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SPORT | Page 1

Qatar exit Arab Cup, Palestine and Syria reach quarter-finals

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Amir sends condolences to Saudi king

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, over the death of the mother of Prince Mishal bin Badr bin Saud bin Abdulaziz al-Saud.

Hamad Ali al-Khater appointed Qatar Airways Group CEO



Qatar Airways Group has announced the appointment of Hamad Ali al-Khater as Group Chief Executive Officer. Al-Khater took over as the new Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer yesterday. He succeeds Badr Mohammed al-Meer. Al-Khater joined Qatar Airways Group from Hamad International Airport, where he has served as Chief Operating Officer. In that role, he was responsible for ensuring the safety and reliability of airport operations, while leading its strategic direction, operational excellence, infrastructure expansion, and the continuous enhancement of passenger experience. Prior to his tenure at Hamad International Airport, al-Khater held senior roles across QatarEnergy, driving business development, deal execution, and leading large-scale strategic and operational initiatives. **To Page 11**

True progress cannot be achieved without justice: Sheikh Moza



Her Highness Sheikh Moza bint Nasser delivers the closing remarks at Doha Forum 2025. **PICTURE:** AR al-Baker

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

True progress can be achieved when it stands alongside justice and call for justice is a universal human necessity, affirmed Her Highness Sheikh Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Education Above All Foundation and Qatar Foundation yesterday.

Her Highness Sheikh Moza was addressing a gathering of international dignitaries at the closing ceremony of Doha Forum 2025 held under the theme “Justice in Action: Beyond Promises to Progress”

“I believe that true progress can only be achieved when it stands alongside justice – otherwise, it ceases to be progress, and degenerates into nihilism. Since true progress lies in education, justice demands the securing of education to preserve language, traditions, and cultural identity. Together, these comprise humanity’s valuable heritage, and ensure the safety of societies and their national security.”

“Therefore, securing education becomes a prerequisite for achieving social justice; while

neglecting education is akin to surrendering to the ignorance and regression that perpetuates a cycle of dependency,” Her Highness said.

Her Highness Sheikh Moza noted that justice, at its core, is a faith, a culture, and a practice deeply rooted in reality.

“Justice must be perceived and experienced, not simply used as a rhetorical slogan. Those slogans are empty promises and false commitments deliberately designed to remain unfulfilled. The international system is marred by an absence of the principles of justice, as scenes of injustice spread across the globe – an injustice that is clearly observable but intentionally ignored and dismissed,” noted the EAA Chairperson.

Her Highness Sheikh Moza remarked that the core issue is the implementation of justice. “I do not believe the concept of justice needs redefining; the more pressing issue lies in how justice is implemented in practice. Across various parts of the world, we have witnessed a selective application of the right to justice, as well as its outright denial in regions where people cry out to the world to restrain their oppressor and uphold

justice, but those cries remain unanswered,” highlighted Her Highness Sheikh Moza.

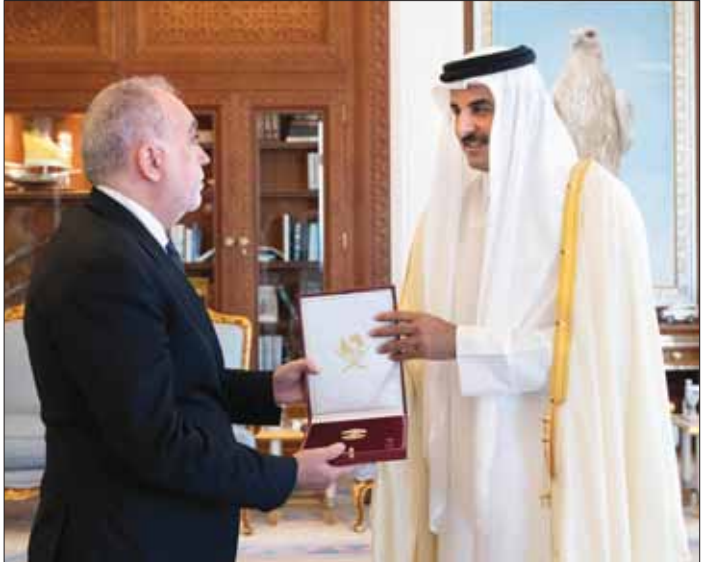
“The call for justice is a universal human necessity. Justice is essential for the vulnerable to feel protected in the face of the powerful, and equally necessary to uphold the integrity of international relations – ensuring that no state, by virtue of its strength, wrongs another,” continued Her Highness.

Her Highness Sheikh Moza stressed that humanity must safeguard justice and fairness with an unwavering commitment because of the access to instruments of mass warfare and genocide, at a rate unprecedented in the history of humanity. For nothing curbs the intoxication of power more effectively than justice and the rule of law,” she stated.

According to Her Highness Sheikh Moza, today’s global challenges demand a courageous framework aimed at restoring the tilted scales of justice. “When justice truly prevails, it reinstates in people their sense of self-confidence. For the marginalised, who endure conflict or humanitarian crises, it not only restores their belief that they are worthy of a dignified life, but also reassures them that they are far from being a burden on this earth,” pointed out, Her Highness.

“Regrettably, today’s reality is shaped by sweeping narratives that recast power as the very language of truth and justice. This turns today’s struggle into a battle of narratives: to restore meaning to concepts that have been stripped of their significance, so much so that peace no longer means peace, security no longer means security, and justice – the greatest victim of all – no longer means justice,” added Her Highness.

Amir honours Bulgarian envoy



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met yesterday at his Amiri Diwan office with ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Qatar Plamen Stankov Delev, who called on the Amir to greet him at the end of his tenure in the country. His Highness the Amir granted the Al Wajbah Decoration to the ambassador in recognition of his role in enhancing relations between Qatar and Bulgaria, wishing him success in his future missions and further development and progress for the relations between the two countries. The ambassador expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir and to the state officials for the co-operation he received that contributed to the success of his work in the country. **(QNA)**

Doha 2030 Asian Games Organising Committee Board formed

The formation of the Board of Directors of the Organising Committee for the 21st Asian Games – Doha 2030 was announced yesterday, chaired by HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, with the membership of HE Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah, Minister of Municipality; Abdullah bin Khalaf Khattab al-Kaabi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior; and HE Saad bin Ali al-Kharji, Chairman of Qatar Tourism.



HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Organising Committee for the 21st Asian Games – Doha 2030.



The committee also includes Jassim bin Rashid al-Buenain, Secretary-General of the Qatar Olympic Committee; Mohammed bin Hassan al-Malki, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Yasser bin Abdullah al-Jamal, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Sports and Youth; Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Suwaidi, Director General of Hamad Medical Corporation; Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Meer, President of the Public Works Authority; and Dr Abdulrahman Mohammed Yousuf Jolo, Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Policy Affairs at the Ministry of Finance.

HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Qatar Olympic Committee and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Organising Committee for the 21st Asian Games – Doha 2030, said: “Forming the Board of Directors of the Organising Committee for the Doha 2030 Asian Games is a fundamental step in preparing for this major continental event and places us on a practical path toward implementing our hosting plans. This formation embodies the principle of joint national work, which experience has shown to be the foundation for achieving national success. It also reflects the leadership’s confidence in the ability of national talent to organise major sporting events.”

His Excellency affirmed that the Doha 2030 Asian Games represent a continuation of the development path witnessed in Qatar’s sports sector, as the committee works to deliver an edition that meets the aspirations of the Asian continent, adopting an approach based on innovation and sustainability that establishes a legacy benefiting future generations. He noted that Doha possesses the experience and capabilities that enable it to deliver an exceptional edition that adds to the achievements of Asian sport.

He added that preparations for this edition build on the legacy of the Doha 2006 Asian Games, a milestone that marked an important turning point in Qatar’s sporting journey. He emphasised that its impact remains present to this day, providing a strong foundation from which Doha moves toward a more advanced edition that reflects the status of Qatar, its achievements over recent years, and its ambitions for the next stage.

Qatar had won the hosting rights for the 2030 Asian Games in December 2020 after presenting an outstanding bid that confirmed its full readiness to host the Games for the second time, supported by advanced infrastructure and sports facilities that meet the highest international standards. Today, Qatar reaffirms this readiness years ahead of the event, drawing on an exceptional legacy built over the past years. **To Page 11**

‘Qatar’s support for Palestinians steadfast’

●Our backing will be for the Palestinian people, not for the rebuilding of what Israel destroyed

QNA

Doha

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani has reaffirmed that Qatar will persistently support the Palestinian people and provide humanitarian aid to them.

His Excellency added that Qatar won’t leave the Palestinians without funding, but it won’t be responsible for paying the rebuilding cost of what others have devastated in the Gaza Strip either.

HE Sheikh Mohammed stressed that the Palestinians have the right to remain on their territories, and no entity is entitled to compel them to leave their country.



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani in conversation with Tucker Carlson.

Speaking during a conversation conducted by the founder of Tucker Carlson Network (TCN), Tucker Carlson, during the second day of Doha Forum 2025 deliberations, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs said the relationship with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has been forged for 13 years at the request of the United States of America.

The roots of this relationship

go back nearly 19 years, when Hamas participated in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections, and also when it moved its office to Doha in 2012, which was used exclusively to facilitate ceasefire communication and to enable the delivery of aid to the Gaza Strip, he highlighted.

HE the Prime Minister noted that Qatar has faced censures and attacks due to hosting Hamas on its territory, explaining that,

when addressing conflicts, it is essential to engage all parties for their resolution.

However, despite the criticisms and accusations, communication with Hamas has led to multiple agreements on ceasefires, the release of hostages, and alleviating civilian suffering, he outlined, pointing out that some politicians attempt to exploit this for short-term political gains, fuelling the narratives they propagate and using Qatar as a means to assign blame to other countries.

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs clarified that all aid delivered to the Palestinian people was implemented with full transparency and under the superintendence of the US, pointing out that Israel was facilitating this process, which was carried out through the successive governments there.

Qatar did not provide funding to Hamas, and the allegations in this regard are baseless, the Prime Minister underlined, emphasising that these allegations intend to spread lies and misleading information about Qatar, which achieves nothing in reality. **To Page 11**

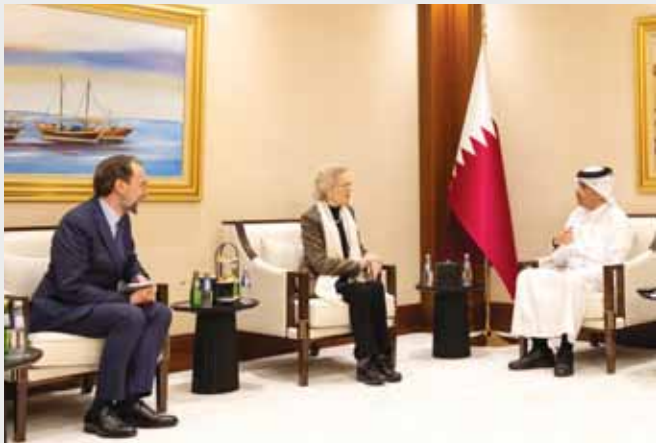


PM, Maltese deputy PM meet



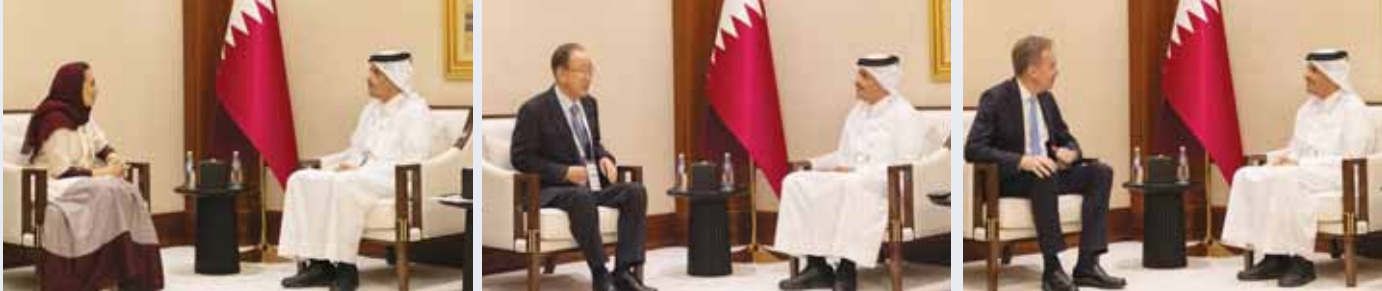
HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Malta's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Dr Ian Borg. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 23rd Doha Forum 2025. The meeting underscored efforts to strengthen and advance bilateral co-operation, with both sides exchanging views on the forum's agenda and other subjects of mutual interest. **(QNA)**

PM meets members of The Elders group



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with a delegation from The Elders, on the sidelines of the 23rd Doha Forum 2025. The delegation included Mary Robinson and Prince Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini, both prominent members of the organisation. The Elders is an independent group of global leaders founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007 to serve as an independent moral voice for peace and ethical leadership. The meeting addressed avenues for strengthening co-operation between Qatar and The Elders, as well as ways to support the group's international efforts. The two sides also exchanged views on issues featured on the forum's agenda and discussed several topics of mutual interest, ranging from global governance to conflict resolution. The Doha Forum, held annually, brings together world leaders, diplomats and experts to debate pressing global challenges and promote multilateral dialogue. **(QNA)**

PM meets several officials on sidelines of Doha Forum



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met separately yesterday with Secretary-General of the Digital Co-operation Organisation (DCO) Deemah al-Yahya, President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Ban Ki-moon and President and CEO of the World Economic Forum Borge Brende, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025. The meetings discussed co-operation relations and avenues for strengthening and developing them. They also exchanged views on issues on the forum's agenda and discussed several topics of mutual interest. **(QNA)**

Shura Council, Algerian legislature sign MoU to shore up parliamentary ties

An official talks session was held yesterday between the Shura Council and the People's National Assembly of Algeria, focusing on bilateral relations, particularly in the parliamentary domain, and exploring ways to strengthen them and advance mechanisms for co-operation.

HE the Shura Council Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, and President of the Algerian People's National Assembly Ibrahim Boughali, who is visiting Qatar, chaired the session.

At the outset of the session, HE al-Ghanem clarified that Boughali's visit manifests the depth of brotherly relations between Qatar and Algeria, as bilateral relations have been growing at all levels.

For his part, Boughali expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and hospitality in Qatar, noting the longstanding ties between the two sisterly nations, along with the persistent collaboration in a variety of fields.



Boughali lauded the clear development breakthroughs Qatar has achieved, expressing his appreciation for the progress the nation has been witnessing in the political, economic, and sports fields. He pointed out that the Qatari experiences are a role model that can be leveraged in the region.

During the session, both sides explored a variety of subjects pertaining to reinforcing parlia-

mentary co-operation and underscored the importance of coordinating the two legislatures' positions both in regional and international forums, sharing expertise, and stepping up reciprocal visits in pursuit of achieving the aspirations of the two nations and brotherly peoples.

Thereafter, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to shore up co-operation and co-ordina-

tion between the two legislatures, in addition to advancing the pathways for exchanging expertise and parliamentary visits.

Meanwhile, Boughali toured the Shura Council's premises, including Tamim bin Hamad Hall, during which he was briefed on the mechanisms of operating sessions, as well as the technological systems utilised in organising the Council's sessions. **(QNA)**



Shura Speaker holds talks with North Macedonia Speaker, French Senate team



Shura Council Speaker HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem held separate meetings yesterday with Afrim Gashi, Speaker of the Parliament of North Macedonia, and a delegation from the French Senate, as Doha continued a series of high-level parliamentary engagements. During his meeting with Gashi, HE al-Ghanem highlighted the strong parliamentary ties between the two countries and Qatar's interest in broadening co-operation and co-ordinating positions in international forums. Meanwhile, Gashi praised Qatar's remarkable progress across multiple sectors, noting advances in the legislative field and the country's growing regional and international role in promoting peace, security and development. Both sides discussed ways to enhance parliamentary co-operation, including closer communication channels and expanded exchanges of expertise. In a separate session, HE al-Ghanem met with a French Senate delegation led by Laurent Mazurier, chairman of the Qatar-France Parliamentary Friendship Group. Talks focused on strengthening Qatari-French parliamentary co-operation, boosting the exchange of visits and expertise, and reviewing issues of mutual interest amid steadily expanding ties between the two nations. The meetings come as Qatar continues to position parliamentary diplomacy as a key component of its broader foreign relations strategy. **(QNA)**

Qatar in talks to boost health ties



HE the Minister of Public Health, Mansoor bin Ebrahim al-Mahmoud, met separately yesterday with Albanian Minister of Health and Social Protection Dr Evis Sala, Regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) Dr Hanan Balkhy and Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft. The meetings, held on the sidelines of the Doha Forum, discussed strengthening co-operation between the Qatar and Albania, the WHO, and Microsoft in the health fields, besides key topics on the Doha Forum's agenda. **(QNA)**



Labour minister meets Ghana's FM

HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met yesterday with Ghana's Foreign Minister, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa. The meeting explored ways to enhance and develop co-operation, particularly in the labour sector. **(QNA)**





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Al-Mannai meets UNDP administrator



HE the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Mohammed bin Ali al-Mannai, met with Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Alexander De Croo, on the sidelines of the 23rd edition of the Doha Forum 2025, held at the Sheraton Grand Doha under the theme "Justice in Action: Beyond Promises to Progress". The discussion covered avenues for enhancing co-operation with UNDP in the fields of digital development and initiatives that integrate technology into addressing development challenges. **(QNA)**

Al-Misnad meets UK Parliament, Jersey officials

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation, Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, met separately with a delegation of United Kingdom (UK) Parliament members and another from the government of the island of Jersey, a British Crown Dependency, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025. The two meetings discussed relations and ways to support and strengthen them, in addition to touching on a host of topics of mutual interest. **(QNA)**



Interior minister meets US special envoy to Syria



HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, met yesterday with US Special Envoy to Syria Tom Barrack at the National Command Center (NCC). The meeting discussed a host of topics of mutual interest. Barrack was also briefed on the National Command Center and its role in supporting the command and control system, and enhancing rapid response capabilities. **(QNA)**

Al-Misnad meets UK Parliament, Jersey officials

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation, Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, met separately with a delegation of United Kingdom (UK) Parliament members and another from the government of the island of Jersey, a British Crown Dependency, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025. The two meetings discussed relations and ways to support and strengthen them, in addition to touching on a host of topics of mutual interest. **(QNA)**



Arab Centre at DI to announce findings of opinion survey 2025

The Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (DI), will announce the main findings of the ninth Arab Opinion Index (AOI) at a press conference to be held at the Centre at 11am in Doha tomorrow (December 9).

With the release of these results, the Centre marks more than 14 years of regularly tracking public opinion across the Arab region, producing an unprecedented comprehensive, open-access database available to all those interested in studying Arab public opinion – researchers, academics, policymakers, journalists, and anyone requiring precise empirical data to understand the Arab region and its transformations.

Dr Leila Omar, an Arab Centre researcher working on the AOI, noted that the 2025 survey was carried out through face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of Arab public opinion comprising 40,130 respondents across 15 Arab countries: Saudi



Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and Syria.

Survey implementation required more than 413,000 hours of work, involved 1,000 researchers (half of whom were women), and saw field researchers travel more than 900,000km across the Arab countries. This makes it the largest survey of its kind ever conducted in the Arab region; whether in terms of sample size, number of participating countries, the breadth of variables examined (over 540), or the volume of data collected.

She added that the 2025 AOI includes Syria, making it the first survey of its kind in the country to include political, economic, and social topics. Its results also incorporate important questions concerning the situation in Sudan and the Gaza Strip.

The AOI data covers a wide spectrum of economic, social, and political matters affecting the daily lives of citizens, including assessments of general conditions in Arab countries; citizens' perceptions of state institutions and government performance; levels of trust in these institutions; and public attitudes towards democracy, citizenship values, equality, civic and political participation.

This AOI includes topics examining the use of social media and the Internet in detail, as well as levels of trust in these platforms. It also explores public attitudes in the Arab region towards the Palestine question, the Israeli war on Gaza, and the Arab–Israeli conflict.

Rayan Travel & Tours opens new branch in Abu Hamour



Rayan Travel which opened its new branch office in Abu Hamour area, is celebrating the occasion with special deals for the upcoming New Year holidays and winter season on its various services.

Rayan Travel, in view of retail network expansion, announced the opening of its new branch office in Abu Hamour area. To celebrate this occasion, Rayan Travel launched Special Deals for the upcoming New Year holidays and winter season on its various travel services, including travel insurance, international driving license and holiday packages for destinations such as UK, France, Italy, Greece, Malta, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Poland, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkiye, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, which are among the most popular holiday destinations for the travellers. They can enjoy from amazing historical monuments and nature to

stunning snow mountains and exotic beaches, among many other memorable tours. "Rayan Travel will continue to expand its presence in the region through B2C online booking www.flyrayan.com and social media platforms by offering amazing offers as well as focusing on luxury travel, particularly cruise tours for the Mediterranean, Northern Europe and GCC region which is in high demand now" said Zaheer Yousuf, general manager, Rayan Travel & Tours. Also, Rayan Travel and Tours is offering special deals on inbound tour activities for tourists visiting Qatar such as desert safari, dinner on dhow cruise, shopping tour, city tour,

luxury yacht tour, jetski, water activities day trip to Saffliya Island, and weekend stay at luxury beach resorts and hotels. Rayan Travel & Tours is one of the business divisions of Al Darwish United Holding Group, which was established in 1935 with over 12,000 employees, owned and headed by Al Darwish family, with varied businesses and operations within Qatar and across the region. For travel enquiries/reservation, please visit Rayan Travel & Tours branch office next to Abu Hamour Central Market Petrol Station, or contact on WhatsApp +974 55934881 or 33485678 or 77738447 or visit Instagram page [@flyrayan](https://www.instagram.com/flyrayan) or website www.flyrayan.com

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Department of Arab Affairs director meets officials

The director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs's Arab Affairs Department, Nayef bin Abdullah al-Emadi, held a series of bilateral meetings yesterday on the margin of the Doha Forum 2025. He met the special envoy of the German Federal Foreign Office for the Horn of Africa, Heiko Nitzschke; ambassador and head of the Middle East and North Africa division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Monika Schmutz Kirgoz; European Union Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, Christophe Bigot; the deputy executive director for Humanitarian Action and Supply Operations at the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), Ted Chaiban; and the director of the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), Nathalie Chuard. During the meetings, they reviewed relations, co-operation and ways to support and develop them, in addition to several regional and international issues of common concern. - QNA



Praise for playwriting workshop

The playwriting workshop held from November 15 to December 3, organised by the Theatre Affairs Centre of the Ministry of Culture, received widespread praise from participants, who said that it provided a rich training experience combining theory and practice.

The workshop also contributed to the discovery of their creative potential and the development of their skills in scriptwriting and character development, the participants said, adding that it gave them a deeper understanding of the structure of a theatrical text and how to transform life experiences into impactful dramatic material.

This type of programme, according to the participants, represents a significant step in enriching the theatrical scene with new writers capable of producing



Dr Manjoud leading the workshop.

works that meet the aspirations of the theatrical movement in Qatar.

They also pointed out that the content presented by Dr Sharif Manjoud was sufficient to re-shape their perspective on writing, both through its focus on the elements of dramatic action and conflict, and through practical exercises that boosted their con-

fidence in their ability to produce more mature texts.

Artist Faisal al-Dosari, one of the participants in the workshop, said the experience was a milestone for him in his journey with playwriting, as it provided him with a clearer understanding of how to transform the initial idea into a complete text capable of being presented on stage.

Chopard legacy continues with 'The Precious Hours'

In 1969, at a time when the world of jewellery was undergoing powerful creative renewal, Chopard unveiled a collection of jewellery watches, ushering in a new era of artistry and elegance.

More than five decades later, this legacy endures in The Precious Hours box set, a dazzling tribute to the Maison's mastery of ornamental stone dials.

This extraordinary collection brings together unique renditions of the 26mm-diameter L'Heure du Diamant, crafted in ethical gold with coloured dials surrounded by diamonds featuring Chopard's signature crown-setting technique.

The 12 models are powered by the Chopard 10.01-C mechanical manual-winding movement, one of the most compact sizes and thicknesses on the market.

These talismans are a testament to technique, shape and material, uniting in a perfect alchemist's blend.

A jewel that tells the time: the dual nature of Chopard's expertise

Combining watchmaking expertise with Haute Joaillerie excellence, dainty diamond-set watches lie at the heart of the history and identity of the Scheufele family, who have served as guardians of Chopard's development for generations.

The L'Heure du Diamant collection epitomises this duality, masterfully mingling contemporary vision and vintage allure; hard materials and soft shapes; exquisite aesthetics and precision.

At the crossroads of these skills, L'Heure du Diamant is a collection inspired by a 1970 Chopard jewellery timepiece.

Crafted in yellow gold with a champagne-toned dial, Milanese mesh bracelet, diamond-set bezel and refined mechanical movement, this vintage masterpiece continues to exercise a profound influence on the current interpretations of L'Heure du Diamant.

These watchmaking jewels, paired with ornamental hard stone dials, result from over a century of technical and aesthetic supremacy, as Caroline and Karl-Friedrich Scheufele's grandfather was already dubbed the "Master of Jewellery Watches" in the early 20th century.

This historical heritage was acknowledged in 2013, when the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève awarded its "Jewellery Watch Prize" to an L'Heure du Diamant timepiece in rose gold entirely paved with diamonds.

Imbued with harmony and symmetry, L'Heure du Diamant models have been interpreted over the years in a variety of round, oval, cushion, octagonal or heart-shaped cases, making the collection a veritable beacon of creativity.

This year Chopard chose the treasures of its L'Heure du Diamant collection to adorn its ambassador Bella Hadid in a new campaign, widely acclaimed across watch, jewellery and fashion circles.

Dials in ornamental stones: a myriad of colours

The extraordinary Precious Hours set houses 12 renditions of the 26mm L'Heure du Diamant, representing the months of the year or the day's 12-hour cycles, all presented in an elegant black lacquered case.

This exquisite presentation box features a rotating tray that invites discovery, revealing a fresh expression of light and colour.

Each dial of these watches carries a unique story, brimming with symbolism and energy.

New to the collection, pink opal, jade and blue agate deepen this narrative of natural beauty.

Chopard's mastery of these exquisite materials transforms timepieces into talismans, each bearing its own special meaning.

○ Mother-of-pearl, embodying the shimmer of the seas, is believed to enhance creativity and protect against negativity.

○ Diamonds, with their flashes of light from the depths of the earth, are an enduring symbol of prosperity and purity.

○ The fiery hues of carnelian, known as the "rays of the setting sun" in ancient Egypt, are thought to ignite courage.

○ Tiger's eye offers confidence and clarity. It was referred to in antiquity as the "all-seeing eye", guiding soldiers to success.

○ Onyx, a splendid member of the chalcedony family, derives its name from the Greek word onux, meaning fingernail. This nod to mythology comes from the story of Cupid clipping Venus's fingernails, which were transformed into onyx to ensure her beauty would last forever. It is thus said to bring stability and strength in times of change.

○ Malachite, with its lush green patterns obtained from the presence of copper within, is regarded as the stone of transformation.

○ Turquoise, long associated with unity, is a sacred stone in Native American cultures.

○ Opal, the stone of dreams and intuition, owes its name to the Latin *opalus*, meaning "to see a change in colour".

○ Jade, from the Spanish expression piedra de ijada – literally "stone of the pain in the side" – is renowned for its healing properties. Early Spanish explorers named it thus after seeing natives holding pieces of the stone to their sides to cure or relieve various aches.

○ Blue agate, born from magma or volcanic rock, is considered to bring renewal, soothing the spirit with its tranquil tones.

Chopard honours the raw beauty of these materials, preserving their natural variations so that each watch remains a unique masterpiece.

Like Time itself, no two dials are ever the same, each offering a singular expression of nature's artistry, captured within a timeless creation.

Noble aesthetics: a majestic dial encircled by a diamond crown

Another distinctive characteristic of L'Heure du Diamant timepieces is a bezel entirely set with generously sized diamonds, whose radiance is majestically enhanced using a unique Chopard signature gem setting technique: crown setting, which highlights the beauty of each stone by allowing the light



to flood through with exceptional brilliance.

Designed with V-shaped prongs, this process originally devised by Karl Scheufele supports the arrangement of the diamonds like invisible lacework.

Thus, released from the constraints of opaque metal, the mineral purity of diamonds can shine through fully, as the timeless grace of L'Heure du Diamant jewellery embodies fragments of eternity.

The bark-type bracelet: a goldsmith's masterpiece

Two of the L'Heure du Diamant timepieces in the set are paired with a bark-type bracelet in ethical gold, featuring an ergonomic, silky texture achieved by unique expertise.

In reference to the plant-life theme, extremely fine veining gives the bracelet a lifelike appearance, as it endows the gold with an incomparably supple, light touch.

This bracelet gently nestled against the skin does not cling to fabrics, instead following the wearer's every move thanks to the entirely hand-crafted goldsmithing technique perfected by the Scheufele family in the 1960s.

Other models in the collection come with either a leather or satin strap in a variety of joyful colours matching the dials.

A high-precision mechanism: the Chopard 10.01-C movement

Beating at the heart of these watches, the Chopard 10.01-C mechanical manual-winding movement driving the hours and minutes has a 45-hour power reserve.

Measuring just 15.70mm in diameter and 2.90mm thick, this in-house calibre introduced in 2024 is one of the smallest and thinnest in the world, making it suitable for dainty jewellery watches.

It was entirely developed and produced within the Maison's workshops in Switzerland, revealing the technical genius and constant quest for innovation cultivated by Chopard.

LIQUIDATION / LICENSE CANCELLATION NOTICE

M/s.Hager Qatar QFZ LLC, (FZA No:161) located at 3202,W3,L2,BIP ,Qatar Free Zone P. O. Box 31830, Qatar, registered and licensed with the Qatar Free Zones Authority (the "Company"), wishes to announce the decision taken regarding closing down/ winding-up and cancellation of license via board resolution passed at the Shareholders meeting of
M/s. Hager Qatar QFZ LLC
held on 12 November 2025.

Accordingly, any interested party who has a claim against the Company is hereby requested to submit its outstanding claims within 14 days of notice by registered post or contact:

Mr. Jayachandran R Pillai
Hager Qatar QFZ LLC
Address: P.O Box 31830, Doha, Qatar
Tel No. 55682915
Email: Jayachandran.pillai@hager.com

Claims received after expiry of the notice period of 14 days shall not be considered.

MWANI QATAR مواني قطر

TENDERS AND AUCTIONS COMMITTEE

AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

SL no.	AUCTION FOR	AUCTION NO.	BOND	DOC FEES	CLOSING DATE
1	LEASING OF THE CONTAINER MANAGEMENT STATION (CMS) - AT JERY MUSABEH FOR 5 YEARS	MQ\TAC/AUCT \5\2025	QRS. 400,000	QRS. 4,000	04.01.2026

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

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

2 - Offer should be accompanied with a Bond / issued by one of the Banks operating in Qatar for the amount shown in the above table and valid for 120 days from the closing date. The offer which is not accompanied by the Bond will not be considered. The successful bidder should pay the total awarding amount within five working days from the awarding date.

3 - Offers should be valid for ninety (90) days commencing from the closing date.

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

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

6 - The offers must be submitted in One envelope system, (Original and Copy) The envelopes should not bear any mark denoting the name of the Company. The original bond must be attached with the Original offer.

7 - For more clarification please contact Tenders Secretary.

Ministry launches National Volunteer Work Lab

On the occasion of International Volunteer Day, the Ministry of Social Development and Family yesterday launched the National Volunteer Work Lab, under the auspices and in the presence of HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi.

Representatives from various governmental, private, and youth sectors in Qatar participated in the launch.

The launch of the lab is part of the ministry's efforts to strengthen national partnerships, develop the volunteer work sector, and support the participation of youth and specialised entities in shaping the future of volunteer work in the country.

Addressing the launch event, HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi emphasised that volunteering is not a secondary activity, but rather a fundamental pillar in strength-

ening social and family cohesion and in building a society capable of participation, contribution, and development. She noted that the ministry plays a pivotal role in organising and developing the volunteer work sector, ensuring its readiness, sustainability, and enhancing its positive impact.

She noted that the launch of the National Volunteer Work Lab initiative aims to create a new space for dialogue, development, and innovation among government, private, and youth entities, with the goal of unifying efforts, aligning national priorities, and establishing joint mechanisms.

She emphasised that the success of this day depends on the insights and recommendations presented by the working teams, and on the co-operation of all partners from various sectors.

The National Volunteer Work Lab is a programme based on an interactive volunteer model implemented in several phases, with the participation of representa-



tives from volunteer organisations and centres across the country. The model works to generate prac-

tical ideas and proposals that contribute to building a more organised, sustainable, and impactful

volunteer sector. This is achieved by bringing together volunteer entities in a shared development

space that relies on two methodologies: design thinking and social labs.

The programme contributes to activating national objectives and enhancing integration among government, private, and youth entities through specialised workshops.

The launch of the lab aims to enhance national co-ordination in the field of volunteer work, and to develop the volunteer work system by establishing joint mechanisms and generating practical solutions that support building a sustainable and more impactful organised volunteer sector for society.

The launch of the laboratory also comes within the paths supporting the implementation of the ministry's strategic projects in the field of volunteering, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, the Third National Development Strategy (2024-2030), and the Ministry of Social Development and Family Strategy (2025-2030). (QNA)

Kahramaa's Success Partners Forum enhances ties with local companies



Qatar General Electricity and Water Corp (Kahramaa) launched its inaugural Success Partners Forum for the electricity and water sector 2025.

The forum aims to strengthen partnerships with local companies and national factories, establish a platform for communication and joint planning, and empower promising companies to contribute to Kahramaa's future projects.

In a statement published yesterday, the company explained that organising the forum aligns with its vision to build strategic partnerships and effective communication channels with public and private sector institutions.

This will contribute to the high-quality and efficient execution of projects, foster a positive competitive environment among companies, and encourage them to develop their capabilities to participate in upcoming tenders.

During his opening remarks at the forum, Director of Kahramaa's Technical Affairs Sector, Ahmed al-Naser, said that the convening of this first-of-its-kind event represents a strategic platform for strengthening channels of communication and exchanging expertise between the public and private sectors.



He noted that it opens new horizons for local companies to explore investment opportunities and future project plans, enabling them to prepare their administrative and technical teams to contribute effectively to these projects.

Al-Naser indicated that the total cost of Kahramaa's upcoming projects is estimated at QR19.31bn, distributed across various electricity, water, and supply projects. Electricity projects amount to QR10.2bn, water projects to QR4.1bn, while supply projects reach QR5.01bn.

The joint co-operation, he added, constitutes a fundamental pillar for achieving collective success in the future, emphasising that the institution's achievements are closely linked to the

performance of its partners. The forum included a review of Kahramaa's major accomplishments in recent years, along with a presentation of the five-year project plan (2026-2030). The aim was to brief companies on the nature of the projects and future collaboration with the institution, while enabling them to develop their capabilities in line with upcoming requirements and promoting greater reliance on Qatari and local firms.

The event also highlighted available co-operation opportunities in the local market, the role of partners in supporting the institution's achievements, and successful experiences in adopting locally produced materials and engaging local contractors. (QNA)



HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari with Leslie Weir and other officials at the IFLA Regional Offices Meeting at QNL, yesterday.

Qatar National Library hosts inaugural IFLA Regional Offices meeting

Qatar National Library (QNL), in its capacity as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions for the Middle East and North Africa (IFLA Mena) Regional Office, hosted the inaugural IFLA Regional Offices Meeting yesterday.

The gathering marks the first time that the IFLA president, secretary-general, and CEO, along with representatives of all IFLA Regional Offices worldwide, have convened to advance a unified global approach to partnerships, regional collaboration, and shared strategic planning.

The meeting carries particular significance as it represents president Leslie Weir's first official visit to the Mena region during her 2025-2027 term, underscoring IFLA's commitment to strengthening engagement across regions.

Held in the presence of HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari, Minister of State and president of QNL, the opening day wel-

comed Weir, along with secretary general and CEO Sharon Memis, and representatives from Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and Asia Oceania regional offices, IFLA headquarters staff, and the Library's Mena Regional Office team. The opening sessions witnessed leaders exploring the future of partnership models and examined best practices in regional engagement. The discussions reflected a shared vision for enhancing the impact of libraries across communities worldwide.

Over the coming two days, participants will continue with interactive workshops and strategic sessions, building on the outcomes of the opening day. Delegates will work together to develop recommendations that support impactful services across the global library field and will outline a shared roadmap for 2026, guiding how regional offices can strengthen collaboration and contribute to a cohesive international vision.

This global gathering forms

part of a broader strategic effort led by IFLA headquarters to ensure that the value and expertise of libraries continue to be recognised by partners across sectors.

In a press statement, HE Dr al-Kawari said: "Doha was honoured to host the first IFLA Regional Offices Meeting, a reflection of its ongoing commitment to strengthening global collaboration in the library field.

"This gathering brings together diverse regional perspectives that are essential to shaping future partnerships and expanding the societal impact of libraries. By creating a shared space for dialogue, strategy, and innovation, we are contributing to a stronger and more connected international library community." Eiman Saleh al-Shamari, manager of the IFLA Mena Regional Office at QNL said: "Bringing IFLA leadership and Regional Offices together in Doha allows us to align our goals, exchange insights, and explore new ways to deliver meaningful services to our communities."

QU wraps up Health Tech Hackathon

Qatar University (QU) concluded the Health Tech Hackathon 2025, held over three days under the theme 'Transforming Health, Defining Future'.

The event saw broad participation from students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and representatives from healthcare institutions and featured a series of training sessions, workshops, and discussion panels aimed at empowering participants to develop innovative technological solutions that enhance the quality and efficiency of healthcare services in Qatar.

The second edition of the Hackathon builds on the success of the inaugural 2024 edition, which established a national environment bringing together young talents, research entities, and the healthcare sector under

one umbrella. This foundation helped expand the digital health innovation community both within the university and across the country.

During the opening session, Prof Feras Alali, director of Research and Graduate Studies and associate vice president for Medical and Health Affairs at QU, delivered a speech on behalf of Prof Asmaa al-Thani, vice president for Health and Medical Sciences. He highlighted the internal and external partnerships that strengthen the national innovation ecosystem.


Prof Alali also noted the strategic alignment between this year's Hackathon and the AI Summit 2025, which will allow finalist teams to showcase their ideas on a national platform that brings together leaders in health, research, and innovation from Qatar

and beyond. Dr Kholoud Abdulla, chair of the Hackathon, said: "We are not looking for theoretical ideas, but for applicable solutions driven by the youth of Qatar who believe in their ability to create meaningful change."

Participating student Mariam al-Muraikhi, from QU's College of Pharmacy, said: "I had the opportunity to work with a multidisciplinary team to develop digital solutions that support the healthcare sector. The collaborative environment and strong mentorship we received gave us confidence in our ability to create real impact. Having the chance to present our projects at the AI Summit was a major motivation to continue innovating and developing practical solutions."

The Hackathon was organised in collaboration with the AI Summit 2025, with the support and sponsorship of several partners. The event aligns with QU's role in supporting the national innovation ecosystem and strengthening the connection between scientific research, entrepreneurship, and advanced health technologies, contributing to the development of a modern, integrated, and sustainable digital healthcare sector in Qatar.






الانوارية
AL-AWALIA

Invitation to Tender

Tender / Auction Number	Subject	Tender / Auction Document Fees (Non-refundable)	Tender / Auction Bond	Tender/Auction Offer	Closing Date
AL-AWALIA/TD/2025/37	Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of a Centralized Air Conditioning System at BMHS Stockyard Warehouse in Mesaieed for Qatar Primary Materials Company ("Works")	500 QAR	7,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	15 December 2025 01:00 PM

In accordance with the following conditions:

- Tender Documents can be collected online by sending email to tender.doc@qpmc.qa along with requested documents in point No.2
- Tender Documents will be shared only after delivery of Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized person as per Computer ID, Copy of commercial Registration (CR), Business License and Computer ID.
- Bids are to be submitted in two sealed (in red wax) envelopes (Technical & Commercial) and addressed to Tenders and Auction Committee. Tender reference number and subject are to be clearly written on the envelopes, provided that the last date for submitting bids is one o'clock in the afternoon on the closing day. Any bids submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
- Tenders shall submit the proposals to our head office located at Lusail, Building No. 108, St. No. 303, Burj Marina Tower, 17th Floor before the closing date. (To get the map of the new building, please scan the QR code below).
- Tender Fees are non-refundable and can be transferred online to Account of Qatar Primary Material Company- Bank A/C (4050 45111-006) at Commercial Bank of Qatar. IBAN No. (QA 18 CROA 0000 0000 4050 45111 006) tender reference number and subject are to be written on the deposit slip.
- Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee/ Manager Cheque) must be valid for 120 days after closing date and must be submitted in separate & sealed envelope along with technical bid and a photocopy is to be attached with commercial bid. Bids without tender bond will be rejected.
- Bids must be valid for 90 days after the closing date.
- Any queries relating to the Tender Documents must only be raised in writing, preferably by email, to the address specified in the respective Tender Document. Any response issued by Qatar Primary Material Company will be in the form of a question and answer and will be distributed to all Tenderers without revealing the identity of the originator of the query(ies) in the form of Tender Bulletins. Queries must be received at the address specified in the respective ITT Documentation at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Tender closing date. Any queries received after such a date will be ignored.
- The amount of the Performance Bond to be provided by the awarded bidder is (10% of the contract value) and its validity period must remain valid under the contract implementation period and the guarantee period according to the terms of the tender.
- The Technical Bids shall be opened within one week of the closing date.
- Qatar Primary Material Company has the right, during the contract period, to request an increase or decrease in the amounts of the items, works or services by a percentage not exceeding (20%) of the contract value with the same conditions and prices, provided that the increase is of the same type of contracted items, works or services.
- Qatar Primary Material Company's tendering terms and conditions apply.
- For any inquiries about the tender except collecting the documents, please contact tender@qpmc.qa
- Location of the new building



For further Inquiry, please send your queries at email to tender@qpmc.qa or visit Qatar Primary Material Company website @ www.qpmc.qa

شركة قطر للمواد الأولية (ش.م.ق) | مقرها الرئيسي: الدوحة - قطر، منطقة لوسيل، برج مارينا، رقم 108 | سجل تجاري: 33204 | ص.ب: 22095 | هاتف: +974 4447 9411
Qatar Primary Materials Company (Q.P.S.C.) | Head Office: Doha-Qatar, Lusail, Marina Tower No.: 108 | CR No.: 33204 | P.O Box: 22095 | Tel: +974 4447 9411
رأس المال المصرح به المدفوع 200,000,000 ريال المال المدفوع 200,000,000 | info@qpmc.qa | www.qpmc.qa

Minister is awarded Nobel Sustainability Trust Medal

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah has been awarded the Nobel Sustainability Trust Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Sustainability, in recognition of his efforts in advancing sustainable development initiatives, promoting smart economic systems, and fostering green and resilient urban planning.

The award was presented during a ceremony organised by the Nobel Sustainability Trust in Miami, in the US state of Florida, in the presence of Nobel Sustainability Trust chairman Peter Nobel with senior officials and distinguished guests.

In his address, HE al-Attiyah said the recognition reflects the success of Qatar's balanced and comprehensive approach to sustainability and development under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

The minister noted that His Highness the Amir's clear vision for sustainability, long-term prosperity, and integrated development has guided the country's national strategies and the establishment of modern, sustainable cities.

HE al-Attiyah added that Qatar's commitment to sustainability is rooted in a firm belief in the necessity of safeguarding the environment and enhancing the prosperity of future generations, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

He noted that the Ministry of Municipality has worked to develop smart, integrated and resilient urban environments based on scientific planning, efficient land use, digital transformation, and advanced infrastructure and sustainability projects.

These efforts, HE al-Attiyah added, have strengthened Qatar's position as a leading in-

ternational model for balanced and sustainable development.

The minister also pointed to the strategic partnership with the Nobel Sustainability Trust, which reflects Qatar's commitment to supporting international sustainability efforts, praising the Trust's role in advancing scientific and innovative solutions to global sustainability challenges.

The Nobel Sustainability Trust announced in June that Qatar had been selected to host the 2026 Nobel Sustainability Awards Ceremony, praising the country's achievements in innovation and sustainability.

A high-level delegation from the Trust recently visited Doha, expressing admiration for Qatar's ambitious national vision and its advanced initiatives in digital transformation, resource efficiency, and sustainable city development. - **QNA**



HE al-Attiyah was recognised by the Nobel Sustainability Trust for his contribution to advancing sustainable development initiatives.

Experts urge rethink of Mediterranean ties

Experts and diplomats have urged a reassessment of Mediterranean relations amid a shifting geoeconomic landscape during the second day of the Doha Forum 2025, focusing on the future of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation 30 years after the Barcelona Declaration.

The session on "30 Years After the Barcelona Declaration: Rethinking Mediterranean Relations for the New Geoeconomic Era" explored the structural challenges and potential opportunities for strengthening regional collaboration.

Discussions highlighted the declining strategic centrality of the Mediterranean, ongoing conflicts from the Palestinian-Israeli dispute to instability in Libya and

Syria, and divisions within the European Union, including Brexit and the rise of nationalist movements.

Dr Nouzha Chekrouni, former ambassador and senior fellow at the Centre for Policies for the New South, said that despite three decades since its launch, the Barcelona Declaration had achieved limited results, particularly in political dialogue and social co-operation.

She noted that the global shift toward Asia and the rise of powers such as China and India, along with internal European factors like Brexit and demographic challenges, had reduced the region's influence.

Dr Chekrouni highlighted Morocco as a case study, noting the country had opened new avenues

through South-South co-operation in Africa and partnerships with global powers like China and the US.

She said that Morocco's strategic position within the new Mediterranean Charter enables it to access European markets and play a key role in migration management, counterterrorism, and political stability, leveraging its renewable energy and infrastructure capacities.

Club of Lisbon co-founder and executive director Dr Fernando Jorge Cardoso argued that the EU is not a unified geopolitical actor but a collection of 27 states with divergent interests, limiting the European Commission's ability to address migration, security, and regional conflicts.



He cited tensions between France and Italy over Libya as an example of this policy fragmentation.

While initiatives like the Union for the Mediterranean remain important, Cardoso warned against overestimating their effectiveness.

Former World Bank vice-president Ferid Belhaj emphasised the historical imbalance between northern and southern Mediterranean states, noting that Europe traditionally dictated reform conditions to southern countries.

He called for a recalibration based on the new global reality, in which energy - both traditional and renewable - plays a central role.

Belhaj also highlighted the Mediterranean's trade and mari-

time significance, as well as demographic dynamics, pointing out that Europe faces ageing populations while the southern Mediterranean has a youth bulge projected to reach 300mn by 2050.

He warned that failing to implement economic reforms in the south could drive migration at a time when Europe will need this youthful workforce.

Italian Institute for International Political Studies researcher Aldo Liga argued that the new Mediterranean Charter reflects a shift from European idealism to pragmatism, focusing on feasible projects rather than a shared space for prosperity and stability.

While he praised some initiatives, such as a Mediterranean university and joint civil serv-

ices, he said the charter fails to address core EU shortcomings, particularly in crisis and conflict management.

The session concluded with calls to develop new mechanisms for co-operation, moving beyond bureaucracy and based on genuine shared interests between the northern and southern Mediterranean, to ensure sustainable partnerships and regional stability.

The new Mediterranean Charter, launched by the EU earlier this year, aims to enhance co-operation with southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, focusing on clean energy, trade, investment, and regional security through joint measures to address migration, climate change, and humanitarian crises. - **QNA**



QU holds third annual Tajseer Conference

The Ibn Khaldun Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences at Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), organised the third annual Tajseer (Bridging) conference on "Interdisciplinarity in the Humanities and Social Sciences in Arab Universities: Reality, Challenges, and Prospects".

The two-day event featured the presentation of 20 research papers that examined the current state of interdisciplinary studies in several Arab universities, the challenges facing this field, and the prospects for its development.

The opening ceremony was attended by associate vice-president for Research and Graduate Studies Dr Mohammed al-Safran, Ibn Khaldun Centre director Dr

Badrane Benlahcene, and CAS dean Dr Fatima Ali al-Kubaisi, along with faculty members, researchers, students, and those interested in scientific scholarship from the local community.

The conference also saw research participation from several Arab universities.

The conference aimed to examine the reality of interdisciplinary studies in Arab universities by analysing published research experiences, exploring the challenges they face, and proposing mechanisms to develop the academic environment in support of interdisciplinary research.

It also sought to highlight models adopted in interdisciplinary research and to demonstrate their impact on the development of the humanities and social



sciences, in addition to discussing future opportunities and appropriate academic policies that support this direction.

"This year's edition comes at a time when the need to renew research tools and analytical approaches is increasing, as single-discipline perspectives are no longer capable of keeping pace with the major issues facing the region and the world," Dr al-Safran said in his address. "Interdisciplinary methodologies have therefore become an essential knowledge-based necessity that enables researchers to go beyond disciplinary boundaries toward more comprehensive and in-depth understanding."

Dr Benlahcene indicated that the Tajseer Conference aligns with the Ibn Khaldun Centre's two main frameworks:

"bridging" and "adaptation".

He said that the bridging framework aims to create intellectual linkages among various sciences to address human and social issues in an integrated manner, while the adaptation framework focuses on responding scientifically to rapid transformations and providing a knowledge structure that meets the needs of the present and the aspirations of the future.

Dr al-Kubaisi affirmed the importance of the conference and its role in strengthening interdisciplinarity among the humanities and social sciences, contributing to the provision of accurate and objective scholarly insights that serve various academic fields.

The first day's papers addressed mul-

multiple aspects of interdisciplinary studies, including practical models for addressing research challenges, identifying institutional and academic barriers to interdisciplinary research in Arab universities, and examining the role of interdisciplinarity in developing future skills among graduate students.

Other papers explored the state of interdisciplinary studies in several Arab universities: Ibn Zohr University, the University of Aden, Iraqi universities, the Institute of Oriental Literature, the University of Jijel - Mohamed-Seddik Benyahia, and Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, highlighting the challenges these institutions face and proposing practical solutions and future directions for advancing interdisciplinary research.



QF school students excel in national competition



Ali al-Kaabi

Students from Qatar Academy Msheireb (QAM) and Qatar Academy Al Khor, both part of Qatar Foundation (QF)'s Pre-University Education (PUE), earned top placements in a national competition dedicated to documenting the achievements of Her Highness the QF Chairperson Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser.

The winners were honoured at a ceremony hosted by the Qatar National Library (QNL) as part of Qatar National Day celebrations.

Students from schools across the country submitted posters and essays highlighting the contributions of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza to education, health, and culture.

Their participation demonstrated strong research and creative skills, reflecting their understanding of na-

Students' success showcase impact of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser

tional identity and their ability to apply technology and collaborative learning.

"Our students are deeply proud of Qatar and its National Day, and they hold great appreciation for the remarkable efforts of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza across all fields," said QAM director Lina Mouchantaf.

"From a learning perspective, this project gave them valuable experience in teamwork, especially since it required additional effort beyond school hours," she said. "Through this journey, students learned the importance of commitment and investing time and energy to achieve the results they aspire to. It was an experience that

nurtured responsibility, planning, and productivity."

Mouchantaf noted that such activities provide important opportunities to develop students' skills, especially in competitions that combine national identity with technology, a key element in their learning process.

She added that integrating digital tools into these initiatives significantly enhances students' skills and broadens their learning experience.

Speaking about his first-place win, 10-year-old Qatar Academy Al Khor student Ali al-Kaabi said: "I was very happy that I had won first place for my project about the achievements of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza."

"One of the most challenging parts was selecting and organising the achievements because there are so many," he said. "I learned a lot about her great efforts, and it made me think about how I can contribute when I grow up."

Abdulaziz Khaled al-Yafei, a 12-year-old QAM student and winner of third place, said: "I worked with my classmate Tamim Baddar on a poster showcasing the achievements of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza."

"During our research, we discovered many important initiatives she has led inside and outside Qatar, especially in education," he said. "We benefited greatly from the research process and from working together as a team."

ANNOUNCEMENT

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



Minister reiterates Qatar's continued support for Syria

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar, right from the beginning, has been very firm and consistent in its position of offering full support for the Syrian people, said HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi.

"Past 14 years, we haven't changed our position. We have been firm, believing strongly that this is the right path for the Syrians to restore their full rights, for a country that is sovereign, prosperous, and providing an opportunity for the people to live a better life," said Dr al-Khulaifi.

Dr al-Khulaifi was speaking

at a panel discussion titled 'The New Syria One Year On: Assessing Progress, Opportunity & Challenges' at Doha Forum 2025.

The minister said Qatar has been very much engaging with Syria since day one of the issue and last year, during the Doha Forum while discussing the Syrian case, the movements for change in the country took place on the ground.

"Things have moved so quickly. Our policy since day one was never to shy out but engage by talking to our brothers who are there on the ground. We stretched our hands to support the Syrian people and the Syrian government. And we have been very consistent in terms of that help," he said.

Dr al-Khulaifi said that several

high profile institutions including Education Above All Foundation have come forward to support the Syrian people.

"All of them have made outreach engagements over there and they have involved in several activities and projects within the Syrian government. I think, in terms of assessing the last 12 months of Qatar and Syrian partnership, it has never been stronger," he added.

The minister noted that both Qatar and Syria are working so close and have been engaged in different areas such as the financial, energy sectors among others. "We have been very much supporting the Syrian cause because we strongly believe in it. We think this is the right pathway, and this

is what the Syrian people deserve," he stressed. According to Dr al-Khulaifi, the strategy is to continue Qatar's direct engagement with Syria at different levels.

"In the past 12 months we were focusing on the main infrastructure within the country, aviation, finance, energy and others. The projects that we have accomplished so far are very pleasing. However, it is still not enough," said the minister.

He said that there is still more potential for Syria to prosper in other areas and pointed out that the openness shown by the new Syrian government to international investors to join in and play a role in the future of Syria, will put the country in a unique place in the future.



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

PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Dr al-Khulaifi noted that empowering Syria focusing on the security element is something that is extremely important. "We will continue our engagement with the Syrian government on that angle and other angles as well, and also with our direct co-ordination at the international level," he said.

"I believe in the upcoming

months it will be very critical for us to engage further, to work closely with the Syrian government to combat many of those challenges, and especially the security threats that the Syrians are facing. And, we had a very thorough and transparent engagement with the Syrian government at that point," added the minister.

US special envoy for Syria praises Qatar's pivotal role in regional stability

Qatar has proved its pivotal role in the region's stability and performs a phenomenal role in critical issues accordingly, said US Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack.

Barrack hailed the instrumental role Qatar has been playing, particularly in ceasefire efforts, as well as the hostage issue in Israel and Gaza. He emphasised that Qatar's intervention was decisive in achieving successful negotiations.

Barrack also noted Turkiye's role in mediating with Hamas, emphasising that the Qatari-Turkish collaboration constituted a core pillar in reaching the recent agreements.

Speaking during a panel discussion themed: "New Syria One Year On: Assessing Progress, Opportunity & Challenges," during the Doha Forum 2025 deliberations, Barrack talked about the US vision for Syria and the region post-Dec 8, 2024.

He highlighted that Washington's approach to developments in the Syrian issue over the past year stems from a profound realisation of past mistakes in the region, stressing that Western policies since the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 have not yielded positive outcomes for the people of the Middle East.

The US side is entirely aware of the fact that most decisions taken by Western nations in the region were incorrect, and consequently, the region still pays the price for those policies, he underlined.

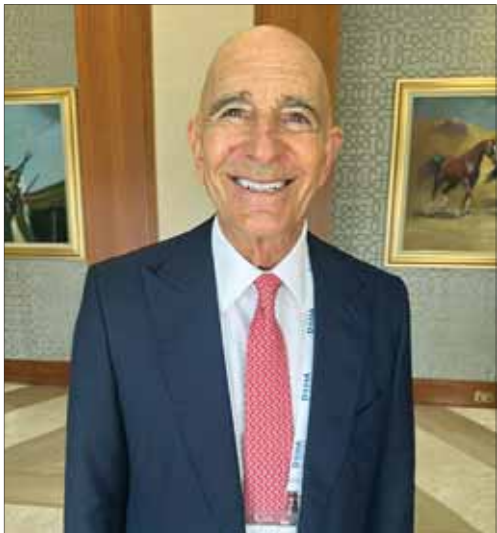
Barrack noted that, regardless of what some have anticipated, US President Donald Trump has pursued a different approach toward the Middle East, based on an in-depth study of the history of Western interventions, starting from coups and regime changes and spanning through the establishment of international institutions, culminating in lessons learned from military interventions.

He noted that when the US president undertook his regional tour recently, beginning in Riyadh, he recognised that the essence of the region does not rest on Western models such as federalism and democracy, but rather on effective leadership.

This understanding constituted a turning point in the approach towards Syria, as President Donald Trump, following his meeting with the Syrian president, resolved to grant Damascus an opportunity to rebuild its political and administrative structure, with Washington undertaking a different role from past interventions, one based on support rather than the imposition of external models, Barrack outlined.

Barrack elaborated that the US has informed the Syrian side that it won't burden it with the legacy of the erstwhile regimes, but would instead grant it the necessary space to build its own structures.

He further highlighted that, in his capacity as the US Special Envoy for Syria, he closely monitored the performance of the new Syrian government despite its limited resources.



US Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack.

Barrack affirmed that he praises the Syrian government's efforts in terms of critical issues, including the integration of various groups, following up on the issues of missing people, improving the situation in tents, disbanding foreign armed groups, as well as the issue of chemical weapons.

Barrack noted that Washington granted Damascus a high assessment on these tracks despite the considerable constraints under which it operates.

What has been achieved in Syria over the past year genuinely rises to the level of heroic accomplishments, which necessitates the persistence of global support for Syria in its second year and encourages the government to finalise the establishment of a comprehensive governance system that embodies the aspirations of the Syrian people, Barrack pointed out. He further stressed that Syria must be given time to determine the identity of its statehood and its political system, emphasising that Washington won't impose a pro-Western model on the countries of the region.

In addition, Barrack cautioned against handling the Syrian issue separately from the regional context, stressing the importance of dealing with Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq as one political space whose challenges and influences are interlocked.

The US doesn't seek to meddle in the internal discussions of those nations, but intends to lend general guidance and bestow upon the new government the opportunities it needs to consolidate stability, Barrack stressed. He emphasised that Washington supports the vision of a "Syrian-led Syria" and that the political option must originate from the Syrian people themselves. (QNA)

Syrian president accuses Israel of more than 1,000 air raids since Dec 2024

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa has affirmed that Israel had carried out, since Dec 8 of last year, more than a thousand air strikes and 400 ground incursions into Syria up to the present day, the latest of which was the massacre committed in the Beit Jin area in the Damascus countryside, leaving more than 25 people dead.

He said during a newsmaker interview at the Doha Forum 2025 that Israel was managing its regional crises by exporting them to other countries in an attempt to evade responsibility for the horrific massacres it committed in the Gaza Strip, while justifying its actions with claims of security concerns and instability, projecting the events of Oct 7 onto everything happening around it.

He added that since Dec 8, 2024, Syria had sent clear positive messages affirming its commitment to peace and regional stability, clearly expressing its desire to be a stable state not interested in exporting conflicts to other countries, including Israel, yet Israel responded to this approach with severe violence.

President al-Sharaa said that his country was confronting these developments through communication with influential regional and international actors, noting that the world today supported Syria's demands for Israel to withdraw to the positions held prior to Dec 8. He reiterated Syria's full commitment to the 1974 agreement and its respect for it, explaining that the agreement had successfully endured for more than 50 years with international and UN Security Council consensus, while warning against tampering with it or seeking alternative arrangements such as establishing a buffer zone or similar ideas, which he said would open the door to dangerous and uncertain paths.

The Syrian president also touched on the concept of a demilitarised zone, questioning how it would be managed and who



Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa.

would protect it under Israel's claims that it feared attacks being launched from southern Syria toward it. He noted that the absence of Syrian military and security forces in southwestern Syria raised fundamental questions about how security could be ensured in that area.

He revealed that negotiations were currently underway in this regard, and that the US was involved in them, stressing that all countries supported Syria's demands for Israel to withdraw to pre-Dec 8 lines, while addressing what he described as reasonable security concerns of both sides and ensuring their safety.

In a related context, President al-Sharaa said Syria had gone through dangerous periods over the past 100 years, especially during the last six decades, where the country had lived in great isolation alongside a suffocating economic blockade. He said that the policies of the previous regime led most regional and international actors to withdraw from Syria, depriving the world of insight into the Syrian reality, and depriving Syria of engagement with its regional and international surroundings.

He affirmed that his country had restored many of its regional

and international relations over the past year, and had moved beyond merely easing tensions into a more advanced phase. He stressed that everything promised upon visits to Damascus had been fulfilled, which had strengthened the confidence of various regional and international partners.

The president said that the path the country was taking was the correct one, and that every step taken had served the Syrian public interest. He indicated that Syria had regained its important regional and international standing, transitioning from being a country once exporting crises to becoming a place where hope was born, by presenting a living model of regional stability.

He also said that the world had quickly recognised this opportunity and had engaged with Syria rapidly and positively, in order to benefit from its important position and influential role in reinforcing stability in the regional environment. He confirmed that Syrians today did not feel fear, noting that millions of Syrians had been going out since last week, and would continue for days to come, spontaneously to express their joy in commemorating the fall of the previous regime. (QNA)

Syria FM says nation achieved milestones, seeks normal ties with all

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Syria Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani, stated that his government is proud of the achievements it has made over the past year, despite the magnitude of the internal and external challenges faced, foremost among them the consolidation of security and stability in Syria.

The Syrian foreign minister explained that the year following Dec 8, 2024, marked a pivotal stage in the history of modern Syria, as the Syrian people were able to present a genuine success story that reshaped the country's image before the world and demonstrated their ability to overcome years of war and look to the future with unwavering resolve and renewed confidence.

During a session entitled "The New Syria One Year On: Assessing Progress, Opportunity & Challenges" at the Doha Forum, he noted that accomplishments achieved within a single year would normally have required many years under ordinary circumstances. He stressed that the most significant development was the restoration of Syrians' confidence in themselves after the previous regime had eroded and weakened that confidence.

He explained that Syria's experience over the past year has proven that any government that works diligently and deploys its full capacities can deliver substantial results despite limited resources and the heavy legacy inherited from the former regime. Popular support, he added, was a fundamental pillar of the progress achieved, alongside the contributions of partners who stood by Syria during this sensitive phase.

Al-Shaibani emphasised that, despite the advances made, the Syrian government remains far from fully satisfied with the current situation, as economic and living conditions are still difficult and legal obstacles remain, most notably economic sanctions, including the Caesar Act. The most crucial step taken so far, he said, is the repair of the relationship between the state and the public and the rebuilding of lost trust through a new approach grounded in transparency and responsibility.

He also asserted that the liberation of Syrian territory revealed the extent of deterioration within state institutions, as well as the tense foreign relations inherited from the previous regime, including broad sanctions and strained ties with



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Syria Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani.

neighbouring states, European countries, and the US.

He stated that the constraints that emerged after the liberation were significant, and that reconstruction efforts face major challenges. Pursuing a balanced foreign policy in a highly polarised region, he added, is not an easy task, as every political, economic, or diplomatic step is subject to close scrutiny.

Al-Shaibani stressed that Syria is now seeking to build normal relations with various countries and to secure international support that can reinforce this balanced approach, while the government works to consolidate internal security in tandem with regional and inter-

national security efforts. This is taking place alongside major development initiatives and efforts to attract investment.

He also pointed out that Syrian diplomacy has become clearer and more transparent, focusing on a central objective: rebuilding Syria without engaging in any political alignments.

At the same time, he underlined that Syria faces major regional challenges, describing the Israeli factor as the most dangerous threat to Syria's stability since Dec 8, 2024, whether through its media, political, or military actions. Despite this, he said, Syria has succeeded in securing substantial international support, particularly from the US, which has expressed willingness to back a new security agreement between the Syrian and Israeli sides.

He underscored the importance of supporting Syria's stability through a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian territories entered after Dec 8, 2024, restoring the situation to what it was previously. He added that no security agreement can be concluded while occupation persists.

In this context, he called on Israel to cease its interference in Syrian affairs

and to stop attempting to influence the social fabric of Syria or exacerbate internal divisions, as this would have negative repercussions for Israel in the future.

He affirmed Syria's commitment to the 1974 Agreement and its continued engagement in the current US-mediated negotiations, noting that Syria has shown a mature approach, marked by diplomacy and rationality, surpassing the Israeli narrative that has long presented itself as the region's sole democracy. He said the international community supported the Syrian stance, most recently through an international vote reaffirming that the Golan Heights is Syrian territory, backed by more than 25 countries.

Addressing domestic developments, the Syrian foreign minister said the country has made tangible progress in several sectors, including energy, security, and transportation, alongside notable and significant advances in political freedoms, rights, and community participation.

He added that Syria has transitioned from being a source of threat to a source of inspiration, and that Syrians now look to the future with confidence rather than fear. (QNA)



EAA panel calls for education to be reframed as an imperative to justice

The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, a global education and development organisation, convened a high-level panel at the Doha Forum 2025 yesterday under the theme of *Education as Justice in Times of Crisis*.

The panel issued a global call to reframe education not as a development aspiration, but as a justice imperative, one that demands accountability, equitable financing, and the elevation of local leadership in crisis-affected regions.

Aligned with the Forum's overarching theme of *Justice in Action – Beyond Promises to Progress*, the session brought together government representatives and global institutions for an urgent discussion on how systemic inequities continue to undermine the rights of children and youth living through conflict, displacement, and protracted crises.

The panel featured a distinguished lineup of leaders and experts.

Opening remarks were delivered by Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama.

The keynote address was delivered by

HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi.

The panellists included Syrian Minister for Social Affairs Hind Kabawat, Scotland's former first minister Humza Yousaf, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories Francesca Albanese, and Enabel chief executive Jean Van Wetter.

The discussion segment was chaired by EAA strategic partnerships manager Dana al-Anzy.

The panellists' collective perspectives grounded the conversation in real-time humanitarian, developmental, and justice-centred challenges facing education systems worldwide.

The EAA Foundation panel highlighted concerning global trends, including a significant decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA) and shrinking investments in education.

According to figures, ODA from OECD-DAC (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-Development

Assistance Committee) countries fell by 7.1% in 2024, while education's share of total ODA dropped from 9.3% in 2019 to 7.6% in 2022.

These reductions carry immediate and long-term consequences for already fragile education systems.

Speakers underscored how these trends are felt most acutely in conflict-affected regions such as Palestine and Syria, where schools have been destroyed and educators displaced.

Generations of students have been repeatedly denied their right to learn.

They noted that in such contexts, the erosion of education is not only a developmental loss but also a profound injustice with lasting social, economic, and human costs.

The panel examined how principles of legal, distributive, corrective, and epistemic justice must shape global education co-operation.

A central message was that while international support remains essential, it must evolve to ensure resources reach the most marginalised learners and funding



models strengthen local solutions.

"The EAA Foundation reaffirms its role as an advocate for justice-driven education efforts worldwide," said EAA chief executive al-Kubaisi. "The dialogue at the Forum highlighted our commitment to elevating affected voices, supporting community-led innovation, and partnering with global actors to rebuild and

strengthen education systems where they are most under threat."

The panel's outcomes will support the EAA Foundation's continued work to expand equitable access to quality education, dismantle systemic barriers excluding marginalised learners, and advocate for sustained global investment in education as a fundamental human right.

Global governance, multilateralism and sustainable justice addressed

A high-level session yesterday at the Doha Forum 2025 addressed global governance, multilateralism, and the governance of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies.

The president of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and executive director of Global Women Leaders (GWL Voices), Maria Fernanda Espinosa, emphasised that the fundamental challenges to effective global co-operation lie in three key areas: managing the increasing interdependence of nations, providing and ensuring global public goods such as peace and a secure environment, and aligning self-interest and national interests with the common good.

She noted that the era of interdependence necessitates a rethinking of the concept of national sovereignty and the adoption of the idea of shared sovereignty and collective responsibility, while strengthening the role of the United Nations as a global platform for convergence and international decision-making.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) chairman Stefan Lofven stressed the importance of reforming the multilateral system and protecting human rights globally.



He said that the SIPRI's 2023 report presented six key recommendations for strengthening global governance.

These are reforming the multilateral system to ensure inclusivity, addressing the triple planetary crises, restructuring the global financial system, bridging the digital divide, promoting peace and prevention, and developing proactive strategies to address future crises.

Lofven noted that these measures are essential to confronting global challenges and

achieving sustainable development.

The director of the Pact for the Future Implementation at the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, Themba Kalua, pointed out that countries' commitment to implementing the Future Compact represents a crucial step towards building a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world, based on intergenerational solidarity and equality.

He affirmed that the Compact provides a roadmap for international co-operation in the fields of AI and sustainable develop-

ment, and encourages countries to develop data-driven policies that are relevant to their local and regional contexts.

Global Fund for a New Economy (GFNE) co-president Dr Adriana Abdenur affirmed that the world is experiencing an unprecedented widening of the inequality gap.

She stressed that addressing economic and social disparities is essential for achieving justice and stability and supported this by establishing an international body to monitor policies related to inequality and provide evidence to decision-makers.

This, Dr Abdenur said, would ensure the equitable distribution of economic and social benefits, fostering global growth.

The director of the National Planning Council's International Indicators and International Co-operation Department, Ahmed Khalid al-Sumaiti, concluded the session by reiterating that Qatar is committed to supporting global governance and international initiatives aimed at promoting justice and sustainable development.

He noted that co-operation between governments, international institutions, the private sector, and civil society forms the foundation for building a more just and prosperous future for generations to come. – QNA

Experts discuss challenges of accelerating digital transformation

Speakers at the session on "Firewalls to Red Lines: Cyber Statecraft in the Middle East" at the Doha Forum 2025 discussed the major challenges facing states as digital transformation accelerates, particularly in critical infrastructure.

They also highlighted the growing risks of narrative warfare and digital disinformation, which can destabilise societies without escalating into direct military conflict.

Council on International Mediation (CIM) president Sheikh Nawaf bin Mubarak al-Thani stressed the need to establish joint regional systems for responding to cyber emergencies.

He said that protecting vital sectors, from airports and energy to

banking and healthcare, requires political will and genuine regional co-operation.

Sheikh Nawaf noted that digitalisation in the Gulf and the wider Middle East is advancing rapidly and differently across countries, bringing significant benefits but also opening the door to threats as critical infrastructure expands.

These developments, he added, demand cybersecurity preparedness at the highest level.

He also drew attention to another type of challenges that are less complex technically but more impactful.

These are cognitive challenges that target narratives and the manipulation of public opinion.

Sheikh Nawaf considered these



challenges to be an extremely effective weapon because they operate without crossing the threshold of military confrontation, yet disproportionately affects societies in the Middle East.

Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) director-general Rachel Ellehuus, who is the moderator of the session, emphasised the importance of addressing cybersecurity amid a sharp rise in digital threats in the Gulf, including a 70% increase in denial-of-service (DOS) attacks in 2024, with an average cost of \$8mn per incident.

US National Security Council

special adviser for cybersecurity Carole House said that cybersecurity now touches all aspects of modern life, particularly in smart cities.

She warned that ransomware attacks have become the most dangerous form of digital crime, with companies forced to halt operations for up to 21 days after breaches.

House added that unregulated digital currencies are a key factor in financing ransomware and on-line fraud.

She called for regional co-operation, the creation of emergency

response centres, stronger cyber legislation, improved data governance, and effective international partnerships with the private sector and technology companies.

Northwestern University in Qatar (NUQ) Associate Professor in Residence Dr Marc Owen Jones presented an example of co-ordinated disinformation campaigns targeting Qatar through platforms such as YouTube and Facebook, which spread hate speech and Islamophobia and are managed through complex networks designed to create layers of denial and hinder attribution. – QNA

Doha Forum highlights human rights and equality in sports

A session at the Doha Forum 2025 focused on the intersection of cultural diplomacy, economic development, trade, and inclusion.

The session on "A Level Playing Field: Advancing Human Rights Across the World of Sport" brought together international experts and policymakers.

Francesco D'Ovidio, the director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) office in Doha, emphasised the need for clear global standards to protect the rights of athletes and sports workers, highlighting efforts to combat discrimination and harassment and ensure a safe working environment for both professional and amateur athletes.

Serri "Sura" Mahmood, sports lead at the UN Human Rights Office, noted that sports and human rights intersect through the right to participate in cultural life, including providing athletes and fans with a discrimination-free environment and strengthening their role in decision-making within sports institutions.

Mahmoud Kutub, the executive director of worker welfare at Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, said that major sporting events offer a unique platform to integrate human rights throughout all project stages, from planning to execution.

He stressed the importance of clear standards for worker welfare, transparency, and sustainable outcomes.

World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) chief executive Sultana Afdhal highlighted the need to protect children and persons with disabilities in sports, advocating for accessible facilities and systems that promote participation, self-confidence, and mental wellbeing.

Claudia Villa-Hughes, the head of safeguarding at the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, emphasised that sports safety must be inclusive and rights-based, with protection systems addressing potential psychological trauma and safeguarding children from exploitation or abuse during major sporting events. – QNA

Role of educational diplomacy in building bridges highlighted

Experts at the Doha Forum 2025 discussed the growing role of higher education in building bridges among nations and strengthening dialogue amid escalating geopolitical tensions around the globe.

This came during a session on "Education Diplomacy in a Fractured World".

The key speakers were the Wellbeing and Career Development Training Centre chairperson and founder HE Sheikha Dr Hessa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Qatar Foundation (QF) president (Higher Education) Dr Francisco Marmolejo, NAFSA: Association of International Educators executive director and chief executive Dr Fanta Aw, and International Association of Universities (IAU) secretary-general Dr Hilligje van't Land.

The discussion was moderated by journalist Alex Marquardt.

The speakers agreed that higher education has become a central instrument for peacebuilding, advancing international understanding, and offering solutions to global challenges.

They stressed that investment in educational diplomacy is no longer optional, but



a necessity for economic development, strengthening intercultural communication, and preparing future generations of leaders.

HE Sheikha Dr Hessa affirmed that education lies at the heart of modern diplomacy, serving as a key pillar for contact between peoples and for building bridges of understanding.

She noted that human beings are naturally driven to seek knowledge wherever it may be found, comparing the movement of students, teachers, and academics to migratory birds travelling between environments in search of learning, thus strengthening capabilities and the exchange of expertise.

HE Sheikha Dr Hessa stressed that the success of educational diplomacy depends on comprehensive, clear evaluation indi-

cators that remain free from political considerations, explaining that policymakers respect numbers and require accurate measurement that genuinely reflects the outcomes of educational programmes.

She added that ignorance remains the foremost enemy of trust, pointing to the mounting challenges facing educational institutions as artificial intelligence (AI) enters classrooms and introduces new, sometimes conflicting values that educators must navigate on a daily basis.

Dr Marmolejo underlined that voices questioning the value of educational institutions overlook the fact that education systems remain the only mechanism capable of preparing individuals to deal with the complexities facing the world.

He noted that the QF's model has, over the past three decades, succeeded in

building one of the most comprehensive ecosystems of education and innovation worldwide, bringing together international universities, research centres, and community service institutions under one umbrella to unlock human potential as a universal right.

Dr Marmolejo revealed that 50% of the QF's students are international, but considered that insufficient globally, given that 97% of the world's students do not experience education across borders.

He warned that ignoring these challenges risks marginalising the impact of global education within geopolitical debate, stressing that the real challenge lies in persuading communities who have not benefited from similar opportunities of the value of education.

Dr Van't Land expressed her satisfaction at the inclusion of education on the Doha Forum agenda, saying that the Forum itself constituted a learning experience linking sectors and enabling collaborative action.

She said that the world is facing complex agendas in development, climate, and peace – issues that can only be addressed through quality education, not

just education for its own sake.

Dr Van't Land said that higher education is often neglected within the continuum from early childhood education to lifelong learning, despite its distinctive ability to build bridges between countries, peoples, and knowledge systems, adding that universities continue to build such bridges despite new barriers erected by states that hinder academic co-operation.

She stressed that academic and scientific diplomacy have become fundamental pillars in building a more stable future, highlighting the importance of dialogue, mutual understanding, and dismantling stereotypes, core functions carried out by higher education institutions.

Dr Aw said that education represents the first bridge at risk of collapse in a world beset by growing divisions, pointing to unprecedented threats facing higher education, including shrinking academic freedoms and reduced access to educational opportunities.

She argued that educational diplomacy must be understood as a smart power that protects education as a global public good. – QNA

Pentagon chief under fire as scandals mount

AFP
Washington

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth is under mounting pressure from scandals surrounding strikes on alleged drug boats and his use of Signal to discuss sensitive military information, sparking growing criticism and calls for him to quit.

Hegseth — a former Army National Guard major who went from Fox News co-host to leader of the world's most powerful military — is no stranger to controversy and was only narrowly confirmed by the Senate earlier this year.

The strikes on alleged narcotics smugglers — especially an incident in which survivors of an initial attack were subsequently killed — and his use of commercial messaging app Signal to talk about an impending operation in Yemen,

have fuelled further opposition to Hegseth.

“He’s in another difficult position. In fact, his two big problems have now merged,” said Mark Cancian, a retired US Marine colonel and senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“But he seems to retain (US President Donald) Trump’s confidence, even as he’s lost support of some Republicans. So I don’t think he’s in... (a) fatal situation,” Cancian said.

Jim Townsend, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for European and Nato policy during the Obama administration, said Hegseth is “on thin ice,” and that Trump has “a secretary of defence that is giving him lots of headaches.”

Townsend agreed that Hegseth is unlikely to be fired immediately, but said if something happens that

“really riles up the Republican Party” or embarrasses Trump’s Make America Great Again movement, “they’ll probably try to move him somewhere else.”

Hegseth came under fire during his confirmation process over alleged financial mismanagement at veterans’ nonprofits where he previously worked, reports of excessive drinking, and allegations that he assaulted a woman in California.

His time as secretary of defence has also been marred by scandals, including one related to strikes on Yemen that were launched in mid-March.

The Atlantic magazine revealed that its editor-in-chief had been inadvertently included in a Signal chat in which officials, including Hegseth, discussed the upcoming operation.

The Pentagon chief sent messages on the timing of strikes



CONCERN: Peter Hegseth

hours before they happened and information on aircraft and missiles involved.

The incident sparked an investigation by the Pentagon’s independent inspector general’s office, which concluded in a report released Thursday that Hegseth’s actions could have resulted in

“potential harm to US pilots.”

Another controversy stemmed from a September 2 attack on an alleged drug-smuggling boat in the Pacific. An initial strike left survivors, with a follow-up attack killing those two people.

Hegseth and the White House have repeatedly said the decision for the second strike was made by the operational commander, Admiral Frank Bradley, rather than the defense secretary.

Lawmakers attended a classified briefing on Capitol Hill this week in which they were shown extended video footage of the incident — only a brief part of which has been publicly released — but there are conflicting views about whether the follow-up strikes were justified.

The footage showed “the United States military attacking shipwrecked sailors — bad guys, bad guys — but attacking shipwrecked

sailors,” said Democratic Representative Jim Himes.

Republican Senator Tom Cotton — another briefing attendee — described all four strikes on the boat as “entirely lawful and needful,” and said the survivors were attempting to flip the drug-laden vessel back over and “stay in the fight.”

Hegseth has faced calls from some Democratic lawmakers for his resignation or firing over the follow-up strikes and the Signal controversy, but his job seems safe for the moment.

Cancian, however, said that another scandal could push the Trump administration to remove him as defence secretary.

“If there’s maybe another one after this...the White House might lose its patience,” he said, describing the controversies that have already occurred as “very embarrassing.”

25 killed in India nightclub fire

AFP
Mumbai

A fire that ripped through an Indian nightclub in the popular tourist resort region of Goa killed 25 people, the state’s chief minister said yesterday.

Tourists were among the dead in the blaze, which broke out at about midnight at a club in Arpora in the north of the coastal state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a statement that the deaths were “deeply saddening”.

Goa, a former Portuguese colony on the shores of the Arabian Sea, lures millions of tourists every year with its nightlife, sandy beaches and laid-back coastal atmosphere.

“Today is a very painful day for all of us,” Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said in a statement, saying that “25 people have lost their lives and six have been injured.”

Sawant told journalists that “three to four” tourists had died, without giving their nationalities.

“I have ordered a magisterial inquiry into the entire incident to identify the cause and fix responsibility,” Sawant added.

Video images from the Press Trust of India news agency showed rescuers carrying the injured or dead on stretchers down the narrow stone staircase of the Birch nightclub.

“Most people died due to suffocation in the basement and kitchen area,” Nitin V Raiker, Goa’s fire chief, told Indian broadcaster CNN News18.

“I received information that there was a club party going on, and a fire show was organised in the club. The wooden parts of the club caught fire, and smoke spread throughout the building.”

Fires are common in India due to poor building practices, overcrowding and a lack of adherence to safety regulations.



A man mourns the death of his cousin, Jitender Rawat, 24, while sitting outside the morgue at Goa Medical College after a fire at the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Goa, India, yesterday. (Reuters)

Belfast artists ban ‘cannibalising’ AI art

Artist organisers of an annual Christmas market in Northern Ireland have banned the sale of artwork and products generated by artificial intelligence, arguing AI cannibalises the work of low-paid creatives.

“We have to take a stand,” Jonathan Brennan, co-organiser of the Belfast market told AFP, standing beside a “supporting human creativity” poster featuring an “AI ban” logo.

Ahead of the popular long-running yearly fair in the Northern Irish capital, the organisers — the Vault artists collective — told traders that selling AI-generated art this year was not on.

“People come here to appreciate unique gifts, handmade things, that you won’t find anywhere else,” Brennan said.

Organisers now feel forced to emphasise their artwork is created by humans due to the “threat” posed by AI, according to the bespectacled visual artist.

Using AI to produce art equates to “jumping to a solution without any of the hard graft, discipline or potential happy accidents that can happen in the creative process,” he added.



This videograb taken from handout footage released by Benin TV yesterday shows soldiers from the “Military Committee for Refoundation” (CMR), appearing on state television in Cotonou, after the reported attempted coup in the West African nation. (AFP)

Benin govt says armed forces foil coup bid

Reuters
Cotonou

Benin’s government said yesterday its armed forces had foiled a coup attempt after a group of soldiers in the West African nation claimed on national television to have seized power.

The attempted coup was the latest threat to democratic rule in the region, where militaries have in recent years seized power in Benin’s neighbours Niger and Burkina Faso, as well as in Mali, Guinea and, only last month, Guinea-Bissau.

At least eight soldiers, several holding weapons, went on state television last morning to announce that a military committee led by Colonel Tigri Pascal had taken over and was dissolving national institutions, suspending the constitution and closing air, land and maritime borders.

“The army solemnly commits to give the Beninese people the hope of a truly new era, where fraternity, justice and work prevail,” said a statement read by one of the soldiers.

A few hours later, Interior Minister Alassane Seidou said the West African country’s armed forces had thwarted the attempted coup.

“Therefore, the government urges the population to go about their business as usual,” he said.

A government spokesperson, Wilfried Leandre Houngbedji, said that 14 people had been arrested in connection with the

coup attempt as of yesterday afternoon, without providing details.

Foreign Minister Olushegun Adjadi Bakari had earlier told Reuters that “a small group” of soldiers had attempted to overthrow the government but that forces loyal to President Patrice Talon were working to restore order.

He said the coup plotters had only managed to take control of state television, which was cut after the soldiers read out their statement. It resumed broadcasting shortly afterwards, allowing the interior minister to read his statement saying the coup bid had been foiled.

West Africa’s regional bloc ECOWAS and the African Union condemned the coup attempt.

Gunfire could be heard earlier yesterday in several neighbourhoods of Cotonou, the country’s largest city and economic hub, as residents were trying to make their way to church early last morning.

The French embassy said gunfire had been reported near Talon’s residence in Cotonou and urged citizens to stay at home.

By early afternoon, police were deployed at major intersections in the city centre and the gunfire had died down, witnesses said.

Narcisse, a furniture salesman in Cotonou who gave only his first name for safety reasons, said he first heard gunshots at 8am and soon saw police officers speeding past.

“I got scared and brought my sofas inside and closed. It’s a bit calmer now, which is why I reo-

pened,” he said.

The coup attempt came as Benin was preparing for a presidential election in April that would mark the end of the tenure of incumbent Talon, in power since 2016.

In their TV statement, the soldiers mentioned the deteriorating security situation in northern Benin “coupled with the disregard and neglect of our fallen brothers-in-arms.”

Talon has been credited with reviving the economy, but the country has also seen an increase in attacks by jihadist militants that have wreaked havoc in Mali and Burkina Faso.

In April, the government said that 54 soldiers were killed in an attack in the north by an affiliate of Al Qaeda.

Last month, Benin adopted a new constitution creating a Senate and extending the presidential mandate from five to seven years, in what critics said was a power grab by the ruling coalition, which has nominated Finance Minister Romuald Wadagni to be its candidate.

The opposition Democrats party, founded by Talon’s predecessor Thomas Boni Yayi, saw its proposed candidate rejected because of what a court ruled was insufficient backing from lawmakers.

Benin experienced several military coups and coup attempts in the first decades after independence from France in 1960. But there has not been a power grab by force in the country since it held multi-party elections in 1991.

Renowned British photographer Martin Parr dies at 73



AFP
London

Celebrated British documentary photographer Martin Parr has died at his home in the western English city Bristol, his foundation announced yesterday. He was 73.

Famous for his kitschy colour-saturated images, Parr had a sharp eye for mundane oddities, typified in his humorous snapshots of bronzed beachgoers and selfie-snapping holidaymakers.

“It is with great sadness that we announce that Martin Parr (1952-2025) died yesterday at home in Bristol,” a statement on The Martin Parr Foundation’s website said.

“Martin will be greatly missed,” it added, noting he is survived by his wife Susie, his daughter Ellen, his sister Vivien and his grandson George.

“The family asks for privacy at this time,” the statement said.

It added the foundation and Magnum Photos, the prestigious agency he had been a member of since 1994, “will work together to preserve and share Martin’s legacy”.

No further details around the circumstances of his death were provided.

The Guardian newspaper said, however, that Parr had been diagnosed with cancer in May 2021.

Although Parr travelled the globe during his decades-spanning career — snapping images everywhere from North Korea and Albania to Japan and Russia — he spoke of relishing more everyday settings like supermarkets.

He kept working into his 70s, recently releasing his latest book, an autobiographical collection of photographs together with wry commentary called *Utterly Lazy and Inattentive*.

The title stemmed from a French teacher’s damning school report on him when he was 14.

Bangladesh begins exhuming mass grave from 2024 uprising

AFP
Dhaka

Bangladeshi police began exhuming yesterday a mass grave believed to contain around 114 unidentified victims of a mass uprising that toppled autocratic former prime minister Sheikh Hasina last year.

The UN-supported effort is being advised by Argentine forensic anthropologist Luis Fondebrider, who has led recovery and identification missions at mass graves worldwide for decades.

The bodies were buried at the Rayerbazar Graveyard in Dhaka by the volunteer group Anjuman Muftul Islam, which said it handled 80 unclaimed bodies in July and

another 34 in August 2024 — all people reported to have been killed during weeks of deadly protests.

The United Nations says up to 1,400 people were killed in crackdowns as Hasina attempted to cling to power — deaths that formed part of her conviction last month for crimes against humanity.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) chief Md Sibgat Ullah said investigators believed the mass grave held roughly 114 bodies, but the exact number would only be known once exhumations were complete.

“We can only confirm once we dig the graves and exhume the bodies,” Ullah told reporters.

Among those hoping for answers is Mohammed Nabil, who is searching for



Family members of Sohel Rana, who disappeared during Bangladesh’s July mass uprising, react as they stand outside the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Dhaka yesterday. (AFP)

the remains of his brother Sohel Rana, 28, who vanished in July 2024.

“We searched for him everywhere,” Nabil told AFP.

He said his family first suspected Rana’s death after seeing a Facebook video, then recognised his clothing — a blue T-shirt and black trousers — in a photograph taken by burial volunteers.

Exhumed bodies will be given post-mortem examinations and DNA testing. The process is expected to take several weeks to complete.

“It’s been more than a year, so it won’t be possible to extract DNA from the soft tissues,” senior police officer Abu Taleb told AFP. “Working with bones would be more time-consuming.”

Forensic experts from four Dhaka medi-

cal colleges are part of the team, with Fondebrider brought in to offer support as part of an agreement with the UN rights body the OHCHR.

“The process is complex and unique,” Fondebrider told reporters. “We will guarantee that international standards will be followed.”

Fondebrider previously headed the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, founded in 1984 to investigate the tens of thousands who disappeared during Argentina’s former military dictatorship.

Authorities say the exhumed bodies will be reburied in accordance with religious rites and their families’ wishes.

Hasina, convicted in absentia last month and sentenced to death, remains in self-imposed exile in India.

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GULF TIMES

How Europe wants to unlock Russia’s frozen cash for Ukraine

The European Union is trying to lend Ukraine tens of billions of dollars, as support from Washington wanes, Russia ekes out gains on the battlefield and Kyiv edges closer to a funding crunch early next year.

The 27-member bloc is discussing borrowing against Russian assets held in Europe frozen by sanctions after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

However, the plan to tap roughly €210bn (\$245bn) of Russian assets in Europe, the lion's share of which is now cash, remains contested.

Fears of retaliation by Russia in Belgium, where most of the money is stored, have bogged down discussions, prompting EU officials to devise creative ways of unlocking the money without formally seizing it.

EU leaders are due to meet this month to decide but continued objections in Belgium, which fears being left on the hook if sued by Russia, are confounding efforts.

If attempts to use Russian assets fail, there is an alternative: borrowing, using headroom in the European Union's shared budget. This would, however, push Europe, already heavily indebted, further into the red. Unanimous EU agreement is needed and Hungarian Premier Viktor Orban has dismissed the idea, urging Brussels to stop funding a war that cannot be won.

The European Union froze hundreds of billions of Russian assets — cash, as well as shares and bonds - following the invasion of Ukraine.

The move, its single biggest penalty on Russia, is now one of Europe's few sources of leverage as it seeks to join the peace talks between Washington, Moscow and Kyiv.

Euroclear, a securities depository equivalent to a financial vault, holds the lion's share of sanctioned Russian wealth in Europe — more than €180bn (\$210bn).

The West has until now engineered loans and payments to Ukraine, using the interest paid on the frozen Russian cash, which Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced as theft.

Going further than this, however, carries risks.

Belgium has stepped up its opposition to the plan, demanding EU partners share responsibility if the move is challenged.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, has warned that taking the frozen assets may be considered by Moscow as tantamount to an act justifying war.

There could be fallout for Western investors, who still own tens of billions of assets stranded in Russia, from factories to cash.

Ukraine's funding needs in 2026 and 2027 are roughly €135bn — about €52bn for running the country and €83bn for defence. The European Union is seeking to have this money in place by the second quarter of 2026.

It has proposed a “reparations” loan, paid for by the frozen Russian cash. The deal would require Euroclear to invest the cash in a debt contract issued by the EU.

It works like this: the European Union borrows cash from Euroclear, lending it on to Ukraine. Ukraine would repay the money but only after it has been paid compensation by Russia for the damage caused by the invasion.

Other financial companies with similar frozen Russian property, including in France and Germany, would also be drawn into the scheme.

About €90bn would be given over two years.

There are obstacles.

The Commission insists it can press ahead if 15 out of 27 member countries, representing at least 65% of the bloc's population, vote in favour.

The EU is also seeking to ensure that Russia's sanctioned assets stay frozen by using an emergency law to override individual countries' ability to vote to derail the scheme.

It is offering European Union guarantees to shield Belgium from being sued. But the country has not dropped its opposition, making it politically difficult to seal a final deal.

The stakes for Belgium are high. Germany has suggested that recent drone sightings over airports and military bases in Belgium were a message not to touch the frozen assets. Moscow has denied any such connection but has promised a “painful response” if assets are seized. — Reuters

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Honour for Nobel literature laureate



Laszlo Krasznahorkai, Nobel Prize laureate in Literature, is thanked by Mats Malm, Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy, in the Stock Exchange Hall at the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden, yesterday.

Manias, Panics, and AI

By Simon Johnson and Piero Novelli
Washington, DC

In 1978, Charles Kindleberger published *Manias, Panics, and Crashes*, an instant classic history of investment booms and subsequent busts. Such booms can be divided between those that end up building something useful (such as a railway system in mid-19th-century Britain, the United States, and elsewhere); and those that do not (such as The Netherlands' infamous 17th-century tulip mania and the subprime-mortgage madness of the early 2000s).

By any metric, the US and, by implication, the world, is now in an intense AI speculative boom. But will all the investment pouring into the industry build something useful? To whom, and for what purpose? And if there is a downside, what will it look like?

Kindleberger's work — and everything that has happened since 1978 — suggests that three salient questions should be used to assess investment booms.

First, does the boom involve more than just a run-up in asset prices (such as happened with US housing prior to the 2008 global financial crisis)? On this front, today there is definitely a big wave of investment in plant and equipment (such as data centres) in the US and elsewhere. Moreover, investment in information-technology infrastructure — an important input for firms and government — could boost productivity and therefore help underpin economic growth. (An unfortunate corollary is a potentially significant environmental impact, owing especially to increased demand for electricity and water.)

Second, is the investment boom financed primarily by

issuing debt (a major factor in the 2008 crisis)? For AI, the answer is decidedly mixed. While the biggest companies involved do have sufficient positive cash flow to cover what has already been spent, much supplier finance is apparently already being provided by some tech companies (to enable other companies to buy computer chips, for example). The credit risks involved in these relationships are murky, to say the least. Some of the collateral involved may become obsolete before the loans are paid off.

And as capital expenditure grows, so, too, does the exposure of credit markets, the banking system, and potentially even the government (though it cannot be persuasively argued that tech companies are “too big to fail” and thus need debt guarantees). Last month, Meta closed the largest-ever private capital deal with Blue Owl to finance its Hyperion data centre, with \$27bn channelled into an off-balance-sheet special purpose vehicle.

And that is just a drop in the bucket: It is estimated that \$3-7tn will be invested in AI infrastructure in the next five years. Tech companies have indicated that they will tap the debt markets, including with novel and aggressive financing arrangements. Private credit in particular is expected to provide roughly \$800bn in the next 2-3 years, and is estimated to have totalled \$450bn as of early 2025. It remains to be seen whether and how these bets will pay off.

The third question may be the most important for this moment: How exactly will this technology be used? Conversations with senior executives of large-cap corporations across traditional sectors — companies commonly presumed to provide high demand for AI solutions — confirm that while all expect to

achieve significant savings and efficiencies from AI, almost none can highlight with confidence additional sources of revenue (such as new lines of business).

For example, banks would most likely capture efficiencies in document processing, fraud detection, risk management, regulatory compliance, algorithmic investment and trading, and/or marketing and customer insights. Industrial companies will probably realise efficiencies by reducing employment in clerical roles, inventory and resource management, marketing, and field engineering.

If the people who are displaced by AI can quickly find new, productive, and (ideally) high-paying jobs, then we are on our way to an acceleration of productivity growth — with beneficial effects for living standards and public finances. This was the effect of the 19th-century railway boom, at least in countries where institutions were inclusive enough to allow ordinary people to create companies, acquire new skills, and participate in trade unions. But in the face of other big waves of automation, economies that could not quickly generate enough new work faced serious labour-market problems, and the economy-wide effects on productivity were sometimes also disappointing.

The AI boom is similar. Yes, there is excess. Yes, mistakes will be made by investors and executives. And yes, most stock gains (and also losses) are likely to accrue to people who are already wealthy, because share ownership is unevenly distributed.

Despite all this, no country, company, or citizen anywhere will benefit from sitting on the sidelines. It might feel safer to do nothing now and wait for better versions of the technology to emerge, but that is no way to

build skills for the future and create more good jobs. Moreover, it is the inventors and owners of new technology who influence standards — both technical rules and ethical principles — and drive the relevant policy agenda.

The US political elite loves innovation, for competitive advantage and as a source of political donations. Fearing China, the US tech sector is going full speed ahead on scaling up AI with minimal guardrails. Everyone else in the US and around the world must think hard about how to play the game.

How can your community adopt AI in more responsible ways, for example to improve the delivery of government services? How can your private sector use AI to create more good jobs? How can you ensure sufficient privacy protections? How can you protect children and other vulnerable groups against serious harm?

The path of technology can be shaped, and the path of the AI revolution is being shaped now. From canals and railways through to the internet age, a hard but simple lesson stands out: If you, your company, or your country sits it out and waits for the dust to settle, you may not get what you want and need from the technology. — Project Syndicate

● Corey Klemmer contributed to the drafting of this commentary.

● Simon Johnson, a 2024 Nobel laureate in economics and a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, is a professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management and the co-author (with Daron Acemoglu) of *Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity*.

● Piero Novelli, a senior lecturer at MIT Sloan School of Management and Imperial College London, is Chair of the Supervisory Board of Euronext.



PM meets former US Secretary of State



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with former secretary of state of the United States of America Hillary Clinton, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum 2025. During the meeting, they discussed prospects for co-operation within the framework of the Clinton Global Initiative and exchanged views on topics on the forum's agenda. They also discussed a number of topics of common interest. **(QNA)**

PM chairs first meeting of Board of Directors of Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance integration among State institutions and ensure Qatar's continued readiness to host major global events with the highest efficiency. The meeting of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, along with accompanying organisational measures, reflects Qatar's commitment to building on the unique legacy of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and subsequent major events. These achievements demonstrated the country's advanced infrastructure, strengthened its capacity to host global events accord-



ing to the highest standards, nurtured skilled national talent, and developed professional institutional expertise. The Board of Directors also discussed its forthcoming responsibilities, including overseeing the policies and strategies of the Supreme Committee, ensuring alignment

of its work with the national events framework, enhancing infrastructure readiness, and monitoring the implementation of operational and organisational programmes to support the Committee's pivotal role in efficiently hosting major events. At the conclusion of the

meeting, the Board emphasised the importance of continuing to work according to the highest international standards and leveraging the accumulated legacy of expertise and infrastructure to reinforce Qatar's position and reputation as a global hub for hosting major events. **(QNA)**

'Qatar's support for Palestinians steadfast'

From Page 1

HE Sheikh Mohammed emphasised that the record of Qatar with the US over past decades shows that it did not encourage any hostile acts, pointing out that all its dialogues with the US focus on de-escalation and achieving peace in the region.

Regarding the Israeli targeting of Doha, he noted that there are many unethical actions that cannot be justified, adding that the notion of mediation lies in being a safe space for parties to the conflict, so that they can reach a deal to end wars and conflicts, yet when the mediator is subjected to bombardment by one of the parties, this is unprecedented.

He reiterated that the Israeli bombardment of Doha contravenes the very essence of international obligations and cannot be accepted under any circumstances.

From the moment of the Israeli attack, President Donald Trump requested to communicate with Qatar, and at the same time, contact was made with the Israeli side, where he expressed his disappointment and shock at what Israel did, in his capacity as a partner in these efforts, His Excellency elucidated.

He added that the Israeli strike on Doha occurred while the Qatari team was working to convince Hamas to approve the proposal presented by the US President at that time, and to reach a deal before developing the 20-point plan.

Regarding the misleading media reports claiming that the Israeli attack on Doha was carried out with the approval of President Trump, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs pointed out that there are those seeking to sabotage the Qatar-US relationship, stating that these reports want people to believe that, but this is not new to Qatar.

Qatar has witnessed many attempts based on lies, misleading information, and falsehoods about it, as well as to undermine its relationship with the US, he clarified.

His Excellency elaborated that the Qatar-US relationship is mutually beneficial, as both sides work to achieve matters that their adversaries do not seek, those who aim for escalation, domination,

and control, while Qatar calls for resolving conflicts through peaceful means and dialogue, which has been its policy since its establishment. He stressed that the Qatari support will be for the Palestinian people, and not for the rebuilding of what Israel destroyed.

He said that Qatar feels pain when it hears others speak of the people of Gaza as if they are different from others, but Qatar sees that the people of Gaza have the right to determine where they want to live, and these people do not want to leave their country, as seen on more than one occasion when the barriers between northern and southern Gaza were removed.

Folks witnessed the people return to their homes even though they were levelled to the ground, and build tents on their ruins, which demonstrates the resilience of this people, His Excellency noted, asserting that no party has the right to displace this people or force them to move elsewhere.

HE the Prime Minister emphasised that the current situation cannot continue in the long term, pointing out that if the violations in the Gaza Strip persist, this conflict could escalate again, and this is something everyone must avoid.

The optimal solution lies in implementing the plan launched by President Trump, which received consensus among regional states, rebuilding Gaza so that its people remain and live on their land, and reaching a political solution to the broader issue through the establishment of the Palestinian statehood according to the two-state solution, he stressed.

His Excellency hoped that a war between Israel and Iran would not occur in the future, and that a way could be found to revive negotiations and talks regarding Iran's nuclear programme, warning that if any Israeli attack on Iran takes place, its impact would be felt across all countries in the region, potentially causing a flare-up of conflict.

Regarding the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, he assured that there is much hope in the ongoing efforts undertaken by the US in this regard to reach a solution, emphasising that this war has become a source of harm for the entire world and carries severe consequences if it continues.

experience through their participation in hosting events such as the Doha 2006 Asian Games and many championships held under national federations. This institutional, human, and operational legacy forms a solid foundation for the Doha 2030 Asian Games Organising Committee, as the Qatar Olympic Committee now possesses an integrated system of experience, knowledge, and expertise that enables it to lead preparations for this continental event with high efficiency and deliver an edition that meets the aspirations of the Asian continent and reflects the development of Qatari sport.

By hosting the Doha 2030 Asian Games, Qatar seeks to reinforce its leadership in the sports field by presenting an exceptional edition that combines organisational excellence, expanding the base of sports and sporting culture within the community, and building a lasting legacy that contributes to enhancing the capabilities of future generations.

Hilary Clinton highlights need to end suffering of people in Gaza

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated that the suffering in Gaza is 'horrific' and the two-state solution is the realistic outcome for the end of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"The suffering in Gaza is horrific. Suffering everywhere is horrific. So let us look at what we can do to try to resolve what is being done to people in so many different settings right now. I am angry about all of the human rights abuses. I am angry about all of the excessive use of force," said Clinton while interacting at Doha Forum's Counterpoint Live with Ravi Agrawal, Editor-in-Chief, Foreign Policy at the Doha Forum 2025.

Clinton noted that the US should be looking at all the tragedies and conflicts that are bringing about so much suffering and are dealing with them. "I think the United States has an important role in trying to resolve these conflicts and alleviate the suffering and give people a chance to have peaceful, prosperous lives. That should be our goal. I want to see us involved everywhere, trying to stop the kind of horrible abuses that are going on," explained Clinton.

The former US Secretary of State is of the opinion that people should have a real historical context of what has happened in the Palestine conflict. She noted: "All I am asking for is that people have a historical context, both for what has happened to the Palestinians and what has happened to the Israelis, because we are not going to implement the 20-point peace plan or any other peace plan unless people come with some sense of historical perspective and empathy about how we are going to move people toward what I still believe is the only realistic outcome, a two-state solution."

Clinton also pointed out that she has always supported the 20-point



Hillary Clinton in conversation with Ravi Agrawal.
PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

peace plan to bring about the Gaza ceasefire. "I gave the president and his people credit for getting that terrible war to finally end. But it is a 20-point peace plan that takes an enormous amount of work, effort, diplomacy and negotiation to make sure you get all the parties around the table and try to figure out how to move forward with it. That is where you'll really find out if that is going to stick," she highlighted.

Clinton was also critical of several policies and decisions of the Trump administration in the last 11 months.

"I am quite concerned about the impact because there has been a very heavy emphasis on moving away from what I think are core American values in a number of ways. And that's not to say that there haven't been some successes. I think that there is a lot that needs to be reviewed and looked at from the perspective of what are the long-term consequences," she added.

Gates Foundation to grant \$1.8mn for Hamad Bin Khalifa University research

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and the Gates Foundation have committed to a grant agreement unique to the region on the sidelines of Doha Forum 2025.

The document was signed by HBKU's president Dr Ahmad M Hasnah and Joe Cerrell, managing director for the Gates Foundation in the presence of Bill Gates, chair and board member, Gates Foundation.

Under the four-year funding agreement, the Gates Foundation will provide \$1.8mn to HBKU. The grant will support pioneering research led by HBKU's Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute to develop animal feed products from crop residue, improving productivity of small-scale livestock producers.

Reflecting the university's strategic focus on circular agriculture in dry and arid regions, the new solution delivers a scalable process producing feed for less than \$100 per tonne. Besides supporting affordable, decentralised manufacturing, it also addresses food security constraints, encourages sustainable resource management, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, while advancing agricultural efficiency.

The purpose-driven collaboration brings together two re-



Dr Ahmad M Hasnah with Bill Gates and Joe Cerrell.

nowned institutions committed to advancing global development and the common good. For HBKU and Qatar Foundation, it supports Qatar's long-term resilience and societal prosperity, as well as their role as drivers for impact-driven innovation serving local, regional, and global needs. The HBKU patented technology already positions Qatar as a global leader in sustainable feed production.

For the Gates Foundation, the agreement reinforces a shared ambition to support solutions that improve lives, particularly in regions facing acute climate and resource pressures.

HBKU's research directly

contributes to building circular agriculture systems by reducing waste and maximising the value of existing resources. By integrating scientific research, technological innovation, and collaboration, the outcomes will address national priorities such as the sustainable approach to critical resources and food security systems. Its positive impact will also extend beyond Qatar, however, as lessons and technologies will be adaptable to farming across the Global South. This includes the Middle East and North Africa region, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

"Farmers are responsible for feeding communities, but they

are working in the toughest conditions imaginable, so this is a vital project to support them in turning residue crops into quality animal feed. We hope that by working with farmers to develop this innovation, we will ensure more food is produced to feed people and in turn help build the resilience of the global food system," said Cerrell.

Dr Hasnah added: "We are pleased to collaborate with the Gates Foundation in advancing innovative solutions that support sustainable food systems and generate meaningful economic impact for Qatar, the wider region, and the Global South. This agreement marks a significant milestone for research led by a Qatari university and underscores Hamad Bin Khalifa University's commitment to delivering tangible, positive outcomes through world-class research."

By uniting HBKU's research capabilities with the Gates Foundation's global development reach, the agreement is a decisive step toward food security and sustainable growth across some of the world's most vulnerable regions. In the mid- to long-term, the model could positively shape land use, food trade, and public health policy, as well as future-facing investment decisions.

Mol signs agreement with UNHCR

As part of strengthening joint co-operation in refugee affairs, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The MoU aims to enhance collaboration between the two sides in capacity-building programs, support legal and technical knowledge, and promote the exchange of expertise and best practices in the field of law enforcement. The MoU was signed on behalf of the MoI by Director of the Human Rights Department and Chairman of the Committee for Political Refugee Affairs Major General Abdullah Saqr al-Mohannadi and on behalf of UNHCR by Senior Advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Regional Representative for the GCC countries Khaled Khalifa. **(QNA)**

Doha 2030 Asian Games Organising Committee Board formed

From Page 1

This legacy rests on a system of modern sports facilities, stadiums, integrated training complexes, transportation networks, and supporting service infrastructure, allowing Qatar to deliver an exceptional edition of the Asian Games without the need to construct new facilities. In addition to the physical legacy, the major sporting events hosted by Qatar in recent years have contributed to building a sustainable human legacy represented in the operational and organisational expertise gained by national cadres through a series of milestones that solidified Qatar's position as a global capital of sport. The Qatar Olympic Committee has played a pivotal role in developing this legacy by supervising sports federations, enhancing governance, improving institutional readiness for hosting continental and international events, and preparing national cadres with strong operational and organisational

A Grand Celebration of Global Artistry: Qatar International Art Festival 2025 Opens at Katara Cultural Village

The Qatar International Art Festival (QIAF) inaugurated its 7th edition yesterday evening at the iconic Katara Cultural Village, marking the beginning of a six-day celebration of creativity, cultural dialogue, and artistic innovation. The opening ceremony, held in the presence of distinguished dignitaries, international artists, ambassadors, cultural leaders, and members of Qatar's vibrant art community, set an inspiring tone for one of the country's most anticipated cultural events.

This year's festival brings together over 500 artists from more than 70 countries, reaffirming Qatar's position as a global meeting point for artistic excellence and intercultural exchange. With the 2025 theme, **"Sustainability & Innovation in Art,"** QIAF continues to embrace forward-thinking narratives while honouring the universal language of art that binds communities worldwide.

A Prestigious Opening Led by MAPS International WLL in collaboration with Katara Cultural Village.

The ceremony was gracefully inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al-Sulaiti, General Manager of Katara Cultural Village and a distinguished patron of arts and culture in Qatar. In his keynote



remarks, he welcomed artists and guests with warmth and pride, emphasizing Katara's enduring commitment to supporting platforms that nurture creativity, diversity, and intercultural understanding.

He highlighted QIAF's growth into an influential global festival, praising its role in strengthening Qatar's cultural diplomacy and contributing to the nation's flourishing creative ecosystem. His presence, along with senior representatives of Katara, underscored the deep-rooted partnership between Katara Cultural Village and MAPS International WLL, the organising body behind QIAF.

A Gathering of Nations, Cultures, and Creative Voices

A defining feature of this year's opening was the extraordinary participation of international delegations, including an impressive representation from Argentina and Chile, in celebration of Qatar's Cultural Year 2025. Dozens of Argentinian artists attended the ceremony, enriching the evening with stories, vibrant expressions, and heartfelt cultural exchanges that resonated deeply with the audience.

Artists from Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas, and the Middle East filled the venue with a sense of unity and purpose, reflecting the festival's mission: to create a space where artistic expression can transcend borders and spark meaningful conversations about the future.

A Vision by MAPS International WLL

In her address, Ms. Rashmi Agarwal, Founder & CEO of QIAF and President of MAPS International WLL, expressed on behalf of the entire QIAF family, "I extend



Ms. Rashmi Agarwal,
Founder & CEO of QIAF and President of
MAPS International WLL

my heartfelt gratitude to all our partners and sponsors whose unwavering support has made this magnificent evening possible. A special thanks to Katara Cultural Village, our esteemed Cultural Partner, for standing with us year after year and giving QIAF a home where creativity truly flourishes.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the British Council, our Institutional Partner for the 4th consecutive year. Your continued collaboration enriches our festival and strengthens the cultural dialogue we proudly celebrate.

To all the Honourable Excellencies, the Ambassadors who have joined us today

despite their demanding schedules, thank you for honoring QIAF with your presence. Your support inspires our mission of global artistic unity.

My sincere thanks to our QIAF Brand Ambassadors, who work tirelessly to spread the spirit of this festival across borders.

And above all, to our dear participants from more than 73 countries, thank you for travelling across continents to be here. Your art, your stories, and your passion are what make QIAF a true meeting point of the world's creative souls."

Her message resonated deeply with international delegates, many of whom praised Qatar's commitment to nurturing inclusive creative spaces.

A Multisensory Opening Experience

The inauguration was followed by a captivating walk-through of the grand exhibition housed in Katara Building 12. Guests explored an eclectic array of artworks: paintings, sculptures, mixed media works, installations, and digital creations each showcasing unique cultural narratives and contemporary artistic perspectives.

Live musicians, traditional performers, and ambient lighting added to the celebratory atmosphere as the exhibition journey offered a preview of the artistic diversity that defines QIAF. The energy of the evening extended into engaging conversations between artists and visitors, creating opportunities for collaboration and cultural exchange.

The Heart of QIAF: 15 Events Across Six Days

The opening ceremony also offered



attendees a glimpse into the festival's rich programming. Over the next six days, QIAF will host fifteen major events, including:

- The Paintings and sculpture Exhibition**
- Live Painting & Outdoor Demonstrations**
- The International Art Conference and Panel Discussions**
- Creative Workshops & Youth Engagements**
- The Artistic Fashion Show**
- Cultural Networking Evenings**
- The Prestigious QIAF Awards Night**

Each event is designed to bring together artists, thinkers, and cultural influencers to exchange ideas, explore innovation, and build lasting global connections.

A Festival with a Purpose

As Qatar continues to emerge as a leading cultural destination, QIAF stands as a testament to the nation's dedication to fostering creativity and global unity.

The festival not only provides a platform for artistic expression but also contributes meaningfully to sustainability dialogues, youth empowerment, and creative industry development.

The strong partnerships with Katara Cultural Village, institutions, embassies, and international cultural bodies further strengthen the festival's foundations, reflecting Qatar's broader vision for cultural leadership on the world stage.

We gratefully acknowledge Gulf Times for their invaluable support as the Media Sponsor of this event.

An Inspiring Beginning

The opening ceremony of QIAF 2025 was more than an inauguration; it was a powerful celebration of artistic spirit, shared dreams, and global solidarity. As the festival unfolds over the coming days, it promises a journey of discovery, creativity, and inspiration for all who take part.