



مهرجانات
الدوحة الدولية
للموسيقى والممشاة
DOHA TATTOO



Official insurance
partner



16–20 December

Regulated by OCB

GULF



TIMES

0 668039 136499

TUESDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13591

December 16, 2025
Jumada II 25, 1447 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

published in
QATAR
since 1978

HAYYAKOM TO QATAR



FIFA ARAB CUP
QATAR 2025
Official Telecom Sponsor

أوريكس
ORXYX POLYDEX

دurable waterproofing-
performance for roof protection

سركي ماست اني انجنيئر في د.م.ب
44601602/3



HALF
PAYBACK

ON GARMENTS, FOOTWEAR & LADIES BAGS

Special Qatari 15% and get back Qatari 5% Shipping member Price

Reservati

BUSINESS | Page 1

QatarEnergy signs long-term helium supply agreement with Buzwair

فاميليا
Family

جاسات خارجة واكثر
OUTDOOR & MORE

700+
700+
700+

3

Jetour T2

SUBSCRIBE!
To our content



BOOMING FREE

Your free
talabat pro
is boarding now!

6 months
of pro perks

Use your Qatar Airways Privilege Club co-branded credit card and enjoy talabat pro-level treatment

QATAR AIRWAYS

Amir receives credentials of five new ambassadors

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received, at his office at the Amiri Diwan, yesterday, the credentials of five new ambassadors to Qatar.

His Highness the Amir received the credentials of ambassador of the Republic of South Sudan, Lily Adhieu Martin Manyiel; ambassador of the sisterly Republic of Lebanon, Bilal Kabalan (*pictured left*); and ambassador of the Hellenic Republic, Christos Kapodistrias. In addition, His Highness the Amir received the credentials of ambassador of Georgia, Varlam Avallani, and ambassador of the sisterly

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Saad bin Mansour bin Saad bin Saud bin Abdulaziz al-Saud (*pictured right*). His Highness the Amir welcomed the new ambassadors and wished them success in their missions, as well as further development and growth in the relationship between Qatar and their countries. The ambassadors conveyed the greetings of the leaders of their countries and their wishes to the people of Qatar for enduring progress and prosperity. The ambassadors were accorded an official reception ceremony upon arrival at the Amiri Diwan. (QNA) **Page 7**



Amir congratulates king of Bahrain

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifah of the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain, on the occasion of his country's National Day. (QNA)

Bomb plot by far-left group disrupted in LA

Four people have been arrested in connection with an alleged plot by a "far-left" anti-government group to stage bomb attacks on New Year's Eve in Los Angeles, officials said yesterday. The suspects were members of a "radical offshoot" of a group known as the Turtle Island Liberation Front (TILF), FBI Director Kash Patel said on X. "They were allegedly planning co-ordinated IED bombing attacks on New Year's Eve, targeting five separate locations across Los Angeles," he said.

Son held for murder of Rob Reiner, wife

Nick Reiner, the son of filmmaker Rob Reiner, was arrested on homicide charges after the director of beloved movies like *When Harry Met Sally...* and his wife were found dead in their Los Angeles home, a police official said yesterday. An official said he had been arrested on homicide charges. Local media reported the couple had been stabbed to death. Nick Reiner spoke openly over the years about his struggles with substance abuse and about being homeless at times when he was on the run and refusing to go into rehab. **Page 15**

UN conference in Doha calls for harnessing AI to combat corruption

● PM attends opening session of the 11th Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani at the UN Anti-Corruption Conference in Doha. **PICTURE:** Amiri Diwan

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

The 11th Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, the world's largest anti-corruption conference, began yesterday with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, attending the opening session at Sheraton Doha.

At the opening ceremony, HE Hamad bin Nasser al-Misnad, President of the Administrative

Control and Transparency Authority, assumed the chairmanship of the 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption as the conference called to make use of the emerging technologies in the fight against corruption and address its links with organised crime and other financial crimes.

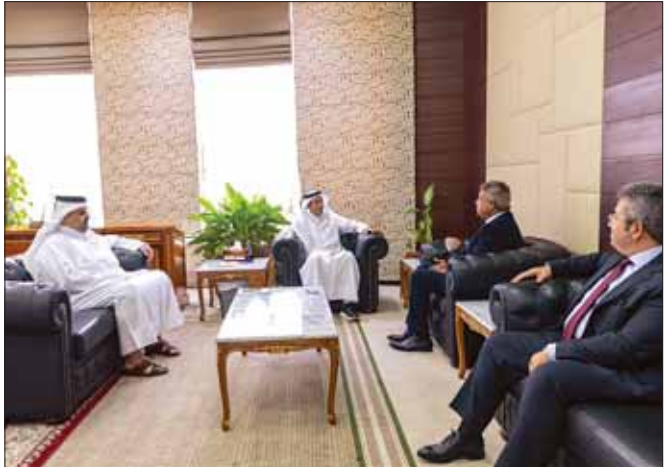
Addressing the opening session of the conference, al-Misnad said that the conference is a core platform for engagement and sharing expertise, as well as galvanising anti-corruption efforts on the global stage.

He noted that the previous sessions of the conference have literally contributed to concrete achievements that deepened the culture of transparency and helped share best practices.

"Combating corruption can't yield merits unless there is high political commitment in place, along with effective international cooperation and the concerted efforts of a variety of sectors," he stated.

He underlined the importance of adhering to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, such as respect for state sovereignty, equality of rights, and non-meddling in internal affairs. **To Page 8**

QMC chairman meets Egyptian official



HE the Chairman of Qatar Media Corporation (QMC) Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer al-Thani met yesterday with Chairman of the Supreme Council for Media Regulation of the Arab Republic of Egypt Khaled Abdel Aziz, who is visiting the country. During the meeting, they explored aspects of co-operation and co-ordination between the two countries in the media field and ways to support and develop them, in addition to exchanging views on a number of topics of common interest. The meeting was attended by HE the CEO of Qatar Media Corporation Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulaziz bin Jassim al-Thani and ambassador of Egypt Walid Fahmy al-Faqi. (QNA)

FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025: Morocco to face Jordan for trophy

The Moroccan national team qualified for the final of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025, defeating the UAE 3-0 in their semi-final match yesterday at Khalifa International Stadium.

Morocco's goals were scored by Karim El Berkaoui in the 28th minute, Achraf El Mahdaoui in the 83rd minute, and Abderrazak Hamdallah in the first minute of stoppage time (90+1).

Morocco will face Jordan, the winner of the second semi-final match, against Saudi Arabia. **Sport Page 1**

US assures Ukraine security guarantees

Ukraine would receive security guarantees similar to those provided in Article 5 of the Nato treaty under a proposed peace deal discussed in Berlin, a US official told reporters yesterday. Officials said those guarantees would not be on the table forever, as US President Donald Trump presses for an end to the war. One official said Russia was open to Ukraine joining the European Union and that Trump wanted to prevent Russia from moving further west. The officials said they had reached agreement on 90% of the issues involved. **Page 15**

Mowasalat launches Qatar's first RoboTaxi service

Mowasalat (Karwa), Qatar's leading transport provider, announced the launch of the country's first RoboTaxi service under the supervision of the Ministry of Transport (MoT), marking a major milestone in the development of smart, sustainable, and technology-driven mobility solutions, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

The RoboTaxi service represents a new era of autonomous transportation, designed to enhance passenger safety, comfort, and efficiency through advanced self-driving technology.

Each RoboTaxi is equipped with an integrated system of eleven cameras, four radars, and four LiDAR sensors, enabling 360-de-



Karwa's RoboTaxi service.



gree environmental awareness, precise navigation, and real-time obstacle detection. A built-in redundancy system ensures that

the vehicle can safely proceed to the nearest secure location in the event of any operational anomaly. All operational and passenger

data collected by the RoboTaxi system are securely stored and processed within the State of Qatar, ensuring full compliance with national data localisation and cybersecurity regulations.

The service has been developed and tested in collaboration with leading global autonomous technology partners, combining international expertise with local operational and regulatory requirements to ensure the highest standards of safety and efficiency.

The launch of the RoboTaxi service reflects Mowasalat's ongoing commitment to innovation and its role in shaping the future of mobility in Qatar through advanced technology, sustainability, and service excellence.



سنيكرز شوكولاتة
٤٠ غرام / ١٠ حبات
Snickers Chocolate
40gm X 10pcs



ريغال تاي أر بنكهة
الياسمين ٥ كيلو
Regal Thai
Jasmine Rice 5kg



جولدن أر رسمي ٥ كيلو
Golden Basmati Rice
5kg



نيفيا لوشن للجسم منوع
٤٠٠ مل / حبتان
Nivea Body Lotion
Asstd 400ml X 2pcs



تايد مسحوق غسيل
منوع ٥ كيلو
Tide Washing
Powder Asstd 5kg

Shop with
Confidence
16001 18548/2025



سمك ماكريل صغير
سعودي ١ كيلو
Mackerel Small
KSA 1kg



روبيان مرزعة متوسط
إماراتي ١ كيلو
Farmed Prawns
Medium 30/40 UAE 1kg



سمك دلييس متوسط
تونس ١ كيلو
Sea Bream Medium
Tunisia 1kg



لحم بقري مفروم
باكستاني ١ كيلو
Beef Mince
Pakistan 1kg



لحم ساق خروف بالعظم
أسترالي ١ كيلو
Lamb Leg Bone In
Australia 1kg



كبد خروف
أسترالي ١ كيلو
Lamb Liver
Australia 1kg



جبنة بيضاء قطرية
دبل كريم / دمياطي ١ كيلو
Qatar White Cheese
Double Cream/
Domiyati 1kg



أبو قوس حليب مجفف
٢.٢٥ كيلو
Rainbow Milk
Powder Pouch 2.25kg



ماجى نودلز كوري منوع
٩٠ غرام / ٣ حبات
Maggi Korean
Noodles Asstd
90gm X 3pcs



دخان لكل عميل
٢٢٥٠ مل / حبتان
Fortune Sunflower
Oil 5Ltr



بيض أبيض هندي
متوسط ٣٠ قطعة
Indian White Egg
Medium 30's



فرانغوسول دجاج
كامل ١.٢ كيلو
Frangosul Whole
Chicken 1.2kg



ساديا صدور دجاج بدون جلد
بدون عظم ٤٠٠ غرام / حبتان
Sadia Chicken Breast
Skinless and Boneless
450gm X 2pcs



برياني دجاج ٥٠٠ غرام
Chicken Dum
Biryani 500gm



فانشو كيك أبيض متوسط
Vancho Cake White
Medium



باذنجان كبير قطري ١ كيلو
Farm Fresh Eggplant
Big Qatar 1kg



فليفلة خضراء قطرية ١ كيلو
Farm Fresh Green
Capsicum Qatar 1kg



برتقال فالنسيا
جنوب أفريقي ١ كيلو
Orange Valencia
South Africa 1kg



تفاح ريدي كراش فرنسي
١ كيلو
Apple Reddy Crush
France 1kg



خيار قطري ١ كيلو
Farm Fresh Cucumber
Qatar 1kg



كوسا قطرية ١ كيلو
Farm Fresh
Marrow (Kosaa)
Qatar 1kg

LULU
HYPER
MARKET
COM

SHOP ONLINE



Lulu Online
Shopping

GET
5%
BACK

with your Doha Bank shopping Co-branded credit card
Type 'LULU' & SMS to 92610 or visit any Doha Bank Branch

0% INTEREST
Buy now, pay over 6 months



Lulu
Where the world comes to shop



بمَ تَعْلُو ومنكم تُنظَر
تَمِيم بن حَمَد



On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878 when
Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani,
founder of the State of Qatar,
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar,

We extend our heartiest congratulations and greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and
wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity
under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



QATAR



On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878,
when Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani,
founder of the State of Qatar, set up the
pillars of the Modern State of Qatar, We extend our
heartiest congratulations and greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar
We hope for more returns of this memorable
occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys
security, welfare and prosperity under the wise
leadership of His Highness The Amir



SWAN
GLOBAL



On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878 when
Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani,
founder of the State of Qatar,
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar,
We extend our heartiest congratulations and greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar
We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and
wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity
under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY

Building No: 199 | Street No: 230 | Zone-42
Tel: +974 4402 9888 | P.O.Box: 22726





On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878 when
Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani, founder of the State of Qatar,
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar,
We extend our heartiest congratulations and greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and
wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity
under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878 when
Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani,
founder of the State of Qatar,
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar,

We extend our heartiest congratulations and greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and
wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity
under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



AL BADI TRADING & CONT.CO.,LTD

CR. NO. 9926, P.O. Box No. 3915, Doha - Qatar

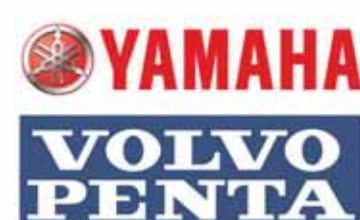
Main Office : 44320715 / 44412723 / 44424310 / 66950535, Workshop : 44642065
Workshop - Bike & ATV : 44692019, Al Khor Shop : 66522965, Fax : 44442888
Email: info@albadidoha.com, Web : www.albadidoha.com



شركة البادي للتجارة والمقاولات المحدودة

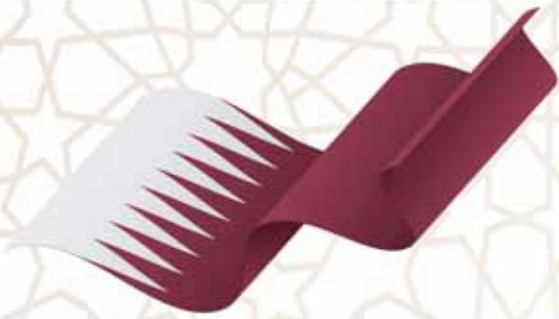
س.ت. ٩٩٢٦، ص.ب. ٣٩١٥، الدوحة - قطر

المكتب الرئيسي : ٤٤٦٤٢٠٦ / ٤٤٤١٢٧٢٣ / ٤٤٤٢٤٣١٠ / ٦٦٩٥٠٥٣٥، الورشة : ٤٤٦٤٢٠٦
ورشة بيك، ATV : ٤٤٦٩٢٠١٩، محل الخور : ٦٦٥٢٢٩٦٥، فاكس : ٤٤٤٤٢٨٨٨
بريد الإلكتروني : info@albadidoha.com، موقع : www.albadidoha.com





QATAR



On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878 when
Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani,
founder of the State of Qatar,
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar,

We extend our heartiest congratulations and greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and
wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity
under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



بمكتعلو ومنكم تنظر
تميم بن حمد



شركة روابي جروب ذ.م.م.

AL RAWABI
GROUP OF COMPANIES W.L.L.

On the occasion of
Qatar National Day, 18th of December
and in remembrance of the historic day in 1878 when
Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Bin Thani,
founder of the State of Qatar,
set up the pillars of the Modern State of Qatar,

We extend our heartiest congratulations
and greetings to

His Highness
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Father Amir

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion
and wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare
and prosperity under the wise leadership of
His Highness The Amir



بمكتعلو ومنكم تنظر
تميم بن حمد



Amir receives credentials of new ambassadors

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani yesterday received at his Amiri Diwan office, the credentials of new ambassadors to Qatar. His Highness the Amir received the credentials of ambassador of South Sudan, Lily Adhieu Martin Manyiel and ambassador of Greece Christos Kapodistrias. In addition, His Highness the Amir received the credentials of ambassador of Georgia, Varlam Avaliani. His Highness the Amir welcomed the new ambassadors and wished them success in their missions, as well as further development and growth in the relationship between Qatar and their countries. For their part, the ambassadors conveyed the greetings of the leaders of their countries and their wishes to the people of Qatar for enduring progress and prosperity. The ambassadors were accorded an official reception ceremony upon arrival at the Amiri Diwan. **(QNA)**



PM meets Palestinian vice-president



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with the visiting Vice-President of the State of Palestine Hussein al-Sheikh. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them. They also reviewed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories, and addressed several topics of common interest. HE the Prime Minister reiterated Qatar's steadfast support for the Palestinian cause and the resilience of the brotherly Palestinian people, based on international law and the two-state solution, which guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. **(QNA)**

FREE VEHICLE RECALL

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
دولة قطر - دولة فلسطين
State of Qatar - State of Palestine



RAM 1500

Manufacturing Year 2025



DEFECT

The vapor vent hose connection may detach from the air intake distributor or the vapor return valve, which may cause irregular engine operation or difficulty starting the engine.



PROCESS

Contact the dealer for the free required repair



CONTACT

United Cars AlMana
Phone: 8007552
crmautomotive.aa@almanagroup.com



16001 | +974 66111400 | www.moci.gov.qa

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
دولة قطر - دولة فلسطين
State of Qatar - State of Palestine

Bin Al Sheikh Holding and Bin Al Sheikh Brokerage Launch Expression of Interest Registration for Skyline Towers Project



Bin Al Sheikh Holding Group, in collaboration with Bin Al Sheikh Real Estate Brokerage, announced the opening of the Expression of Interest (EOI) registration for its new and highly anticipated real estate project, "Skyline Towers." The announcement was made during an exceptional ceremony held on Sunday, 14 December 2025, attended by a wide array of dignitaries, business leaders, investors, and media representatives.

Mr. Mohsen Mubarak Al Abbad, Chairman of Bin Al Sheikh Holding Group, expressed his appreciation for the strong confidence placed in the Group's projects, noting that Skyline Towers represents a new milestone in the company's journey toward reinforcing its leadership position and delivering real estate products aligned with market aspirations.

Delivering the Highest Standards of Quality

In his address during the event, Al Abbad emphasized that the new project "will not merely be a real estate development, but an architectural icon reflecting Bin Al Sheikh Holding's commitment to the highest standards of quality and innovation." He added that the Group continues to move steadily toward delivering pioneering projects that contribute to real estate growth and meet the expectations of clients and investors alike.

Attendees expressed their appreciation for the outstanding organization of the event and the promising investment opportunities offered by the project, reaffirming their strong confidence in the Bin Al Sheikh Holding brand and its real estate arm, Bin Al Sheikh Brokerage.

A Distinctive Addition to the Urban Landscape

During the event—which reaffirmed the Group's position as one of the leading real estate entities in the Qatari market—the key features of Skyline Towers, scheduled for official launch in 2026, were highlighted. The project is expected to represent a distinctive addition to Qatar's urban landscape, thanks to its contemporary architectural design and the luxury concepts it offers.



The development aligns with the country's accelerated urban growth trends, with a strong focus on quality of life, upscale residential living, and state-of-the-art facilities.

Strong Demand and Exclusive Benefits

The Skyline Towers project by Bin Al Sheikh Holding has witnessed remarkable interest during the EOI registration phase, with investors and clients expressing strong enthusiasm to participate in this vital project ahead of its official launch.

This strong engagement was further encouraged through exclusive benefits and exceptional incentives offered to registrants during the introductory event, including flexible purchasing options, high-value investment opportunities, and limited-time special offers.

Such demand reflects the growing confidence in Qatar's real estate market, as well as the strength of the



Bin Al Sheikh Holding brand, built through its successful previous projects. It also reinforces the project's position as a promising investment destination that meets the aspirations of those seeking modern residential and office units combining innovation, strategic location, and international quality standards.

Strengthening Partnerships

The event also witnessed the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with prominent companies operating in real estate development, logistics, and marketing. This step reflects Bin Al Sheikh Holding's strategic vision to build strong partnerships that support the Skyline Towers project across its various phases.

These agreements aim to enhance integration among participating entities and provide a comprehensive support ecosystem encompassing logistical, promotional, and technical services, ensuring the project is delivered in a professional manner and in line with the highest competitive standards.

Such partnerships represent a key pillar in the Group's efforts to establish Skyline Towers as one of the most anticipated real estate developments in Doha, while further strengthening investor confidence in its economic feasibility and long-term value.

Al Meera celebrates QND with ‘I Love Qatar’ campaign

Al Meera Consumer Goods Company has launched its Qatar National Day campaign, themed ‘I Love Qatar’, which reflects Al Meera’s continued commitment to celebrating the nation’s values of unity, pride, and community. Running from Dec 11 to 24, the campaign will provide major promotional offers across Al Meera’s nationwide network of stores, giving customers access to exceptional deals and discounts on a wide range of products. Throughout the campaign period, shoppers will also earn 5x Meera Rewards points with every purchase of Al Meera private-label items, reinforcing the brand’s dedication to supporting national goods and delivering greater value to customers. To further engage its community, Al Meera will launch a special social media competition on December 11, offering customers and followers of its accounts various chances to win Al Meera vouchers worth QR250 each. A total of 18 winners on Instagram and 18 on Facebook will be selected, adding excitement to the season and encouraging the audience to join the celebration online. In addition, Al Meera will be

extending its Qatar National Day celebrations beyond its stores through its sponsorship of Darb Al Saai, one of the country’s most iconic cultural destinations during the National Day period. Visitors are invited to stop by Al Meera’s pavilion, where they can enjoy complimentary snacks, water, and other essentials, reflecting the company’s long-standing commitment to community support and hospitality. Al Meera stated: “Qatar National Day is a moment of immense pride for our nation, and as Qatar’s national retailer, we are honoured to celebrate it with our customers and communities. The ‘I Love Qatar’ campaign brings together value, rewards, and shared experiences that reflect our mission of serving every neighbourhood across the country. We look forward to welcoming customers in-store and at Darb Al Saai as we mark this special occasion together.” Al Meera’s Qatar National Day campaign reinforces its role as a retailer deeply connected to the community, offering quality, value, and meaningful engagement in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.



Running from December 11 to 24, the campaign will provide major promotional offers across Al Meera’s nationwide network of stores, giving customers access to exceptional deals and discounts on a wide range of products.

Justice Minister holds bilateral talks on legal co-operation in UN conference

HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi has held separate bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption currently taking place in Doha. HE the Minister met with Carlo Nordio, Minister of Justice of the Italian Republic; Guillaume Ngefa Atondoko, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and Anil Nandlal, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. The discussions focused on enhancing and developing legal co-operation between Qatar and the respective countries, as well as reviewing several agenda items of the conference. In particular, the talks addressed a memorandum of understanding on legal co-operation between Qatar’s Ministry of Justice and that of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, opening new avenues for collaboration between the two nations in the legal and judicial fields. (QNA)



Minister holds phone call with Spanish official

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation, Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad, held a telephone call with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Global Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain, Diego Martinez Belio. Discussions during the call dealt with co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them. (QNA)

Ministry announces suspension of maritime navigation in Doha area

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) yesterday called upon maritime vessel owners, be they individuals or companies, to suspend maritime navigation as well as maritime vessel leasing (tourist, recreational, fishing, jet skis, and similar vessels) in the Doha area, specifically from Hamad International Airport (HIA) to Sheraton Doha Hotel. This comes as part of national measures to support public safety and security, coinciding with Qatar National Day celebrations. In a statement, the ministry noted that this directive will be in effect from 6am today, Dec 16, through 8am on Friday, Dec 19, 2025. (QNA)

UN conference in Doha calls for harnessing AI to combat graft

From Page 1

“Preventing and ultimately eradicating corruption is a duty we share. We owe it to the people we serve,” said president of the United Nations General Assembly, Annalena Baerbock in her video message at the opening session of the conference. At the opening session, the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres in a video message, noted: “Corruption is not a victimless crime. It fuels conflicts, entrenches inequalities, and drains the resources needed to protect people and planet. Every

dollar lost to economic crime is a dollar stolen from those striving for a better future.” “Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence have the potential to accelerate corruption, but also to help us detect and prevent it. But this requires regulation and accountability,” the secretary-general said. The acting executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), John Brundino, noted that corruption provides the illicit infrastructure for criminal groups to operate and profit with impunity around the globe.

“There is a need for an integrated and co-ordinated approach, one where agencies work across sectors and borders, with all relevant partners, to bring down networks of crime and collusion in tandem,” he said, calling on the States Parties to make the most of UNODC’s initiatives and tools on anti-corruption, and to use the session “to reassert the universal vision of the Convention for a new age”. Also addressing the opening session was the outgoing president of the tenth session, Christine Cline from the United States. Held under the theme “Shaping

Tomorrow’s Integrity”, the week-long meeting brings together more than 2,500 participants from 170 States Parties to the Convention. Resolutions considered by the Parties to the Convention focus on addressing the role of AI in preventing and combating corruption, strengthening the integrity of children and young people, enhancing transparency in the financing of political parties and election campaigns, and exploring the role corruption plays in facilitating other crimes, such as smuggling of migrants and crimes that affect the environment, among others.

Can AI Make You a Better Designer?

Debates over intellectual property, authenticity, and human creativity at VCUarts Qatar Week 2025 highlighted how today’s design students feel about using artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) use has become a major point of contention in higher education, frequently regarded with skepticism and, in some cases, banned in the classroom. But while AI’s application in a university setting can be polarizing for educators, what do the students themselves think? That’s exactly what the Department of Interior Design at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts set out to examine through a Common Project in Spring 2024 – work that was later showcased during VCUarts Qatar Week 2025, the annual event that brings the Doha campus to Richmond to share research and creative work with the home campus. “We had three main questions to explore,” explained Roberto Ventura, Chair of the Department of Interior Design at VCUarts’ Richmond campus and one of the project researchers. “First, how our students were engaging with AI; second, how we might set some guiding principles for its use in the classroom; and third, how we could better understand its potential in order to use it as a complementary tool in design education.” The Common Project brought together more than 120 students across undergraduate and graduate studios. Their assignment was to build small-scale models from found materials, photograph them, and then use AI tools, like Midjourney and Vizcom, to generate variations. They later transformed these outputs into three-dimensional collages that mixed analog and digital media. Students were surveyed three times – before the project, immediately after, and again eight months later – to capture changing attitudes toward AI. The results showed that while students generally accepted AI in principle, their actual use of it decreased over time. “I was surprised at how hesitant the students were to engage with it,” said Ventura. “Everywhere you look in higher education reporting, the

narrative is that students are using AI for everything. But our surveys told us something different. Students are really worried about intellectual property, about their futures in the job market, even about whether they were contributing to their own obsolescence.” In their own words and reported in the findings, students felt that AI use in general makes people “lazy”. In design specifically, one student cited feeling “threatened because anyone can create a space now using AI without going through education and years of experience” and call themselves an interior designer. They worried that engaging with AI would be akin to training the very technology that would replace them. In terms of the actual work generated, Kristen Carleton, Assistant Professor and the Graduate Program Director of Interior Design at VCUarts, and co-researcher of the CP noted that the results showcased “vibrant explorations.” “The strongest collages were the ones where students had clear intent, where they used AI to push a design narrative forward and not as a decorative tool,” Carleton noted. “Those successful works treated AI as a dialogue partner.” Faculty reported expecting enthusiasm among students after being given permission to continue exploring the use of AI after the Common Project concluded. But many still expressed hesitation over continued use. “Students continued to ask if it’s okay to use AI; they often said it felt like cheating,” she said. “That sense of guilt was striking, especially when the work itself showed real creativity and risk-taking.” **So what does the future hold for AI in design education?** Co-researcher and Assistant Professor in the School of the Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University, Tim Hamnett, hopes that students will be open to working with AI as a



supportive tool, similar to how professionals have adopted it. “Some architects use it to generate details, not to dictate the whole design,” he explained. “That might be a more realistic way forward – using AI for something precise, rather than letting it take over the big gestures.” Students and faculty from both campuses walked away from the presentation questioning their own assumptions about AI in design, sparking conversations that have continued beyond VCUarts Qatar Week 2025. “We make so many assumptions about students and AI.

This project reminded us to pause and really understand their perspectives, not just follow the narrative that education is broken,” Ventura reflected. “Our programs are very process oriented, and it’s important to show how AI can be a part of process – another tool in a student’s toolkit – not just a shortcut to outcomes.” That reflection echoed across the team. As Carleton put it: Whether we like it or not, AI is here to stay, and our students from Richmond, Virginia to Doha, Qatar need to be prepared to form their own opinions on how best to use it.”

AST
Digital Print Center

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS WITH PRINTING

39
Years Experience

**Tshirt | Bag
Pen & Mugs
Keychains
Notebook
Lanyard
Drinkware**

**Bottle Openers
Pouches
Caps & Hats
Events & Exhibitions
Roller Banners
Pop Up Banners**

**Flex Banner
Canvas Print
Fabric Print
LED Sign Boards
Acrylic Sign Boards
Metal Letters Sign Boards**

Tel: 44 76 5000 | Email: westbay@astqatar.com

+974 7478 1810

P.O. Box : 32483 , Al Reem Tower | Near City Center | West Bay, Doha-Qatar

HABARI
REAL ESTATE
CR No: 174548

**READY TO OCCUPY
BRAND NEW
ACCOMMODATION**

**ENTIRE BUILDING
AVAILABLE FOR
LADIES
Upto 80
Occupants**

AL KHOR

Affordable Monthly Rentals

Best in class Accommodation

Prime Location

+974 3030 0880, +974 3341 9475

P. O. Box: 60861, 1st. Floor, Building # 11, Street 852, Zone 74, Al Khor, Qatar.

**TO
ELEVATE
YOUR BUSINESS
ADVERTISE IN OUR
TUESDAYS SPECIAL ADVERTISING PAGE**

Contact us on **gtadv@gulf-times.com** or **444 666 21**
for attractive packages to reach out to our readers and followers

Wagh Bakri Tea
India's Most Trusted Tea Brand
Award of 1991-2024
No. 1 in India's Tea Market 2024

**SERVING THE FINEST QUALITY TEAS
SINCE 100 YEARS**

WAGH BAKRI
Tea Group

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STORES

Imported & Distributed by: AL MAYA INTERNATIONAL W.L.L.
P.O. Box 37366, Doha, Qatar. Tel: +974 4441 6441 - Email: almaya@almayaqatar.com.qa

MANNAI HOME
MEMBER OF MANNAI CORPORATION

**YEAR END
MEGA SALE**

TCL **TOSHIBA** **Moulinex** **White-Westinghouse** **AEG**

Bompani **IGNIS** **simfer** **Coleman** **CAMPINGAZ**

14th to 31st Dec **9:00 AM - 5:00 PM** **CASH / CARD**

+974 7478 6303

Sanaya Street 11, Mannai Warehouse

Shop with Confidence
For Complaints and Suggestions **16001** License Number: 18887/2025

تسوق بثقة
16001
18887/2025

Minister of Interior inspects preparations for 1st Doha International Music and Marching Festival

HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani conducted an inspection visit to review preparations for the launch of the 1st edition of the Doha International Music and Marching Festival (Doha Tattoo), scheduled to take place at the Katara Cultural Village from December 16-20. During the visit, His Excellency went over the organisational readiness and technical preparations for the festival, which will feature performances by military and music bands from a number of countries, alongside national participants from the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Interior, the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), and



the Amiri Guard. The festival marks a first-of-its-kind event in the Middle East and represents a significant addition to the global series of Tattoo festivals. (QNA)



QC participates in ‘Reimagining Future of Children in Asia’ forum

Qatar Charity (QC) participated in the ‘Reimagining the Future of Children in Asia’ forum, organised by Save the Children Asia in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in Bangkok, Thailand, on December 3-5. The forum brought together a wide range of senior leaders and experts in humanitarian and development work from across the globe, a statement said yesterday. The event served as a high-level international platform, convening representatives of humanitarian and development organisations, donor agencies, United Nations and diplomatic missions, international non-governmental organisations, research and academic institutions, as well as private-sector stakeholders. Discussions focused on strengthening strategic partnerships and identifying innovative, sustainable solutions to advance children’s rights and well-being in Asia, while promoting a shift from short-term emergency response to long-term, sustainable development impact. QC’s participation took place within the framework of implementing the strategic memorandum of understanding signed with Save the Children, which aims to deepen international cooperation, advance shared humanitarian and development priorities, and strengthen a dynamic network of international and regional partners working in child protection and development.



As part of the official forum programme, QC contributed through a panel discussion presented by Fatima al-Muhammadi, assistant director of the Social Welfare Department, during a dedicated session entitled ‘Catalysts for Change: The Role of Islamic Countries in Humanitarian and Development Action and Islamic Finance’. The session highlighted the expanding role of Islamic countries and institutions within the global humanitarian and development landscape. It showcased the potential of Islamic financing instruments including zakat, sadaqah, and waqf to support sustainable, child-focused programmes, while emphasising the importance of strategic partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms to facilitate the transition from emergency relief to long-term development outcomes. In addition, QC participated in several closed thematic sessions held on the side-

lines of the forum. These discussions addressed the humanitarian situations in Myanmar and Afghanistan, pathways to ensure safe and sustained humanitarian access, child protection in complex emergencies, and the continuity of education in protracted crises. The sessions also explored the role of innovation and data-driven approaches in enhancing the effectiveness, accountability, and impact of humanitarian interventions targeting children. Fatima al-Muhammadi stated: “Qatar Charity’s participation in this forum reflects our firm conviction that protecting and empowering children requires genuine international partnerships and forward-looking approaches that extend beyond emergency response toward sustainable development solutions. We believe that Islamic finance represents a strategic enabler capable of delivering tangible and lasting impact in the lives of children, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected contexts. “At Qatar Charity, we remain committed to expanding collaboration with international partners, exchanging expertise, and harnessing innovation and data in the design of more effective and inclusive programmes. Our goal is to ensure the protection of children, safeguard their right to education and a dignified life, and contribute to building a safer, more resilient, and sustainable future for children in Asia and beyond.”

Municipality ministry accorded five-star accreditation by EFQM Foundation

The Ministry of Municipality has secured five-star accreditation from the EFQM Foundation, represented by the Urban Planning Sector. This groundbreaking milestone underscores the ministry’s commitment to institutional excellence and performance quality based on the highest global standards. On this occasion, HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al Attiyah said this achievement is the culmination of an enduring institutional pathway in excellence and quality, manifesting the ministry’s keenness to advance institutional performance and the services provided to the public, in addition to enhancing partners’ experience in meeting their aspirations. The minister underlined that he is glad to see the ministry being accorded this five-star accreditation based on the new model, making it the first government entity to obtain this accreditation. The Urban Planning Sector has become a role model in institutional excellence across the nation, as this accreditation comes within the ministry’s plan to expand the scope of excellence to encompass the remaining critical sectors, thereby contributing to upgrading municipal services, bolstering government work, and realising the community’s aspirations, al-Attiyah said. He stated that this accreditation is a first phase within a holistic strategy to promote institutional performance quality and the level of municipal



services, stressing that this milestone is a product of diligent efforts in applying the best global practices in the areas of regional and urban planning. The Urban Planning Sector underwent a comprehensive external evaluation under the EFQM 2025 Excellence Model from the EFQM Foundation, encompassing strategy, execution, and results, and is regarded as one of the most professional global models for measuring institutional performance. EFQM lauded the ministry’s efforts and the team of the Urban Planning Sector, emphasising that what has been achieved is a role model at the regional level, demonstrating a true commitment to persistent optimisation and effective governance. Overall, the EFQM Foundation is a leading international authority in the field of institutional excellence, and its model is used globally to support institutions in managing change and improving performance, having guided more than 50,000 organisations worldwide, thereby strengthening a culture of quality, innovation, and the achievement of sustainable value for all stakeholders. (QNA)

Qatar International Art Festival 2025
Sets a New Global Benchmark in Cultural Excellence
Six Days. One Vision. Infinite Artistic Expressions



QIAF 2025 unfolded as a multidimensional cultural platform featuring over 15 thoughtfully curated activities across six dynamic days, including the VIP Red Carpet Opening Ceremony, International Art Exhibitions, Live Art Demonstrations, Cultural Evenings, Artist Talks & Panel Discussions, Artistic Fashion Show, Art Installations, Live Performances, Art Workshops, Master Classes, Curated Gallery Walkthroughs, Networking & Business Dinner, Art Auction Evening, Cultural Exchange Sessions, and the grand Awards & Felicitation Ceremony. The festival proudly hosted over 500 artists representing more than 73 countries, reaffirming Qatar International Art Festival’s position as one of the region’s most diverse and globally inclusive art platforms. This remarkable convergence of cultures, disciplines, and creative voices transformed Katara Cultural Village into a vibrant crossroads of global artistic expression, dialogue, and collaboration. Rashmi Agarwal, Founder & CEO, Qatar International Art Festival (QIAF) “As we draw the curtains on the 7th edition of the Qatar International Art Festival 2025, I extend my deepest

gratitude to every partner, sponsor, delegate, artist, participant, and well-wisher who stood with us to make QIAF 2025 a landmark cultural success. Over six days at Katara Cultural Village, this festival emerged as a powerful platform for artistic dialogue, cultural exchange, and global creative unity, reflecting Qatar’s growing leadership in the international arts ecosystem. I express my sincere appreciation to Professor Dr. Khalid Bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti, General Manager of Katara Cultural Village, and his entire team for their unwavering support and visionary collaboration as our Cultural Partner. Katara’s commitment to nurturing culture and the arts was instrumental in delivering QIAF 2025 at an international standard. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Waseem Kotoub and the British Council Qatar, our Institutional Partner, for their continued trust and meaningful engagement in fostering cross-cultural artistic excellence. My gratitude extends to our Director and Advisory Council members of Qatar International Art Festival and MAPS International WLL, whose strategic planning and execution formed the

backbone of this mega event. I sincerely thank Qatar Airways as our Airline Partner, UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES as our BRIDGES Coalition Partner, Katara Hall as our Festival Venue Partner, and Al Bahie Auction House as our Art Auction Partner, each contributing significantly to the festival’s global stature. I acknowledge with appreciation our Official Magazine Partner, IVAAN - The Qanvas Art Magazine, and our esteemed Media Partners: Gulf Times Newspaper, Fact Magazine, Marhaba, Qatar Events, QATARTAINMENT, EDARABIA, Gulf Times Newspaper, and Alaqat, whose extensive coverage amplified the festival’s reach and impact. Our thanks also go to our Support Partners, Salty Kites, Soléart Management, Women Business Circle, IMB Qatar, 360 Knowledge - Training & Consultancy for their valuable operational and strategic support. We are grateful to Al Jazeera Printing Press as our Printing Partner, Retaj Al Rayyan Hotel Westbay and dusicD2 Salwa Doha as our Hospitality Partners, Pullman Hotels & Resort as our F&B Partner, and Newton Group of Schools as our Education School Partner, for their professionalism and commitment to excellence.

I extend special thanks to our Honorary Embassy Partners, the Republic of Angola, Republic of Austria, Republic of Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Ghana, Guinea, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Mozambique, Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Kingdom of Spain, for their diplomatic support and cultural participation, which enriched the global spirit of QIAF 2025. Above all, I thank the artists, delegates, curators, collectors, and visitors from across the world. As special Thank you to all our Art Gallery Partners and Brand Ambassadors of QIAF 2025. Your passion and creativity are the true soul of QIAF. Together, we have not only concluded a successful festival but strengthened a lasting global cultural bridge. I look forward to welcoming you again as we continue this artistic journey forward.” “QIAF 2025 was able to achieve its extraordinary global resonance with the invaluable participation of our esteemed art galleries and art institutions, who brought depth, diversity, and powerful artistic narratives to the festival. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Celeste International Art and Artes Reales

Gallery from Argentina; Art Dialogue from Ukraine; Erika Tranchida from Argentina; Minoo Art Gallery from Iran; Europe Gallery; Imaginarte Gallery from Spain; Dama Art Gallery from Portugal; India Gallery, Rumi Art Gallery, Art Mudra - De Art Xpert, and Fida & Husain Art Gallery from India; ASIA Gallery; Ashnouna Foundation for Arts (NGO) from Iraq; Lopes Gallery and P. Singh from the United Kingdom; Czech Republic Gallery; Ethiopia Gallery; Unity Art Nations from Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Switzerland; Guinea Gallery; VEC Art House Croatia; Dhuha Al Khdhairi from Austria; Feaan Gallery from Nigeria; Monarca from Uruguay; The Golden Horse Dubai Art Gallery from the UAE; Red Tree Global Art from Peru; Duart’s Gallery from Brazil; Mida Vinci from the USA; Corneli Gallery from Mexico; Art Oriental Ltd representing China and the UK; P.S. Grigart from Russia; Qatar Gallery; Middle East & North Africa (MENA) collective; and the Newton Group of Schools, Qatar. Your unwavering commitment, curatorial excellence, and belief in cultural exchange transformed QIAF 2025 into a truly global artistic dialogue, and for that, I am deeply grateful.”

Qatar Insurance rewards customers with bonus 'coins' to celebrate National Day

Qatar Insurance will be offering complimentary loyalty coins to new customers until December 21, in celebration of National Day.

During the period, all new QIC App users will receive 1,800 welcome coins when downloading the application and creating a personal profile for the first time. To make customers' celebrations truly unforgettable, QIC has teamed up with graphic designer Zainab AlShibani and Boo Design Studio, who created exclusive artworks reflecting national unity and pride, available for users to redeem by spending their coins via the app starting December 18.

Once a customer accumulates the required number of coins, they can select the artwork they want and instantly receive an e-voucher, which can be used to collect their preferred souvenir on their next visit to QIC's main branch in Doha.

QIC App users can also redeem their coins for complimentary services and special offers at selected hotels, fitness centres, entertainment venues, and car service providers in Qatar, in addition to a variety of physical gifts, including portable gadgets, home appliances, and other products that support a confident lifestyle at home, on the road, or while travelling.

QIC App is Qatar's first and only 360-degree platform offering both insurance and non-insurance services, enabling customers to cover a wide range of daily needs digitally on a single interface.

Launched in line with QIC's vision



to build the region's first insurance-powered digital ecosystem, the app represents a major shift in Qatar's insurance and digital landscapes by transforming traditional insurance services into a seamless, comprehensive digital journey tailored to users' needs.

The app's innovation and impact have been recognised with multiple prestigious accolades, including The Innovators AwQard by Global Finance in 2025. QIC App was also named 'Most Innovative Mobile App in Qatar' at the Middle East Technology Excellence Awards 2025, 'Best Insurance App in Qatar at the Global Brands Magazine Awards 2025', and 'Mobile App of the Year in Qatar' at the Insurance Asia Awards 2024.

For more information about Qatar Insurance, visit qic.online. Download the QIC App at app.qic.online

'Exclusive' campaign with discounts unveiled for QNB First Members

In celebration of Qatar National Day, QNB Group has unveiled an exclusive campaign tailored for its valued QNB First Members running until December 31.

The special offer grants members privileged access to "exceptional" discounts and special offers across luxury and select lifestyle partners throughout Doha, doubling their celebration.

QNB First members can enjoy discounts of up to 50% at participating lifestyle partners from hotels, restaurants, health and beauty outlets, shopping venues, and more when using their QNB First debit and credit cards.

Offers are easily accessible via the QNB Explorer Mobile application, allowing members to conveniently browse and redeem their benefits.

This initiative ensures QNB First Members have seamless access to a wide variety of privileges designed to enhance their lifestyle and celebrate their heritage.

This campaign underscores QNB Group's continuous commitment to promoting and participating in Qatar's significant national occasions. The array of exclusive products and unparalleled privileges available to QNB First



In celebration of Qatar National Day, QNB Group has unveiled an exclusive campaign tailored for its valued QNB First Members running until December 31.

Members is designed to elevate their experience, offering premium access, tailored rewards, and unique opportunities.

Vodafone Qatar executive team visits network sites to promote safety

In line with Vodafone Qatar's commitment to health and safety, its executive team recently visited two key telecommunications network sites.

Under the oversight of Acting Chief Administrative Officer Abdulla A al-Misnad and Chief Technology Officer Ramy Bactor, the visit included briefings with field teams and reviews of critical controls for work at height, lifting operations, electrical isolation, RF exposure, permit-to-work processes, and checks on emergency preparedness.

The executives also engaged the crews on Vodafone Qatar's '8 Absolute Safety Rules' and frontline well-being measures, aligning with internal standards and local regulations. The visit was designed to strengthen safety culture, promote proactive hazard and near-miss reporting, and spotlight the link between safe execution and network resilience during maintenance and upgrades.

Al-Misnad said: "Health, safety and employee well-being are fundamental to how we operate at Vodafone Qatar. The performance of our network and the trust of our customers rely on work that is carried out safely, consistently, and to the highest standard."



Under the oversight of Acting Chief Administrative Officer Abdulla A al-Misnad and Chief Technology Officer Ramy Bactor, the visit included briefings with field teams and reviews of critical controls for work at height, lifting operations, electrical isolation, RF exposure, permit-to-work processes, and checks on emergency preparedness.

Bactor added: "By being present on site and engaging directly with our teams, we reinforce safe behaviours, understand the support they need to work effectively, and ensure that our safety practices reflect real operational requirements. This is how we protect our people, strengthen national connectivity, and uphold the values that guide our organisation."

The tour demonstrated executive ownership of health and safety, reinforced employee wellbeing, and reaffirmed the company's commitment to providing safe, reliable service for its customers.

For more information on Vodafone Qatar's services and solutions, visit <https://www.vodafone.qa/en/business/home>

CRA takes part in Arab postal committee meeting

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) participated in the 48th meeting of the Arab Permanent Postal Committee (APPC), which took place at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

The meeting brought together postal administrations from across the Arab region to discuss regulatory, technical and strategic developments shaping the future of the postal sector.

The CRA delegation attended the committee's sessions and took part in the series of specialised technical meetings that preceded it. During the meeting, the



delegation participated actively in the discussions of the Arab Permanent Postal Committee and its specialised working groups.

These included the conferences and International Co-operation Working Group, the Postal Remuneration Working Group, the Supply Chain Working Group, the Services

and Products Working Group, the Financial Services Working Group, and the Regulation and Universal Postal Service Working Group. Qatar also joined a special committee, formed during the meeting, aimed at restructuring the working groups in line with the Dubai Postal Strategy 2026-2029. (QNA)



لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات TENDER AND AUCTION COMMITTEE

تعلن لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بالحرس الأميري عن طرح المناقصة التالية :

Announce the following Tender:

رقم المناقصة	الموضوع	قيمة الوثائق	قيمة المزايدة	نظام تقديم المظاريف	الغاية / التخصص	تاريخ الإغلاق
Tender Number	Tender Title	Document Fee-QR	Tender Bond - QR	Envelope System	Envelope System	Tender Closing Date
(2026/15e)	توريد مواد نجارة حسب الطلب لمدة (3) سنوات Supply of carpentry materials for (3) years (supply is upon demand)	500	50000		التجارة في أعمال نجارة Trading in carpentry materials	2026/01/04
(2026/16e)	توريد وتركيب مواد ألومنيوم حسب الطلب لمدة (3) سنوات Supply and installation of aluminum materials for a period of (3) years (supply is upon demand)	100	10500		التجارة في مواد الألومنيوم Trading in aluminum materials	
(2026/17e)	توريد مواد كهربائية حسب الطلب لمدة (3) سنوات Supply of Electrical Materials for three years (supply is upon request)	1500	150,000	مظروف واحد One envelope	التجارة في الأدوات الكهربائية Trade in Electric Materials	
(2026/18e)	توريد مواد تنظف حسب الطلب لمدة (3) سنوات Supply of plumbing materials for three years (supply is upon request)	1500	150,000		التجارة في المواد الصحية Trade in sanitary ware	
(206/19e)	توريد مواد تجهيز حسب الطلب لمدة (3) سنوات Supply of air conditioning materials for three years (supply is upon request)	1500	150,000		التجارة في تجهيز التبريد Trading in spare parts for air conditioners and refrigeration devices	
(2026/20e)	توريد مواد بناء حسب الطلب لمدة (3) سنوات Supply of building materials for three years (supply is upon request)	1500	150,000		التجارة في مواد البناء Trading in Building Materials	

الشروط:

- A copy of the tender documents can be obtained from the Tender & auction committee located in the Amiri Guard Barzan Camp during official working hours after having deposited a non-refundable amount of money into the Amiri Guard QNB account No. 0013-013303-058.
- The tender documents are handed over to a company representative after submitting an authorization letter from the company / organization, a copy of the ID, the commercial register, a classification certificate and the receipt showing that the value of the documents has been paid.
- The deadline for the submission of the tenders will be at 12:00 a.m. of the closing date. Any tender submitted after the deadline will be rejected.
- A letter of credit / a certified cheque issued by one of the banks operating in Qatar covering the amount indicated above as a temporary guarantee for (120) days.
- The tender quotation shall be valid for (90) days with effect from the date on which the tender envelopes are opened.
- The original tenders together with copies are put into the tender & auction committee box located at the Amiri Guard Barzan Camp.
- Attach a valid In - Country Value (ICV) if available.
- Both the technical tender and financial tender have to be enveloped in one case max-sealed and addressed to the head of the AG Tender & Auction Committee with reference to the tender number and title.
- The successful tenderer has to submit a final guarantee amounting to (10%) of the total contract value, and valid for (90) days after the project has been accomplished.
- Any tenderer that does not comply with the above conditions will be excluded.

يمكن الحصول على نسخة من مستندات هذه المناقصة من لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بمعسكر الحرس الأميري (إبرزان) خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي، وذلك مقابل دفع قيمة وثائق المناقصة الغير قابلة للرد لدى بنك قطر الوطني بحساب الحرس الأميري رقم (058-0013-013303).

تسلم الوثائق لمعسكر الشركة بعد إيراد كتاب تفويض من الشركة / المؤسسة + صورة من بطاقة الشخصية + سجل تجاري + شهادة تصنيف + الإصدار الدال على سداد قيمة الوثائق.

يكون آخر موعد لتقديم المظاريف هو الساعة الثانية عشر من صباح يوم الإغلاق، ولن يُقبل أي عطاء يرد بعد الموعد المحدد.

يجب أن يرفق مع العطاء خطاب ضمان مصرفي / شيك مصدق من أحد البنوك العاملة في دولة قطر بقيمة المينة أعلاه كضمان مؤقت لمدة (120) يوم.

يجب أن يكون العرض صالحاً لمدة (90) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.

تودع المظاريف بتسويق لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات، الكائن بمعسكر الحرس الأميري (إبرزان) من أصل وصورة.

إرفاق شهادة القيمة المضافة (ICV) (سارية المفعول) (إن وجدت).

يجب أن يكون العطاء الفني والمالي داخل مظروف واحد مغلق ومختوم بالشمع الأحمر ومغنون باسم رئيس لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بالحرس الأميري، ويكتب عليه رقم المناقصة وموضوعها.

يقدم صاحب العطاء المغول تأمينا تأمينيا بـ (10%) من إجمالي القيمة الراسية عليه، ويسري لمدة (90) يوماً بعد الانتهاء من تنفيذ المشروع.

سوف يتم استبعاد أي عطاء لا يلتزم بالشروط أعلاه.

للاستفسار يرجى الاتصال على هاتف رفعت (44220292) (44220293) ف (44220266)
For Further Information / Queries please contact Tel No 44220292 Fax No. 44220266
(tender@gag.gov.qa)

رئيس لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات
Amiri Guard

رئيس لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات
الحرس الأميري

Ministry recalls Hyundai, RAM models

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with Skyline Automotive, has announced the recall of Hyundai Creta 2024- 2025 models due to a safety warning indicator not appearing after exceeding 120km/h.

The ministry, in co-operation with United Cars AlMana, also announced the recall of RAM 1500, 2025 models, due to the possibility of the vent hose connection detaching from the air intake distributor or the vapour return valve and causing irregular engine operation or difficulty starting the engine.

The ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs.

The ministry said it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out.

The ministry urged all consumers to report any violations or breaches by contacting the Consumer Protection and Combatting Commercial Fraud Department, which receives complaints, suggestions, and inquiries through the following communication channels: Call Centre: 16001, e-mail: info@moci.gov.qa, ministry's accounts on social media: @mociqatar, ministry's Mobile App: MOCIQATAR (available on iOS and Android devices).



لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات TENDER AND AUCTION COMMITTEE

تعلن لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بالحرس الأميري عن طرح المناقصة التالية :

Announce the following Tender:

رقم المناقصة	الموضوع	قيمة الوثائق	قيمة المزايدة	نظام تقديم المظاريف	الغاية / التخصص	تاريخ الإغلاق
Tender Number	Tender Title	Document Fee-QR	Tender Bond - QR	Envelope System	Envelope System	Tender Closing Date
(PC-01/26)	إنشاء مبنى (B2) + (B2) + (B1) المصاحبات Construction of building (B2) + (B2) + (B1) at the new home stables in the Amiri Guard camp (Barzan)	1500	190,500		التجارة في أعمال نجارة Trading in carpentry materials	2026/01/04
(PC-04/26)	إنشاء معسكر التدريب و أعمال نجارة المصاحبات المبنى الجديد بمعسكر الحرس الأميري (إبرزان) Construction of a training track and lighting works at the new home stables in the Amiri Guard camp (Barzan)	1500	188,000	مظروف واحد One envelope	التجارة في الأدوات الكهربائية Trade in Electric Materials	
(PC-05/26)	إنشاء مبنى تعليمي بمعسكر الحرس الأميري (المرحلة الثانية والثالثة) Construction of an educational building at the Amiri Guard camp (second and third phases)	5000	520,000		التجارة في مواد البناء Trading in Building Materials	
(PC-07/26)	تجديد مبنى المرافق القديم بمعسكر الحرس الأميري Renovation of the old transportation administration building at the Amiri Guard camp	500	52,500		التجارة في مواد البناء Trading in Building Materials	

الشروط:

- A copy of the tender documents can be obtained from the Tender & auction committee located in the Amiri Guard Barzan Camp during official working hours after having deposited a non-refundable amount of money into the Amiri Guard QNB account No. 0013-013303-058.
- The tender documents are handed over to a company representative after submitting an authorization letter from the company / organization, a copy of the ID, the commercial register, a classification certificate and the receipt showing that the value of the documents has been paid.
- The deadline for the submission of the tenders will be at 12:00 a.m. of the closing date. Any tender submitted after the deadline will be rejected.
- A letter of credit / a certified cheque issued by one of the banks operating in Qatar covering the amount indicated above as a temporary guarantee for (120) days.
- The tender quotation shall be valid for (90) days with effect from the date on which the tender envelopes are opened.
- The original tenders together with copies are put into the tender & auction committee box located at the Amiri Guard Barzan Camp.
- Attach a valid In - Country Value (ICV) if available.
- Both the technical tender and financial tender have to be enveloped in one case max-sealed and addressed to the head of the AG Tender & Auction Committee with reference to the tender number and title.
- The successful tenderer has to submit a final guarantee amounting to (10%) of the total contract value, and valid for (90) days after the project has been accomplished.
- Any tenderer that does not comply with the above conditions will be excluded.

يمكن الحصول على نسخة من مستندات هذه المناقصة من لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بمعسكر الحرس الأميري (إبرزان) خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي، وذلك مقابل دفع قيمة وثائق المناقصة الغير قابلة للرد لدى بنك قطر الوطني بحساب الحرس الأميري رقم (058-0013-013303).

تسلم الوثائق لمعسكر الشركة بعد إيراد كتاب تفويض من الشركة / المؤسسة + صورة من بطاقة الشخصية + سجل تجاري + شهادة تصنيف + الإصدار الدال على سداد قيمة الوثائق.

يكون آخر موعد لتقديم المظاريف هو الساعة الثانية عشر من صباح يوم الإغلاق، ولن يُقبل أي عطاء يرد بعد الموعد المحدد.

يجب أن يرفق مع العطاء خطاب ضمان مصرفي / شيك مصدق من أحد البنوك العاملة في دولة قطر بقيمة المينة أعلاه كضمان مؤقت لمدة (120) يوم.

يجب أن يكون العرض صالحاً لمدة (90) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.

تودع المظاريف بتسويق لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات، الكائن بمعسكر الحرس الأميري (إبرزان) من أصل وصورة.

إرفاق شهادة القيمة المضافة (ICV) (سارية المفعول) (إن وجدت).

يجب أن يكون العطاء الفني والمالي داخل مظروف واحد مغلق ومختوم بالشمع الأحمر ومغنون باسم رئيس لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات بالحرس الأميري، ويكتب عليه رقم المناقصة وموضوعها.

يقدم صاحب العطاء المغول تأمينا تأمينيا بـ (10%) من إجمالي القيمة الراسية عليه، ويسري لمدة (90) يوماً بعد الانتهاء من تنفيذ المشروع.

سوف يتم استبعاد أي عطاء لا يلتزم بالشروط أعلاه.

للاستفسار يرجى الاتصال على هاتف رفعت (44220292) (44220293) ف (44220266)
For Further Information / Queries please contact Tel No 44220292 Fax No. 44220266
(tender@gag.gov.qa)

رئيس لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات
Amiri Guard

رئيس لجنة المناقصات والمزايدات
الحرس الأميري

Shura Council congratulates Amir and people of Qatar on National Day

Shura hails Amir's visit to Riyadh, hosts National Planning Council secretary-general

The Shura Council has extended its warmest congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, and the Qatari people and residents, on the occasion of Qatar National Day, observed annually on December 18.

At the outset of its weekly session, held yesterday in Tamim bin Hamad Hall at the Council's headquarters, under the chairmanship of HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, the Council affirmed that this year's National Day slogan, "With You It Rises, and From You It Awaits", embodies the national vision that places human beings at the heart of development and reflects the pivotal role of youth in continuing the journey of building and progress. The Council wished the nation continued growth and prosperity, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

On another note, the Council commended the outcomes of the eighth meeting of the Qatari-Saudi Co-ordination Council, co-chaired by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, last Monday in Riyadh.

The Council affirmed that the meeting's conclusions reflect a shared commitment to developing mechanisms for bilateral co-ordination and expanding areas of joint work in the political, security, defence, economic, investment, energy, technology, and development sectors.

It noted that the high-speed electric rail link between the two countries is one of the key strategic initiatives to emerge from the meeting, given its role in facilitating the movement of people and goods, enhancing tourism and trade, and supporting economic integration, emphasising that this project, along with the signed agreements, constitutes a significant step in consolidating the strategic partnership between Qatar and the Saudi Arabia, fulfilling the aspirations of the two brotherly nations and supporting security, peace, and prosperity in the region.

Following this, HE Secretary-General of the Shura Council Nayef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud read out the agenda and the Council approved the minutes of its previous session.

During this week's session, the Shura



Council hosted HE Secretary-General of the National Planning Council Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, to discuss a range of national strategic themes related to the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, including its developments and updates.

At the beginning of the session, HE al-Ghanem welcomed Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa, praising the national planning methodology adopted by the state under the leadership of His Highness the Amir.

He highlighted the comprehensive framework provided by the Third National Development Strategy, which aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030, strengthens the paths of sustainable development, enhances government performance efficiency, and leads to the achievement of balanced economic and social development.

His Excellency affirmed the Council's commitment to continuously monitoring the implementation phases of the National Strategy and supporting efforts aimed at developing policies and enhancing the efficiency of programmes to meet the aspirations of Qatari society.

At the beginning of his presentation, the secretary-general of the National Planning Council delivered a detailed briefing on the pillars of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, explaining that it was built on a comprehensive assessment of national challenges and an in-depth analysis of regional and global changes. He noted that the strategy is based on seven main national outcomes, including sustainable economic growth, fiscal sustainability, a future-ready workforce, a cohesive society, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and high-performing government institutions.

He highlighted the importance of the the data ecosystem, stressing that the

establishment of an integrated central database represents a national priority in implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir.

He explained that work is underway to standardise definitions, classify terminology, and enhance data maturity. This will support decision-making, reduce duplication, save time and effort, and strengthen the reliability of national and international indicators.

He further noted that the strategy aims to promote sustainable economic growth by diversifying income sources, increasing productivity, developing an attractive investment environment, and enhancing the competitiveness of economic sectors, thereby contributing to economic stability and building a solid development foundation. He also underscored the importance of achieving fiscal sustainability through improving the efficiency of public spending, entrenching the principles of fiscal discipline, and developing innovative mechanisms to finance development programmes.

On the human and social front, the secretary-general of the National Planning Council emphasised enhancing the readiness of the workforce for the future through the development of national skills, empowerment of Qatari competencies, and modernisation of education and training policies in line with the needs of the future labour market.

He also addressed efforts to strengthen social cohesion and improve quality of life through projects targeting health, services, and social welfare, while ensuring a safe and stable living environment for all members of society.

Within the sustainability pillar, he reviewed efforts related to environmental sustainability, including the protection of natural resources, development of energy

and water policies, enhancement of climate change adaptation, and support for innovation in environmental solutions.

He explained that building distinguished government institutions depends on improving the governance and transparency system, developing government processes, and expanding the use of modern technology.

With regard to the integrated national data ecosystem, he explained that it constitutes a fundamental pillar for planning and decision-making by unifying data sources, enhancing data quality, and improving data-sharing mechanisms among various government entities, thereby enabling accurate monitoring of national performance indicators.

He also addressed developments related to population policy, including managing population growth, achieving a balanced demographic structure, and meeting the country's future development needs.

Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa, further discussed the important role of innovation and digital transformation in accelerating the implementation of government programmes, improving service efficiency, and enhancing the country's readiness for rapid global changes.

As for the future outlook, he explained that the strategy relies on future forecast- ing models to ensure the country's ability to address changes and guide policies towards the best possible outcomes.

He also pointed out that the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms adopted by the strategy rely on precise performance indicators and periodic reviews, allowing for flexibility in adjustment and improvement, and supporting transparency and accountability through the active participation of government entities and civil society.

He highlighted an e-platform launched in this context to monitor the project lifecycle, collection of data, and to prepare periodic reports, including quarterly and annual reports. Furthermore, the platform utilises artificial intelligence applications in performance analysis and measuring the economic, social, and environmental impact of initiatives.

Members of the Council, in their interventions, expressed their appreciation for the detailed presentation delivered by the secretary-general of the National Planning Council, underscoring the importance of aligning the strategy's programmes with the real needs of the community.

The Council members also stressed the importance of strengthening institutional integration among government entities, unifying the data system, accelerating

digital transformation, ensuring that development policies are aligned with community needs, and measuring the actual impact of projects and initiatives. They emphasised the necessity of enhancing implementation efficiency, strengthening governance, and expanding community participation.

The discussions also focused on population policy issues, preserving national identity, developing government services, improving labour market efficiency, and ensuring a balance between economic and social development.

They further addressed the need to enhance the capacity of executive entities to implement initiatives within specified timelines and to achieve integration among government sectors to avoid overlapping roles and improve spending efficiency.

Council members emphasised the importance of ensuring that the strategy takes into account rapid future changes, particularly in the fields of artificial intelligence and modern technologies, and the resulting need to develop national skills and create new job opportunities.

Members of the Shura Council called for strengthening governance and transparency in project implementation, ensuring the publication of periodic progress reports, and emphasising the need to involve the private sector and civil society in the design and implementation phases of initiatives, recognising them as key partners in economic and social development, thus contributing to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

At the conclusion, Dr Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa, expressed his appreciation for the observations raised by the Council members, affirming that all views and proposals would be taken into consideration within the follow-up processes and updates related to the Third National Development Strategy.

HE Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem and the esteemed members, in turn, expressed their sincere thanks to HE the secretary-general of the National Planning Council for the comprehensive presentation and detailed responses, affirming their keenness to support national efforts aimed at implementing the strategy and achieving its objectives.

Under another item on the session's agenda, HE al-Ghanem briefed the Council on the referral of a draft law amending certain provisions of Law No 25 of 2018 on Excise Tax to the Economic and the Financial Affairs Committee for review, in accordance with Article (114) of the Council's Rules of Procedure. **(QNA)**

QMIC supports Arab Cup with Smart Parking Management System

The Qatar Mobility Innovations Centre (QMIC) is supporting operational activities for the Arab Cup 2025, in partnership with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, through the deployment of its Smart Parking Management System powered by the Falcon-I platform.

The system monitors parking lot occupancy in real time and provides operational teams with accurate live dashboards and predictive analytics, enabling

data-driven decisions to reduce congestion, optimise parking utilisation, and to enhance the overall visitor experience.

First piloted in 2021 and successfully utilised during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the system demonstrated its effectiveness in managing traffic flow and parking availability across tournament venues. Building on this success, the solution will once again play a key role in supporting parking operations during the Arab Cup 2025.



WCM-Q to host workshop on social-emotional development

The Institute for Population Health (IPH) at Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q) will host a workshop on January 31, 2026 to help health and education professionals enhance their social-emotional and cognitive skills.

Titled "Unlocking the Connection: Human Development and Social-Emotional Excellence", the interactive six-hour training course will explore the dynamic relationship between adult developmental stages and the social-emotional competencies (SECs) essential for success in professional and social life.

Grounded in constructive development



theory and research on social-emotional learning, the course will guide participants through understanding how adults derive meaning from their life experiences and how

that shapes their ability to manage emotions, build relationships, and make responsible decisions. Through self-reflection, case studies and group discussions, participants will gain insights into their own personal growth and learn practical strategies to support their social-emotional development and that of their mentees and peers.

Directed by Dr Maha Elnashar, lecturer in population health sciences and director of the Center for Cultural Competence in Healthcare at IPH, the course is designed for individuals interested in personal growth, leadership development, social-emotional competencies, and educational innovation.

Qatar secures key seat on ICCROM executive council

Qatar Museums (QM) announced the election of Abdulatif al-Jasmi, Director of QM's Cultural Heritage Protection Department, to the Executive Council of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM).

The election took place at the 34th session of the ICCROM General Assembly in Rome, held from December 10-12. Al-Jasmi, who was Qatar's nominee and a key member of the Qatari delegation, was elected to serve a four-year term on the council.

The Executive Council is one of the most important governing bodies of ICCROM, responsible for setting centre's general policies, adopting work plans and programmes, and monitoring the implementation of international activities.

This membership in this council enables Qatar and QM to play an active role in strategic decision-making and contribute to global initiatives that advance best practices in heritage training, management, capacity building, and the protection of endangered cultural property worldwide.



Abdulatif al-Jasmi

This achievement strengthens QM's position as a global leader in conservation and cultural management. It is a culmination of Qatar's sustained commitment to cultural preservation, led at a national effort through the expertise of institutions such as QM.

This success also reflects the international community's profound confidence in Qatar's capacity to significantly influence global conservation and restoration policies and drive initiatives for protecting cultural heritage worldwide. This election further affirms QM's success in establishing a comprehensive national system that ensures the adoption of global best practices and the protection and management of cultural heritage.

Doha Design District hosts first Talent Gathering for creative community

Doha Design District (DDD) hosted its first Talent Gathering, an initiative designed to introduce local artists and designers to the District while fostering opportunities for engagement and collaboration within Qatar's creative community.

The programme began with a

session, led by DDD director Dana Kazic, who outlined the District's mission, vision, and long-term business strategy.

Attendees were able to directly engage with the DDD and Msheireb Properties team, gaining insight into DDD's role as a strategic collaborator.

The programme also included a guided tour at the DDD building, offering the community an overview of the various spaces and facilities available. The tour highlighted the ecosystem being developed to support design-led businesses and cross-disciplinary collaboration.



Nomas Centre takes part at Darb Al Saai with focus on equestrian heritage

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Nomas Centre is presenting a range of equestrian activities highlighting the importance of purebred Arabian horses and Qatar's equestrian traditions as part of its participation at Darb Al Saai.

The Ministry of Culture announced on its website that through these activities, the Centre evokes Qatar's long and distinguished equestrian history.

Nomas Centre deputy director Jassim Mohammed al-Maadheed, who is also the head of the Equestrian Event at Darb Al Saai, stated: "At Nomas Centre, we are committed to ensuring our participation at Darb Al Saai is a high-quality one, carrying a clear message that reflects the

depth of Qatar's authentic heritage."

"This is achieved through a diverse array of equestrian shows featuring elite Qatari riders at the designated equestrian area within Darb Al Saai," he said. "The Centre will also participate with horses in the parade, as is customary, with horses leading the way, followed by camels, reflecting the special place horses hold in Qatar's history and heritage."

Al-Maadheed said that the Centre offers a variety of equestrian shows, including a traditional performance combining horsemanship and poetry, where the rider recites a poem while mounted.

This, the official explained, is a deeply rooted Qatari custom that reflects the rider's connection to the horse, poetry, and heritage.

In addition, al-Maadheed said that they also present "Al-Ghara" shows,



which showcase the rider's skill in controlling the horse, their horsemanship, quick reflexes, and the complete harmony between rider and steed.

"We haven't neglected direct interaction with the public, especially for children eager to experience horseback riding for the first time," he remarked. "These



events are open to everyone and aim to introduce children to the world of equestrianism, providing them with a genuine and safe experience that instils in them a love of horses and a connection to heritage."

Al-Maadheed added that the Centre offers the "Discovering Talents" initiative, where professional riders from the

Nomas Centre train children, especially those aged between 6-12.

At the end of the evaluation, three winners are chosen, in a step aimed at encouraging and motivating children to continue, and opening the door for them to join the Centre's specialised training programmes.

QND 'honours Qatar's founding values'

The acting head of the Qatar General Organisation for Standardisation (QS), Eng Jabr bin Mohamed al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, has affirmed that Qatar National Day (QND) represents a renewed milestone for recalling the deeply rooted values instilled by founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani.

These values, he said, laid the solid foundations for Qatar's path of development and growth, a journey that continues with pride and steadfastness under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

In his remarks to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), al-Nuaimi said that this year's celebrations are being held under the theme *With You It Rises, and From You It Awaits*, inspired by the words of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim.

This theme, the official continued, embodies the leadership's belief in the role of citizens in the nation's renaissance and underscores that human development is the cornerstone of sustainable development.

He reviewed the QS's key achievements during the current year, noting that approximately 2,200 standards and technical

regulations were prepared, studied, and adopted.

These include regulations related to food product shelf life, electric vehicles, and water consumption efficiency.

Al-Nuami highlighted the implementation of 900 international observations and votes within the framework of the ISO, IEC, CODEX, and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement.

He further highlighted the organisation's provision of 250 technical consultations, the issuance of 820 conformity certificates to national factories and air

conditioner suppliers, and the registration of 1,200 quality certificates issued by certification bodies.

In addition, the organisation conducted 11,200 legal metrological calibrations, 710 industrial calibrations, and inspected and hallmarked 5.5 tonnes of precious metals.

Al-Nuaimi pointed out that the QS's revenues amounted to approximately QR10mn during the current year.

He added that the organisation has made tangible progress in the areas of digital transformation and cybersecurity enhancement, developing draft standards

that support the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and improving the readiness of digital services, in line with the state's drive towards a smart and interconnected government.

He also revealed that 33 testing and calibration activities within the organisation have obtained international accreditation according to ISO/IEC 17025, in addition to developing technical work manuals, initiating preparatory studies for the establishment of the National Metrology Centre, and expanding the scope of testing for precious metals and gemstones. - QNA

QND 2025 theme 'keeps the people at its centre'

The theme for this year's Qatar National Day (QND) celebrations, *With You It Rises, From You It Awaits*, keeps people at its centre, which resonates with the focus and success of Qatar in achieving unprecedented progress in the realms of socio-economic and human development, Indian ambassador Vipul said in a message yesterday.

"On behalf of India, and the entire Indian community in Qatar, I wish to extend hearty congratulations to the leadership and people of the State of Qatar on the auspicious occasion of National Day of Qatar 2025," he stated.

"Today, Qatar is well-known all over the world not only for its energy production and world class infrastructure, but equally for being a thriving hub of culture, education, learning and sports," the envoy said.

"It has built some of the best known institutions in the fields of education and culture, such as Qatar Foundation, Qatar National Library and Qatar Museums," Vipul pointed out. "In sports, we all fondly remember the success of FIFA 2022, as we also witness the excellent organisation of the FIFA Arab Cup this year."

"The forward thinking and inclusive approach of Qatar's leadership, focusing on technology, innovation and sustainability as part of Qatar National Development Strategy, is opening up new vistas for development and co-operation," the envoy continued.

"The year 2025 has been important in this context, with Doha hosting prolific events like the Web Summit, Mobile World Congress, and AI Summit," he said.

"Qatar's role in promoting regional peace and stability, including its mediation efforts in Gaza to achieve ceasefire and release of all hostages, is widely acknowledged and appreciated by all" the



envoy stated. "India stands firmly in support of peace and stability in the region and deeply values the important role played by Qatar in this regard."

"The Second World Summit for Social Development held recently in Doha demonstrated Qatar's commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind in our global sustainable development journey," he added.

"On Qatar's National Day, I am delighted to recall that this year has been a special one for India-Qatar friendship, which dates back several centuries," Vipul said. "We were honoured with the State Visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to India in February 2025, during which both sides elevated their relations to 'strategic partnership'."

"The Indian community takes great pride in being a part of the incredible journey of Qatar over the past more than five decades," the envoy said.

"I am grateful to the entire leadership and people of Qatar for the warmth and support extended to the Indian community living in Qatar," he concluded. "As we look ahead, we wish continued success to Qatar, and look forward to being a continuing partner for peace, progress and prosperity for all humanity."

QND 'a milestone combining founding's authenticity with modern state's vision'

Palestine's ambassador to Qatar Fayez Majed Abu al-Rab has said that Qatar National Day (QND) represents a pivotal historical milestone that combines the authenticity of the country's founding and the vision of the modern state, recalling the journey of founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, and the firm values of sovereignty, unity and independence that he had established.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), the envoy said that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani carried on the founder's journey with wisdom and sound leadership, continuing the Qatari renaissance strategically, in way that made Qatar an active and influential model at the regional and international levels, while maintaining its stability and progress in various economic, social and educational sectors.

On behalf of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, as well as the Palestinian government and people, al-Rab extended his congratulations to His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani, in addition to the government and people of Qatar, on the occasion of the National Day, and expressed his country's gratitude for Qatar's stances with Palestine.

The envoy stressed his country's commitment to strengthening the Palestine-Qatar partnership, and its confidence that Qatar will remain a steadfast supporter of the Palestinian cause until the Palestinian people obtain their full legitimate rights, foremost among them freedom, independence, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem (Al Quds) as its capital.

The QND holds special significance for the Palestinian people, al-Rab said, as it embodies the shared values of dignity, freedom, and adherence to national identity between the two peoples.

He added that it also reflects the spirit of solidarity and close co-operation between them.

The envoy said that Qatar's firm positions in defending the rights of the Palestinian people in international forums, and its translation of these positions into tangible practical programmes, reflect the depth of the fraternal partnership and the strength of the historical ties between the two peoples.



Al-Rab affirmed that Palestine-Qatar relations are based on solid foundations of fraternity and strategic partnership.

Qatar's foreign policy today embodies an advanced model of responsible diplomacy based on dialogue, mediation and respect for international law, which he said has enabled it to play a pivotal role in promoting regional stability and supporting peace efforts.

The envoy said that Qatar's role is clearly evident in supporting the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip, through efforts that contributed to mitigating the effects of Israeli aggression, reaching agreements to end the genocide, facilitating prisoner and detainee exchanges, and ensuring the entry of humanitarian aid.

He noted that Qatar has been present during the past two years in light of the massive destruction that has affected various vital sectors, and the murder, injury and loss of more than 250,000 Palestinians, through direct humanitarian initiatives, most notably the Amiri grant, and the directives of His Highness the Amir to host and care for the wounded, in addition to the support provided to Palestinian families residing in Doha.

Al-Rab highlighted the continued efforts of Qatari partner institutions, most notably the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar Charity, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), and Education Above All Foundation (EAA), in implementing relief and development programmes that have strengthened the resilience of the Palestinian people.

The envoy said that the EAA Foundation played a prominent role in protecting students' right to education during the genocide, as it succeeded - in co-operation with international bodies and the Palestinian ministry of education, in holding high school exams for more than 56,000 students despite the difficult circumstances.

He noted that Qatar has achieved a comprehensive renaissance that has turned it into a leading model in sustainable development, thanks to a diversified knowledge-based economy, an advanced education and research system, and world-class infrastructure whose strength was demonstrated during the hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, as well as its distinguished role in international mediation and hosting major conferences. - QNA



Relations between Lebanon and Qatar are fraternal, historical, says envoy

Lebanon's ambassador to Qatar Bilal Kabalan has affirmed that Qatar's National Day celebration is a prominent national occasion, embodying the pride of the Qatari people in building a modern state that rivals the major developed countries, and affirms the modern Arab identity.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), the envoy described the brotherly Lebanese-Qatari relations as strong and historic, characterised by co-operation and co-ordination in all forums and fields, with endless prospects for their development.

Kabalan said that Qatar has been and remains a major supporter of Lebanon throughout its history, especially during political and economic crises, as it contributed to the reconstruction of entire villages following Israeli aggression against Lebanon in 2006.

Qatar continues to support Lebanon, he continued, in resolving the refugee crisis and building educational and cultural institutions, in addition to assisting the Lebanese Armed Forces in restoring their capabilities to strengthen the authority of the state and impose its sovereignty over its territory.

The envoy pointed out that the almost weekly reciprocal visits between officials from Lebanon and Qatar reflect the depth of these relations, noting the promising growth in the areas of economic co-operation, especially in energy and infrastructure management, enhancing cultural, artistic, sports and educational exchange, and encouraging the recruitment of specialised Lebanese talents to contribute in the fields of business management, software development and the construction of data centres in Qatar.

Kabalan praised Qatar's wise leadership, which is manifested in its continuous efforts to mediate, resolve conflicts and stop wars, protect civilians and promote stability.

The envoy also said that Lebanon has an expressive experience of the results of Qatar's benevolence, which was embodied in the 2008 Doha Agreement, which saved Lebanon, as a state and a people, from fragmentation and divisions.

Kabalan the Lebanese people's gratitude for Qatar's support. - QNA

National Day 'embodies values of solidarity and unity'

Algeria's ambassador to Qatar Salah Attia has affirmed that the Qatar National Day (QND) represents an exceptional national occasion in which the people and residents of the country recall the journey of founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani, and what it embodied in terms of values of cohesion and unity under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), the envoy said that the National Day has become a symbol of the unity of Qatari society.

Attia noted the participation of residents, including members of the Algerian community, in major national celebrations reflects the open and tolerant environment that characterises the State of Qatar.

He added that Qatar adopts a dynamic foreign policy based on dialogue, mediation, peaceful solutions and respect for international law, which has earned it a prestigious position and broad international respect.

The envoy indicated that this approach intersects with the orientations of Algerian foreign policy



under the leadership of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, which focuses on supporting political solutions and promoting international peace and security.

Attia also praised the renaissance

that Qatar is witnessing in various sectors, most notably the advanced infrastructure that stood out globally during the organisation of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, as well as the Doha Metro, modern roads and sports facilities, in addition to the remarkable development in the energy sector, knowledge economy projects and digital transformation, and the great progress in the fields of health and education.

On Algeria-Qatar relations, the envoy affirmed that the strong fraternal relations between the two countries are growing, noting the

expansion of Qatari investments in Algeria, particularly in the agriculture, industry and services sectors, in addition to co-operation in the fields of energy and petrochemicals, the growth of trade exchanges, and political and diplomatic co-ordination in international forums.

He added that prospects for co-operation between the two countries are poised for further growth, and emphasised Algeria's keenness to elevate bilateral relations to higher levels and strengthening joint co-operation in different fields. - QNA

Envoy lauds 'occasion to celebrate development of Qatar, unity of its people'



Thailand's ambassador to Qatar Sira Swangsilpa has said that Qatar National Day (QND) is a truly meaningful occasion that celebrates the unity, resilience, and visionary leadership of the people, and honours the legacy of founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), the envoy said that for both citizens and residents, this day reflects pride in Qatar's achievements and confidence in its dynamic future under the leadership of His

Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

Swangsilpa said Qatar stands as a reliable partner and an active global mediator in promoting dialogue, peace, and sustainable development.

The envoy highlighted that Qatar has placed human dignity at the heart of its international engagements, reaffirming it as the cornerstone of conflict resolution and development - an approach that strongly resonates with Thailand's own foreign policy principles based on peaceful settlement of disputes.

He added that through dialogue, mediation, and humanitarian engagement, Qatar has shown how a principled foreign policy can foster stability and reconciliation.

Thailand will always remember with deep gratitude, Swangsilpa stated, Qatar's crucial humanitarian role in facilitating the safe release of Thai nationals affected by the Gaza crisis.

The envoy also touched upon Qatar's transformation over the past decades.

Guided by the Qatar National Vision 2030, he said, the country has

made impressive progress in infrastructure, education, health, innovation, and sustainability.

Regarding joint relations, Swangsilpa noted that this year, Thailand and Qatar proudly celebrate 45 years of diplomatic relations - a partnership built on mutual respect, shared aspirations, and genuine friendship.

"Our relations continue to grow across all dimensions, from trade and investment to renewable energy, food security, sustainable tourism, and technological innovation," he said. - QNA

CHAIRMAN

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

K T Chacko

- P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar
- editor@gulf-times.com
- 44350478 (News),
- 44466404 (Sport),
- 44466636 (Home delivery)
- 44350474
- facebook.com/gulftimes
- twitter.com/gulftimes_Qatar
- instagram.com/gulftimes
- youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

GULF TIMES

Can Ukraine hold elections while at war?

President Volodymyr Zelensky said he was prepared to hold elections – a key demand of Moscow and now Washington – if the United States and Kyiv's European allies could ensure the security of the vote.

Zelensky gave a potential time frame of two to three months. Here are some of the obstacles that would need to be overcome:

What are the security considerations?

Ukraine, which last held elections in 2019, has been under martial law since February 2022, when Russia launched its full-scale invasion. Elections are forbidden under martial law.

Russia has said Zelensky is illegitimate because his term ran out in May 2024 and so cannot sign peace deals on Ukraine's behalf. Trump criticised the lack of elections in an interview with *Politico* published last Tuesday.

Fighting is raging along more than 1,200km in Ukraine's east, south, and north. Hundreds of Russian drones and missiles regularly pound Ukrainian cities and towns far from the frontline. Electricity supplies are disrupted due to Russian attacks on the power sector and other energy infrastructure.

Millions of Ukrainians would face challenges in voting. Data show that more than 4.3mn Ukrainians had temporary protection status in the European Union as of late 2025

The majority of Ukrainians oppose the idea of elections during the war, said Anton Hrushetskyi, executive director of the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, citing recent opinion poll results.

Volodymyr Fesenko, a political analyst, said an air ceasefire at the very least was a vital first step to start considering a vote. He said Ukraine would need to create the legislative framework for the elections from scratch, including a new law to spell out timing, rules, and procedures. Fesenko estimated that about six months would be required to do that.

Kyiv will also need to pre-empt any possible manipulation attempts by Russia, analysts said.

Where are Ukrainian voters?

Millions of Ukrainians would face challenges in voting, analysts and officials said.

Data show that more than 4.3mn Ukrainians had temporary protection status in the European Union as of late 2025. To enable their vote, Kyiv needs to organise hundreds of polling stations across Europe, analysts said.

More than four million Ukrainians are registered as internally displaced. Registering all displaced people would be a difficult undertaking requiring time and funds, analysts said.

About one million people serve in Ukraine's defence forces. Arranging a free and fair vote on the frontline would be hard and may require legislative changes.

Ukrainian officials estimated that as of 2024, 4.5mn adult Ukrainians remained in Russian-occupied territories. Russia controls about 19% of the Ukrainian territory.

The State Register of Voters needs to update its records of voters and polling stations.

What are Zelensky's chances?

Zelensky would have a strong chance at re-election, according to polls conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology and other regular polls. Zelensky's popularity in Ukraine was at about 90% early in the war, but it has since dropped to the mid-50s range, polls show.

Political analysts and pollsters said Zelensky's approval ratings were damaged by a major corruption scandal in the energy sector, but that Zelensky remained a front-runner out of all traditional politicians.

Polls show that Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, Ukraine's ambassador to Britain and formerly the commander in chief of the army, is the only candidate who would pose a serious threat to Zelensky. Zaluzhnyi has so far declared no political ambitions, saying that while the war was going on, the focus should be on defending the country. – Reuters

To Advertise
gtadv@gulf-times.com
Display
44466621 44418811
Classified
44466609 44418811
gtcad@gulf-times.com
Subscription
circulation@gulf-times.com

Tanzania's Iron Lady



Tanzania President and Commander-in-Chief Samia Suluhu Hassan arrives at the 9th Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Commanders' meeting at the Military School of Air Defense (SKUA) in Tanga region, Tanzania, yesterday. (Reuters)

Why Europe's one-track electrification push risks undermining its climate goals

By Ana Palacio
Madrid

For over three decades, the European Union's climate policy has been shaped by a simple conviction: the faster we replace fossil fuels with clean alternatives, the better our chances of stabilising the planet's climate. The logic remains sound. But the way it is translated into policy leaves much to be desired, with EU institutions building regulatory frameworks around a single technological solution – electrification – at the expense of diversity, innovation, and resilience. Because of what Columbia Law School's Anu Bradford calls the "Brussels Effect", this ends up shaping decarbonisation strategies worldwide.

Electrification is an essential part of any decarbonisation strategy. With renewables comprising an ever-larger share of the global energy mix, electrifying homes, transport systems, and workplaces will lead to significant emissions reductions. Sharply declining battery costs – vital to making electric vehicles accessible – will aid in this process.

Given this, programmes like the Small Affordable Cars initiative and the Battery Booster package, which European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen highlighted in her recent State of the Union address, are welcome. But the belief that one technological solution can deliver decarbonisation neglects a range of important economic, industrial, and geopolitical considerations.

Discussion about electrification often focuses on transport, which produces more than a quarter of the EU's greenhouse-gas emissions. But climate policy should seek to reduce emissions across the entire value chain, from green steel and low-carbon materials to battery production. Such a broad-based approach – increasingly reflected in industrial strategies worldwide – aligns climate ambition with the imperative of long-term resilience.

Even when it comes to transport, however, the EU's current approach falls far short. There are currently well over 1.3bn vehicles on the road worldwide – 249mn in the EU alone – and a significant decline is not expected in the next decade. European climate policy typically focuses on replacing gas- or diesel-powered cars with EVs, but even under optimistic projections, the European fleet, let alone the global one, will not be replaced fast enough for electrification alone to deliver meaningful emissions reductions. Decarbonising the existing fleet will require different solutions, such as expanded use of renewable and synthetic fuels.

The expectation of large-scale replacement with EVs also fails to account for the supportive infrastructure this requires. In Europe, charging infrastructure is expanding, but unevenly. In many other countries and regions, such infrastructure remains a distant prospect, because power systems are still fragile and access to electricity is limited.

Economies that are still working to deliver reliable, affordable electricity to homes, schools, and workplaces cannot be expected to implement fully electrified transport systems any time soon. Against this backdrop, even when vehicles are being replaced, options like advanced hybrids and high-efficiency combustion engines must be made available.

There is a more fundamental problem with the EU's single-minded pursuit of electrification. Regulatory frameworks that emphasise any single approach risk constraining competition and innovation in other areas, including those we have not yet imagined. Innovation arises from diversity, not uniformity, and unexpected breakthroughs can happen only if policymakers leave space for them.

The same goes for progress on existing technologies. The sharp decline in the price of wind and solar – once prohibitively expensive, but now the cheapest sources of electricity – reflects not only early subsidies, but also global competition, particularly from China. In fact, China has driven rapid advances in several green industries, including batteries, solar panels, electric motors, and mineral processing, influencing decarbonisation strategies worldwide.

But while this example underscores the importance of openness, it also highlights the geopolitical vulnerabilities that a narrow approach to decarbonisation can create. The green supply chains that China now dominates – thanks to coherent, comprehensive, and long-term industrial strategy – are critical to electrification. The last thing the EU needs is for its entire decarbonisation strategy to depend on another country, especially one that has a history of leveraging its dominance for geopolitical ends, such as by imposing export controls on rare earths. Climate policy should reduce strategic risks, not create new ones.

Geopolitics is only part of the story. A range of economic factors – such as high energy prices, rising production costs, regulatory complexity, supply-chain uncertainty, and intensifying competition from subsidised foreign firms – can compound the pressure on particular industries or manufacturers. We know that diversification is essential to economic resilience; the same is true for decarbonisation strategies.

A final consideration is that putting all one's eggs in a single technological basket is

risky from a fiscal perspective. A less rigid approach, which allows market forces to deliver unexpected innovation, offers the best hope for progress at a time when public resources are under severe strain.

A robust climate policy should reflect the principle of technological neutrality: policymakers establish fixed objectives but leave pathways flexible. Reaching climate neutrality by 2050 is non-negotiable, but it would be arrogant to assume that we already know the only viable path to get there. After all, a quarter-century ago, no one could have predicted today's breakthroughs in advanced biofuels and synthetic fuels. EU regulators must recognise this and design rules that allow various technologies, old and new, to compete on performance.

Moreover, EU climate policy must account for geopolitical realities. In an era of strategic rivalry, industrial subsidies, and supply-chain fragmentation, a decarbonisation strategy that increases dependencies and weakens Europe's industrial base is untenable. If the EU is to realise its climate goals, without sacrificing its security or competitiveness, it must eschew regulatory determinism in favour of flexibility and pragmatism. The choice is between a climate ambition that works and an existing climate strategy that could all too easily fail. – Project Syndicate

● Ana Palacio, a former foreign minister of Spain and former senior vice president and general counsel of the World Bank Group, is a visiting lecturer at Georgetown University.



CONTROVERSY

Judge accused of helping US migrant evade arrest

A US prosecutor told a jury that a Wisconsin judge “crossed the line” when she allegedly helped a migrant appearing in her courtroom evade an immigration arrest, kicking off a trial that will test President Trump’s efforts to punish alleged obstructions of his mass deportation efforts. Hannah Dugan, a judge on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, is accused of concealing a person from arrest and obstructing proceedings. Dugan has pleaded not guilty. Prosecutor Keith Alexander said Dugan was allowed to have strong views about the Trump administration’s immigration policy, but not to attempt to thwart federal agents.

LAW AND ORDER

New Year’s Eve bomb plot by ‘far left’ group disrupted in LA: FBI

Four people have been arrested in connection with an alleged plot by a “far-left” anti-government group to stage bomb attacks on New Year’s Eve in Los Angeles, officials said yesterday. The suspects were members of a “radical offshoot” of a group known as the Turtle Island Liberation Front (TILF), FBI director Kash Patel said on X. “They were allegedly planning coordinated IED bombing attacks on New Year’s Eve, targeting five separate locations across Los Angeles,” he said. The FBI director said bureau agents in New Orleans had arrested a fifth person linked to the TILF who was allegedly planning a “separate violent attack.”

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Doctors in England to strike as ‘super flu’ surges

Doctors in England yesterday voted to go ahead with a five-day strike starting this week in the busy Christmas season as a “super flu” outbreak sweeps the country. Prime Minister Keir Starmer branded the move “irresponsible” and said the doctors had “lost the sympathy” of the public and their colleagues in the state-funded National Health Service (NHS). So-called resident doctors rejected a new pay offer from the government and will walk out from 7am (0700GMT) tomorrow, the British Medical Association (BMA) announced. The industrial action comes as flu cases in hospitals across England sit at a record level for this time of year.

PEOPLE

Hong Kong court finds tycoon guilty in landmark security trial

Hong Kong’s high court yesterday found tycoon and pro-democracy campaigner Jimmy Lai guilty of conspiracy to collude with foreign forces in the city’s highest-profile trial under a China-imposed national security law that could see him jailed for life. “There is no doubt” that Lai “had harboured his resentment and hatred of” China for many of his adult years, judge Esther Toh said. Lai, the founder of the now-shuttered *Apple Daily* newspaper and a prominent critic of China’s Communist Party leadership, has already spent five years in jail, facing a slew of litigation under legislation that Beijing enacted in response to the 2019 protests.

US tells Ukraine ‘it must withdraw from Donetsk region for peace deal’

Reuters
Berlin

US negotiators have told Ukraine during peace talks in Berlin that it must agree to withdraw forces from the eastern Donetsk region under any deal to end the nearly four-year-old war with Russia, an official familiar with the matter said.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity as Ukrainian and US negotiators wrapped up a second day of critical talks in the German capital, said Kyiv wanted further discussions. A second person familiar with the talks said there were still major obstacles to overcome to reach a deal on territory.

Calling the issue of territorial concessions “painful”, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed to reporters later in the day that differences over the matter persisted.

“Frankly speaking, we still have different positions,” he said, adding, however, that he believed US mediators would help find a compromise.

Kyiv’s negotiators would continue consultations with US counterparts, he said, adding that Ukraine needed a clear understanding on security guarantees, including the monitoring of a ceasefire, before making any decisions to do with the war’s front lines.

“I do not think that the (US) has demanded anything,” Zelensky said. “I see us as strategic partners, so I would say that we have heard about the issue of territories in relation to Russia’s vision or Russia’s demands from the (US) We see this as

demands from the Russian Federation.”

Zelensky has been holding talks in Berlin with US envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner as well as European leaders.

Kyiv is under heavy pressure from Trump to make concessions to Russia to end Europe’s deadliest conflict since World War II, which began with Moscow’s 2022 invasion. Ukrainian officials have maintained an upbeat tone in public comments.

“Over the past two days, Ukrainian-US negotiations have been constructive and productive, with real progress achieved,” Rustem Umerov, secretary of the National Security and Defence Council, wrote on X earlier yesterday.

“The American team led by Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner are working extremely constructively to help Ukraine find a way to a peace agreement that lasts.”

A US official told reporters later that, under the deal being discussed in Berlin, Ukraine would receive security guarantees similar to those provided in Article 5 of the Nato treaty, which requires the alliance to come to the defence of any member that comes under attack.

Those guarantees would not be on the table forever, however, US officials cautioned. One said Russia was open to Ukraine joining the European Union and that Trump wanted to prevent Russia from encroaching further westwards.

US officials said there had been a considerable narrowing of differences between Russia and Ukraine and that about 90% of the issues between Ukraine and

Russia appeared to be resolved.

One official said security guarantees, including deconfliction and oversight of any deal, were the major focus of yesterday’s talks and that an Article 5-like guarantee was something Trump believed he could get Moscow to accept.

Ukraine said on Sunday it was willing to drop its ambition to join Nato in exchange for Western security guarantees.

But it was not immediately clear how far talks had progressed on that or other vital issues such as the future of Ukrainian territory, and how much the talks in Berlin could persuade Russia to agree to a ceasefire.

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that Russia’s demand that Ukraine not join Nato was a fundamental question in talks on a possible peace settlement. He said Russia expected an update from the US after the negotiations in Berlin.

Russia claims to have annexed Ukraine’s eastern Donbas region comprising Donetsk and Luhansk as well as three other regions including Crimea, something Kyiv and its European allies say is unacceptable. Russian forces do not fully control all the territory that Moscow claims, including about 20% of Donetsk.

Zelensky is treading a difficult line between appearing flexible and reasonable to the Trump administration while also not making concessions that the Ukrainian people would reject.

Underscoring the challenge he faces, a poll published yesterday showed three-quarters of Ukrainians reject major concessions in any peace deal.

Louvre Museum closed as workers strike



A couple take a selfie outside the closed Louvre Museum as museum workers strike against increasingly deteriorating working conditions and the declining visitor experience at the world famous museum, in Paris yesterday. The Louvre Museum remained closed due to an indefinite strike by its staff, voted on unanimously, a further blow for an institution reeling from the October 19th burglary and the exposure of its shortcomings.

Son arrested for murder of film director Reiner and wife

AFP
Los Angeles, US

Hollywood giant Rob Reiner’s son was yesterday charged with murdering his father - the famed director of hits including *When Harry Met Sally* - and his mother in their Los Angeles home.

Nick Reiner, 32, was detained hours after the bodies of the 78-year-old actor-director and his wife, Michele Singer Reiner, were discovered in the upscale Brentwood neighbourhood on

Sunday. Police “worked throughout the night on this case and were able to take into custody Nick Reiner, a suspect in this case,” LA police chief Jim McDonnell told reporters.

“He was subsequently booked for murder and is being held on a \$4mn bail.”

Nick Reiner had argued with his parents at a party on Saturday evening, the *Los Angeles Times* reported, adding he had been plagued by addiction struggles in the past.

As tributes poured in, Donald Trump unleashed an extraordi-

nary broadside against Rob Reiner, appearing to blame the deaths on the director’s criticism of the US president.

Police sources told US media that the couple were stabbed, while celebrity news website TMZ, which first broke the story, reported that their throats had been cut.

Reiner directed classic films including 1984’s rock music mockumentary *This is Spinal Tap*, fantasy gem *The Princess Bride* from 1987, and the 1992 courtroom drama *A Few Good Men*.

India tables bill to open up nuke sector

India yesterday set in motion steps to end decades of state control over nuclear power, by introducing a bill in parliament that would allow private firms to build and operate plants as the government seeks to make atomic energy central to its clean energy push. Foreign companies in a joint venture with Indian companies could apply for a licence if selected to do so by the government. India’s nuclear sector has been tightly guarded since its first reactor went online in 1969, shaped by Cold War politics and fuel-technology restrictions after its 1974 nuclear test. State-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India owns and operates India’s current fleet of nuclear power plants but it was reported last year that India was looking to invite domestic private firms such as Tata Power, Adani Power and Reliance Industries to invest about \$26bn in the sector.

Attack on student-leader condemned



Activists stage a demonstration in Dhaka yesterday to condemn an attack on Sharif Osman Hadi, senior leader of the student protest group Inqilab Mancha who was shot outside a mosque. Bangladesh’s interim government said it would fly a leader of the 2024 student-led uprising, a candidate in upcoming elections, for treatment in Singapore after an assassination attempt on December 12 left him critically wounded.

Australia plans tougher gun laws after terror attack

Reuters
Sydney

Australia vowed stricter gun laws yesterday as it began mourning victims of its worst mass shooting in almost 30 years, in which police accused a father and son of killing 15 people at Sydney’s famed Bondi Beach.

The older gunman, aged 50, was killed at the scene, taking the tally of dead to 16, while his 24-year-old son was in a critical condition in hospital, police told a press conference.

Police have not released the suspects’ names but national broadcaster ABC and other media have identified them as Sajid Akram and his son Naveed Akram. Two flags of militant group Islamic State were found in the gunmen’s vehicle, ABC News reported, without citing a source. The incident has raised questions about whether Australia’s gun laws, among the

toughest in the world, need an overhaul, with police saying the older suspect had held a firearms licence since 2015, along with six registered weapons.

For between 10 and 20 minutes on Sunday evening, the gunmen had fired on attendees at an event, gunning down men, women and children as terrified beachgoers fled.

The victims were aged between 10 and 87. The 40 people taken to hospital after the attack included two police officers who were in a serious but stable condition, police said.

“What we saw yesterday was an act of terrorism,” Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told reporters after laying flowers at Bondi Beach.

Albanese said his cabinet had agreed to strengthen gun laws and work on a national firearms register to tackle aspects such as the number of weapons permitted by gun licences, and how long the latter are valid.

Gazans struggle to retrieve bodies as storms lash war-hit buildings

Reuters
Gaza/Cairo

Authorities in Gaza yesterday warned that more war-damaged buildings may collapse because of heavy rain in the devastated Palestinian enclave and said the weather was making it hard to recover bodies still under the rubble.

Two buildings collapsed in Gaza on Friday, killing at least 12 people according to local health authorities, amid a storm that has also washed away and flooded tents, and led to deaths from exposure.

Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire in October after two years of intense bombardment and military operations, but humanitarian agencies say there is still very little aid getting into Gaza, where nearly the entire population is homeless.

Gaza Civil Defence spokesman Mahmoud Basal called on the international community to provide mobile homes and caravans for displaced Palestinians rather than tents.

“If people are not protected today we will witness more victims, more killing of people, children, women, entire families inside these buildings,” he said.

Mohammad Nassar and his family were living in a six-storey building that was badly damaged by Israeli strikes earlier in the war, and then collapsed on Friday.

His family had struggled to find alternative accommodation and had been flooded out while living in a tent during a previous bout of bad weather. Nassar went out to buy some necessities on Friday and returned to a scene of carnage with rescue workers struggling to pull bodies from the rubble.

“I saw my son’s hand sticking out from under the ground. It

was the scene that affected me the most. My son is under the ground, and we are unable to get him out,” Nassar said. His son, 15, died, as did a daughter, aged 18.

The head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency yesterday said more aid must be allowed into Gaza without delays to prevent putting more displaced families at serious risk.

“With heavy rain and cold brought in by Storm Byron, people in the Gaza Strip are freezing to death,” UNRWA commissioner-general Philippe Lazzarini posted on X.

“The waterlogged ruins where

they are sheltering are collapsing, causing even more exposure to cold,” he added.

Lazzarini said they have supplies that have been waiting for months to enter Gaza, and which he said would cover the needs of hundreds of thousands of the population of over 2mn.

UN and Palestinian officials said at least 300,000 new tents are urgently needed for the roughly 1.5mn people still displaced. Most existing shelters are worn out or made of thin plastic and cloth sheeting.

Gaza authorities are meanwhile still digging to recover around

9,000 bodies they estimate remain buried in rubble from Israeli bombing during the war, but they lack the machinery needed to expedite the work, spokesman Ismail al-Thawabta said.

Rescue workers yesterday retrieved the remains of around 20 people from a multi-storey building bombed in December 2023 where around 60 people, including 30 children, were believed to be sheltering.

Hamas-led authorities say Israel is not allowing in as much aid as promised under the truce. Aid agencies say Israel is blocking essential items.



COSP11 is ‘a fundamental platform’ in fight against corruption

Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA) president Hamad bin Nasser al-Misnad, who is also the president of the 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP11), has affirmed that the hosting of the session by Qatar renews the collective commitment to combating corruption and exploring avenues for bolstering integrity and transparency, in addition to broadening international co-operation horizons in this critical field.

Addressing the opening session of this conference, al-Misnad (**pictured**) stressed that this high-profile event positions itself as a core platform for engagement and sharing expertise, as well as galvanising anti-corruption efforts on the global stage.

He applauded the accession of Saint Kitts and Nevis and San Marino to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2024 and 2025, which raised the total number of States Parties to 192, and urged additional countries to accede to the Convention.

The previous sessions of this conference have, he noted, literally contributed to concrete achievements that deepened the culture of transparency and helped share best practices.

Al-Misnad further elaborated that the key recommendations from these previous sessions have been related to the prevention and criminalisation of actions related to corruption, asset restoration, and facilitating shared legal assistance.

These breakthroughs, the ACTA chief stressed, underline a crucial fact: combating corruption cannot yield merit unless there is high political commitment in place, along with effective international co-operation and the concerted efforts of a variety of sectors.

He further emphasised the importance of adhering to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, foremost among them respect



for state sovereignty, equality of rights, and non-meddling in internal affairs.

The opening session saw Qatar assuming the chairmanship, during which al-Misnad was elected president of the 11th session by endorsement, succeeding Richard Nephew of the US.

During the session, the members of the bureau for the current session of the conference were also elected by acclamation, to assume the positions of vice-presidents of the current session.

They are:
F Naimi Aziz, Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the UN Office in Vienna.
F Rovshan Sadegbayli, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the UN Office in Vienna.
Cesar Augusto, Alternate Representative of Brazil to the UN Office in Vienna.

Meanwhile, Jose Maria Vastiada, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN Office in Vienna, was elected as Rapporteur.

The proposed agenda was also presented, approved, and formally adopted.
The opening session was punctuated by a screening of a video that showcased Qatar's efforts in anti-corruption areas, alongside its enduring commitment to backing global efforts thereon, through strengthening multilateral action and laying the groundwork for a global environment grounded on values of justice, integrity, and equality. – **QNA**

Qatar ‘undertaking colossal effort globally’

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) acting director John Brandolino has affirmed that Qatar is undertaking colossal efforts in support of anti-corruption efforts globally.

He also commended its hosting of the 11th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP11).

Brandolino (**pictured**) pointed out that the third session of the conference, which was convened in Doha in 2009, had been a pivotal moment when anti-corruption leaders and experts from around the globe converged and pledged to jointly work to prevent and combat corruption, in support of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which then was in its early stages.

Addressing the first day of the Doha session, the official outlined that this commitment has been practically materialised through endorsing the reference basis and

framework of the Implementation Review Mechanism, which constituted a starting point for future efforts aimed at analysing, understanding, and enhancing the implementation of the Convention by States Parties.

Since then, Brandolino noted, the Convention has achieved concrete and remarkable outcomes, with the number of State parties reaching 192 from various countries of the world.

He indicated that thanks to the review mechanism and backing from UNODC experts, those nations significantly succeeded in bolstering their national capabilities and international co-operation.

The official highlighted the implementation of over 330 Qatar-led visits under the mechanism, noting that numerous gaps were identified and addressed, and over 4,800 technical assistance needs were met.

He said that the UNCAC community is today called upon to lev-

Corruption is evolving rapidly, UN chief warns

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned that corruption is evolving alongside rapid global change, saying that the 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (COSP11) is helping to “shape the integrity of tomorrow”.

In a recorded video address to the opening session of the conference in Doha, the UN chief said that corruption is far from a victimless crime, arguing that it fuels conflict, entrenches inequality and drains resources needed to protect both people and the planet.

Guterres thanked Qatar for hosting what he described as a vital global gathering, stressing the need to

mobilise collective efforts to prevent and combat corruption.

He cautioned that economic crimes siphon off funds essential for development.

Guterres also warned that emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, could accelerate corruption if left unchecked, while noting that the same technologies could also be powerful tools to detect and prevent it – provided they are subject to proper regulation and accountability.

Calling for closer co-operation between governments, the private sector and civil society, he said the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) offers a clear framework for joint action. – **QNA**



The official further noted that the Private Sector Forum, held within the conference, represents a key platform to strengthen this collaboration, stressing the importance of protecting individuals who wield bold motivations in exposing corruption, primarily whistleblowers and those operating in investigative journalism.

In addition, Brandolino noted that shaping integrity in the world of tomorrow is contingent upon protecting individuals who are exploited by criminals and corrupt individuals, in addition to investing in safeguarding public trust and strengthening transparency measures. – **QNA**

Qatar ‘plays key role’

The president of the National Anti-Corruption Authority (NACA) in Mauritania, Jamal Mohamed El Yedali, has affirmed that Qatar plays a fundamental and essential role at the international level in promoting the fight against corruption.

Qatar presents a global model in the outstanding organisation of the conference, El Yedali noted, describing the hosting as an exemplary model internationally in managing major events related to combating corruption and promoting transparency. – **QNA**

Praise for Doha conference

The Doha Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP11) represents a consequential platform to share expertise and reinforce international co-operation in the field of combating corruption, said the head of the Iraqi Federal Commission of Integrity, Dr Mohammed Ali al-Lami.

Praising Qatar's organisation of this conference, the official said that the event offers an opportunity to review the best global anti-corruption practices and experiences. – **QNA**

Manipulation of sports discussed

Participants in a session of the 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP11), currently being held in Doha, discussed a range of issues related to the development of international sports and enhancing co-operation among National Olympic Committees to combat all forms of manipulation in sports.

During the session on “Guide to Combating Manipulation in Sports”, several leaders of the Olympic movement emphasised the importance of collaboration between national committees, regional organisations, and international bodies to ensure the integrity of competitions and protect athletes from any attempts at manipulation or corruption.

Participants highlighted that safeguarding sports integrity and protecting athletes are priorities.

They noted that the targeting of athletes by organised crime requires effective preventative measures, including regulatory oversight, awareness-raising, and co-operation in gathering and exchanging information.

They pointed out that co-operation between sports authorities and government institutions is essential for effectively combating sports corruption, emphasising the role of law enforcement agencies, public prosecutors, and national legislation alongside sports organisations. – **QNA**



Officials at the press conference. **PICTURE:** Shaji Kayamkulam

Official highlights Qatar’s commitment to promote integrity and transparency

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

The hosting of the 11th Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP11) reflects Qatar's commitment to promoting integrity, transparency and good governance, said Abdulwahab Saleh I S al-Kuwari, the director of public relations and communications at the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA) yesterday.

He was addressing a press conference along with Shervin Majlessi, the chief of the Implementation Section in the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at the COSP11 taking place at the Sheraton Doha.

With them were Amal Alkuwari from the ACTA and Anne Thomas of the United Nations Information Service in Vienna.

Al-Kuwari noted that the conference serves as the primary decision-making body responsible for overseeing the implementation of United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC),

which counts 192 states parties, aiming to enhance international co-operation in the prevention and suppression of corruption.

“The current session unites participants from governments, international and regional organisations, anti-corruption experts, private sector representatives, civil society, and youth,” he said.

“The UNCAC is the only legally binding global instrument in the field, structured around five core pillars: preventative measures, criminalisation and law enforcement, international co-operation, asset recovery, and technical assistance,” al-Kuwari explained. “It also addresses multiple forms of corruption, including bribery, abuse of power, misuse of function, and corruption in the private sector.”

Meanwhile, Majlessi said that no country can confront corruption and financial crime alone.

“Evidence shows that reducing corruption worldwide could increase tax revenue by around \$1tn, according to the International Monetary Fund, equivalent to 1.25% of global GDP, and boost economic growth,” Majlessi said.

“The conference is the highest

political forum under the UNCAC,” he continued. “The conference ensures that the Convention is not merely a set of principles, but a living instrument that drives real change.”

Majlessi also noted that at global level, the Convention has strengthened international co-operation and asset recovery that have led to approximately \$17bn in corruption-related assets being frozen, confiscated, or returned.

“This is a critical resource that can be redirected towards servicing the people who desperately need it,” he added.

“At the same time, we must acknowledge that challenges remain,” Majlessi stressed.

“Meeting these challenges requires that our anti-corruption frameworks evolve alongside the technologies that are reshaping economies, public administration, and criminal activity,” the official said.

“Corruption is no longer confined to envelopes of cash or isolated avenues of authority,” Majlessi stated, adding: “It increasingly operates through complex financial structures, digital platforms, and transnational networks.”

ACE Award winners laud Qatar’s leadership against graft

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Four awardees honoured at the 9th Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence (ACE) Award in Doha on Sunday have highlighted the importance of a sustained reform in protecting public resources and giving communities a fair chance to prosper.

The event was attended by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, among other dignitaries, held at Fairmont and Raffles Hotels in Doha.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* on the sidelines of the ceremony, Oby Ezekwesili, winner of the 2025 International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award for Lifetime Achievement, said: “I promised my dad from the age of ten, I will do something about the unfair world, or that does not give governance so that poor people can have the opportunity to thrive.”

“This work has made me very focused on the kinds of policies that reduce opportuni-



Andiswa Matikinca (left), Drago Kos, Oby Ezekwesili, and Dr Marianne Camerer (right).

PICTURES: Tawfik Lamary



ties for corruption,” she said. “I was minister of minerals, of education, I (instituted) public procurement reforms for my country, Nigeria... that's a tough one because procurement is the hot bed for corruption, but I had to do it.”

Winner of the Academic Research and Educational Materials Award, Drago Kos, said: “Receiving this award means a lot to me. This means that we are not alone in the fight against corruption, that there is

somebody who is recognising our work.”

“I thank His Highness the Amir, the State of Qatar,” he said. “We have to continue the work that we are doing. There is no way to give up. We do not have the luxury (of) slowing down... we have to keep on pressing.”

Dr Marianne Camerer, winner of the Academic Research and Educational Materials Award, said: “I am a researcher not an investigative journalist; I am not a prosecutor

or a lawyer, nor (am I) a judge, but I think that independent evidence-based research is really important to understand the problem and think about how you can intervene effectively.”

She said that fighting corruption remains a constant struggle, as the concentration of money and power inevitably creates opportunities for abuse, making strong systems and safeguards essential to prevent the misuse of authority.

Fellow award winner Andiswa Matikinca, is dedicated to Investigative Environmental Journalism on several of its projects, where she tracks, monitors and investigates wildlife and other environmental crimes, as well as the status of renewable energy projects and the Just Energy Transition in South Africa.

“The work that we do is a huge, (with limited) resources, and small teams, but it is very impactful,” she said. “To receive this award today is a great nod and a huge pat on the back to keep us going, to motivate us.”

“I will also do the same for young journalists that are still upcoming,” Matikinca added.

Matikinca urged members of the public to be resolute in their pursuit for the truth and holding those in power accountable.