٠٠ جم x ٢ حبة
Bayara Arsttd. Nuts 300 gm x 2 pcs

WOW

WAS QR 20
QR 15

سيفين سوان ارز الياسمين ٥ كجم
Seven Swans Jasmine Rice 5 kg

WOW

WAS QR 26
QR 20

عافية زيت دوار الشمس ١.٥ لتر x ٢ حبة
Afia Sunflower Oil 1.5 Ltr x 2 pcs

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WAS QR 42
QR 30

تايد مسحوق غسيل ٢.٥ كجم x ٢ حبة
Tide Detergent Powder 2.5 kg x 2 pcs

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WAS QR 40
QR 30

كاجو بالقشرة ٨٠٠ جم
Cashew With Skin 800 gm

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WAS QR 40
QR 30

لوز سادة (٣٠/٢٧) ١ كجم
Almond Plain (27/30) 1 kg

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