



YOU **DESERVE**
UNLIMITED ROAMING CALLS
WITH CALL+!



ORIX PAINTS
اوریکس
 اصنع

QATARI
 مملکت
 القطر

اوریکس پولیڈکس
ORIX POLYDEX

Durable waterproofing-
 performance for roof protection

نیشنل پینٹس فیکٹریز لمیٹڈ
 NATIONAL PAINTS FACTORIES CO., Doha - Qatar

44601602/3



HALF
PAY BACK

ON GARMENTS, FOOTWEAR & LADIES BAGS

Spend GMR-100 and get back GMR-50 Shopping voucher Free

Insurance valid till 30.09.2020

 **Remasti**
The Fashion Store

There is a condition on every offer. [View Remasti offer details](#)

BUSINESS | Page 1

Himyan national
payment card
now accepted in
Kuwait: QCB

YEAR END CLEARANCE FROM 25% TO

70% OFF

4000+ Products on Offer

Valid on selected fashion items

فاميليا Family

Food Centre مركز العائلة

تخفيضات نهاية العام
من ٢٥% حتى ٧٠%
ساري العرض على منتجات
أزياء ومقتنيات فقط

PROMOTION PERIOD: 1/10/2024 - 18/12/2024

T&C APPLY. SEE STORE FOR L&D

3

Jetour T2



BOARDING PASS ✈

QATAR AIRWAYS
MEMBER CLUB

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 is a member of the oneworld alliance

Valid from November 12, 2025

Amir graces Qatar National Day parade

● Thousands converge to celebrate the occasion at resplendent Doha Corniche



By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani led the National Day festivities by attending the traditional parade at the Doha Corniche as thousands converged at the venue right from early morning yesterday.

Citizens, residents, and visitors thronged the place well in advance to have a glimpse of the magnificent parade that lasted about one hour. The atmosphere was rife with festive spirit as people celebrated the occasion with gaiety and pomp. Qatar's rich culture and heritage was in display at the ceremonial parade and it also highlighted the strength of the country's military and security entities.

Also attending the parade were His Highness the Personal Representative of the Amir, Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Thani. **To Page 12**



Amir congratulates citizens and residents

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani congratulated the Qatari people and residents on the occasion of the state's national day, HH the Amir offered, in a post on his official X account, his warmest congratulations to the people and residents of Qatar on the National Day, praying to Allah the Almighty to sustain the country's security, prosperity, and progress. **(QNA)**

Amir receives QND greetings from leaders

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received cables of congratulations from Their Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies leaders and presidents of sisterly and friendly countries, on the Qatar National Day. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani also received cables of congratulations from Their Highnesses and Excellency, the deputies and crown princes of sisterly and friendly countries. Similarly, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also received cables of congratulations from Their Highnesses and Excellencies Prime Ministers of sisterly and friendly countries. **(QNA)**

'Qatar SoundBeat' unveiled at final

Media City Qatar revealed the new song *Nabd Qatar* during the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 final at Lusail Stadium, as the centrepiece of this year's 'Qatar SoundBeat' campaign, in the presence of national leadership, government officials, visiting dignitaries, and football fans. The premiere took place during the match, uniting spectators from across the Mena region in a shared moment of national celebration on Qatar National Day. Conceived and composed by

regionally acclaimed musician, Omar Rahbany, and produced by Rahbani 3.0, one of Media City Qatar's licenced companies, the premiere unfolded with the song accompanied by a synchronised light show, transforming Lusail Stadium into a canvas of sound and light on one of the Arab world's biggest stages. The song, performed by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, brings together the talent of 68 musicians and the sounds of 30 instruments in a rich orchestral arrangement. **To Page 4**

Amir crowns Morocco as Arab Cup winners

Morocco beat Jordan 3-2 after extra time

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani crowned Morocco as the winners of FIFA Arab Cup 2025 here at the Lusail Stadium last night.

Morocco clinched the title with a 3-2 win over Jordan after extra time in the final witnessed by a record crowd.

The closing ceremony was also attended by His Highness Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Personal Representative of the Amir, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Thani.

Amir expresses Qatar's pride as host → Page 12

Also present were HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, Chairman of the Shura Council, and a number of Their Excellencies, the Sheikhs and ministers.

The closing ceremony was also attended by Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, Crown Prince of Jordan, Gianni Infantino, president of FIFA, Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al-Khalifa, President of the Asian Football Confederation, Prince Abdulaziz bin



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and FIFA president Gianni Infantino hand the FIFA Arab Cup trophy to Morocco's Mohamed Hrimat at Lusail Stadium yesterday. **(Reuters)**

Turki bin Faisal al-Saud, Saudi minister of sports, and president of the Arab Football Federation, a number of senior officials from

brotherly and friendly countries, heads of delegations, heads of Olympic committees and Arab and international federations. Their

Excellencies, the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the country, and a large audience.
Match report on Sport Page 1



Interior minister in Doha meetings



HE the Minister of Interior, Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), and Chairman of the Security Committee Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani met yesterday with Secretary of Homeland Security of the United States of America Kristi Noem at the National Command Center (NCC). HE the Minister toured the NCC with the secretary of Homeland Security of the United States of America. During the visit, she was briefed on the NCC's command and control systems, advanced monitoring and analytical technologies, and its role in supporting decision-making and managing events and crises.

The tour also included the Tournament Command Center (TCC), where she reviewed the operational systems used to monitor and secure major sporting events. These systems contribute to enhanced response efficiency and a high level of operational readiness in line with international best practices in security operations management.



HE the Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, has held talks with Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco, Abdelouafi Laftit, in Doha. During the meeting at the National Command Center (NCC), the two sides discussed a range of issues of mutual interest and reviewed existing co-operation between Qatar and Morocco in the field of security. They also explored ways to strengthen and further develop this co-operation, with the aim of enhancing joint action. Following the talks, Minister Laftit toured the NCC, where he was briefed on its core functions and its command-and-control systems. He was shown the advanced technologies used for monitoring, analysis, decision-making support, and the management of events and crises. The visiting minister also learned about the role of the Tournament Command Centre (TCC) in overseeing and securing major sporting events. and how it contributes to effective response and heightened operational readiness. **(QNA)**

PM meets US vice-president



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met in Washington with US Vice-President JD Vance. The meeting focused on discussing the strong, strategic bilateral relations between Qatar and the US, as well as the means to enhance them. It also dealt with several topics of joint interest. **(QNA)**

Amir sends cables of condolences to Amir of Kuwait

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani and HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of condolences to Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, on the death of Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Sabah al-Nasser al-Sabah. **(QNA)**

Amir sends cables of congratulations to president of Niger

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of Niger Lieutenant-General Abdourahmane Tchiani on the occasion of his country's Republic Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani also sent a similar cable to Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Ali Mahamane Lamine Zeine on the occasion. **(QNA)**

PM, US secretary of state chair Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue

QNA
Washington

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and Secretary of State of the friendly United States of America Marco Rubio co-chaired in Washington the 7th Qatar-US Strategic Dialogue.

The session of the dialogue saw a discussion of ways to enhance co-operation and partnership between the two friendly countries across political, economic, commercial, investment, and cultural fields, in addition to discussing several issues of joint interest, including regional stability, counterterrorism, combating human trafficking, human rights, climate change, energy efficiency, and humanitarian assistance. Participating in the dialogue on the Qatari side were HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi, HE the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-



Sayed, ambassador of the State of Qatar to the United States of America Sheikh Mishaal bin Hamad al-Thani, Adviser to the Prime Minister for Strategic Affairs Ali bin Abdullah al-Thawadi, Director of the Policy Planning Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Khalid bin Fahd al-Khater, Assistant Director of the Office of the Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdullah bin Eid al-Sulaiti, Deputy

ambassador of the State of Qatar to the US Dr Hamad bin Mohammed al-Muftah, and Director of the Americas Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jassim Mohammed al-Asmakh.

On the US side, participants included Counselor of the Department of State and Director of the US Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff Mike Needham, Under Secretary of State for Po-

litical Affairs Allison Hooker, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg, Senior Bureau Official of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Robert Palladino, Senior Bureau Official of the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs Michael Kozak, Senior Bureau Official of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Fleet White, and Deputy Spokesperson of the Department of State Tommy Pigott. **(QNA)**

Minister of state holds meetings in Washington, DC



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met with Deputy Secretary of State of the United States of America Christopher Landau, on the sidelines of the 7th strategic dialogue between the two countries, which is being held in Washington, DC. The meeting focused on discussing the strong, strategic bilateral ties between Qatar and the United States of America, as well as the means to enhance them in various fields. It also addressed regional and international issues of joint interest.



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met in Washington yesterday with Secretary-General of the Organization of American States Albert Ramdin. The meeting focused on ways to enhance co-operation between Qatar and the Organization of American States. It also discussed several regional issues, particularly developments in Latin America. The meeting also saw both sides exchange views on how to bolster dialogue and understanding, and advance regional stability. The two sides stressed the importance of strengthening channels of communication and co-operation to serve joint interests and advance peace, development, and stability efforts regionally and internationally.

Qatar and the United States of America held a session on regional and international co-operation, as part of the 7th strategic dialogue between the two countries in Washington, DC. The Qatari side was chaired by HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi. The US side was chaired by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker. The meeting dealt with discussing the latest developments in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, the Great Lakes Region, the Sahel Region, Afghanistan, and Latin America, in addition to several regional and international issues of joint interest. **(QNA)**



Qatar takes pride in its exemplary anti-corruption record: ambassador

QNA
Doha

HE the Ambassador of Qatar to Austria and permanent representative to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Vienna, Jassim Yaqoub al-Hammadi has said that Qatar's hosting of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) for the second time represents a significant milestone in its continued efforts to spearhead collective international action against corruption.

He explained that this hosting aligns with Qatar's strategic vision to reinforce multilateralism, support the United Nations and its affiliated institutions and conventions, and uphold the rule of law in international relations. These efforts, he noted, aim to confront global challenges while harnessing shared opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the sidelines of the 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC, currently underway in Doha, HE Ambassador al-Hammadi expressed Qatar's pride in its outstanding record in preventing and combating corruption.

"The State of Qatar is proud of its distinguished achievements in countering corruption," he

stated, "which are underpinned by a comprehensive and robust legal and institutional framework, reinforced by a society deeply rooted in authentic Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian values that promote integrity and unequivocally reject corruption."

He further underscored Qatar's unwavering support for regional and international anti-corruption initiatives, foremost among them the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

He also highlighted the pre-conference ceremony marking the presentation of the Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award, which has been conferred annually since 2016 upon distinguished individuals and institutions from around the world in recognition of their impactful contributions to the global fight against corruption.

He emphasised Qatar's determination to ensure that the 11th session of the Conference, hosted in Doha, serves as a pivotal turning point that broadens horizons for international solidarity in combating corruption.

This objective, he explained, will be advanced through the deliberations and resolutions adopted to strengthen the effective implementation of the convention at national, regional, and international levels.



Advanced National Day parade reflects high readiness of Armed Forces, security services

Commander of the Military Police Forces and General Co-ordinator of the Military Parade Staff Major General Rashid Mohammed al-Hajri revealed details of the national parade, praising the advanced level of this year's parade and the precise organisation it included, reflecting the high readiness of the armed forces and security services.

In his remarks, Major General al-Hajri congratulated 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 on this dear national occasion, noting that the parade proceeded according to the pre-prepared scenario, and wishing continued security and safety under the wise leadership.

He indicated that the number of participants in the parade exceeded the numbers of previous years, noting that the duration of the parade was 49 minutes. He noted that one of the key features of this year's national parade was the broad participation of fraternal and friendly forces, as forces from the United States of America, Britain and Turkiye participated, along with the Sultanate of Oman and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in a precedent that is the first of its kind with the participation of six countries at once, which gave a special momentum to the parade.

He pointed out that the parade included a review of new formations in the Air Force, and equipment that has recently joined the



armed forces and security services. He noted the introduction of drones designated for firefighting by the Civil Defence, which are used to combat fires in towers and high buildings, as they are among the modern technologies that enhance the safety system.

Major General al-Hajri highlighted the display of new equipment in the land forces and air defence, stressing that all military and security sectors were keen to showcase the latest advancements in military industries and technologies.

Regarding the public turnout, he indicated that the attendance was unprecedented, as citizens and residents flocked in from the early hours of dawn, which led to a large crowd that prevented some of those who wished to attend from doing so.

He explained that the parade returned this year in a new form after a three-year hiatus, which increased the public's enthusiasm and interaction. He pointed out that preparations for the national parade began at the beginning of October, through intensive rehearsals that included marching drills and special rehearsals for the National Day, to ensure that the



parade comes out in the best possible way.

He said that the show had a different character compared to previous versions, and witnessed the presentation of new mechanisms and equipment appearing for the first time before the public, in addition to a noticeable increase in the number of participants, whether in terms of manpower or equipment, compared to previous years.

Concluding his remarks, the General Co-ordinator of the Military Parade expressed his pride in the success of the national march and the messages of pride, unity, and cohesion it conveyed. For his part, Commander of the Military Parade Center and Commander of the Military Parade Staff Colonel Faisal al-Mannai emphasised that this year's parade was distinguished and exceptional, as it included a number of newly introduced segments that were participating for the first time.

He pointed out that this distinction, which was achieved after the national parade was postponed for three years, was the result of the generous support and guidance of HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman



bin Hassan al-Thani and HE the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Staff Lieutenant General (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai.

Al-Mannai indicated that the three-year hiatus in the national parade was one of the key challenges that faced the organisation of this year's military parade, especially with a new generation taking over the responsibility of preparation and implementation. This required doubling efforts and working as a team with a high degree of harmony and integrated co-ordination with all parties participating in the parade, which included the Qatari Armed Forces, the Amiri Guard, the Ministry of Interior, and the Internal Security Force Lekhwiya.

He pointed out that the preparation and training period for the National Day parade lasted for three months, as work on preparing for the military parade began on the first of October and continued until just before the date

of the parade on National Day. He noted that the preparation stages included holding a series of consultative and co-ordination meetings between the participating entities, which focused on unifying concepts, distributing tasks, exchanging and discussing common ideas and visions, in addition to determining the time allocated to each participating entity to ensure that the total duration of the military parade does not exceed 49 minutes precisely.

He said that all the individuals participating in the military parade succeeded in performing the tasks assigned to them with distinction and competence, which reflects the high level of discipline and professionalism that the Qatari military institution enjoys, and its full commitment to implementing the orders and directives issued by its leadership and the higher authorities in the country.

Al-Mannai underscored that the success and excellence

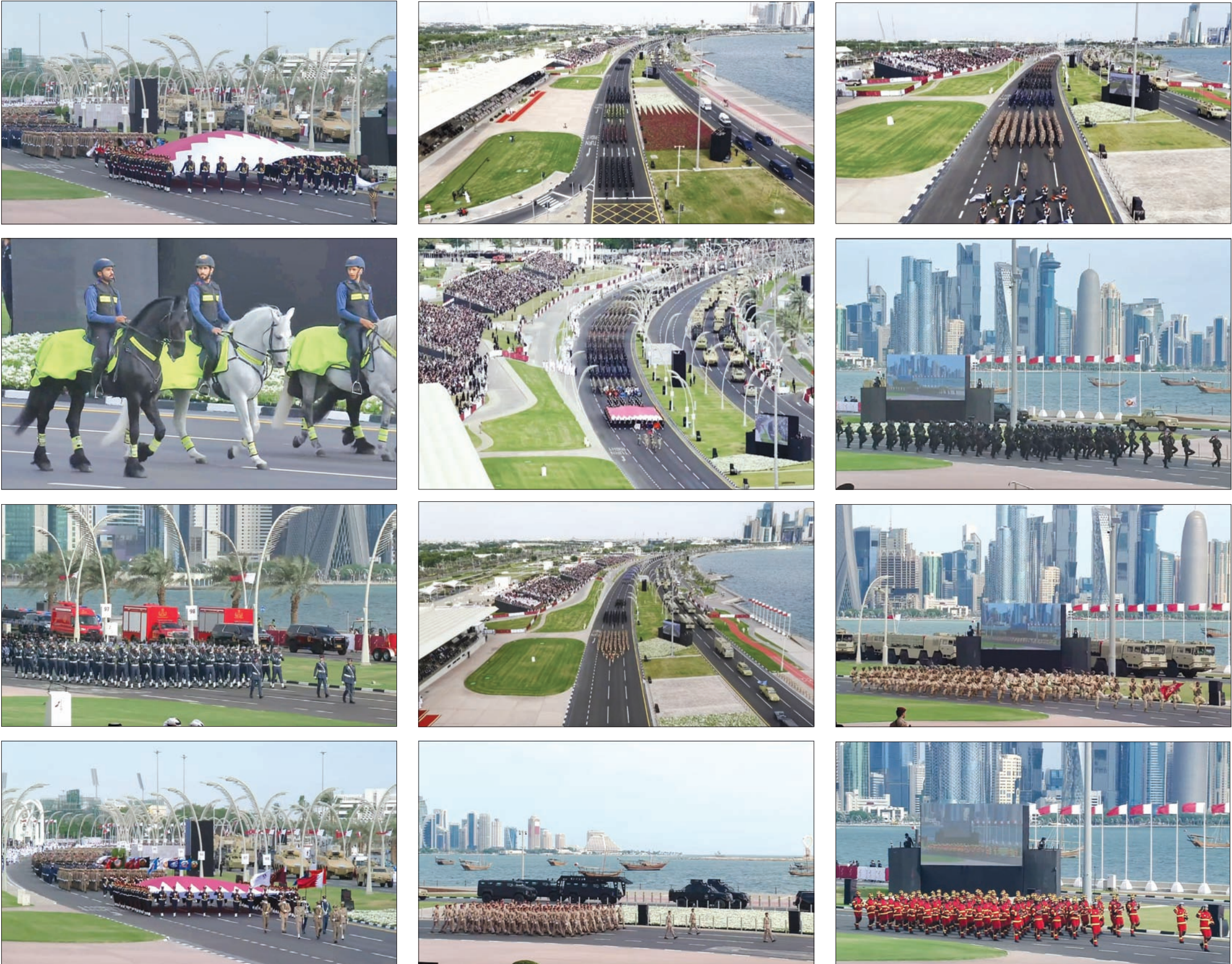
achieved by the military parade in this year's National Day is an extension of a well-established national work process that has continued for years, in which all the officials who took on the tasks of the Military Parade Center and the organisation of the National Day parade contributed.

He indicated that the new generation has proven high efficiency and a remarkable ability to bear this great national responsibility, as it won the admiration of Qatari people and the residents. Concluding his remarks, the Commander of the Military Parade Center and Commander of the Military Parade pointed out that the momentum and large public attendance witnessed by the military parade, held on the Doha Corniche, reflects the depth of the national spirit that characterises the Qatari people, and at the same time embodies the great cohesion between the people and their wise leadership. (QNA)



(PICTURES: QNA)

Qatar’s forces in colourful show of strength on National Day parade



‘Qatar SoundBeat’ unveiled at final

From Page 1

Nabd Qatar draws inspiration from the nation’s defining sounds beginning with Ardah sword dance chants written by HE Salah bin Ghanem al-Ali, former culture minister and extending to the hum of desert dunes, the whisper of wind, the flight of a falcon, the echo of an Arabian horse’s gallop, the flutter of the flag, and the beat of a heart. The song is shaped through three eras of sound – ‘Tradition’, ‘Classical’ and ‘Modernity’ – that come together to tell the story of a nation that honours its roots while contributing to a broader future for Arab creativity.

The lyrics, drafted by Abdullah Khaled Abdulquddus, are rooted in thousands of public contributions gathered during Media City Qatar’s Guinness World Record-setting ‘Qatar ArtBeat’ campaign for Qatar National Day 2024, transforming the nation’s words into a musical tribute to unity and shared identity. The storytelling was further extended through an exclusive music video, directed by renowned filmmaker, Karim Rahbani, which was released across Media City Qatar’s social media platforms.

HE Sheikh Dr Abdulla bin Ali al-Thani, chairman of Media City Qatar, said: “‘Qatar SoundBeat’ turns our nation’s raw sounds into a single piece unveiled on the international stage of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 final before more than 88,000 spectators from across the Arab world. Media City Qatar used this moment to send a clear message to the region’s creative community: The future of Arab media is being shaped here. It calls every creator in our region to look to Qatar as a place where new ideas can grow. This is ‘Where Next is Made’. As we mark Qatar National Day, we continue to support Qatar National Vision 2030 by building a media industry that honours our heritage and prepares us for a creative future.”

Nabd Qatar is available on the streaming platforms including YouTube, Spotify, and Anghami, ensuring audiences worldwide can experience the sound and sentiment of Qatar.



(PICTURES: Agencies and QNA)



By Maria Fernanda Del Rio
Doha

Qatar at centre of global fight against corruption

This week in Doha marked a significant moment in the global fight against corruption as two major international initiatives converged with a shared purpose: the 11th Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP11), organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), brought together governments and international stakeholders from across the world, while the Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award (ACE Award) recognised outstanding contributions in the field of anti-corruption.

Together, these events underscored the importance of unity and collective re-

sponsibility in addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time: the fight against corruption.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) conference remains the principal global platform for advancing international co-operation against corruption.

It provides a structured space for states to assess progress, strengthen legal frameworks, and exchange best practices aimed at preventing corruption and en-

hancing institutional accountability.

Throughout the conference, discussions emphasised a peaceful perspective: collaboration over confrontation.

Resolutions considered by the Parties to the Convention focused on addressing the role of artificial intelligence (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 examining the

role corruption plays in facilitating other crimes, including migrant smuggling and environmental crimes (UN Information Service Vienna).

Within this multilateral framework, the ACE Award added a vital human dimension to the week's proceedings.

The award recognises individuals and institutions that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and tangible impact in advancing transparency and combating corruption – often going far beyond their

professional duties and, in some cases, risking their lives in pursuit of a better future for their societies.

Beyond recognition, it serves as a moral statement: ethical leadership and principled action are not only necessary, but worthy of global acknowledgment.

Seeing individuals and institutions come together with a shared determination to defend human rights and combat corruption restores confidence in the international system and the values that guide it.

It highlights the presence of committed people working consistently for the public good, as well as countries, such as Qatar, willing to recognise and strengthen these efforts in the pursuit of a fairer and more transparent world.

The writer is a presenter at Gulf Times



Qatar's embassies, consular missions mark National Day

Qatar's diplomatic, consular, and representative missions abroad celebrated National Day, which falls on December 18 each year, in commemoration of founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani.

The celebrations were marked by high-level official and public participation across various capitals and cities, reflecting Qatar's distinguished relations with countries around the world.

The envoys, heads of Qatar's diplomatic, consular, and representative missions abroad, extended their highest congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and to all the people of Qatar on this cherished occasion, which is being celebrated this year under the slogan "With You It Rises, From You It Awaits".

In statements marking Qatar National Day (QND), the envoys affirmed that celebrating the occasion reinforces the values of loyalty and belonging, strengthens pride in national identity, and reflects the commitment of succeeding generations to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers, renewing the pledge to continue the journey of development, renaissance, and prosperity under the banner of wise leadership.

The heads of missions pointed to the notable successes achieved by Qatari diplomacy in a number of regional and international conflict files, stemming from Qatar's foreign policy based on the principle of promoting international peace and security through encouraging the peaceful resolution of disputes.

They highlighted the close and evolving relations between Qatar and sisterly and friendly countries across various diplomatic, commercial, economic, investment, cultural, and other fields.

In this context, they noted the prominent global standing that Qatar has attained, thanks to its commitment to bilateral and multilateral co-operation on key global issues of concern to the international community, such as providing humanitarian and relief assistance, advancing sustainable development, addressing climate change, combating poverty, and countering terrorism.

The heads of Qatar's diplomatic, consular, and representative missions abroad reaffirmed Qatar's enduring commitment to strengthening co-operation with partners in order to consolidate security and stability at both the regional and international levels. – QNA



Arab Cup 2025 fervour adds to QND atmosphere



The Arab Cup 2025 final between Morocco and Jordan drew thousands of football fans to Lusail Stadium yesterday, adding a sporting highlight to Qatar National Day (QND) celebrations. Supporters from across the region packed the stands, creating a lively atmosphere as the two teams battled for the title on one of the country's grandest stages. The match, held amid a festive national mood, highlighted Qatar's growing reputation as a host of major international sporting events, with Lusail Stadium once again at the centre of a landmark occasion. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam



Lekhwiya shows capabilities in QND parade

The Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) through its participation in the 2025 National Day parade, demonstrated its full readiness to protect the country's internal security and defend the homeland.

The Lekhwiya formations taking part in the National Day parade underscored the meaning of this year's National Day slogan, "With You It Rises, From You It Awaits", as the nation is elevated by the contributions of its sons and looks to them to honour their pledge and safeguard its security and stability.

The formations presented a display of discipline, readiness, and professionalism, reflecting Lekhwiya's human and technological capabilities.

The precise marching steps blended with the rhythms of national music to embody the spirit of belonging and loyalty.

Leading the parade was the Mounted Unit, considered one of the most important elements in security operations due to its role in patrols, protection, riot control, and maintaining public order, highlighting its strong field presence.

This was followed by the officers' formation, comprising an elite group of force officers, in a scene reflecting a high level of competence and command discipline.

The Special Unit stood out through field running demonstrations that showcased physical fitness and rapid response in counterterrorism operations.

It was followed by the Special Operations formation, which embodied high readiness to carry out precise field missions.

The Silent Platoon also delivered weapons displays marked by accuracy and co-ordinated field harmony, underscoring exceptional skill and high discipline.

The display continued with the participation of the Special Operations Task Unit, which has played a prominent role in securing major events, most notably the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, alongside the Sniper Unit under the leadership of Special Operations.

The presence of the security cells formation from the Support and Backup Group demonstrated its vital role as a first responder in emergency situations, while the motorcade and patrols formation reflected its responsibility for securing VIP convoys and deploying patrols across the State.

Women's participation was also evi-



dent, with the appearance of the female riot control formation, affirming the role of women in security tasks.

This was followed by three consecutive riot control formations from the

Public Order Command.

The Explosives Unit also took part with its specialised team that relies on the latest technologies to ensure safety at events and vital sites, alongside the Qatari Inter-

national Search and Rescue formations, which carry a record of more than 120 humanitarian missions worldwide, embodying the humanitarian dimension of Lekhwiya's role.

The celebratory scene was completed by the participation of the military band, which led the parade with majestic harmony, combining discipline and national spirit.

National service recruits also participated in two integrated formations, demonstrating through their specialised training, under the supervision of the Lekhwiya Training Institute, their readiness to contribute to security missions.

The display of military and security vehicles formed a prominent part of Lekhwiya's participation in the National Day parade, featuring the latest vehicles added to Lekhwiya's fleet, including Tesla vehicles and motorcycles designated for securing VIP convoys.

Vehicles of the Special Unit, equipped for security missions and raids in rugged terrain and high-rise buildings, also participated, alongside rapid intervention vehicles affiliated with the Special Operations Command, and convoy security and patrol command vehicles, including environmental vehicles and pursuit-and-arrest vehicles fitted with advanced technologies.

Vehicles for personal protection, explosives group vehicles equipped to deal with suspicious objects, public order vehicles, support and backup vehicles, security cells vehicles, and Qatari International Search and Rescue vehicles were also showcased, in addition to various other vehicles, a mobile operations room, and a drone.

Together, these illustrated an integrated system of technical and logistical capabilities that enhance the force's readiness under all circumstances.

Lekhwiya also took part in securing National Day parade areas and ensuring smooth traffic flow, in addition to securing VIP convoys and State guests.

This included close protection and escorting official convoys at various locations, as well as securing areas of major events hosted by the State through the deployment of patrols, activation of security cells, and co-ordination of efforts among various units to ensure the highest levels of safety and security.

This vital role reflects the ability of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) to combine impressive ceremonial displays on national occasions with practical operational readiness in the field, reinforcing its position as a fundamental pillar of the internal security and stability system.

- QNA

Ambassador hails 'unprecedented strength' of Rome-Doha relations

Italy's ambassador to Qatar Paolo Toschi has said that relations between the two countries are stronger than ever, highlighting expanding co-operation across politics, security, defence, energy and culture, as Qatar marked its National Day yesterday.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), the envoy described bilateral ties as witnessing "unprecedented strength", adding that Rome and Doha are looking with confidence towards a future of deeper partnerships and shared ambitions.

Toschi noted that both countries are keen to strengthen trade co-operation while supporting regional and international stability, expressing confidence

that bilateral co-operation will continue to grow in ways that support sustainable development and mutual prosperity in the years ahead.

The envoy praised Qatar's foreign policy approach, saying that the country has consistently demonstrated its ability to act as a mediator and constructive partner during periods of regional and global challenge.

From Italy's perspective, he said, Qatar's active, balanced and forward-looking diplomacy has helped consolidate its position as a trusted partner in dialogue, peace efforts and international mediation.

Toschi added that Qatar's capacity to engage constructively with a wide range of



international actors reflects a clear strategic vision, contributing to regional stability and supporting multilateral solutions to global challenges.

On security co-operation, he referred to

a recently signed memorandum of understanding between the interior ministers of both countries, which will allow Qatar's Lekhwiya force to provide support during the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics, scheduled for February 2026.

He also highlighted close defence co-operation, pointing to recent visits by Italy's Minister of Defence Guido Crosetto, as well as the Chief of the Italian Carabinieri, General Salvatore Luongo, and Italy's Chief of Police, Vittorio Pisani.

Reflecting on Qatar National Day (QND), Toschi said the occasion represents an opportunity for citizens and residents alike to celebrate the country's wise leadership, resilience and achievements in building

the modern State of Qatar.

For the Italian embassy and the Italian community, he added, the day is also a chance to reaffirm the friendship between the two nations, while recognising Qatar's commitment to progress alongside the preservation of its cultural heritage - values that Italy holds in high regard.

Toschi extended his warm congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and the people of Qatar on National Day, affirming that Italy stands alongside Qatar as a friend and partner committed to promoting peace, dialogue and shared progress, and wishing the country continued stability, innovation and prosperity.

- QNA

Representatives of oversight, auditing, and anti-corruption agencies in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries stressed the importance of transforming national strategies into practical and implementable applications, noting the need to integrate legislative, institutional and oversight frameworks to achieve integrity and transparency, especially in the public sector.

This came during a panel discussion on "GCC National Anti-Corruption Strategies: Policy to Practice", which was held on the sidelines of the 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP11) in Doha.

The assistant secretary-general for legislative and legal affairs at the General Secretariat of the GCC, Sultan bin Nasser al-Suwaidi, said the issue of combating

GCC officials stress practical implementation of national strategies against corruption

corruption has become one of the essential pillars for achieving sustainable development, consolidating the principles of governance, and enhancing economic and social stability.

He pointed out that "Al Ula Declaration", issued by the 41st session of the GCC Supreme Council in 2021, emphasised the importance of strengthening mechanisms for integrity, efficiency, governance, transparency and accountability in government agencies and combating corruption, enhancing joint co-operation in this field within the framework of the GCC, and benefiting from relevant international agreements, particularly the

UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and other relevant agreements.

Al-Suwaidi affirmed that the GCC countries will continue their institutional efforts in this direction, as these efforts were commended by the Supreme Council at its 46th session held in Manama, in recognition of the achievements made in strengthening the tools of governance, transparency, accountability, integrity and combating corruption, through joint Gulf action.

The regional director of the GeC Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Dr Hatem Fouad Ali, emphasised that the existing partnership

between the UNODC and the GCC countries has contributed to bringing about a qualitative shift in efforts to combat corruption and promote the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability, within the framework of implementing the UNCAC at the national and regional levels.

He indicated that the GCC countries have succeeded in completing their legislative systems to combat corruption, as all the Gulf countries have advanced laws and comprehensive national strategies to combat corruption.

Dr Ali added that co-operation with the GCC Secretariat-General resulted in the

development of unified regional frameworks, strategies and policies.

Representatives from several GCC countries shared experiences in implementing national strategies.

They included Hamad al-Qaid al-Hamadi from the UAE Accountability Authority, Major Issa al-Sagor from the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security (ACEES) at Bahrain's Ministry of Interior, Moad al-Saghir from the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) in Saudi Arabia, Shabib bin Nasser al-Busaidi from the Financial and Administrative Audit Authority in Oman, Eng Abrar al-Hammad from the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), and Fatima al-Naama, head of the Awareness Department at Qatar's Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA).

- QNA

Usage of non-judicial settlement mechanisms discussed at COSP11

A session held yesterday evening as part of the 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP11) discussed ways to enhance the use of non-judicial settlement mechanisms in corruption cases, as complementary tools to traditional law enforcement, particularly in complex cross-border cases.

The session focused on the role of these mechanisms in expediting procedures, reducing litigation costs, and achieving practical results in asset recovery and international co-operation.

In his remarks, a representative of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said that non-judicial settlements represent an important potential source of asset recovery, but they need further study and the development of standards based on the principles of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

He noted that the agreement includes specific mechanisms for asset recovery, but it does not clearly highlight non-judicial settlements as an independent tool, which opens the door to wide variation in practices between countries.

The representative of the National Anti-Corruption Commission in Australia said that the adoption of non-judicial settlements was linked to legislative and institutional reforms aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement.

He indicated that this approach contributed to achieving practical results without resorting to lengthy trials, while preserving the powers of the judiciary.

The representative from United Nations Development Programme stressed that settlements outside the framework of the judiciary should not be understood as a tolerance of corruption, but rather as an effective enforcement tool if they are well designed and implemented within an integrated criminal justice system.

An official at the National Financial Prosecutor's Office in France said that settlement agreements that include financial penalties, mandatory compliance programmes, and asset seizure procedures have contributed to accelerating procedures and enhancing the effectiveness of prosecutions in complex cases.

A speaker from Brazil Office of the Comptroller General stressed the importance of linking non-judicial settlements to clear procedures for compensating those affected, and promoting the participation of requesting countries in asset recovery pathways.

He added that bridging the gap between supply and demand countries requires more organised international co-operation that ensures the involvement of affected countries in the negotiation and implementation phases, and that settlements are not limited to the financial aspect only.

- QNA

Parliamentarians share strategies

Members of the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) discussed experiences in combating corruption in their countries during the 11th Parliamentarians' Forum, held on the sidelines of the 11th session of the UN Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (COSP11).

The forum focused on themes including promoting and monitoring integrity, the role of parliamentarians in oversight mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption, and enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.

GOPAC chair Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri said in a statement delivered on his behalf by the organisation's executive director that the GOPAC reaffirms the crucial role of parliamentarians within broader societal partnerships to fight and prevent corruption as the only global parliamentary organisation dedicated exclusively to advancing the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Since 2002, the GOPAC has actively advocated for the establish-

ment and implementation of the UNCAC and has participated in every session of the Conference of the States Parties since its first meeting in 2006.

The organisation praised countries that included parliamentarians and civil society members in their official delegations to the CoSP11, highlighting Ghana, which registered at least six parliamentarians in its delegation, and the African GOPAC network, which contributed a large number of parliamentary participants.

- QNA

African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, stressed the key role of supreme audit institutions, particularly in the energy sector, in promoting transparency, accountability, and public service delivery.

Speakers highlighted international examples of institutional collaboration, including Brazil's Itaipu National Hydropower Plant and Petrobras, where integrated oversight, governance, and compliance frameworks have fostered transparency, accountability, and sustainable development outcomes.

- QNA

Heavy rains lash Doha

Staff Reporter
Doha

Doha experienced an unseasonal spell of rain yesterday as thundery downpours swept across the capital, lending an unusual and dramatic backdrop to Qatar National Day celebrations.

It led to suspension of several National Day activities, including those at Lusail Boulevard and Souq Waqif.

The FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 third place play-off between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also had to be indefinitely suspended due to lightning storms in close proximity to the Khalifa International stadium.

In a statement, the organisers said: "While the venue retained full operational integrity and the pitch remained in good condition, this action was taken by the referee and match officials to ensure the safety of all the players, fans and staff at the stadium."

Meanwhile, back in the city, cloudy skies gave way to intermittent showers from the morning, intensifying at times into moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied by gusty winds and a noticeable drop in temperature. The wet weather, rare for Doha at this time of year, quickly became a talking point across the city, with residents and visitors sharing images and videos of rain-washed streets, glistening Corniche views and umbrellas dotting public spaces.

A @qatardiarys post dropped an eye-catching video of the South Qatar desert "turning into a white landscape" thanks to a rare hail-storm. "From golden sand to icy textures, nature proved once again that Qatar is full of surprises," it said poignantly.

The downpour had a tangible impact on public life and major events. Elsewhere, a few National Day programmes continued, with crowds at outdoor venues navigating wet conditions and organisers adjusting activities in response to the weather.



PICTURE: Thajudheen



PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Cultural hubs such as Katara and central Doha remained active, though footfall fluctuated with the rain. For many, the showers added a rare atmospheric element to the celebrations, cooling the air and transforming familiar land-

marks into striking visual scenes.

Meteorological advisories issued earlier had warned of unstable conditions linked to a broader weather system affecting the Gulf region, bringing the possibility of rain, thunder and strong winds.

Authorities urged caution on the roads as traffic slowed during heavier bursts.

The rain also offered a reminder of nature's unpredictability in a city more accustomed to clear winter skies.

Qatar to see sharp temperature drop as cold front takes hold

Qatar is expected to remain under the influence of a low-pressure system into the early hours today, according to the country's Meteorology Department.

Meteorology Department director Abdulla Mohammed al-Mannai said that north-westerly winds would begin to dominate after the system passes, leading to a noticeable drop in temperatures over the next three days.



Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), the official explained that the country has been affected by a low-pressure system accompanied by an extension of cold polar winds in the upper layers of the atmosphere.

He noted that this system is the first significant low-pressure weather event to affect Qatar this season and carries clear winter characteristics.

In recent hours, the country has experienced rainfall of varying intensity, accompanied by active to occasionally strong winds. Hail was reported in some areas.

Al-Mannai said these conditions had been forecast in earlier weather analyses and were driven by several atmospheric factors, including the depth of the low-pressure system, the intrusion of cold polar air in the upper atmosphere, and the presence of dry air in the mid-levels.

Together, he added, these elements contributed to the development of intense thunderclouds and hail. Authorities continue to monitor the situation as cooler conditions set in across the country. (QNA)



Katara a cultural melting pot

The Katara Cultural Village's Arab Cup 2025 activities concluded yesterday, attracting a large public turnout and strong engagement from visitors of different ages and nationalities.

According to Katara, the activities formed part of an integrated cultural programme that accompanied the major sporting event, offering a balanced blend of cultural, artistic, and entertainment content that catered to a wide range of interests. It also reflected Katara's vision as a global meeting point for cultures and a leading cultural and tourism destination in Qatar. The programme featured artistic and heritage performances, cultural exhibitions, and interactive activities, in addition to dedicated fan zones for broadcasting tournament matches.

Together, these elements created a vibrant atmosphere that combined the excitement of sport with the richness of cultural expression, enhancing visitors' experiences and transforming Katara into a unifying space for celebration and interaction. Meanwhile, the 15th Katara Traditional Dhow Festival concluded after several days of maritime displays and heritage activities, highlighting the maritime legacy of Qatar, the Gulf region, and beyond. The festival showcased the deep cultural and historical values embedded in maritime heritage and witnessed broad participation from 11 countries: Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Tanzania, Iran, and Sudan. This wide participation underlined



the festival's growing stature as one of the region's leading specialised heritage events and its role in preserving and presenting maritime heritage to younger generations through interactive and contemporary approaches. The Arabic Language Festival will continue at Katara until tomorrow, as part of a cultural initiative aimed at promoting the Arabic language and highlighting its aesthetic and cultural value through a diverse programme of activities, workshops, and interactive events designed for various age groups. Katara noted that these events conveyed a clear cultural message affirming that culture serves as a bridge for communication among peoples and an effective tool for dialogue and openness.



Hajikka Memorial Essay Writing Competition winners feted

The Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF) organised the prize distribution ceremony of the 11th Hajikka Memorial Essay Writing Competition for Indian school students in Doha. The competition, conducted annually by ICBF since 2015 on socially relevant themes, this year witnessed a total of 245 students from 13 Indian schools participating. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Repatriation and Youth Affairs head Irfan Ansari, followed by a briefing on the competition by general secretary Deepak Shetty. In his presidential address, ICBF president Shanavas Bava highlighted the importance of encouraging young minds to engage with values of service



and social responsibility. ICBF coordinating officer and Indian embassy first secretary Eish Singhal was the chief guest and Bhavan's Public School vice-principal Dharamraj Kumar the guest of honour. The evaluators, Padmaja

Oruganti and Jayashree Sridhar, shared their feedback and appreciated the quality of the essays, the relevance of the topic, and ICBF's continued efforts to promote the noble ideals and legacy of Hajikka, the Indian expatriate renowned



for his social work. The ceremony was attended by family members of Hajikka, ICBF advisory council chairman K S Prasad, programme committee chairman K V Boban, former president Davis Edakalathur, office bearers of associated



organisations, community leaders, teachers, students, and parents. Trophies and certificates were distributed to the winners, participants, and invigilators. The event was coordinated by vice-president Rasheed Ahamed,

along with managing committee members Mani Bharathi, Shankar Goud, Neelambari, Mini Siby, and Amar Veer Singh, and advisory council member Satheesh V. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by secretary Jafer Thayyil.

DPS MIS creates monumental mosaic artwork



DPS Modern Indian School's silver jubilee celebrations witnessed the creation of a monumental mosaic artwork spanning 2,500sq ft and crafted by 2,500 students, celebrating Indo-Qatar friendship. The collaborative initiative 'Silver Synergy' earned recognition from the India Book of Records, and Asia Book of Records, while awaiting Guinness World Records decision. Inspired by Qatar National Vision 2030 and a commitment to sustainability, the school repurposed cardboard cartons into individual panels. Guided by their art teachers, students from grades I-X paint-



ed each panel. The youngest artists, 212 Kindergarten students contributed hand prints.

In the final stage, teachers and staff assembled the 2,500 painted panels on the basketball

court, each square reflecting a story, a dream, and a fragment of the school's spirit.

IIS student tops speech contest

Ideal Indian School Gavel Club member Afrin Salma (Grade XII) topped the inspirational speech category of The Qatar Talk 2025 interschool speech competition. Her prizes included a trophy and cash prize of QR3,000. Indian ambassador Vipul presented the trophy. Joyal, Mohammad Mustafa S (both Grade XII) and Samridhi Panwar (Grade IX) were the other contestants from the school. Principal Shaik Shamim Saheb, Gavel Club counsellor Sajid Shamim, and teacher In-charge Anwar Sadath congratulated Afrin Salma and commended the other participants from the school.



BPS hosts int'l higher education fair

Birla Public School, Doha, hosted the International Higher Education Fair 2025, in collaboration with TIES Global, bringing together more than 20 leading universities from India, the UAE, and Germany. The fair witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of Grades IX to XII, accompanied by their parents, and offered a unique platform for direct interaction with university representatives. Students gained comprehensive information on undergraduate programmes, admission requirements, scholarship opportunities and potential global career pathways. Parents also benefitted from personalised counselling sessions and detailed briefings on emerging higher education trends and international study options.



Annual speech contest held

Doha Toastmasters Club, described as Qatar's first and oldest Toastmasters club, concluded its annual speech contest 2025. The event marked an inspiring evening of powerful communication, leadership, and public speaking excellence, a statement said. The contest featured multiple categories, such as the international speech, table topics, humorous speech, and evaluation. The winners, in the order of first, second and third positions, respectively: International speech - Athira Gopakumar, Samkeliswe, Shafra Akram; table topics - Shompa Mukherjee, Samkeliswe, Athira Gopakumar; humorous speech - Sunil Kumar Menon, Munas Siadumnath, Arun P Sukumar; evaluation speech - Sunil Kumar Menon, Mohammad Zubair, Athira Gopakumar. The winners were honoured with trophies and certificates. The contest chairs were Subair Pandavat, Namrata Tawde, Jayakumar Menon, and Atul Hardas. Dr Aruna Dhade was the contest manager.



Rajagiri Public School organises interschool history quiz

Rajagiri Public School (RPS), Doha, organised Insijamu 2025, the fifth edition of Interschool Qatar History Quiz Competition, participated by selected schools. Each team comprised three students. The quiz comprised multiple rounds that tested the participants' knowledge, analytical skills, and presence of mind. Doha Modern Indian School won the first prize, followed by MES Indian School in the second position and Loyola International School, Doha, in the third position. The chief guest was Husan Ibrahim, research assistant at the Centre for Conflict and



Humanitarian Studies. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the importance of historical

understanding in shaping informed and responsible citizens, and appreciated the

efforts taken by the school in promoting academic excellence through such initiatives.

The winners were announced by RPS vice-principal S Radhakrishnan, and felicitated

by the chief guest and the school's administrative director Jinsu Aju.

FALLOUT

Australia premier promises to crack down on hate speech

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese yesterday promised a crackdown on hate speech in the wake of an attack at Sydney's Bondi Beach. The attack appears to have been inspired by Islamic State, authorities say. Albanese said the government will seek to introduce legislation that makes it easier to charge people promoting hate speech and violence. Penalties would be increased, cancelling or refusing visas would be made easier and a regime for targeting organisations whose leaders engage in hate speech would be developed, he said. "It is clear we need to do more to combat this evil scourge much more," Albanese said.

DECISION

India parliament approves landmark atomic energy bill

India's parliament yesterday approved a landmark atomic energy bill that allows private and foreign companies to enter the nuclear power sector, as the energy-hungry country targets a tenfold jump in nuclear power capacity to 100 gigawatts by 2047. The legislation marks a major shift for the sector which has so far been tightly controlled by the state. State-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India owns and operates the country's fleet of nuclear power plants. Under the new law, private companies would need to obtain licences to operate nuclear power plants, while foreign firms can participate through partnerships with Indian companies.

CRIME

Lanka arrests three men for burning elephant alive

Sri Lankan police yesterday arrested three men on charges of cruelty to animals after a viral video showed them setting a wild elephant on fire. Police said the suspects, aged between 42 and 50, were taken into custody in the north-central district of Anuradhapura, about 200kms north of Colombo. They were placed on remand until December 24 pending further investigations into the incident, which sparked widespread revulsion after the footage was shared on social media. Wildlife officials said the animal had first been shot and wounded before being set alight, and that veterinary surgeons' attempts to save its life failed.

TRIAL

UK aristocrat accused of strangling wife

A British aristocrat related to Princess Diana and World War II premier Winston Churchill is facing charges of strangling his estranged wife, court documents showed yesterday. The Duke of Marlborough, 70, had been summoned to appear at Oxford Magistrates Court in central England on three charges of non-fatal intentional strangulation against his second wife Edla Marlborough between November 2022 and May 2024. But judge Kamlesh Rana was told he was "unable to attend" yesterday's hearing, and the case is due to be relisted for January 5. Charles Spencer-Churchill, known as Jamie, is a member of one of Britain's most aristocratic families.

Crunch EU summit discusses using frozen Russian assets for Ukraine

Reuters
Brussels

European Union leaders were trying to overcome differences on plans to use frozen Russian assets to finance Ukraine's war effort at a summit yesterday seen as a critical test of the bloc's strength.

Talks in Brussels focused on seeking to reassure Belgium, which holds most of these frozen assets, and several other concerned countries that Europe would share the legal and financial risks, in a bid to secure their backing for the plan.

"Now we have a simple choice – either money today or blood tomorrow," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, urging fellow EU leaders to agree to the proposal. "All European leaders have to finally rise to this occasion."

The EU sees Russia's war as a threat to its own security and wants to keep Ukraine financed and fighting.

With public finances across the EU already strained by high debt levels, the European Commission has proposed using frozen Russian central bank assets that are mostly held in Russian clearing house Euroclear to secure a huge loan to Kyiv.

But Belgium is deeply concerned about being left exposed to legal and financial risks, and other states including Italy have also expressed worries.

Several EU leaders arriving at the summit said it was imperative they find a solution. They were also keen to show European countries' strength and resolve after US President Donald Trump last week called them "weak".

"We just can't afford to fail," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said, adding that leaders would stay at the summit as long as needed to find a solution.

Tusk said leaders agreed that they should work on a loan rather than other options, but stressed that they had many hours of increasingly technical discussions ahead of them.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who took part in the summit, urged the bloc to agree on a deal he said would allow Ukraine to keep fighting.

"The decision now on the table – the decision to fully use Russian assets to defend against Russian aggression – is one of the clearest and most morally justified decisions that could ever be made," he said.

"If this decision isn't made now, the Russians – and not only them

– will feel that Europe can be defeated."

Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever told his country's parliament early yesterday that he had not yet seen guarantees that answered his concerns on legal and liquidity risks and that financing plans were still changing "as we speak".

Russia's central bank has said the EU plans to use its assets are illegal. It filed a lawsuit in Moscow this week seeking \$230bn in damages from clearing house Euroclear.

The stakes are high because without the EU's financial help Ukraine will run out of money in the second quarter of next year and most likely lose the war to Russia, which the EU fears would bring closer the threat of Russian aggression against the bloc.

Kallas put the chances of a deal on the assets at 50/50. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said: "My impression is that we can come to an agreement."

The latest draft version of the summit conclusions, which is not yet agreed and could still change substantially, proposes that the leaders take the political decision of going ahead with the repatriation loan, and task officials with "urgently" sorting out the details.

Dubai residents urged to stay indoors because of rain



Dubai police yesterday urged residents to stay indoors unless it was "absolutely necessary" as heavy rainfall was expected in the country which saw record downpours last year. The warning came hours after rainfall in the city caused flooding in streets. "For your safety, please remain cautious as unstable weather conditions are expected in the coming hours, and avoid going out unless it is absolutely necessary until midday today," said a police alert sent to residents' phones. The National Center of Meteorology (NCM) in the United Arab Emirates warned of rainfall across the country from Thursday to Friday, including in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Farmer protest turns ugly as EU-Mercosur deal teeters

AFF
Brussels, Belgium

Protesters lit fires and hurled potatoes at riot police who responded with teargas and water cannon in Brussels yesterday, as tensions boiled over at a farmer demonstration against the EU's planned trade deal with South American bloc Mercosur. About 1,000 honking tractors rolled into the Belgian capital to

heap pressure on an EU leaders' summit where the deal's fate hung in the balance. "We're here to say no to Mercosur," Belgian dairy farmer Maxime Mabille said, accusing European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen of seeking to "force the deal through". At least 7,000 farmers staged a mostly peaceful march through the capital's European quarter, where the Mercosur deal loomed large over an EU summit focused on funding Ukraine's war effort.

But rowdy scenes erupted outside the European Parliament, where protesters set off fireworks and hurled tubers, bottles and other objects at the police who responded with tear gas. Police charged several times to clear the area. Some minor scuffles ensued and at least a handful of people were arrested. Tractors blocked roads leading to the parliament building with some at times driving up to police lines in a confrontational manner.

French doctor jailed for poisoning 30 patients, killing 12

A French court yesterday sentenced a doctor to life in jail for poisoning 30 child and adult patients, 12 of whom died, reportedly in an attempt to discredit co-workers. Frederic Pechier, 53, worked as an anaesthetist in two clinics in the eastern city of Besancon, when patients went into cardiac arrest in suspicious circumstances between 2008 and 2017. Twelve could not be resuscitated. Pechier's youngest victim, a four-year-old, survived two cardiac arrests during routine tonsil surgery in 2016. The oldest victim was 89. "You will be incarcerated immediately," presiding judge Delphine Thibierge said. He was also banned from ever practising medicine again. A lawyer from the firm representing him, Ornella Spatafora, said Pechier would appeal. During the more than three-month trial, prosecutors called for Pechier to be jailed for life, saying he "used medicine to kill".

Anti-India protest in Bangladesh



Bangladeshi police try to stop demonstrators as they march towards the assistant Indian high commissioner office in Rajshahi yesterday. Bangladesh police yesterday stopped protestors from marching towards an Indian diplomatic post, a day after India's foreign ministry conveyed its concerns over the "deteriorating" security environment in the country. Ties between both countries have been frosty since former prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India following a student-led uprising last year.

Thailand hits building in Cambodia's border town

AFF
Phnom Penh

Thailand yesterday bombed a building in a Cambodian casino town and major crossing between the two nations, as foreign powers pressured them to halt reignited border clashes.

Thai fighter jets dropped three bombs in an area of Poipet city, the Cambodian interior ministry said in a statement.

The attack damaged a warehouse and other property, leaving two civilians with minor injuries, it said. Thai air force spokesman Jackkrit Thammavichai told reporters the strike destroyed a "logistics centre" used to store rockets. "These are facilities that have been used for military purposes," he said. The renewed fighting between the Southeast Asian neighbours

this month has killed at least 21 people in Thailand and 18 in Cambodia, while displacing more than 800,000, officials said.

The conflict stems from a territorial dispute over the colonial-era demarcation of their 800km border and a smattering of ancient temple ruins situated on the frontier.

Each side has blamed the other for instigating the fresh fighting and traded accusations of attacks on civilians.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk called in a statement yesterday for an immediate ceasefire.

"Ensuring the safety of civilians and enabling their safe return home is vital," Turk said.

Thailand said Tuesday that between 5,000 and 6,000 Thai nationals remained stranded in Poipet after Cambodia closed its land border crossings with its neighbour.

US announces \$11bn arms package for Taiwan

Reuters
Taipei/Washington

The Trump administration yesterday announced \$11.1bn in arms sales to Taiwan, the largest ever US weapons package for the island which is under increasing military pressure from China.

The Taiwan arms sale announcement is the second under US President Donald Trump's current administration, and comes as Beijing ramps up its military and diplomatic pressure against Taiwan, whose government rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims.

The proposed arms sales cover

eight items, including HIMARS rocket systems, howitzers, Javelin anti-tank missiles, Altius loitering munition drones and parts for other equipment, Taiwan's defence ministry said in a statement.

"The US continues to assist Taiwan in maintaining sufficient self-defence capabilities and in rapidly building strong deterrent power and leveraging asymmetric warfare advantages, which form the foundation for maintaining regional peace and stability," it added.

The package must be approved by the US Congress, where Taiwan has widespread cross-party support.

In a series of separate statements

announcing details of the weapons deal, the Pentagon said the arms sales serve US national, economic and security interests by supporting Taiwan's continuing efforts to modernise its armed forces and to maintain a "credible defensive capability".

Pushed by the US, Taiwan has been working to transform its armed forces to be able to wage "asymmetric warfare", using mobile, smaller and often cheaper weapons which still pack a targeted punch, like drones.

"Our country will continue to promote defence reforms, strengthen whole-of-society defence resilience, demonstrate our

determination to defend ourselves, and safeguard peace through strength," Taiwan presidential office spokesperson Karen Kuo said in a statement, thanking the US for the sales.

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te last month announced a \$40bn supplementary defence budget, to run from 2026 to 2033, saying there was "no room for compromise on national security".

China's foreign ministry expressed anger, as it does with all US arms sales to Taiwan, saying the deal "severely undermines peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait" and demanded an end to such deals. "By aiding 'Taiwan independ-

ence' with weapons, the US side will only bring fire upon itself; using Taiwan to contain China is absolutely doomed to fail," ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said in Beijing.

Rupert Hammond-Chambers, president of the US-Taiwan Business Council, said weapons like the HIMARS, which have been used extensively by Ukraine against Russian forces, could play an essential role in destroying an invading Chinese force.

"This bundle of congressional notifications, a record in US security assistance for Taiwan, is a response to the threat from China and the demand from Trump

that partners and allies do more to secure their own defence," he added.

The announcement followed an unannounced trip by Taiwan's Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung to the Washington area last week to meet US officials, according to two sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Reuters was unable to determine the agenda of the meetings and Taiwan's foreign ministry declined to comment.

Washington has formal diplomatic ties with Beijing, but maintains unofficial ties with Taiwan and is the island's most important arms supplier.

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

Trump – a year of ruling by executive order

With a stroke of his favourite black pen, Donald Trump has signed what should become his 221st executive order since January – a figure that exceeds the number in his entire first term, as he forges ahead with one of the biggest displays of US presidential power in modern history. To promote artificial intelligence, fight “woke” culture and even increase the water flow of showers, Trump has churned out executive orders at a rate unprecedented since World War II, according to an AFP analysis.

The latest, signed Monday, classifies fentanyl as “a weapon of mass destruction”. Previously, 220 texts – which are legally binding and do not need Congressional approval – have been published in the Federal Register, according to its update on Tuesday.

The total is more than he had signed during his first stint at the White House between 2017 and 2021 – and far more than his predecessors Joe Biden, Barack Obama and George W. Bush, who only signed an average of 30 to 40 per year.

Only Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt – who over four terms signed nearly 4,000 executive orders between 1933 and 1945 – produced at Trump’s rate, although that occurred in the context of the Great Depression and World War II.

Trump, who returned to the White House on January 20, has relied on executive orders despite having a congressional majority.

“These orders are a part of a communications strategy,” John Woolley, professor of political science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, told AFP.

“It’s a way of signalling to important constituent groups that he is advancing ‘the cause,’” said Woolley who is also co-director of the American Presidency Project website, the main independent source of archives and analysis on the US presidency.

More than 20 of them have already been blocked at least provisionally or partially by the courts

An AFP analysis of official government data shows that the majority – nearly 60% – deal with domestic issues, while fewer than 10% concern pure foreign policy. The rest cover miscellaneous matters.

Social issues dominate, ranging from culture and civil rights to education and health. These account for roughly 30% of all orders, surpassing trade, economy and investment (around 20%) and government reform (around 18%).

Immigration and security – his main campaign theme in 2024 – rank fourth at around 10%. The orders classified within the social issues category include some that explicitly reference an “ideology” or value judgments.

For example, a July 23 order calls for AI systems to ban models that give attention to diversity and inclusion concerns, reflecting the Trump administration’s anti-“woke” agenda. Another order from August 28 decrees that “classical and traditional architecture” is the preferred style for federal buildings.

Questions have been raised over whether governing by executive orders is efficient, given the number of texts disputed in court. According to the independent legal website Just Security, which is linked to New York University School of Law, just over one fifth of Trump’s orders have been challenged in court. More than 20 of them have already been blocked at least provisionally or partially by the courts.

In late August a federal appeals court ruled a large part of the texts on the new customs duties illegal. The Supreme Court, whose conservative majority was bolstered by Trump during his first term and has been called to rule on the matter, appeared sceptical of the legality behind a swath of Trump’s tariffs in a November 5 hearing. But Trump is not “afraid of being attacked about the substance of the orders,” Woolley said. “He is deliberately testing the limits of the law.”

“His bet is that on most of the big issues, the Supreme Court will agree with a lot of his view of executive power.” An AFP analysis of the language and vocabulary used in Trump’s executive orders shows a characteristically direct style.

He uses, for example, the verb “impose” five times more than his three predecessors. His language also appears more patriotic: he speaks of the “nation” two to three times more often than Biden, Obama and Bush and the “American people” two times more.

In another difference, he attacks the previous administration frequently, accusing it, for example, of having let in millions of illegal immigrants.

More than 15% of the orders can be listed as “settling of scores”. “No prior president issued orders explicitly attacking his critics and prior opponents,” said Woolley.

In November Trump said that all executive orders and documents signed by autopen, which replicates signatures, under Biden were “terminated” on the basis of allegations that Biden has rejected. — AFP

To Advertise

gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display

44466621
44418811

Classified

44466609 44418811
gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

circulation@gulf-times.com

© 2025 Gulf Times. All rights reserved

New York readies for New Year



The numerals ‘2026’ arrive for the Times Square New Year’s Eve celebrations in New York City yesterday. (Reuters)

10 years after Paris Agreement, let’s redouble our efforts



By Emmanuel Macron
Paris

It has been ten years since the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21), where 195 states made a historic commitment to work together to keep the long-term rise in global temperatures well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to no more than 1.5°C. France played its full part in making this great moment of co-operation and universal solidarity a success. A decade later, we can be proud of how far we have come.

In France, we have reduced our greenhouse-gas emissions by 30% compared with 1990, including 20% between 2017 and 2024. We went from a reduction of less than 1% per year before 2017 to annual reductions of more than 2% on average from 2017 to 2021 – and more than 4% on average between 2022 and 2024. Our goal is a 50% reduction by 2030, which means 270mn fewer tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere every year.

These results are France’s collective achievement – the success of our unique approach to ecology, which combines progress and protection, and enables us to reduce both emissions and unemployment at the same time. We never impose a rule without providing an accessible alternative. We refuse to sacrifice our competitiveness. We aim to combine sovereignty, employment, and decarbonisation.

How? Through clear choices. I have placed ecology at the heart of all our economic, planning, energy, agricultural, and industrial policies. I have also directly tasked the Prime

Minister with ecological and energy planning. The just-published National Low-Carbon Strategy is a case in point: it sets our course toward carbon neutrality, shaping all our policies.

We rely on six essential principles:

Respecting and protecting science

We are guided by the consensus of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which last week launched the preparation of its seventh report and held its first meeting with all its authors here in Paris. This is why we invest so heavily in climate research and innovation – to find new decarbonisation solutions.

Through our Research Programming Law and France 2030 programme, we have funded highly practical research and hundreds of projects related to climate change in various fields, from small modular nuclear reactors and low-carbon hydrogen to sustainable fuels and water management. At a time when scientific voices are being challenged, we will continue to accelerate in this area and attract the best researchers through our Choose France for Science programmes.

Ending dependence on imported fossil fuels

We are choosing a decarbonised and sovereign energy system – essential for both national independence and climate protection. As early as 2022 in Belfort, I outlined the main pillars of our energy policy: reducing fossil-fuel consumption, developing renewable energies, and relaunching nuclear power. This has succeeded: In 2024, our electricity was more than 95% decarbonised – a world-leading achievement.

After unprecedented consultation and planning, we have identified the zones where offshore wind farms will be developed by 2050. We have revived the nuclear sector, with initial construction and financing already underway on six new EPR2 reactors, and we are developing small reactors for heat production. We are building a truly sovereign energy industry, and I intend to go even further: by 2027, we will close or convert the last coal-fired power plants.

Helping our industries decarbonise

Reindustrialising France means helping to decarbonise the world. Green investment in France has increased by nearly 30% over the past three years, and green industry accounted for one in three new factories in 2024. We have already launched decarbonisation efforts for the 50 largest industrial sites – the biggest emitters, representing about 10% of France’s total emissions. By 2030, these sites will have halved their emissions.

Our green industries are creating jobs throughout our regions. It is here, throughout France, that we plan to produce our electric vehicles (like the Renault R5 in Douai), batteries, heat pumps, and solar panels.

We must continue this effort as Europeans as well – to keep simplifying, innovating, and better protecting these industries against unfair competition. I hope that the European Commission’s upcoming announcements will show that momentum is building, with a genuine “European preference,” so that Europe truly becomes the site of the world’s most ambitious decarbonisation projects.

Maintaining France’s goal of progress for people

Ecology must improve people’s daily lives. Renovating our homes allows everyone to lower their energy bills, helps the country reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and increases everyone’s quality of life.

This ambition for progress requires constant attention to equality and purchasing power. Through our social leasing programme, 50,000 low-income households were able to acquire a new vehicle in 2024 for less than €100 (\$117) per month, and another 50,000 will benefit this year. Through MaPrimeRénov’ and the Energy Savings Certificates programme, we have made this transition accessible. Making it to the end of the month doesn’t have to mean hastening the end of the world.

Adapting to climate change

We must prepare for the consequences of climate change, which are already here and accelerating. We have adopted our

third National Adaptation Plan and defined a reference pathway to align all our policies – from the local to the national level.

Carrying the fight to Europe and the world

Europe is the most climate-ambitious continent, with the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. The European Union is also the world’s leading provider of climate finance. France fully embraces its role as a guarantor of the Paris agreement and of global climate ambition.

To this end, in 2017, I launched the One Planet Summit to build cross-sector coalitions capable of acting simultaneously on emissions reduction and adaptation projects. Since then, we have launched 50 concrete initiatives to fight climate change. And our programmes led, in record time, to the UN’s adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the High Seas Treaty, as well as to the mobilisation of €4bn to combat plastic pollution and over €19bn for biodiversity protection and food security.

Ten years after COP21, France also hosted the UN Ocean Conference, aimed at protecting unique ecosystems that are vital to the climate. We lead this effort with respect for the national sovereignty of all. We support Just Energy Transition Partnerships and seek innovative financing solutions that align private investment flows with global decarbonisation goals. This was the message I carried at COP30 in Belém.

The decade since COP21 has been a period of success and ambition. But it has also been marked by international tensions, the questioning of science, international division, and efforts to erase the universal ideal of liberty and fraternity among peoples. As always, France will play its full part in the struggle for our climate and our planet, guided by respect for science, industrial ambition, progress, solidarity, and the exemplary leadership of Europe.

Let us make the coming decade a time of collective success. I am certain that we will – if we remain faithful to the commitments we made in Paris ten years ago. Project Syndicate

• Emmanuel Macron is President of France.





‘Know Allah in prosperity, and He will know you in adversity’

In his comprehensive advice to Ibn ‘Abbaas, may Allah be pleased with him, and all Muslims after him, the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam* (may Allah exalt his mention), said: “Know Allah in prosperity, and He will know you in adversity.” [This addition was authentically attributed to the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, cited by At-Tirmithi and others, and a number of scholars classified it as authentic]

This is an invaluable piece of advice for you, dear Muslim, if you wish that Allah, The Exalted, protects you during times of adversity and tribulation, shields you against misfortune and afflictions, and guards your religiosity against temptations that lead you astray. So know Allah at times of prosperity. When a slave of Allah fears his Lord at times of prosperity, honours His boundaries, fulfils His Rights over him, obeys His Commandments, avoids His Prohibitions, and glorifies Him at all times and in all states, he develops a special knowledge of Allah and a love and affection for Him that entail earning His Protection at times of adversity.

If you are enjoying good health and wellness, wealth and richness, safety and welfare, (find) comfort in your family, tranquillity in your marital life, your children are obedient to you, and your affairs are favourably going well, as you wish, then you are indeed relishing prosperity and bliss. This should not hinder you from devoting time to worship, abundantly supplicating Allah, reciting Qur’an and *Thikr* (expressions of remembrance of Allah), and performing good deeds.

Do not be an ungrateful slave who only knows his Lord and turns to him during times of need and destitution.

Do not be an ungrateful slave who sup-plicates his Lord (only) when afflictions befall him, then, whenever He bestows upon him a blessing, he forgets Him Whom he once called upon and ascribes equals to Him! Instead, accustom yourself to resort to Allah before adversities befall you. All people are good at turning to Allah during times of adversity and need, even the Arab polytheists (in the early days of Islam), the disbelievers all over the world, and the atheists throughout the history of mankind. Allah, The Exalted, Says (what means) about them: {And when they board a ship, they supplicate Allah, sincere to Him in religion. But when He delivers them to the land, at once they associate others with Him.} [Qur’an 29: 65]

A brother related to us that he once boarded a plane departing from an Arab capital city and heading to Moscow, the capital of atheism in the world. The plane



carried a large number of those who say: “There is no god.” During the flight, the plane flew into a thundercloud and was tossed violently in extreme turbulence, so much so that all the passengers were certain of their imminent demise! He said: “Every single passenger on that plane raised his hands asking Allah to save him.” Allah, The Exalted, spoke the truth when He Said (what means): {It is He Who enables you to travel on land and sea until, when you are in ships and they sail with them by a good wind and they rejoice therein, there comes a storm wind and the waves come upon them from everywhere and they assume that they are surrounded, supplicating Allah, sincere to Him in religion, “If You should save us from this, we will surely be among the thankful.” But when He saves them, at once they commit injustice upon the earth without right...} [Qur’an 10: 22-23]

True Heroism

Heroism is not in remembering Allah, The Exalted, at times of need, destitution, adversity, and distress. Everyone is good at that, as we said before. True heroism, rather, is in remembering Him at times of prosperity, showing gratitude to Him for His Blessings, striving to earn His Pleas-

ure (through good doing), fulfilling His Rights, and adhering to the (straight) path He chose for you.

As for those who do not know their Lord except at times of adversity and forget Him at times of bliss and well-being, Allah, The Exalted, rebuked their behaviour and dispraised them in many verses of the Qur’an. He Says (what means):

{And when adversity touches man, he calls upon his Lord, turning to Him [alone]; then when He bestows on him a favour from Himself, he forgets Him Whom he called upon before, and he attributes to Allah equals to mislead [people] from His way. Say, “Enjoy your disbelief for a little; indeed, you are of the companions of the Fire.”} [Qur’an 39:8]

{And when affliction touches man, he calls upon Us, whether lying on his side or sitting or standing; but when We remove from him his affliction, he continues [in disobedience] as if he had never called upon Us to [remove] an affliction that touched him. Thus is made pleasing to the transgressors that which they have been doing.} [Qur’an 10:12]

{And when We bestow favour upon man, he turns away and distances himself; but when evil touches him, then he is full of extensive supplication.} [Qur’an 41:51]

There are many verses to the same effect, and they point to a reality that most of us live. As long as we are relishing well-being, we are heedless of Allah, far from Him, far from worshipping and obeying Him, and neglectful of supplicating Him. However, the moment an adversity, anguish, disease, or tribulation befalls us, we raise our hands to Him with extensive supplication.

During times of adversity, Allah, The Exalted, only answers the supplications of those who knew Him and turned to Him during times of prosperity. Therefore, accustom yourself to resort to Allah before adversity befalls you, sharpen your arrows (of supplication) before shooting them (to ensure their acceptance), and increase your credit (of good deeds) with Allah, The Exalted, at the time of ease so that you could withdraw from it at times of need and distress.

Ponder over how Allah, The Exalted, treated His slave Yunus ibn Matta (Prophet Jonah), may Allah exalt his mention, when the whale swallowed him. He called upon his Lord while enveloped in three layers of darkness: the darkness of the night, the darkness of the sea, and the darkness of the whale’s belly. Allah, The Exalted, Says (what means): {...And he called out within the darknesses, “There is no deity except

You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers.”} [Qur’an 21:87] Allah also Says (what means): {So, We responded to him and saved him from the distress. And thus do We save the believers.} [Qur’an 21:88] Allah, The Exalted, clarified the reason for accepting his supplication and saving him from this strange place from which no one ever comes out alive. He Says (what means): {And had he not been of those who exalt Allah, He would have remained inside its belly until the Day they are resurrected.} [Qur’an 37:143-144] This means that if it were not for his abundant remembrance of Allah, supplication, and obedience at time of prosperity, He would not have saved him during times of distress and adversity.

On the opposite end is Fir’awn (Pharaoh), may Allah curse him, who was blessed with Allah’s Favours but arrogantly disobeyed Him, disbelieved, and stubbornly failed to show gratitude to Him for His Blessings and Grace. When he was drowning, he supplicated his Lord – just as Yunus did – but the response was drastically different; Allah, The Exalted, Says (what means): {Now? And you had disobeyed before and were of the corrupters?} [Qur’an 10:91] It means, “At the time of prosperity, you disbelieved, turned arrogant and tyrannical, and you forgot your Lord, and therefore, you do not have any credit with Us like the credit Yunus had, so: {...today We will save you in body that you may be to those who succeed you a sign...} [Qur’an 10:92]

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “Whoever wishes that Allah answers his supplication during hardship and grief, let him supplicate plentifully at times of ease.” [At-Tirmithi, and Al-Haakim: authentic]

If you wish that Allah, The Exalted, aids you at the time of misfortune the way you like, then you should devote yourself to Him (in worship and obedience) at the time of prosperity the way He likes. If you wish Allah to know you at the time of adversity, you should know Him at the time of blissfulness and ease, as the Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “Know Allah in prosperity, and He will know you in adversity.”

May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our master Muhammad, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, his family, and his Companions.

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/>



Having good expectations of Allah: An act of worship and key to happiness

Having good expectations of Allah, The Exalted, is a great act of worship that a believer should fill his heart with in all his states and throughout his life. He should evoke his good expectations of Allah with regard to receiving guidance and *Rizq* (provision) and whenever he hopes for the righteousness of his offspring, the acceptance of his supplications, the forgiveness of his sins, and in all his affairs.

Ibn Mas’ood, may Allah be pleased with him, said: “By Allah, a believer is not endowed with a better blessing than having good expectations of Allah. By Allah, no person expects good of Him except that He gives him what he expected; for all good lies in His Hand.” [Ibn Abi Ad-Dunya]

How wonderful it is to have good expectations of Allah and be certain that one’s heartbreak will be healed, his hardship will be relieved, his toil will be succeeded by comfort, his tears will be replaced with smiles, his sickness will be followed by recovery, and that after the worldly life comes to an end, there will be Paradise as wide as the heavens and the earth, prepared for the righteous.

An Arab poet said (what means):
Say to the one whose heart is filled with pessimism

Who goes around narrowing the horizons around us

The secret of happiness is having good expectation of the One

Who created life and divided Rizq among the creation

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam* (may Allah exalt his mention), said in a *Qudsi Hadith*: “Allah, the Exalted, Says, ‘I am as my slave expects me to be.’” When a person expects good of Allah, He showers him with His abundant blessings and generous bounties. When he believes with certainty that Allah intends good for him, Allah will bestow upon him of His blessings what is beyond his imagination. Allah, The Exalted, treats His slaves in accord-

ance with their expectations of Him and grants them what they expect of Him and much more.

When you supplicate Allah, The Exalted, you should have good expectations of Him that He will accept your supplication. When you give in charity for His sake, you should have good expectations of Him that He will reward you. When you give up something for His sake, you should have good expectations of Him that He will compensate you with what is better than what you gave up. When you seek forgiveness, you should have good expectations of Allah that He will forgive you and replace your sins with good deeds.

An Arab poet said (what means):
If distress grows more severe, the door to Allah is wide open

The one who returns to Allah will never fail

Whenever you are overwhelmed with distress, say ‘O Merciful Lord,’

He will relieve your distress and bless you with rewards

Always have good expectations of The Most Generous

And His Grace will indeed amaze you

Al-Ma’moon said to Muhammad ibn ‘Abbaad: “I was informed that you show hospitality to all the visitors of Basra!” He responded: “Withholding generosity implies having bad expectations of Allah.” Another version of his response reads: “He who has a rich master (i.e. Allah) can never become poor!”

Times when having good expectations of Allah is further emphasised:

First: during times of crises, afflictions, sacrifices, overwhelming *Fitnah* (temptations), misfortune, debts (insolvency), poverty, and the like.

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “Whoever is afflicted with destitution and refers it to Allah (i.e. beseeches Him for relief), Allah will grant him provision sooner or later.” [Abu Daawood, At-Tirmithi, and Al-Haakim]

The Qur’an mentions the state of the Prophets when harsh adversities befall

them; they had good expectations of their Lord with certitude and trust in His promise. Their actions were based on firm conviction rather than passing thoughts. An example is the response of Moosa (Moses), may Allah exalt his mention, to his people when they said (what means): {...“Indeed, we are to be overtaken!” [Moosa] said, “No! Indeed, with me is my Lord; He will guide me.” Then, We inspired to Moosa, “Strike with your staff the sea,” and it parted, and each portion was like a great towering mountain.} [Qur’an 26:61-63]

When you supplicate Allah, The Exalted, you should have good expectations of Him that He will accept your supplication. When you give in charity for His sake, you should have good expectations of Him that He will reward you. When you give up something for His sake, you should have good expectations of Him that He will compensate you with what is better than what you gave up. When you seek forgiveness, you should have good expectations of Allah that He will forgive you and replace your sins with good deeds

Another example is what Muhammad, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said to Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, when his enemies were standing by the entrance of the cave (where they were hiding) (what means): {Do not grieve; indeed, Allah is with us.} [Qur’an 9:40]. He, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said to his Companion: “O Abu Bakr! What do you think of two (persons) the third of whom is Allah?”

An Arab poet said (what means):
Expect the doings of your Lord to come
With what you wish for of prompt relief
And do not despair when calamity befalls
As the unseen (future) may be holding astonishing surprises in store for you.

Second: when making supplication

When a person is devoted to supplication, no matter how harsh the calamities that befall him may be, he is never overwhelmed by them and is always guided to find ways out of them. His affairs are facilitated and all his efforts are blessed with success. The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “Surely, the one who supplicates (Allah) will never be destroyed (i.e. will never lose).” [Al-Haakim

in *Al-Mustadrak*] Another *Hadith* reads: “Call upon Allah while being certain of being answered.” [At-Tirmithi]

‘Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, said: “I do not worry about having my supplication answered, but I worry about making supplication (in the first place). If I am inspired to make supplication, then the answer comes with it.”

Third: at the time of repentance:

A Muslim should be confident in the vastness of the Mercy of Allah and that He accepts the repentance of His slaves and pardons their bad deeds.

Al-Fudhayl went to Sufyaan Ath-Thawri, may Allah have mercy upon them, on the Day of ‘Arafah and asked him: “Who among the people is in the worst condition on this day?” He answered: “The ones who think that Allah will not forgive them.” This is because doubting His Forgiveness constitutes having ill expectations of Allah, The All-Forgiving, Whose vast Mercy encompasses all things.

Fourth: during the agony of death

The Prophet, *sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam*, said: “Let none of you die except while he has good expectations of Allah.” [Muslim]

Ibraaheem An-Nakha’I, may Allah have mercy upon him, said: “They liked reminding a dying person of his good deeds so that he would have good expectations of his Lord.”

A Bedouin fell ill and the doctor said to him: “You are dying.” He said: “And where will I go next?” The doctor said: “To (meet) Allah!” The Bedouin said: “Why would I dislike going to the One Who Alone is the source of all good things?”

A dying man was asked: “What do you think Allah will do to you?” He said: “He has honoured me in my abode (the worldly life), so He will not honour me any less when I am in His Abode.”

A Bedouin asked Ibn ‘Abbaas, may Allah be pleased with them: “Who will hold people accountable on the Day of Judgment?” He replied: “Allah.” The Bedouin said: “By the Lord of the Ka’aba, I have been saved! When the Most Generous is in a position to punish, He shows mercy, and when He brings to account, He pardons.”

Al-Hasan al-Basri, may Allah have mercy on him, said, warning and explaining the difference between having good expectations of Allah and being tempted and deluded by the worldly life: “There are people whose confidence in forgiveness diverts them from performing good deeds, so much so that they die without having a single good deed. . They proclaim: ‘we have good expectation of Allah! Surely, they are liars, for if they had good expectations [of Him], they would have done good [to support their claim]!”

An Arab poet said (what means):
Contemplate life and you will notice things and marvel at how they went down

How many were the anguishes that made eyes weep, but when Allah, The Most Generous, alleviated them for us, they became easy to bear

And how many were the needs that seemed like a mirage, but when Allah willed it, they became attainable

How much bitterness have we tasted, but it faded away despite the harshness of life

This is the way of the world; if you adorn it with patience, it becomes adorned with prosperity

Oh Allah, bless us with having good expectations of You, showing genuine reliance on You, and relishing the sweetness of acknowledging our need of You.

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/>



Amir graces QND parade

From Page 1

Other dignitaries who attended the parade included HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, along with a number of sheikhs, ministers, dignitaries, heads of diplomatic missions in Qatar and other guests of the country.

As soon as His Highness the Amir arrived at the venue, the national anthem was played followed by the recitation of the Holy Qur'an and the firing of 18 artillery salute in celebration of National Day and the anniversary of the founding of Qatar.

Following that various segments of the military and security forces took part in the parade. Before the start of the parade, there was an aerial display by the Qatar Amiri Air Force, featuring various types of airlift aircraft and helicopters, alongside fighter jets and multi-mission rotorcraft.

This was followed by the display by the fleet of the Qatari Amiri Naval Forces, showcasing the latest technologies in defensive maritime industries and the coastal defence battery equipped with the newest defensive and offensive systems.

The parade commenced with the entry of the State flag and the marching units participating in the parade from the Ministry of Defence, led by infantry from the Qatar Amiri Land Forces, the Qatar Amiri Air Force, the Qatari Amiri Naval Forces, the Qatar Amiri Air Defence Forces, the Military Police, and a number of Qatar Armed Forces units, along with their vehicles, including armoured vehicles, tanks, and air-defence systems.

This was followed by the entry of infantry from the Qatar Amiri Guard and the Joint Special Forces specialised in operations and counterterrorism under the Amiri Guard.

The parade then saw the entry of the infantry units of officers from the security departments, colleges, centres, and military institutes, as well as riot-control units under the Ministry of Interior alongside a display of columns of modern vehicles, advanced patrol units, support helicopters, and numerous integrated security systems prepared to safeguard the nation's security.

This was followed by the entry of contingents from the Internal Security Force (Le-khwiya) and officer detachments from various military entities.

The National Day parade concluded with the entry of international military bands from Oman, Jordan, Turkiye, Kazakhstan, the UK and the US, in addition to the Amiri Guard Cubs and a group of horsemen and camel riders from the Amiri Guard.

After the parade was concluded, His Highness the Amir and other dignitaries walked through the parade route and greeted and interacted with the crowd.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani at the closing ceremony of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 at Lusail Stadium last night. His Highness the Amir handed over the championship trophy to the Moroccan team, who secured the title after a 3-2 victory over Jordan. - QNA



Morocco's Hamza Hannouri celebrates after winning the FIFA Arab Cup. - Reuters



A man blows on a vuvuzela as he sells national flags in Rabat during celebrations following their team's victory in the FIFA Arab Cup 2025 final at Lusail Stadium in Doha. - AFP

Amir hails organisation of Arab Cup

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has expressed his pride at the organisation of the FIFA Arab Cup and hoped it will reinforce Arab brotherhood.

In a message on X, His Highness the Amir said: "We are proud of the meticulous organisation and outstanding athletic performance that distinguished the FIFA Arab Cup as well as the sentiments of brotherhood and respect it embodied."

"Congratulations to the Moroccan national team for winning the title and to the Jordanian national team for securing second place, hoping that this football event remains a unifying factor for all Arab brothers."



Fireworks display



Fireworks illuminated the sky above Lusail Stadium last night as celebrations followed the Arab Cup finals 2025, turning it into a centrepiece of national pride on Qatar National Day. PICTURE: Shemeer Rasheed