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SPORT | Page 4

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# Amir inaugurates Doha Forum 2025



## Amir calls for concerted efforts to promote peace

QNA  
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani inaugurated the 23rd edition of the Doha Forum 2025, held under the theme “Justice in Action: Beyond Promises to Progress” at the Sheraton Doha Hotel yesterday.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of heads of state and government, and chiefs of regional and international organisations.

The ceremony was also attended by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah

al-Ghanem, a number of ministers, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Qatar, and forum guests.

During the ceremony, His Highness the Amir presented the Doha Forum Award to Alex Thier and Saad Mohseni, recognising their contributions to supporting children's education in Palestine and Afghanistan, in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani delivered a speech on the occasion.

Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, also delivered a keynote address on this occasion.

His Highness the Amir affirmed that this year's Doha Forum is held amid regional and international

circumstances that require the concerted efforts of all to reduce tensions and support peace and sustainability in the region and the world.

His Highness said, in a post on his official account on X, that this year's Doha Forum is held amid regional and international circumstances that require the concerted efforts of all to reduce tensions

and support peace and sustainability in the region and the world, by consolidating justice, promoting human development, and upholding the principles of peaceful solutions to various conflicts.

His Highness the Amir wished the forum's guests success and prosperity, and welcomed them to Qatar. **Pages 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 Business Pages 1, 2, 3**

## Amir meets heads of state and government attending Doha Forum

QNA  
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met at the Sheraton Doha Hotel yesterday with several heads of state and government from brotherly and friendly nations participating in the Doha Forum 2025.

His Highness met separately with President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Ahmed al-Sharaa; President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud; and President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mohamed Ould Cheikh Ghazouani.

His Highness the Amir also met with President of the Republic of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama and Prime Minister of the Lebanese Republic, Dr Nawaf Salam. **To Page 12**



His Highness the Amir presented the Doha Forum Award to Alex Thier and Saad Mohseni, recognising their contributions to supporting children's education in Palestine and Afghanistan, in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation.



## Amir receives Bill Gates



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, received yesterday Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, on the occasion of his visit to the country to participate in the Doha Forum 2025, currently underway at the Sheraton Doha Hotel. During the meeting, they reviewed prospects for developing co-operation and discussed a host of topics of mutual interest, particularly those on the forum's agenda. (QNA)

# The world does not need more promises but rather justice: PM

QNA  
Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani affirmed that Qatar believes that justice is not merely a political aspiration, but a fundamental pillar for safeguarding international peace and entrenching stability.

In his address at the opening session of the 23rd edition of the Doha Forum 2025, held yesterday, His Excellency stated that Qatar's policies are driven by a conviction that words must be matched by actions, that principles must guide practice, and that the country's international responsibilities must be upheld impartially and in service of humanity and human dignity.

He added that, in line with this approach, Qatar continues to play an active mediating role-one of the cornerstones of its foreign policy-by initiating channels of dialogue, providing credible negotiation plat-



HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani speaking at the opening session of Doha Forum yesterday.

in achieving peace, demonstrate that mediation is neither a political luxury nor a utilitarian choice for Qatar, but a deeply rooted doctrine pursued with sincerity-grounded in the belief that genuine peacebuilding begins with inclusion rather than exclusion, and through expanding common ground rather than deepening division.

He emphasised that this approach was clearly reflected in the achievement reached on Friday, as Qatar, in co-operation with its partners Norway, Spain, and Switzerland, succeeded in securing a significant breakthrough between the Government of Colombia and the self-designated “EGC” group. The agreement, he noted, offers a genuine opportunity to enhance the safety and dignity of Colombians and to provide conflict-affected communities with a tangible glimmer of hope after years of violence. **To Page 12**

**PM: Regional stability integral to Qatar's security → Page 2**

## Action-packed day for Qatar

• Doha Forum, FIFA Arab Cup, Arabian Horse Championship draw global attention

By Kamran Rehmat  
Doha

It was a big day for Qatar yesterday with the world's attention riveted to an action-packed day in Doha. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani inaugurated the prestigious Doha Forum, which has evolved into one of the Middle East's most influential platforms for global policy dialogue, bringing together heads of state, diplomats, thinkers and innovators to debate the world's most urgent challenges. Its significance lies in the way it blends high-level geopolitics with forward-looking conversations on development, mediation, technology and climate – positioning Qatar not just as a host, but as an active convener of ideas and solutions. By consistently attracting international heavyweights and facilitating frank, outcome-oriented discussions, the forum embellishes Qatar's global image as a constructive, intellectually engaged and diplomatically agile state on the world stage. The interviews with HE Sheikhha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani

and Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa were the day's highlights as was Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates making his presence felt at the forum. The ongoing FIFA Arab Cup also showcases the country's organisational capability and hospitality to a regional and global audience, strengthening Qatar's soft power and reinforcing its image as a confident, world-class host of major sporting events. Culturally, the tournament revives a pan-Arab football tradition after a long hiatus, giving Qatar an additional role in fostering regional unity through sport. Rounding off the day was the successful conclusion of the 2025 World Arabian Horse Championship at the picturesque Old Doha Port. The two-day event – which took place for the first time outside France in more than four decades – attracted around 70 horses from 10 countries. The entries featured at the Doha championship followed qualification rounds held across Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. The Doha tournament was organised by Katara Cultural Village in partnership with the National Centre for Agricultural Exhibitions and Competitions (CENECA) in France.





# PM says regional stability is integral to Qatar's security

QNA  
Doha

**H**E the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has affirmed that Qatar is committed to the stability of the region, seeing it as an essential component of its own national security. He cautioned, however, that Qatar does not aspire to project power through military means, but rather through diplomacy, investment, and strategic partnerships — an approach he described as Qatar's defining contribution in this field.

Speaking in a session titled "Mediation in a Fragmented World" during the Doha Forum 2025, HE Sheikh Mohammed noted that Qatar works to resolve conflicts through mediation in an increasingly fractured international landscape. He stressed that Qatar consistently seeks to keep channels of communication open with all parties and refrains from taking sides, because without such openness, no dispute can be meaningfully resolved. He added that all progress achieved by Qatar in this sphere since 2013 has stemmed from its engagement with every stakeholder.

He explained that mediation inherently involves stepping in to help resolve disputes between two parties or among several states —



something he described as natural practice in international relations. He lamented, however, that divisions within the region often arise among states and factions alike, and for that reason Qatar keeps its lines of communication active with all sides to find solutions acceptable to everyone — an approach that has repeatedly proven effective over the years.

Responding to a question, he pointed to Qatar's success in mediating between the US and the Taliban in Afghanistan, noting that Doha facilitated the talks and invested sustained, long-term efforts spanning more than seven

years to help achieve the desired outcome and move both sides towards peace.

HE Sheikh Mohammed also underscored that Qatar's achievements from 2023 onward in efforts related to peace in Gaza — culminating in the 2025 peace agreement — were made possible only because it engaged with every relevant actor. Despite this, he noted, Qatar continues to face politically motivated criticism for hosting Hamas. He reiterated that Qatar does not support any particular side, but rather provides a neutral platform to keep dialogue going so that negotiations can produce

constructive outcomes that alleviate human suffering.

In a related context, he explained that each conflict has its own unique dynamics; therefore, mediation between the US and Afghanistan cannot be equated with mediation between Israel and Hamas. He emphasised that a major challenge in the latter case was that the US, as one of the mediators, initially engaged only with the Israeli side. Once Washington began speaking with both sides, he said, this shift enabled meaningful progress toward securing the Gaza ceasefire. He added that the ceasefire cannot be regarded

as fully in effect unless Israeli forces withdraw entirely, stability is restored in Gaza, and people can move in and out of the territory without obstruction.

HE the Prime Minister stressed that the conflict extends beyond Gaza and encompasses the West Bank as well as the Palestinian people's aspirations for statehood. He expressed hope that the Israeli government will co-operate toward realising these aspirations.

"We are at a decisive moment with respect to the Gaza ceasefire," he observed, noting that mediators are currently working together on the second phase of the agreement, which he described as another interim step. He added that Qatar, Turkiye, Egypt and the US are jointly shaping the trajectory of this next phase.

He underscored the importance of addressing the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — an endeavour that must go beyond ending the catastrophe in Gaza to include the situation in the West Bank and the fulfilment of Palestinian national aspirations. He voiced hope that co-operation with the US administration would ultimately make this vision attainable, while acknowledging that the road ahead is difficult. He cautioned that significant challenges and political attacks lie ahead, but stressed Qatar's determination to press forward until a durable solution is secured — one that ensures justice for both peoples, both

within the ceasefire framework and in the broader 20-point plan.

He continued by noting that the experience of the past two years has made one reality unmistakable: without accountability and enforcement, conditions on the ground remain unchanged, leaving societies vulnerable to extremist agendas — precisely the outcome Qatar and its partners seek to prevent. He added that the collective efforts invested in reaching the ceasefire were essential not only to conclude the first phase but also to lay the foundations for stability in the second phase, while the third phase must ultimately establish a Palestinian state.

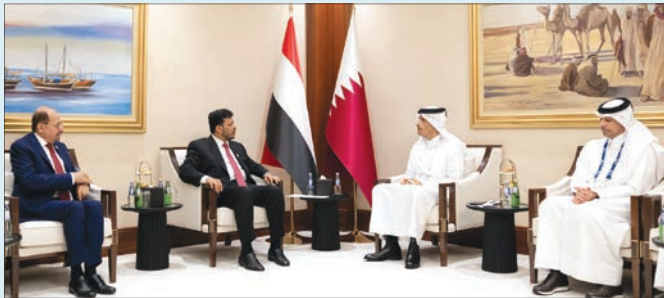
HE Sheikh Mohammed warned that should extremist agendas prevail over the concerted efforts of the international community, it would signal a structural failure in the very framework through which global actors are attempting to resolve the conflict. He expressed his belief that the US has a central role to play, bearing responsibility for ensuring compliance and guiding the process onto the right track.

In response to a question, he emphasised the importance of building negotiations on the basis of shared interests among the parties to the conflict, as this is essential for achieving peace and stability. He also highlighted the key role of economic diplomacy in fostering prosperity and economic growth alongside political progress.

## PM holds meetings on the sidelines of Doha Forum



**...with Lebanese prime minister:** HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Nawaf Salam on the sidelines of the 23rd Doha Forum 2025. The meeting discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and develop them, and exchanged views on the topics included in the forum's agenda, besides topics of common interest. (QNA)



**...with VP of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council:** HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Vice-President of the Yemeni Presidential Council Dr Abdullah al-Alimi. Held on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025, the meeting discussed the countries' co-operation, and ways to develop them. The two sides also exchanged viewpoints on topics on the forum's agenda and a host of topics of mutual interest. (QNA)



**...with Nigerian, Bosnian FMs:** HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani yesterday met separately with Nigerian Foreign Minister Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, and Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina Elmedin Konakovic (below). During the meetings, co-operation relations and ways to support and develop them were reviewed, and views were exchanged on the topics on the forum's agenda, in addition to topics of common interest. (QNA)



**... with FMs of Turkiye, Egypt, Spain, Greece, Cyprus and EU official:** HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani yesterday met separately with Turkish Foreign Minister Turkiye Hakan Fidan; Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs Dr Badr Abdelatty; Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Co-operation Jose Manuel Alvarez; Greek Foreign Minister Georgios Gerapetritis; Cypriot Foreign Minister Dr Constantinos Kombos; and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas. The meetings on the sidelines of the 23rd Doha Forum 2025 discussed co-operation relations and ways to support and develop them, and exchanged views on the topics on the forum's agenda, besides topics of common interest. (QNA)



**...with teams from French, British parliaments and Jersey govt:** HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, met yesterday with a French parliamentary delegation, which included Deputy Estelle Youssouffa, Deputy Laurent Mazure, Deputy Romain Daubie, Deputy Belkhir Belhaddad, Deputy Vincent Eble, Deputy Jean Nocquet, Deputy Helene Conway-Mouret and Deputy Edwige Diaz. The meeting took place during the 23rd iteration of the Doha Forum 2025 deliberations. HE Sheikh Mohammed also met with a delegation from the UK Parliament, which included MP John Grady, MP Alex Ballinger, MP Dan Carden, MP Sir John Whittingdale, MP Uma Kumaran, MP Florence Eshalomi, MP Melanie Ward, MP Sarah Champion, MP Sir Andrew Mitchell, and MP Marsha De Cordova on the sidelines of the forum. In addition, he met with a delegation from the Government of Jersey (a British Crown dependency), headed by Minister for External Relations Deputy Ian Gorst, Vice-Admiral Sir Jeremy Kyd, Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, Joe Moynihan, CEO of Jersey Finance, Principal External Relations Officer Joe Pinfold, and Chief of Staff to the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, Major Justin Aldridge. Discussions during the meetings focused on bilateral co-operation and ways to support and advance it. They also shared viewpoints on the forum's agenda and a variety of subjects of shared interest. (QNA)



## Amir congratulates Finland 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 Finland President Alexander Stubb on the anniversary of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable of congratulations to Prime Minister of Finland Petteri Orpo on the occasion. (QNA)

# Aspetar delivers world-class care as official medical partner for FIFA Arab Cup

Aspetar, Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, is providing comprehensive medical services throughout the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025, currently taking place in Doha.

As the tournament's official medical partner, Aspetar reaffirms its commitment to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all participants.

From the opening whistle, Aspetar has worked closely with local partners to deliver exceptional medical coverage for the event. This includes fully equipped clinics at stadiums and team accommodations, supported by elite sports medicine physicians and therapists to guarantee rapid response whenever needed.

In a press statement, Khalid Ali al-Mawlawi, acting director general of Aspetar, said: "Our global expertise in sports medicine is dedicated to supporting this prestigious tournament. Over the years, Aspetar has established itself as an international reference for specialised athlete care, thanks to our highly qualified medical teams and cutting-edge technologies that ensure the highest standards of safety and health."

Aspetar's support extends beyond participating teams to include referees, offering massage and therapy services to maintain peak physical readiness. The hospital has also assigned doctors,



Khalid Ali al-Mawlawi



Dr Khalid al-Khalifi

physiotherapists, and rehabilitation specialists to several teams based on their needs.

Aspetar is the official medical partner for the national teams of Algeria and Iraq, while also supporting the Palestinian team's medical staff with a dedicated physician.

Dr Khalid al-Khalifi, tournament CMO and Aspetar surgeon, said: "Our proximity to the venues ensures a safe environment and rapid response. We work together with emergency and ambulance services from Hamad Medical Corporation. Our experience in covering major tournaments makes the job easier, but the challenge is always to raise the bar and deliver better coverage than ever before."

Aspetar is also currently welcoming several Arab football stars – both participants and those sidelined by injury – for treatment and consultations,

reinforcing its status as a global destination for athletes seeking world-class care.

Aspetar's reputation for excellence has earned the trust of teams worldwide, with many relying on its services for medical screenings, consultations, and treatment.

FIFA officials lauded Aspetar's medical coverage as "the best in the history of World Cup tournaments in terms of organisation and readiness," a testament to the hospital's expertise in managing major sporting events.

Aspetar continues to lead globally by delivering evidence-based medical services, upholding the highest standards in a safe and world-class environment. Patient safety and confidentiality remain top priorities, reflecting the hospital's philosophy of combining medical excellence with responsibility towards the sporting community.



Safari Group officials at the press conference.

## Safari to open seventh hypermarket at Ezdan Mall, Gharafa on December 10

Safari Hypermarket, which has been scripting a remarkable success story in Qatar for the past two decades, will open its newest outlet at Ezdan Mall in Gharafa on December 10.

The Safari Group, which launched its first Safari Hypermarket on Salwa Road on May 5, 2005, is an organisation that was born and nurtured in Qatar itself.

The opening of this new outlet at Ezdan Mall in Gharafa marks a significant milestone in Safari's growth. With its upcoming inauguration, Safari Hypermarket assures customers in Gharafa, Umm Salal Mohammed, and nearby areas of an outstanding shopping experience.

Safari Group deputy chairman and managing director, Zainul Abideen, stated at a press conference, that the company is extremely happy to extend its services to more people through this new outlet. Safari Group chairman Hamad Dhafer al-Ahbab and general manager Surendra Nath, regional director – Operations and Planning Biju Kasim, and assistant general manager – Public Relations Tamer El Said, were also present at the press conference.

This is the first time Safari is opening an outlet inside another shopping mall. Ezdan Mall in Gharafa, spread across 35,000sq

m, is among the largest malls in Qatar and provides parking facilities for more than 2,000 vehicles, including basement parking. The addition of Safari Hypermarket offering top quality products at minimal cost will serve as an added highlight of Ezdan Mall.

On the same day as the inauguration of Safari Hypermarket, the ninth branch of Safari Mobile Shop and the 8th branch of Europe Travels will also be inaugurated at Ezdan Mall, Gharaffa.

Having earned a place in people's minds by offering customers their preferred brands and models of mobile phones and other accessories at huge discounts, Safari Mobile Shop is presenting massive offers and price reductions on the opening day. In addition, Europe Travels, which provides travel services including tour packages, visas, ticketing, and more, will also begin operations at Ezdan Mall along with Safari Hypermarket.

The inauguration of this outlet has been planned on a grand scale with a wide range of events and promotions. When this state-of-the-art outlet, equipped with modern facilities, is officially inaugurated on December 10, it will clearly reflect Safari's commitment to its customers and its customer-focused approach.

As part of the new outlet's in-

auguration, Safari has arranged two mega raffle draw promotions. Under the Visit and Win promotion, anyone who visits Safari Hypermarket at Ezdan Mall will receive a coupon without making any purchase, and two Tesla Model Y cars will be awarded through the raffle draw. This is the first time in Qatar that two Tesla vehicles are being given away through a mega raffle draw in which anyone can receive a free coupon without a purchase. The first draw will be held on January 8, 2026 and the second draw on February 19, 2026 at Safari Hypermarket in Ezdan Mall.

In addition, Safari's latest mega promotion, offering thirty Bestune cars, will also begin. For every purchase of QR50 from any Safari outlet, customers will receive an e-affle coupon, through which 30 Bestune cars will be awarded.

Four Bestune cars will be given away in each draw, and five in the final draw. This Shop and Win promotion will be available across all Safari outlets. The first draw will take place on January 5, 2026, and the final draw on September 13, 2026.

This new Safari outlet promises to deliver a fresh experience to customers. A wide range of categories has been designed to meet all the needs of a family under one roof.

## UDST marks Qatar National Day, unveils Success Story book



University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) celebrated Qatar National Day with an on-campus event that brought together students, faculty members and staff to honour the nation's rich heritage and values.

The event took place in the presence of HE Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Naimi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education; Dr Mohammed Yousef al-Mulla, vice-chair of the Board of Trustees, and managing director and CEO of Qatar Petrochemical Company; Dr Abdulatif al-Khal, deputy chief medical officer and director of medical education at Hamad Medical Corporation; and Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST.

As part of the celebration, UDST Success Story book was officially launched which traces the history of UDST, from the leadership's visionary decision to establish Qatar's first applied university to the remarkable achievements the institution celebrates today.

The book also highlights inspirational stories and university milestones from students, alumni

and faculty members, showcasing academic excellence, innovation projects, community engagement initiatives and professional achievements, and reflecting the university's role in shaping highly skilled graduates who support Qatar's development.

Complementing the book, a curated exhibition brought the "Success Story" theme to life, offering visitors an immersive journey through UDST's institutional milestones and achievements. Dr Salem Al-Naemi, said: "Qatar National Day is a moment to celebrate how far our country has come and to renew our commitment to the values of unity, resilience and progress. In it, we reaffirm our promise to the values of unity, resilience, and progress under our wise leadership, led by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani."

He added: "We are proud to launch UDST Success Story and to feature an opening word from Her Excellency Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir, Minister of Education and Higher Education in this book, and we are

equally honoured by the way she describes UDST. Through the launch of this publication, we aim to document a story that will endure for generations to come. At UDST, we see this day as an opportunity not only to honour our national heritage, but also to recognise the achievements of our students, alumni and partners who contribute to Qatar's ongoing success."

The event also featured a special segment dedicated to UDST's champions who excelled at the 10th World Inter Universities Championships in Barcelona. The University's Wolves teams, who earned multiple medals in swimming and badminton, were recognised on stage for their outstanding performance and their contribution to raising Qatar's profile in international university sports.

The celebration further featured a variety of cultural and educational segments, including student performances, screenings of Qatari-made films, and booths dedicated to showcasing Qatar's heritage and identity, in addition to a traditional Qatari food corner.

## Qatar, Oman review national green building initiatives

Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman reviewed their national programmes in the field of green buildings, along with the efforts made to preserve ecosystems and enhance sustainability pathways.

This came during the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's hosting of an official delegation from the Environment Authority of the Sultanate of Oman, as part of a visit during which the delegation was briefed on a number of national programmes and initiatives related to environmental sustainability. During the visit programme, the Omani delegation learned about a range of practical experiences and field initiatives through tours that included the "Msheireb – Heart of Doha" project, the Qatar National Library. The delegation also paid a visit to Qatar General Electricity and Water Corp (Kahramaa) and the Ministry of Municipality's waste treatment centre. (QNA)



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 <b>1<sup>st</sup> RUNNER UP</b> Tariro Dorcas Matibiri	 <b>1<sup>st</sup> RUNNER UP</b> Maria Alessandra B. Endaya Philippine International School Qatar.	 <b>1<sup>st</sup> RUNNER UP</b> Cinderella Williams	 <b>1<sup>st</sup> RUNNER UP</b> Sophia Rae D. Jamantoc Philippine International School Qatar.
 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RUNNER UP</b> Roshan Sukheja	 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RUNNER UP</b> Aaron Sudheedran DPS Modern Indian School	 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RUNNER UP</b> Sebastian Mascarenhas	 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> RUNNER UP</b> Mirudula Vijay Anand Loyola International School
<b>AUDIENCE POLL WINNER</b> ROSHAN SUKHEJA	<b>AUDIENCE POLL WINNER</b> MARIA ALESSANDRIA B. ENDAYA	<b>AUDIENCE POLL WINNER</b> MAHMOUD REDA	<b>AUDIENCE POLL WINNER</b> SANJEEV SUNDARAJ





Ooredoo in pact with Apex Health for Doha Marathon 2026

Ooredoo has officially signed a sponsorship agreement with Apex Health, a subsidiary of Estithmar Holding and the fastest-growing healthcare company in the Mena region, marking a strategic partnership for the highly anticipated Doha Marathon by Ooredoo 2026. The signing ceremony took place at Ooredoo Headquarters 2 in Doha, in the presence of Sabah Rabiah al-Kuwari, vice-chairman of the Doha Marathon Organising Committee at Ooredoo Qatar, and Bob Issa, Group Chief Marketing officer at Apex Health.



Media City Qatar, QLC jointly host Independent Media workshop

Media City Qatar in collaboration with Qatar Leadership Centre (QLC) jointly hosted the Independent Media Initiative workshop, delivered by US-based media institutions Al Monitor and Semafor. The workshop reflected shared commitment of both QLC and Media City Qatar's to nurturing a dynamic media ecosystem in Qatar and equipping emerging leaders with practical skills in communication, media literacy, and storytelling. Over three days, senior instructors from Al Monitor and Semafor brought together QLC participants for sessions on core journalism skills. Director of Business Development at Media City Qatar, Thair Khaled al-Anani, said: "Our collaboration in this workshop

aligns with one of Media City Qatar's core mandates: developing the national talent pool and empowering emerging journalists in Qatar with the skills, standards, and mindset required to practice truly independent, high-quality journalism. This includes direct access to world-class editors, hands-on reporting techniques, and an international professional international networks." (QNA)



QPMC, Qatar Steel in pact to recycle construction waste

Qatar Primary Materials Company (QPMC, 'Al-Awaliya') signed a co-operation agreement with Qatar Steel to recycle iron and steel extracted from construction and demolition waste at the Rawdat Rashed site.

The initiative aims to reinforce Qatar's commitment towards a circular economy and sustainability in the construction sector.

This collaboration is part of QPMC's continuous efforts to develop an integrated national system for managing and recycling construction waste, transforming it into sustainable economic resources. Through the sorting and processing operations carried out at the Rawdat Rashed site, valuable metals, primarily iron, are extracted. These materials will be transported and processed at Qatar Steel's facilities for recycling and re-introduction into the industrial production cycles.

Qatar Steel plays a key role in this agreement as the specialised industrial partner for melting and reprocessing steel, closing the production loop within the circular economy framework.

Leveraging its more than 50 years of experience in the iron and steel industry, the company will convert the recycled steel into finished products for use in future national projects. This process will reduce the need for importing raw materials and



Signing ceremony between QPMC and Qatar Steel.

enhance reliance on local resources. Both parties agree that this partnership represents a new stage of national integration between the industrial and operational sectors. It reflects commitment by both companies to the achievement of the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030 by reducing waste, and promoting a culture of

recycling. QPMC CEO Abdulaziz Ibrahim al-Tamimi said: "At QPMC, we believe that transforming waste into resources is not merely an environmental choice, but a long-term national investment that reduces environmental burdens and supports the country's major projects. "Through our partner-

ship with Qatar Steel, we are taking an additional step towards achieving national industrial integration. The iron derived from construction waste will be recycled within the state, which contributes to reducing dependence on external imports and reinforces Qatar's leadership in sustainable solutions within the construction sector."

Qatar Steel CEO and managing director Abdulrahman Ali al-Abdulla said: "Our partnership with QPMC serves as tangible evidence of our commitment and as a model for implementing the circular economy concept within the industrial sector, where we convert iron and steel waste into new, high-quality products that are incorporated into the nation's infrastructure and construction projects"

## الهلال الأحمر القطري

### Qatar Red Crescent

#### Qatar Red Crescent – Medical Affairs Division

Tenders Announcement: -

Sr. #	Tender No.	Description	Temporary Tender Bond	Documents Fees (Non-Refundable)	Closing Date
1	QRC/WHC/21-2025	Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Hematology Laboratory Equipment: Centrifuges, Optical Microscopes, and Laboratory Shaker Mixers	9,000 Q.R	500 Q.R	21-12-2025

The documents can be collected from Medical Affairs Division, Ain Khalid Area, Sunday to Thursday from 07:00 am to 01:00 pm till the closing date or by sending email along with the requested documents below.

**Required Documents:**

- 1.Authorization letter to receive tender documents + ID copy of the person will be receiving the documents.
- 2.Company's Commercial registration copy.
- 3.Bank deposit voucher with the value of documents (500 QR) not refunded & account details:

- Account Name: Qatar Red Crescent.
- Bank: Al Rayan.
- Account Number: 0011199970200
- IBAN Number: QA83MAFR00000000011199970200

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

'Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality' completes Qatar's Unesco network

The Ministry of Municipality announced on Friday that 'Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality' has joined the Unesco Learning Cities Network, thus completing the membership of all Qatari municipalities in this global network.

The step is considered a national achievement that enhances the country's position on the map of lifelong learning and highlights its leadership in the fields of human and sustainable development.

In a statement, the ministry affirmed that this joining is the culmination of Qatar's efforts to establish the concept of a learning society and promote the principles of sustainability through initiatives that support innovation, community participation, and improving the quality of life.

The ministry explained that this achievement is the result of co-operation between the Ministry, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, and other relevant national institutions, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030's commitment to establishing a lifelong learning methodology.

The statement noted that Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality's membership in the Learning Cities Network was granted after they met Unesco's established criteria by adopting a comprehensive methodology for disseminating sustainable development concepts and activating local community participation in development and educational programmes. This reflects the municipality's commitment to supporting human development capable of building a productive and participatory knowledge society. She explained that the completion of membership for all Qatari municipalities in the Learning Cities Network underscores the commitment to building an inclusive educational environment that provides lifelong learning opportunities for all members of society. It also strengthens international partnerships that support human development and solidifies Qatar's position as a leading country in developing sustainable cities and learning communities.

The Learning Cities Network is a global platform that includes leading cities working to develop innovative educational and community programmes. This will contribute to supporting Al Khor and Al Thakhira Municipality's initiatives and expanding the scope of projects that promote knowledge among others. (QNA)

## INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
QF-RFQ-1080	Provision of certification services on accredited management systems for Qatar Foundation on call-off basis for 3 years with option to extend for one (1) more year	500.00	N/A	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-1090	Data Lifecycle Management for Qatar Foundation	500.00	N/A	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, 2:00 PM
QNL-RFQ-48	Design and Production of Motion Graphics and 2D Animation Videos on Qatari History for QNL	500.00	N/A	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, 2:00 PM
QNL-RFQ-47	Supply of All-in-One Desktop PCs for QNL	1,000.00	N/A	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, 2:00 PM
QF-RFQ-1097	PR and Communications Agency for QSTP	500.00	N/A	7 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, 2:00 PM

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

- 1) **Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender(s). Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.  
**Tender Fee:** Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link <https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.  
All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.  
**Tender Fee Payment Dates:** Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **7<sup>th</sup> December until 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**.
- 2) All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- 3) Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.
  - The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
  - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
  - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
  - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

**Note:** All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link: <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration>

## QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY

### INVITATION TO TENDER

#### QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ 6000004426	TRAINING AGENT TO SUPPORT QAFCO	500/- (Non-refundable)	291,000 /- (two hundred ninety-one thousand Qatari Riyals)	7-12-2025 8-12-2025 9-12-2025 10-12-2025 11-12-2025 14-12-2025 15-12-2025	28/12/2025

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
  - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
  - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
  - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA00000000013025828058**
  - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to [purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa) on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable) and to [jsaade@qafco.com.qa](mailto:jsaade@qafco.com.qa).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the submission Tender Fee receipt at the QAFCO Housing Section, you may contact at 'purchase@qafco.com.qa' or on 44227793.
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.

The Tender shall be strictly submitted using the QAFCO's Supply Chain Portal – SAP / Ariba, on or before the "Tender Closing Date". Tenderers who fail to adhere to this requirement will result in the disqualification of their Tender.

## Qatar Chemical Company Limited

Al Dafna – Amwal Tower – First Floor  
P.O. 24646 Doha / Qatar – Tel. 44847111 – Fax 44847695  
Website: [www.qchem.com.qa](http://www.qchem.com.qa)

### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDERS

No.	Document No.	Description	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1.	QC/TC/SEC/125/25	Outsourcing of Security Personnel for Five Years	QR 955,500/-	15:00 hrs. on 04 <sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Brief Scope:**  
The Company requires services from an MOI-approved, experienced Contractor to supply 24/7 Security Personnel, along with all materials and tools needed to secure Company premises and administer the plans and procedures as directed by the Site Security Supervisors in each location for Q-Chem, Q-Chem II, RLOC and RLP at Mesaieed and Ras Laffan Industrial Cities.

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

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

**B. Date and Time of Tender documents Issuance via email**  
Tender documents issuance from **7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 8am-12noon**

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

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



# QIIB launches QND financing offer

QIIB, in celebration of Qatar National Day, has announced the launch of a special financing offer that allows customers to benefit from a competitive profit rate starting at 3.99%, along with the chance to enter a draw to win one of 30 free travel packages for two from Qatar Holidays to selected destinations around the world.

The offer, valid from December 1-31, 2025, covers all types of financing provided by the bank, including real estate, personal, and vehicle financing.

It is open to both existing customers and new clients who choose to transfer their salaries and financial obligations to QIIB in order to benefit from this promotion.

As part of the promotion, any financing amount above QR10,000 qualifies for entry into the draw.

Customers will receive one entry for every QR10,000 of the original net financing amount.

Thirty winners will be selected, each receiving a full travel package for two, including round-trip tickets and hotel accommodation for three or four nights, depending on the selected destination.

QIIB head of Business Development Sector Khalid Abdulrahman al-Shaibi (*pictured*) stated: "We are pleased to join our customers in celebrating Qatar National Day by launching an exceptional financing offer that combines competitive financing benefits with the opportunity to win exciting travel packages from Qatar Holidays."

"We have ensured that this offer is inclusive, catering to all segments, whether our existing customers or new clients looking to transfer their salaries and financial commitments to QIIB, so that everyone can take advantage of a promotion that meets their financing needs and travel aspirations," he said.

Customers can easily apply for the Qatar National Day financing offer through QIIB's mobile banking app or Internet banking for personal financing, or by visiting any QIIB branch to apply for real estate or vehicle financing.



# Al-Muraikhi meets Uruguay foreign minister, Panama deputy minister



HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi met yesterday with Uruguay's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mario Lubetkin, on the margin of the Doha Forum 2025. HE al-Muraikhi also met yesterday with Panama's Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Hoyos on the sidelines of the Doha Forum. Discussion during the meetings dealt with co-operation and relations between the countries and ways to bolster them, in addition to a host of topics of mutual interest. -QNA

# Qatar International Art Festival opens

The Qatar International Art Festival (QIAF) 2025, one of the region's largest and most influential multicultural art gatherings, is set to open today at Katara Cultural Village, bringing together more than 500 artists from over 70 countries.

Now in its 7th edition, the QIAF continues its legacy as a vibrant global platform celebrating creativity, cultural diplomacy, and artistic innovation.

This year's edition of the event will also welcome a delegation of 100 artists from Argentina and Chile, marking a special highlight in celebration of the Cultural Year of Argentina and Chile in Qatar.

Under the theme *Sustainability & Innovation in Art*, the QIAF 2025 explores the evolving intersection of creativity, environmental consciousness, and modern artistic expression.

Over six days on December 7-12, the festival will host 15 curated events, including master exhibitions, live painting, panel discussions, artistic fashion showcases, workshops, cultural networking evenings, an art conference, and a grand award ceremony.

The festival is organised by MAPS International WLL in strategic partnership with Katara, whose continued support has played a defining role in shaping the QIAF into a global art movement.

Katara general manager Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti will inaugurate the festival in the presence of distinguished artists, diplomats, cultural leaders, and international delegates.

QIAF founder and chief executive Rashmi Agarwal, who is also the president of MAPS International WLL, said: "The QIAF 2025 is more than a festival - it is a living tapestry of cultures, stories, and artistic voices coming together in harmony."

"Our theme this year emphasises the responsibility we share as artists and cultural leaders to



reimagine the future through creativity, sustainability, and innovation," he said. "We are honoured to welcome global participants who make this festival a beacon for unity and artistic excellence."

Reflecting Qatar's growing role as a cultural hub and international arts destination, the QIAF 2025 aims to foster meaningful exchanges between artists and audiences, promote cross-cultural understanding, and strengthen the country's creative ecosystem.

The festival will take place at the Katara Hall, Building 12 and surrounding venues.

All events are open to the public, inviting residents and visitors of Qatar to immerse themselves in a world of creativity, culture, and global artistic exchange.

# MoFA secretary-general meets Irish delegation, Bangladeshi counterpart



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with a delegation from Ireland headed by lawmaker James O'Connor, who is also chairman of the Business and Trade Committee in the Irish parliament, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025. HE Dr al-Hammadi also met yesterday with the secretary-general of the Bangladesh ministry of foreign affairs, Asad Alam Siam, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum. The meetings dealt with discussing bilateral co-operation between the countries and the means to enhance it, in addition to issues of joint interest. -QNA



# International Symposium on Translation and Artificial Intelligence on Tuesday

The Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding will hold an international symposium on "Translation and Artificial Intelligence" on Tuesday morning, featuring experts and specialists from Qatar and several Arab countries to discuss the challenges posed by artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of translation.

The symposium forms part of the cultural programme accompanying the an-

nouncement and honouring of the winners of the 11th Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding, scheduled for the same evening.

The event will feature three main presentations.

The first, titled "Smart Tools and Open-Source Lexical Resources for Translation and Arabisation", will be delivered by Dr Mustafa Jarrar, professor of AI at Hamad Bin Khalifa University and director of the

Ibn Sina Laboratory for Language Processing and AI at both Hamad Bin Khalifa University and Birzeit University in Palestine.

The second presentation, on "Translation and Artificial Intelligence: Knowledge and Academic Gaps in the Arab Context", will be given by Dr Ghassan Mourad, researcher in language computation, AI, and digital media at the Lebanese University.

The third presentation, on "Artificial Intelligence and the Art of Translation:

Identity of Meaning or Struggle of Wills", will be delivered by Tunisian translator and researcher Abdelhaq Azmouri, director-general of Ab'ad Centre for Futures Studies in Washington.

As part of the cultural programme accompanying the award ceremony, two closed workshops will also be held on "Recommendations to Support Translation between Arabic and Each of German and Albanian". - QNA

# CONDOLENCES

The Management and Staff of



extend their heartfelt condolences  
to the family of

**Mr. KAMPANI VIRENDRA AMRITLAL**

on the sad demise of his beloved wife



**JAYSHREE VIRENDRA KAMPANI**

May God rest the departed soul in peace and give  
fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this great loss.

# Qatar hosts meeting of FIG Trampoline Technical Committee

Reinforcing its status as a leading global sports hub, the Qatar Gymnastics Federation is hosting the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) Trampoline Technical Committee meeting on December 4-9, with the participation of top experts and officials responsible for the development of trampoline gymnastics worldwide.

The technical committee is set to discuss a number of key topics aimed at advancing trampoline gymnastics, including the latest updates to judging regulations, evaluations of organisational and technical performance in previous world events, and reviews of preparations for upcoming competitions.

The meeting will also consider a series of proposals designed to enhance the sport's technical and judging standards.

The committee's agenda focuses on three main disciplines within trampoline gymnastics: trampoline, double mini trampoline, and tumbling.

Members of the technical committee expressed their deep appreciation for the support provided by the Qatar Gymnastics Federation. -QNA

# Liquidation Announcement "2"

Based on the Extraordinary General Assembly Resolution

to Liquidate

**Sources Trading and Supply W.L.L.**

(the "Company")

(Voluntary Liquidation)

**The Liquidator - Rami Mohammad Ali Qudah**

**Deloitte & Touche – Qatar Branch**

Announce the liquidation of

**Sources Trading and Supply W.L.L.**

Commercial Registration No. (116100)

Any party that has any claims with this Company  
should send a registered letter, including all supporting  
documents to P.O.Box: 431, Doha – Qatar  
Within the remaining legal period of 25 days.



## NCSA president meets Belgian minister



HE the National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) President, Engineer Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki, received Belgian Minister of Security and the Interior Bernard Quintin during an official visit to discuss co-operation in cybersecurity and exchange expertise. During the meeting, the NCSA chief outlined key national experiences and practices in developing Qatar's cybersecurity infrastructure. Both sides discussed shared cross-border challenges, ways to enhance digital readiness, and future initiatives of mutual interest. Quintin expressed his appreciation for the NCSA's significant progress in cybersecurity and affirmed Belgium's interest in expanding co-operation to support joint efforts and strengthen digital security in both countries.

## QGIRCO wins two prestigious awards at annual Global Economics Awards

QGIRCO received two prestigious awards at The Annual Global Economics Awards 2025, organised by The Global Economics, it was announced.

In recognition of its exemplary performance data, the organising committee presented QGIRCO with awards in two categories: "Best Integrated Conventional & Takaful Insurance Provider - Qatar 2025" and "Excellence in Insurance Profitability & Sustained Performance - Qatar 2025".

"It is always humbling yet gratifying to be acknowledged for our efforts," said QGIRCO Group chief executive Aimen Azara. "These awards reflect the dedication and vision of our entire team as we transform QGIRCO into a technology-driven, customer-focused insurer."

"Our digital transformation journey and commitment to financial stability have positioned us for sustainable growth, and we remain focused on delivering exceptional value to our customers and stakeholders," he said.

Under Azara's leadership, QGIRCO has achieved strong, sustained performance, powered by disciplined financial management and a clear, ongoing focus on technology modernisation.

Over the past year, the company has undergone significant transformations, diversified its investment portfolio, and strengthened cash reserves to



enhance liquidity and overall financial resilience.

On the technology front, QGIRCO has rolled out best-in-class digital platforms across its operations, including Azentio ONE for core insurance systems, eData for artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled underwriting, Jo-claims for automated motor claims, and Insursa Digibiz for customer-facing digital services.

These solutions, together with modern ERP (enterprise resource planning) systems supporting medical and human resources functions, are delivering greater efficiency, accuracy, and control throughout the organisation.

QGIRCO is also streamlining and expanding its digital retail offering across Motor, Travel, Individual Medical, Personal Accident, Renters Insurance, Household, Individual Life Insurance, Yacht Insurance, Retail Cyber, and Pet Insurance.

Customers will soon enjoy faster, more seamless service journeys, with AI and automation enhancing underwriting accuracy, speeding up claims processing, and supporting lower operational costs.

These innovations position QGIRCO as a modern, technology-enabled insurer focused on delivering superior customer experiences.

Established in 1979 and listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange since 1997, QGIRCO is one of the most established and trusted insurers in Qatar, offering comprehensive insurance and reinsurance solutions to individuals, institutions, and corporate clients.

Its diverse portfolio encompasses motor, property, marine, health and general insurance, alongside specialised services in Takaful, Real Estate and Investment Management through its subsidiaries.

## WCM-Q to host 18th International Meeting of the European Calcium Society in February

Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) will host the 18th International Meeting of the European Calcium Society (ECS), a premier event that discusses the latest advancements and trends in calcium signalling, on February 1-4, 2026 at the Sheraton Doha Hotel.

Organised every two years, the conference brings together scientists, researchers, and experts from around the world to share their research and knowledge on calcium signalling and its role in various physiological and pathological processes.

Through scientific sessions and panel discussions, the event will cover multiple aspects of calcium signalling at the molecular, cellular, organ and whole-organism levels.

Importantly, it will also focus on the critical roles of calcium signalling mechanisms in health and disease and their therapeutic potential.

It provides a unique interdisciplinary platform for



Weill Cornell  
Medicine-Qatar

academic researchers, clinicians, and industry professionals to present and discuss the latest innovations, trends, and challenges in the field.

Participating experts come from leading institutions globally.

The 18th International Meeting of the European Calcium Society promises to be an important event for scientific discourse and innovation to advance calcium signalling research.

## Negotiations launched for Qatar-EU strategic partnership agreement

Following the meeting between HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas on the sidelines of the Doha Forum, Qatar and the EU announced the launch of negotiations process for a Qatar-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA).

This process is a future-oriented and ambitious co-operation effort marking an important milestone in bilateral relations.

This announcement underscores the strength of Qatar-EU partnership and offers mutually beneficial opportunities for both sides to further expand and deepen co-operation.

Recognising Qatar's prominent role, particularly its key mediation efforts in support of peace and conflict resolution across several crises, and the EU's principled commitment to safeguarding the rules-based international order, the two parties reaffirmed their shared determination to work more closely to uphold regional peace, prosperity and security.

Through the upcoming negotiation process they will explore new avenues for enhanced co-operation in priority areas of mutual interest.

HE Sheikh Mohammed and Kallas reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to deepening their partnership and further elevating their dynamic and mutually reinforcing relations amidst an increasingly complex regional and international landscape. - QNA

# Panellists discuss power of media and the pursuit of truth

The Doha Forum 2025, in co-operation with the International Media Office, held a panel discussion yesterday on "The Power of Media and the Search for Truth".

The session featured Tucker Carlson Network chief executive and co-founder Neil Patel, journalist and co-host of the political show *The Rest Is Politics* Rory Stewart, X Strategies chief executive Alex Bruesewitz, and renowned author Nika Soon-Shiong.

The panel was moderated by Sky News journalist Yalda Hakim.

At the outset of the discussion, participants saluted the struggle and courage of journalists on the

ground in the Gaza Strip.

They also underscored the growing importance of new media - particularly social media platforms that are ever-present on smart devices and mobile phones - which have revolutionised the dissemination of news and information in the modern era.

The panellists stressed the significance of these platforms in amplifying and accelerating the distribution of news content produced by traditional media, including newspapers, radio stations, news agencies, and television networks.

However, they also highlighted the negative aspects of certain modern media tools, especially

the rapid spread of fabricated information, noting that some individuals use artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to generate false or misleading content.

Several illustrative examples were presented during the discussion.

In closing, the panellists urged audiences of all ages and backgrounds to avoid unreliable platforms that disseminate misleading or fabricated news lacking credible, verified sourcing.

They emphasised the importance of harnessing AI responsibly to support meaningful journalism and contribute to development and progress within societies. - QNA

## Palestine 36 'presents a living archive of a defining chapter in history'

*Palestine 36* presents a living archive of a defining chapter in history, said director Annemarie Jacir following a special private screening of the movie at the Doha Film Festival (DFF).

A landmark work that brings to life the 1936 revolt during the British Mandate for Palestine, the film integrates a dramatic narrative with painstakingly restored and colourised archival footage.

"The revolt of 1936 is our first mass uprising, cutting across classes and geographies," Jacir said.

"Much of what we live under today was designed then," she said. "We wanted the archive to feel present and alive, not a step back in time, so viewers experience a continuous, forward-moving story of people asserting dignity and agency."

Built on years of research and field work, the production team restored a partially destroyed Palestinian village using traditional methods, in close collaboration with local families, before conditions forced the crew to relocate and rebuild the set-in northern Jordan.

The film features sequences shot in Jerusalem, captured under intense physical and emotional pressure.

"We felt we might never be able to return," Jacir said. "Filming *Palestine 36* became an act of preservation of places and lives at risk of erasure."



Ben Frost, Karim Daoud Anaya, Hiam Abbass, Annemarie Jacir, Saleh Bakri, Yafa Bakri and Ossama Bawardi attend the *Palestine 36* press briefing at the Doha Film Festival. (Photo by John Phillips/Getty Images for DFF)

vation of places and lives at risk of erasure."

"It was clear we might never come back," she added. "We filmed under duress because memory itself was at stake."

Hiam Abbas reflected on her role in the film.

"There is no way to separate my artistic identity from who I am and what Palestine left in me," she said. "That inheritance is the emotional system I work with."

Co-produced across the wider region with post-production completed in the UK, *Palestine 36* re-

flects deep regional collaboration, with the Doha Film Institute (DFI) supporting the film.

"Every film adds to the memories we are striving to preserve," actor Saleh Bakri said.

Composer Ben Frost's original score anchors the film's emotional core, responding to images of a world "gone forever" with a soundscape of loss, resilience, and memory: "The music is my honest response to a sense of loss."

The score was recorded in Doha with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

I, YUSEF MAHMOUD OMAR HAJ

holder of

ERITREA Passport No. E0068087

QID No. 27208000019

hereby change my name

from

YUSEF MAHMOUD OMAR HAJ

to

YUSEF MAHMOUD ALHAJ OMER

Any objection, please contact

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR  
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

## Qatar's qualification for World Cup 'is no coincidence'

Qatar Football Association (QFA) marketing and communications director Khalid Mubarak al-Kuwari has said that the QFA developed a comprehensive promotional plan aimed at supporting the Qatar national team during its historic participation in the FIFA World Cup 2026, set to take place in the US, Mexico, and Canada from June 11-July 19 next year, and which will feature 48 teams for the first time in the tournament's history.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), he said that Qatar's qualification for the FIFA World Cup 2026 was not the result of chance, but rather the outcome of a long-term, integrated strategic effort involving all sports-related sectors in the country.

Al-Kuwari stressed that the goal was to build a national team capable of representing Qatar in the best way at international events, noting

that the qualification was the result of continuous work over the past years, whether in terms of technical preparation, administrative organisation, or through fan and media support.

Regarding the World Cup draw, which placed Qatar in Group B alongside Canada, Switzerland, and the winner of the European play-off, the official said that all groups are challenging.

He noted that there is no easy group in the World Cup, as every team that reached the finals is among the best, possessing strengths and having deserved qualification.

Al-Kuwari added that the current objective is to prepare in the best possible way for the tournament and to deliver a respectable performance befitting the reputation of Qatari football, saying this is a legitimate ambition for a country that invests heavily in sports.

He revealed that a plan has been

prepared and will be announced at the appropriate time, stressing that Qatar's past experience in major tournaments has proven the success of its promotional strategy, reflected in the remarkable fan turnout for national team matches, whether in qualifying games held in Qatar or abroad.

The QFA official pointed out that, from one tournament to another, the association has witnessed strong fan engagement and continued support.

He said this was not coincidental but the result of a carefully planned institutional effort and co-operation between various sports, media, and social sectors.

Al-Kuwari also stressed that the QFA is focusing on attracting all segments of society, particularly students and youth, as they form an active and influential fan base.

He praised fans in Qatar, describing them as aware, cultured, and

passionate about football, and emphasised that this strong presence stems from genuine love for the national team, something that provides players with great motivation to achieve the best possible results during Al Adaam's participation in the 2026 World Cup finals.

Al Adaam is the official name of the flag of Qatar.

Al-Kuwari expressed hope that the national team would deliver a strong performance in the upcoming tournament, and underscored that fan support would be the key to success, with the challenges ahead requiring collective national efforts behind the team.

The draw for the 2026 World Cup finals, held on Friday in the US, placed Qatar in Group B alongside Canada, Switzerland, and the winner of the first European play-off involving Wales, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, and Northern Ireland. - QNA







# Qatar cements position as key diplomatic power in global mediation: minister

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi affirmed that Qatar has firmly established itself as a diplomatic force with a remarkable ability to open lines of communication and address complex global issues, through its key role in mediation efforts spanning multiple continents, demonstrating responsibility, commitment, and neutrality.

During a press conference following the signing of the Doha Agreement, which aims to strengthen the commitment to peace between the Colombian government and the self-declared EGC group, HE al-Khulaifi highlighted Qatar's significant progress in resolving various conflicts. He pointed to Qatar's contribution to securing a ceasefire agreement in Gaza in collaboration with international partners. He added that Doha hosted a trilateral summit that paved the way for the peace agreement between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Washington. He pointed out that Qatar's efforts culminated in November with the signing of a peace framework between the Congolese government and the March 23 Movement, marking a historic step towards ending a prolonged conflict.

He added that Qatar continues to maintain open communication channels with both Ukraine and Russia, with ongoing humanitarian efforts focused on reuniting children affected by the conflict with their families.

In Afghanistan, Qatar's efforts have contributed to the release of 10 detainees of various nationalities this year, he pointed out.

Qatar also played a role in resolving the ongoing disputes between Afghanistan and Pakistan, facilitating the signing of the Doha Agreement between the two countries in October, he added.

## RESPONSIBILITY BEYOND GEOGRAPHICAL BORDERS

During the press conference, the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised that these achievements reflect Qatar's deep belief that the responsibility for ensuring security and stability goes beyond geographical borders. He expressed Qatar's commitment to working with regional and international partners to find practical solutions that end conflicts and promote lasting peace and security.

He also noted that the developments witnessed today are an extension of these efforts and a responsible step towards peace and development, adding that this agreement is expected to open a political path for establishing sustainable peace within an agreed framework in Colombia. He pointed out that the agreement will create an opportunity to end the armed conflict between the two sides and will significantly reduce illegal human trafficking and drug



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi.

trade in specific regions of Colombia.

He added that Qatar remains committed to supporting dialogue and resolving conflicts through peaceful means. He also praised the commitment, seriousness, and patience shown by both parties during the two rounds of mediation held in Doha. Since hosting the negotiations last September, both sides have made significant concessions to protect the Colombian people, prioritise their interests, and preserve the unity and stability of Colombia, he pointed out. He also expressed appreciation for the trust both parties have placed in Qatar's role as a mediator, facilitating these rounds and pushing them toward achieving security and stability.

HE al-Khulaifi highlighted the ongoing and crucial support provided by the delegations from Norway, Switzerland, and Spain, which contributed significantly to the success of this agreement. The agreement's success stems from the trust both parties have in the mediators and their ability to navigate complexities with integrity and impartiality, he explained.

His Excellency also explained that during Qatar's hosting of the first and second rounds of negotiations, both sides agreed on a series of measures to be implemented across 15 specific regions in Colombia. These measures aim to build trust between the parties, such as reducing drug production and replacing it with other legitimate economic resources. Additionally, they agreed to refrain from recruiting children and adolescents into armed groups and to designate areas for rehabilitating members of the armed group and reintegrating them into Colombian society.

## FOCUS ON REVITALISING LOCAL ECONOMIES

He emphasised that this agreement is primarily directed towards the friendly people of Colombia, ensuring their security, safety, and right to a dignified life. He noted that the agreement provides a framework for a responsible transition based on trust and mutual

respect, aimed at protecting affected communities, revitalising local economies that have suffered from the prolonged conflict, and fostering the prospects of comprehensive peace.

He further highlighted that this agreement represents a pivotal moment in the history of this phase, stressing that the direct responsibility for its implementation lies with both parties.

Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Qatar's role as a mediator does not end today, adding that Qatar, in co-ordination with Norway, Switzerland, Spain, and other regional partners and specialised organisations, will remain committed to supporting the agreed-upon mechanisms and assisting both parties in overcoming any future challenges they may face.

In closing his remarks at the press conference, he expressed his deep gratitude to the Organisation of American States for its steadfast and continuous support and involvement throughout all stages of the process. He called on all national institutions, civil society, and international partners to support this commitment and translate it into tangible achievements that positively impact the lives of the Colombian people.

In turn, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Andreas Kravik; Assistant Foreign Minister of the Swiss Confederation, Tim Enderlin; and Assistant Foreign Minister of Spain, Alberto Ucelay expressed their appreciation for Qatar's efforts in facilitating the Doha Agreement to reinforce the commitment to peace between the Colombian government and the self-declared EGC group, in addition to hosting the two rounds of negotiations between the parties.

During the press conference, they reviewed the efforts and roles they had undertaken in the past, acknowledging that diplomacy aimed at achieving peace requires broad and long-term political support, as well as acceptance of setbacks that may occur along the way. (QNA)

## Spain's FM says peace impossible if Palestinians remain refugees

By Joey Aguilar  
Doha

Madrid's early recognition of a Palestinian state provided the country with key leverage in mediation efforts, Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said, stressing that peace cannot be built on the "eternal refugee status" of an entire people.

Albares was speaking at a high-level panel at the Doha Forum titled "Mediation in a Time of Fragmentation." He was joined by Qatar's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani; Kaja Kallas, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for the European Union; and Hakan Fidan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Türkiye.

The discussion, moderated by CNN Chief International Anchor Christiane Amanpour, addressed the deep diplomatic fissures caused by the war in Gaza. Amanpour pressed the Spanish minister on the controversial timing of Spain's decision, alongside Ireland and Norway, to recognise Palestinian statehood.

Asked to define what leverage the declaration had generated, Albares rejected the criticism that the move was a void movement. He said the recognition served as a catalyst, prompting a wave of similar acknowledgments from other nations, including permanent members of the UN Security Council.

"Working for peace always gives you leverage. We were the first, and we were leading the way towards what we all know... is the real path for security and for peace for both Palestinians and Israelis," he said.

Albares described the decision as one born of pure humanity and justice, rather than mere political manoeuvring. "I don't see why in the world we would assume that the Palestinian people are the only people in the world that are eternally condemned to be a people of refugees".

He pointed out that the international com-



Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares at the Doha Forum.

munity cannot accept violence as the only method of interaction in the region.

Citing his continent's history, Albares posed a rhetorical question about the potential for transformation in the Middle East, noting the creation of the European Union as proof that borders, once viewed as a "curse" and a cause for war, can be turned into instruments of co-operation.

However, Spain's top diplomat stressed that moral arguments mean little without action. Pointing to the reported death toll of 70,000 Palestinians, including many children, he said that anyone who believes in the UN Charter "cannot remain unmoved" and must act.

Albares also announced that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas will visit Madrid this Wednesday to continue these diplomatic efforts.

The minister laid out a broad blueprint for a future Palestinian state: a single authority governing both the West Bank and Gaza, linked by a corridor with access to the sea, and anchored by Jerusalem as its capital. Realising this vision, he stressed, requires an immediate halt to illegal settlements and settler violence, as well as a massive reconstruction effort in Gaza.

"The day we will have achieved [this]... we will have achieved what Europe stands for. It's peace and the respect of international law and international humanitarian law," Albares said.

## EU official spotlights Qatar's vital role in conflict resolution

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas (**pictured**) praised the pivotal role Qatar plays in effective international mediation efforts aimed at resolving global conflicts, at a time when the world is witnessing more than 60 ongoing disputes.

Speaking at a session on mediation in times of fragmentation during the Doha Forum, Kallas said Qatari mediation serves as a vital model for upholding international law and the global rules-based system, which are fundamental for protecting smaller states and preventing the recurrence of wars and conflicts.

During her intervention, the EU official discussed the current EU-US relationship, noting that the US remains Europe's closest and most significant ally, and that the transatlantic alliance remains strong despite disagreements on certain issues and criticisms of Europe's declining global role, particularly regarding the need to strengthen the EU's capacity to face Russia with greater confidence.

She highlighted that the US strategy mentions the erosion of European civilisation and undermining democracy in some countries, stressing that these criticisms should be understood in their political context and seen as a call for Europe to rely more on itself for security and defence.

Referring to the Russia-Ukraine war, Kallas emphasised the necessity of providing Ukraine with genuine security guarantees, stating that the conflict cannot end if the aggressor is left capable of funding its operations.

She noted that Europe possesses influential tools, such as economic sanctions, to counter Russia, while cautioning against underestimating Russia's economic capacity or overestimating its strength.



Kallas welcomed any pathway that contributes to achieving a just and sustainable peace worldwide, affirming that Qatar's global mediation efforts add significant value in a world experiencing major shifts in international power balances.

She added that while traditional diplomacy remains essential, advanced mediation tools, including efforts by small yet active states like Qatar, have become integral to peacebuilding.

Highlighting the importance of inclusive approaches, she stressed that lasting peace requires societal-wide participation, including women, noting that studies show their presence at negotiation tables increases the likelihood of sustained peace agreements by 35%.

Concluding her remarks, the EU official described the current moment as pivotal, emphasising that upholding international law and ensuring aggressors are not rewarded are key to securing a more stable future. (QNA)



QC exhibition booth at Doha Forum 2025. **Right:** QC holds a series of bilateral meetings with prominent international actors.



## Qatar Charity showcases int'l role at Doha Forum

Qatar Charity (QC) is participating in the Doha Forum 2025, held from December 6 to 8 through attending side events, taking part in specialised discussions, engaging in direct communications, and organising meetings with international partners and humanitarian institutions.

QC said its participation also includes an exhibition booth, in addition to signing several important regional and international agreements on the

sidelines of the forum. Through its exhibition booth, QC gives visitors the opportunity to learn about its projects and initiatives in the fields of relief and sustainable development. The booth provides an interactive space to present achievements and distribute informational materials, using an innovative design that reflects the organisation's identity, mission, and humanitarian message.

This participation also aligns with QC's commitment to

strengthening shared humanitarian responsibility and reaffirming its leading international role in humanitarian, developmental, and social interventions, especially in the areas of food security, support for education and health, and community empowerment through qualitative initiatives and strategic partnerships with leading global entities.

As part of the Doha Forum 2025, QC is holding a series of bilateral meetings with several prominent international ac-

tors. It is also signing several co-operation agreements and memorandum of understanding with major international and UN-affiliated organisations and humanitarian actors, including: International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Health Organisation, International Medical Corps, Mercy Malaysia, Union of Medical Care and Relief Organisations - Canada, We World, and Qatar Fund for Development.

## Turkish FM ready to aid Gaza peace efforts

Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan affirmed that his country is ready and prepared to do whatever is necessary to contribute to ongoing peace efforts in the Gaza Strip.

He noted that broad discussions are currently underway regarding the formation of an international stabilisation force to be deployed in the area.

Speaking at a session yesterday within the Doha Forum, on mediation in times of fragmentation, Fidan called for realism when discussing the mandate of this force, emphasising the importance of paying attention to details.

He warned that the joint force faces significant challenges in its establishment, including the countries contributing troops, the command structure, logistical arrangements, and many other agreed-upon details.

Fidan also addressed the entities and stakeholders that the force will engage with, such as police units to be trained, the Palestinian local administration, and the Peace Council, stressing that all these bodies must oper-

ate in a co-ordinated and harmonious manner. He added that once this framework is in place, tangible achievements from the international stabilisation force can be expected. The Turkish foreign minister also highlighted his country's efforts regarding migration and its open-door policy, as well as Türkiye's mediation and peace initiatives in the region, including Gaza, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and Syria, where he affirmed that the situation is progressing positively, alongside Türkiye's ongoing humanitarian efforts.

He argued that the best way to end the war in Ukraine is through the engagement of all conflict parties in peace negotiations conducted with sincerity, determination, and innovative solutions, noting that Ankara has called for a ceasefire in both Ukraine and Gaza.

Fidan stressed that engaging in peace negotiations does not end the war immediately, but it helps reduce human suffering and provides greater opportunities to contribute to ending wars in today's fragmented and turbulent world. (QNA)





HE the Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Faisal bin Abdullah al-Hanzab met separately with Sweden's ministry of foreign affairs director-general for Global Affairs Mikael Lindvall, Irish ministry of foreign affairs political director and director-general for Middle East Affairs Gerard Kyon, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia James Swan, EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa Annette Weber, and African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security Bankole Adeoye, on the sidelines of Doha Forum 2025. During the meetings, they discussed bilateral co-operation as well as a number of issues of common concern. **-QNA**

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efforts in organising such world-class events with significant international participation. – **QNA**



# WHO official highlights need to strengthen collaborations

Other panellists at the session moderated by Al Jazeera presenter Folly Bah Thibault were Somalia Health Minister Dr Ali Hajji Adam and Dangote Foundation chief executive Zouera Yousoufou.

She underlined the need for commitment to dialogue, co-operation, and confidence-building through concrete actions. — **QNA**

The minister also said that security and humanitarian aid alone were not sufficient, as there must

enduring solution for security in the region is contingent upon achieving Palestinian statehood. — **ONA**

"We have formed very good relations with many countries," he said. "The problem is that there are so many conflicts going on around the world."

He commended some of the efforts of the new American administration to actually lead the world towards a more peaceful and prosperous future.



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GULF TIMES

Transactional diplomacy cannot bring peace to Ukraine

The world is holding its breath as diplomacy to end Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine intensifies. But while necessary and welcome, this latest diplomatic push carries enormous risks. Given the evident haste to secure a deal, there is every reason to worry that the resulting "peace" will be empty, unjust, and ultimately unsustainable.

Russia's recent large-scale attacks on Kyiv and other Ukrainian civilian population centres underscore the urgency of the situation, because they are merely the latest episode in a larger pattern of escalation. The brutal reality is that Ukrainian civilian casualties have been significantly higher in 2025 than in 2024. Making matters worse, Russian strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure have already caused widespread blackouts, leading many Ukrainians to fear that they are heading into the harshest winter since the full-scale invasion began.

There is a need to look beyond the statistics and acknowledge the enormous daily impact on people's lives. The human toll is staggering. In addition to the casualties and physical suffering, around 6mn people, including 1.6mn children, are living in the 20% of Ukraine's territory that remains temporarily occupied by Russia. They are being subjected to severe abuse, having had their language, national and cultural identity, and dignity stripped away. Moreover, another 3.7mn people have been internally displaced, and 6.9mn have fled abroad. Such large-scale displacements – the largest in Europe in 80 years – have fractured families and driven up poverty rates.

The international system is already under severe strain, and the political will to uphold human rights is waning

All this devastation makes one thing clear: human rights are essential not only for setting the terms of an eventual peace but also for saving lives today. Stopping the fighting and providing humanitarian relief must be top priorities. But the recent peacemaking efforts have been largely transactional and bereft of any such values-based objectives. They focus on land, military capacity, and resources, while remaining largely silent about the fate of the millions affected by the war.

For Ukrainians, the criteria for peace are simple but profoundly important. Any agreement must end the war for good, rather than provide a mere pause, and it must ensure their current and future well-being. A peace that ignores the people is a blueprint for future aggression. Any plan that weakens the victim by imposing military restrictions or legitimising illegal territorial gains would usher in a new reality of "might makes right". Any plan that offers amnesty for the aggressor would be an affront to human decency and the principles that have underpinned the international order since World War II.

And make no mistake: this would not be a localised failure. Russia has waged its war of aggression at a time when the international system is already under severe strain, and the political will to uphold human rights is waning. Whatever is agreed in Ukraine will set a precedent for the future of international law. Cherished principles and values are not the only issue. A wholly transactional approach is also simply impracticable and ineffective, because a peace without justice will not last. To secure a just, effective, and enduring peace, the entire process must be anchored in the existing international human-rights framework.

Specifically, a people-centred peace must rest on three core principles. The first is that justice is non-negotiable. We must ensure accountability, including criminal prosecutions for international crimes, and fair reparations that reach all the victims of Russian aggression since 2014.

Second, the peace process must actively champion protections for the most vulnerable by safeguarding the rights of refugees, internally displaced people, missing persons, prisoners of war, civilian detainees, abducted children, and the millions currently trapped in temporarily occupied territories.

Lastly, the process must be inclusive. To succeed, it will need to draw on contributions from all stakeholders, including international organisations and civil society groups. It will also need to provide a meaningful place for women at the negotiating table, in keeping with the principles outlined in UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which "reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts", as well as in "humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction, and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security".

To counter Russia's aggression and fortify Ukraine's security, we must unequivocally defend the values that are under attack. A just settlement must be firmly anchored in human rights. Otherwise, it will not settle anything. The goal is not merely to cease hostilities, but to safeguard a future in which Ukrainians' rights and dignity are fully respected. — Project Syndicate

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Colombia peace deal a new milestone for Qatar



The 'Commitment to Peace' agreement was signed in Doha on Friday.

By Kamran Rehmat  
Doha

In a conference room in Doha – a city now as familiar with ceasefire documents as with energy contracts – representatives of the Colombian government and the country's most powerful armed group have signed what they are calling a 'Commitment to Peace'. For Qatar, it is another marker in an increasingly crowded portfolio: a Gulf state turning itself into a consistent peace broker in conflicts thousands of miles away.

The agreement, announced by Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was reached after two rounds of talks in Doha between Colombia and the self-designated Ejército Gaitanista de Colombia (EGC), better known as the Clan del Golfo or AGC. HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi presided over the signing, flanked by senior envoys from Norway, Spain and Switzerland – a quartet styling itself the "Group of Facilitating States".

On paper, the commitment is cautious but far from cosmetic. The text, as described by Qatar and

the mediators, binds both sides to alleviating civilian suffering, ending armed confrontation and laying the groundwork for "sustainable peace". It explicitly links peace to the dismantling of the AGC's criminal economy with a view to reintegrate child soldiers into Colombian society.

From Colombia's perspective, the stakes are obvious. The AGC emerged as the country's dominant illegal armed group in the vacuum left by the demobilisation of Farc in 2016 and is estimated to command several thousand fighters. It straddles the line between paramilitary force and drug cartel, controlling trafficking routes, mining areas and entire communities.

For President Gustavo Petro, who came to office in 2022 promising "total peace" with guerrillas and criminal organisations alike, getting the AGC to the table at all is an achievement; securing a signed roadmap for demobilisation is something more.

Beginning March 1, 2026, AGC combatants are to gradually assemble in three defined "concentration areas" – two in the conflict-scarred Pacific department of Chocó and a

third in neighbouring Córdoba. Ten additional municipalities will be folded into pilot peace programmes, on top of five already announced in September. While fighters gather, arrest and extradition orders against them will be suspended – an amnesty-adjacent concession is often the uncomfortable price of getting guns off the table.

That this architecture has been built not in Bogotá, Oslo or Geneva but in Doha is no accident. For years, Qatar has positioned itself as a convening power for conflicts that have exhausted more traditional venues. Its foreign ministry notes that the first round of talks with the Gaitanista Army, held in mid-September at Colombia's request, was designed around phased confidence-building: protecting human dignity, respecting human rights and including affected communities in the process.

Put simply, Colombia has joined a growing list of states – from Afghanistan and Sudan to the Democratic Republic of Congo – that see Qatar as a useful, neutral broker with the resources, patience and diplomatic muscle to host long, grinding negotiations that might or might not succeed.

The facilitators' joint statement is careful to frame the commitment not as a reward, but as a step towards demobilisation, civilian protection and the eventual return of state authority. It stresses that implementation will demand "discipline, transparency and trust" – and pointedly warns that there will be "many hurdles and challenges to overcome".

For Qatar, those hurdles are familiar. Its mediators have watched more than one painstakingly constructed arrangement wobble under the weight of local spoilers, shifting political winds or simple bad faith. But the deeper logic of its foreign policy remains remarkably consistent: conflict resolution as statecraft. By repeatedly inserting itself at the hinge points of far-away wars and peace processes, Doha accumulates something that cannot be bought on energy markets: strategic relevance.

The "Commitment to Peace" signed in Doha will not, by itself, end one of Latin America's most resilient armed structures. But it does underline a quieter truth: when governments and gunmen go looking for a table at which to talk, they are increasingly finding it in Qatar.

Europe forges ahead with Big Tech crackdown

By Foo Yun Chee  
Brussels

Europe is forging ahead with its crackdown on Big Tech, levying fines on Alphabet's Google and Elon Musk's X and opening new investigations, asserting its sovereign right to enforce its laws in defiance of US President Donald Trump.

Three months after hitting Google with an unexpectedly high €2.95bn (\$3.44bn) fine, the European Commission on Friday imposed a €120mn penalty on Elon Musk's X for breaching European Union online content rules.

The US government has pushed back, linking reductions in US steel import tariffs to weaker EU digital rules and ordering its diplomats to launch a lobbying blitz against the laws.

At issue are the EU's Digital Markets Act, which seeks to rein in the power of Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta Platforms and Microsoft as well as Booking.com and ByteDance, and the Digital Services Act,

which forces big online platforms to do more to tackle illegal and harmful content.

EU antitrust chief Teresa Ribera has flatly rejected US criticism.

"It is our duty to remind others that we deserve respect. I don't enter into how they regulate the health standards in the US market. But I am in charge of defending the well-functioning digital markets in Europe and it is not related at all with any type of joint conversation," she told one event.

At another, she rebuffed those who see competition law as a tool for controlling markets or advancing narrow economic interests.

"It is an essential pillar of open, fair, and sustainable markets. It should never be a bargaining chip in trade negotiations or a tool for protectionism," Ribera said.

The effect of the US threats, while a shock initially, may be wearing off, said Daniel Mandrescu, a lawyer at Geradin Partners and an associate law professor at Leiden University.

"The EU Commission's announcement of an official investigation into Meta indicates that the threat of political pressure is

rapidly losing its strength – the rule of law is simply not a negotiable matter," he wrote in a LinkedIn post.

Supporters of European values have the upper hand for now, but the real test still lies ahead, said Rupprecht Podszun, a professor at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf and a director at the Institute for Competition Law.

"I was amazed to see this new vigour in EU enforcement. Now, this also comes as an obligation: It becomes harder now to back down. The commitments in the Google Ad-Tech case will provide the litmus test as well as the fate of the Meta AI probe," he said.

Last month, Google offered to make it easier for publishers and advertisers to use its online advertising technology, defying EU antitrust regulators' call for it to sell part of the business to address conflicts of interest.

An EU decision on the proposal will likely come early next year. EU regulators on Thursday started an investigation into Meta and could order it to pause its rollout of AI features in its WhatsApp messenger that would block rivals. — Reuters

In Mexico, rallying support



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum gestures on arrival for the rally marking the seventh anniversary of the Morena party in government in Mexico City yesterday. Sheinbaum called for a massive rally to reaffirm her leftist government after a turbulent month marked by political violence and the abrupt resignation of the attorney-general. (AFP)



# No breakthrough at ‘constructive’ Ukraine-US talks

AFP  
Miami

Three days of talks between Ukrainian and US officials produced no apparent breakthrough yesterday, with President Volodymyr Zelensky committing to further negotiations toward “real peace,” even as Russia launched another series of drone and missile strikes on its neighbour.

Zelensky said he joined his negotiators for a “very substantive and constructive” call with US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, as part of the third day of meetings in Florida.

“Ukraine is committed to continuing to work honestly with the American side to bring about real peace,” Zelensky said on Telegram, adding that the parties agreed “on the next steps and the format of the talks with America.”

In Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron said he will meet Zelensky, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in London tomorrow to “take stock” of the negotiations on the US-drafted plan on how to end the almost four-year war.

Ahead of yesterday’s talks, Russia launched over 700 drones and missiles at Ukraine overnight,

targeting critical infrastructure, such as energy sites and railways, and triggering heating and water outages for thousands of households.

“The main targets of these strikes, once again, were energy facilities,” Zelensky said earlier in the day on social media. “Russia’s aim is to inflict suffering on millions of Ukrainians.”

As with previous waves of attacks, the Russian defense ministry said they had targeted “Ukrainian military-industrial complex enterprises and the energy facilities that support them,” and added that “all designated targets were hit.”

The talks come after Witkoff and Kushner met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin on Tuesday, with Moscow rejecting parts of the US proposal.

“Both parties agreed that real progress toward any agreement depends on Russia’s readiness to show serious commitment to long-term peace, including steps toward de-escalation and cessation of killings,” said a readout of the Miami talks posted Friday by Witkoff on X.

Also on Friday, US and Ukrainian officials “also agreed on the framework of security arrangements and discussed necessary deterrence capabilities to sustain a lasting peace.”



A firefighter on a crane extinguishing a fire following an air attack in Dnipropetrovsk Region yesterday. (AFP)

Macron announced he would travel to London tomorrow to meet with Zelensky together with the German and British leaders, slamming what he called Russia’s “escalatory path.”

“We will continue these efforts with the Americans to provide Ukraine with security guaran-

tees, without which no robust and lasting peace will be possible,” the French president wrote on X.

He added: “We must continue to exert pressure on Russia to compel it to choose peace.”

Washington’s initial plan to bring an end to the conflict involved Ukraine surrendering land

that Russia has not been able to win on the battlefield in return for security promises that fall short of Kyiv’s aspirations to join Nato.

But the nature of the security guarantees that Ukraine could get have so far been shrouded in uncertainty, beyond an initial plan saying that jets to defend Kyiv

could be based in Poland.

The US plan has been through several drafts since it first emerged last month, amid criticism it was too soft on Russia, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Witkoff, Trump’s former business partner-turned-roving global ambassador, and investor Kushner had hoped to persuade Putin to play ball but came away from Moscow without a deal.

Trump said Wednesday that Witkoff and Kushner had a “reasonably good meeting” with Putin, insisting they had the “strong impression” he would like to end the war.

Trump has blown hot and cold on Ukraine since returning to office in January, initially embracing Putin and chastising Zelensky for not being grateful for US support.

But he has also grown frustrated that his efforts to persuade Putin to end the war, including a summit in Alaska, have failed to produce results and he recently slapped sanctions on Russian oil firms. Putin, who was in India this week meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said the talks were “complex” but that he wanted to engage with Trump’s plan “rather than obstruct it”. Russian troops have been grinding forward across the front line against outgunned and outnumbered Ukrainian forces.

## India warns IndiGo of regulatory action, caps airfare surge

Reuters  
Mumbai/Bengaluru

India’s aviation watchdog yesterday warned airline IndiGo of regulatory action after it cancelled thousands of flights over the last week, stranding passengers and forcing government action to limit a surge in airfares caused by the crisis.

The country’s biggest airline, IndiGo cancelled the flights because of a shortage of pilots after it failed to plan adequately for new rules limiting how many hours they work.

The civil aviation watchdog sent the notice to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers, giving him 24 hours to respond and say why regulatory action — which can include penalties and suspension of officials — should not be taken against the airline.

As the CEO “you have failed in your duty to ensure timely arrangements for conduct of reliable operations,” said the notice, signed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation official, Ravinder Singh Jamwal.

The notice is confidential but was reviewed by Reuters. IndiGo did not respond to a request for comment on the warning.

Earlier in the day, India capped airfares, which have been driven higher by the increase in demand for flights operated by other carriers. IndiGo cancelled another 385 flights yesterday, the fifth day of the crisis.

The government on Friday announced exemptions from the new rules for the carrier and laid on additional trains to help clear the backlog.

Delhi airport posted on X yesterday that flight operations were steadily resuming. Cancellations however continued at many airports.

The Civil Aviation Ministry said it would “continue to closely monitor fare levels through real-time data and active coordination with airlines”.

## Indonesia flood deaths exceed 900

Residents in the Indonesian region of Aceh Tamiang climbed over slippery logs and walked for about an hour yesterday to get aid, as the death toll from floods and landslides that hit Sumatra island this month reached more than 900. The number known to have died as a result of the cyclone-induced floods and landslides across three Indonesian provinces on Sumatra, including Aceh, was 916 yesterday, with 274 listed as missing, government data showed. The storm systems also killed about 200 people in southern Thailand and Malaysia.

Survivors in the Aceh Tamiang region, on the northeast coast of Sumatra, walked for an hour yesterday, scrambling over scattered logs and passing overturned cars to reach an aid distribution centre set up by volunteers, they told Reuters.

Volunteers handed out clean clothes and brought in a tanker truck of fresh water so people could fill plastic bottles, Reuters witnesses said.

Dimas Firmansyah, a 14-year-old at an Islamic boarding school, said Aceh Tamiang had been cut off, and that students had stayed at the school for a week, taking turns to search for food and boiling and drinking floodwater.

“We stayed for about a week there,” Dimas said, urging the government to come to the area to see the calamity themselves. Local government officials on Sumatra have called on the national government in Jakarta to declare a national emergency to free up additional funds for rescue and relief efforts.



Members of an organisation called Take Back Power hold a sign as they stand after they threw food at a display case containing the Imperial State Crown, at Tower of London, leading to a temporary closure of part of the historic building housing the Crown Jewels, in London, yesterday. (Reuters)

## Four arrested after food thrown at Britain’s Crown Jewels

AFP  
London

London police said four people were arrested yesterday after food — purportedly apple crumble and custard — was thrown at a display case containing Britain’s priceless Crown Jewels in the Tower of London.

The city’s Metropolitan Police said officers responded “following reports of criminal damage to a display case, containing the State Crown” and that “four protesters threw suspected food onto the case before two left the scene.”

A little-known, self-proclaimed civil resistance group called Take Back Power claimed responsibility, saying its members had thrown apple crumble and custard at the case.

It posted a video of the incident on social media showing a young

woman planting a foil tray containing the crumble up against the glass pane, followed by a young man splattering custard from a tub on top of it.

The Imperial State Crown, worn by King Charles III at the end of his 2023 coronation ceremony and at formal occasions like the State Opening of Parliament, could be seen shimmering inside the case.

Both suspected perpetrators in the footage wore T-shirts with “take back power” and a logo plastered on the front.

“Democracy has crumbled!” the young woman yelled, as the custard-throwing man added “Britain is broken.”

“We’ve come here, to the jewels of the nation, to take back power,” he added.

The footage, filmed by another person close by and looking on, showed a female staff member with a walkie-talkie attempting

to intervene, repeatedly shouting “excuse me!” as she radioed for help.

The Jewel House at the world-famous tower was closed to the public while the investigation continued, police said.

“Officers worked closely with City of London Police and security officers and four people have been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage,” the Metropolitan police added in its statement. It noted they were in custody.

The Crown Jewels are Britain’s most precious treasures, including regalia used at coronations of new monarchs.

Comprising more than 100 objects and over 23,000 gemstones, they are considered “of incalculable cultural, historical, and symbolic value,” according to the Historic Royal Palaces charity that manages the Tower of London where most are kept.

## Five killed in Pak-Afghan border clashes

Reuters  
Kabul

Pakistan and Afghanistan exchanged heavy fire along their border late on Friday, officials from both countries said, killing at least five people amid heightened tensions following failed peace talks last weekend.

Afghan Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Pakistani forces launched attacks in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province.

His deputy Hamdullah Fitra told Reuters that shelling by Pakistan killed five people, including a Taliban member.

A spokesman for Pakistan’s prime minister said Afghan forces carried out “unprovoked firing” along the Chaman border.

“Pakistan remains fully alert and committed to ensuring its territorial integrity and the safety of our citizens,” spokesman Mosharraf Zaidi said in a statement.

The exchange came nearly a week after a new round of peace talks between the South Asian neighbours ended without a breakthrough, although both sides agreed to continue their fragile ceasefire.

The talks in Saudi Arabia last weekend were the latest in a series of meetings hosted by Qatar, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia to cool tensions following deadly border clashes in October.

At the heart of the dispute, Islamabad says Afghan-based militants have carried out recent attacks in Pakistan, including suicide bombings involving Afghan nationals. Kabul denied the charge, saying it could not be held responsible for security inside Pakistan.

Dozens were killed in October’s clashes, the worst violence on the border since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in 2021.

## Machado vows to make Nobel Peace Prize ceremony

Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has vowed to go to Norway to pick up her Nobel Peace Prize, defying a warning from Caracas that she would be a fugitive if she did so.

The head of the Nobel Institute, Kristian Berg Harpviken, told AFP yesterday that Machado — who lives in hiding in her country — promised him she would make the ceremony, which is to take place in Oslo on Wednesday. “I was in contact with Machado last night (Friday) and she confirms that she will be in Oslo for the ceremony,” Kristian Berg Harpviken said.

“Given the security situation, we cannot say more about the date or how she will arrive,” he said.

He added, on NRK radio, that “nothing is ever 100-percent sure, but this is as certain as it can possibly be”.

Venezuela’s attorney general, Tarek William Saab, told AFP last month that Machado, 58, would be considered a

“fugitive” if she travelled to Norway to accept the peace prize, which she was awarded on October 10.

The December 10 date of the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony coincides with the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite who left most of his fortune to be used for prizes for people who have brought “the greatest benefit” to humanity.

Opposition activism in Venezuela has been muted since the arrest of some 2,400 people during protests that followed the most recent re-election of President Nicolas Maduro in July 2024. Machado has accused Maduro of stealing the election which she was banned from standing in, a claim backed by much of the international community.

Machado, in hiding since August 2024, is a supporter of US President Donald Trump who himself has long coveted the prestigious Nobel peace award.



Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado gestures as she addresses her supporters during a protest called by the opposition on the eve of the presidential inauguration in Caracas in January this year. (AFP)

Trump and so far been unsuccessful, despite intense lobbying on his behalf. Since returning to the White House for his second term in January, Trump has insisted that he deserved the Nobel for his role in resolving numerous conflicts.

The White House even lashed out at the Norwegian Nobel Committee after it gave the award to Machado, claiming it had placed “politics over peace”. However, Machado swiftly dedicated her award not only to the “suffering people of Venezuela”, but also to the US president who, she said, had lent “decisive support of our cause”.

“More than ever we count on President Trump,” she wrote on X.

Trump has since become the recipient of a different peace prize: one created by the world football association FIFA and handed to him at the 2026 World Cup draw Friday.

A smiling Trump called the award “truly one of the great honours of my life”, and claimed again that “we saved millions and millions of lives”.

Machado agrees with Washington’s assessment that Maduro heads a drug cartel, and has welcomed a beefed-up US military presence in the region, which has seen strikes on alleged drug boats.

Trump’s administration insists it is effectively at war with alleged “narcoterrorists”. But Maduro has accused Washington of using drug trafficking as a pretext for “imposing regime change” in Caracas.

Maduro has rejected a “slave’s peace” for the region, amid mounting fears of US military action against his country.

The months-long US military campaign has so far killed at least 87 people dead in more than 20 strikes, including a “double-tap” strike in which two men clinging to the wreckage of their vessel were killed.

The 58-year-old has run as a candidate in presidential elections.



# Amir meets heads of state and government attending Doha Forum

From Page 1

Discussions during the meetings, focused on ways to develop co-operation between Qatar and their respective countries in various fields. The meetings also discussed a host of regional and international issues of common interest, in addition to key topics on the Forum's agenda.

The meetings were attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan, Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Mubarak al-Khulaifi; HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi and a lineup of senior officials.

Also present were several members of the official delegations accompanying the heads of state and government. (QNA)



## PM in conversation with Bill Gates



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with co-founder of Microsoft Bill Gates, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025. The meeting discussed co-operation relations and exchanged views on the items on the forum's agenda, in addition to touching on a number of topics of mutual interest. (QNA)

## The world does not need more promises but rather justice: PM

From Page 1

His Excellency explained that the agreement also opens the door to an organised political process aimed at disarmament, combating the production and trafficking of narcotics, and building sustainable peace within an agreed framework capable of restoring stability to conflict-stricken areas.

He stressed that this progress reaffirms that sincere and responsible mediation can protect civilians and pave the way for a peace grounded in responsibility, trust, and the commitment of all parties to what best serves their peoples.

His Excellency underscored that the world does not need more promises; but rather justice practiced by all without double standards, responsibility borne collectively without favouritism, and courage that transforms words into action.

Highlighting the role of the forum, he noted that the Doha Forum stands as a leading global platform bringing together policymakers, thought leaders, and experts from across the world, serving as an influential space for dialogue on major global challenges and the formulation of practical solutions.

He stated that this year's theme – Justice in Action: Beyond Promises to Progress – captures a reality evident to all: that the divide between stated commitments and actual implementation is growing, and that justice is increasingly absent from the workings of international law in a world where interests overshadow principles and force supplants legal norms.

His Excellency warned that the world is witnessing an unprecedented escalation of crises – not due to a lack of resources or knowledge, but due to the absence of accountability and the continuation of conflicts without just solutions, posing a direct threat to international peace and security. He pointed out that when crises are managed through the logic of force rather than law, and when aggressors evade accountability, the international order begins to resemble a system built on promises that remain unfulfilled.

He further noted that successive tensions have revealed that crisis management at its bare minimum, or the preservation of temporary international consensus without addressing root causes, is no longer a viable option. Crises that are not resolved through fair and lasting solutions inevitably return more complex, extending beyond their borders; temporary agreements do not halt the movement of history but merely postpone its obligations.

In this regard, he stressed that only just solutions can build sustainable peace and prevent the perpetuation of conflict and division.

His Excellency warned that the absence of accountability remains one of the gravest flaws in the international system-manifest in the region through the plight of the Palestinian people under flagrant violations of international law, and the tragedies unfolding in Sudan, including massacres and grave abuses. These all underscore that achieving justice and protecting rights are indispensable conditions for preserving regional stability and preventing fragmentation.

Speaking on Syria, His Excellency stated that after harsh years marked by the absence of justice, the Syrian people are moving on a path they hope will lead to recovery-within a framework of transitional justice that reinforces cohesion and rejects sectarianism, paving the way for a peace that turns the page on the past and is rooted in participation and justice.

He noted that the challenges facing the region are intertwined with global trends characterised by a serious erosion of respect for international law, the excessive use of force without accountability, and the weakening of international institutions. These factors, he said, are creating a global environment marked by rising risks and diminishing public trust in the world order.

In this context, he affirmed that the world today must rebuild confidence in legal norms, establish a fairer international order, and strengthen the role of communities and humanitarian organisations as genuine partners in shaping a more stable and inclusive future. Durable peace, he stressed, cannot be achieved through symbolic resolutions but through collective action that places human dignity at the centre of all policymaking.

Concluding his address, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his hope that the Doha Forum will serve as a platform for deepening co-operation among governments, communities, and humanitarian organisations in pursuit of a more just and secure future for all humanity.

## Amir, Syrian president tour rounds of World Arabian Horse Championship



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, witnessed yesterday the World Arabian Horse Championship. The tournament is organised by Katara Cultural Village in partnership with the National Centre for Agricultural Exhibitions and Competitions (CENCA) in France, and is hosted at the Old Doha Port. Also witnessing the tournament were His Highness the Personal Representative of the Amir Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, Crown Prince of the Emirate of Ajman Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid al-Nuaimi, along with several of Their Excellencies the Sheikhs, Ministers, senior officials, and a large audience. His Highness the Amir and the Syrian President witnessed the final qualifiers for the championship's concluding round, with the participation of the finest purebred Arabian-horse stables on the regional and global stages. (QNA)

## Doha Forum: QM chairperson affirms Qatar prioritises talents in region

QNA  
Doha

HE the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Qatar Museums (QM), Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, has emphasised that Qatar places emphasis on the Global South and on empowering talents and innovators in the region, recognising them as an integral part of it.

Speaking in a panel discussion titled 'Humanity's Next Chapter: Innovation and Impact from the Global South', as part of the Doha Forum 2025 deliberations, which opened yesterday, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa highlighted that when Qatar started building its museums and artistic collections, it realised that there had been narrow spaces before its talents to grow and be entangled with these artworks.

Therefore, the Doha Film Institute (DFI) had been established, and M7had been launched, as a dynamic incubator for design, fashion, and technology, alongside repurposed Liwan, Qatar's first girls' school, into

cutting-edge design studios and laboratories, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa noted.

She highlighted that Africa abounds with talents, but it is eclipsed from the world due to the poor essential facilities there. She indicated that having these kinds of facilities in place to collaborate and operate in unison with various African nations would allow projecting African talents more broadly to the world. Underscoring the importance of culture and a neutral space open to all folks to engage and grow, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa stressed that innovative culture and economy form a soft power since both lead to economic transformation.

Culture unites community members and their identity and promotes their belief in their capabilities, she elaborated, before adding that innovative culture and economy need time to achieve results, as well as a long-term vision and diligent work.

For his part, Co-founder of Microsoft Corporation and Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates, said the foundation's key objective is

to help children achieve their potential, affirming that he has seen numerous challenges such as epidemics, malnutrition, and others that cause child mortalities and inhibit their growth mentally and physically, amid shortages of funds allocated for their help.

Malaria has claimed the lives of 600,000 children this year, and since allocating \$30mn, the foundation has become the largest funder of malaria research in the world, Gates highlighted. He added that the aim is to empower nations grappling with poverty by strengthening their health and education systems, enabling them to achieve self-sufficiency.

Gates recalled numerous countries in Asia that have navigated similar transitional phases, noting that at the turn of the century, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam were recipients of international aid. They have since developed their education and health sectors and no longer require external financial support. Consequently, the bulk of efforts is now focused on Africa, where the foundation

funds the essential tools to bolster their healthcare systems, he outlined.

Regarding artificial intelligence (AI) in the Global South, Gates pointed out that the key challenges lie in methods of applying AI, affirming that AI helps improve government and business performances and transform innovative activities, in addition to producing films, photographs, and literary works. The horizons of using AI are unlimited, he noted, indicating that the most beneficiaries are those who initiate the development of the AI field in its early phase, which literally helps create multiple innovations.

For his part, Chairman of the Dangote Foundation, Aliko Dangote, emphasised the importance of collaboration and partnership between a wide diversity of donor institutions to fund development ventures in Africa. He noted that Dangote pitches in when nations need help and now helps 17 African nations, stressing that the private sector plays a critical role in supporting development projects in Africa.

## ‘Qatar’s partnership with Gates Foundation vitalised global economic, health initiatives’

Microsoft Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates Foundation) Bill Gates emphasised that the strategic partnership between his foundation and Qatar has greatly contributed to supporting programmes in health, social development, and global poverty reduction.

In his speech at the opening of the Doha Forum yesterday, he stated that Qatar is one of the world's foremost supporters of social development programmes, including health and poverty alleviation.

He revealed the launch of a new partnership between the Gates Foundation and the Qatar Development Fund aimed at enhancing economic empowerment, particularly supporting farmers, alongside initiatives in education and health.

He highlighted Qatar's pivotal role in supporting international efforts to provide vaccines, including its support for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (Gavi) and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, describing this role as an investment reflecting a gen-



Bill Gates speaking at Doha Forum.

uine commitment to the world's most vulnerable populations.

Thanks to Qatar's humanitarian efforts, Gates noted, the country not only helps resolve conflicts worldwide but also provides resources that benefit humanity.

He explained that joint efforts between institutions and donor countries, including Qatar, have helped reduce child mortality from 10mn to about 5mn annually, the fastest improvement rate in human history.

He noted that last year, 4.6mn children died, compared with 4.8mn this year, the numbers re-

**Joint efforts between institutions and donor countries, including Qatar, have helped reduce child mortality from 10mn to about 5mn annually, the fastest improvement rate in human history**

main high, requiring continuous monitoring of gains and innovation in health systems. He stated that building an effective health system in poor countries requires no more than \$100 per person per year, which could prevent 95% of deaths from treatable or preventable diseases.

He warned that progress remains fragile, as over 100mn people live in conflict zones, complicating access to healthcare services. Gates revealed that modern technologies, including artificial intelligence, will provide humanity with a historic opportunity to achieve exceptional health milestones, such as developing vaccines against HIV/Aids and malaria, eradicating polio as humanity's second disease to eliminate, and creating AI-based tools to improve health-

care delivery and connect patients in deprived countries with doctors remotely in multiple languages.

He disclosed that his foundation is developing AI models capable of understanding various world languages and dialects, including those in Africa and Asia, enabling people to consult doctors and specialists remotely in their native languages.

He stressed that hope lies in ensuring that the poor benefit from the AI revolution from the outset, instead of repeating past scenarios where developing countries lag decades behind in innovation.

He expressed confidence that continued international support will enable the world to reduce child mortality to below 2% globally and make significant progress in combating poverty and deadly diseases. He concluded that saving the lives of millions of children worldwide is the most important ethical issue of our time, calling for collective efforts among governments, institutions, and communities to achieve historic progress and reach the desired goals. (QNA)