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Amir, Syrian president discuss developments

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed the latest developments in Syria with President Ahmed al-Sharaa. This followed a telephone call His Highness the Amir received yesterday from the Syrian president. During the call, the two leaders emphasised the importance of preserving Syria's unity and territorial integrity. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in various fields. (QNA)

• **Qatar welcomes truce between Syrian govt and SDF → Page 2**

Ali al-Thawadi to represent Qatar on Gaza Exec Board

Qatar's International Media Office (IMO) announced the appointment of HE Ali al-Thawadi, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office for Strategic Affairs, to the Gaza Executive Board. The appointment reflects Qatar's continuing commitment to advancing peace, stability, and reconstruction efforts in Gaza through active diplomatic engagement and international co-operation.

The IMO issued the following statement with regard to the appointment:

"The State of Qatar continues to play an active role in regional peace efforts, including in relation to the mediation between Israel and Hamas, working with international partners to de-escalate tensions and promote lasting peace."

In this context, His Excellency Ali al-Thawadi, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office for strategic affairs, has been appointed to represent the State of Qatar on the Gaza Executive Board, supporting international efforts for effective governance and long-term, sustainable peace, stability, and prosperity for the people of Gaza. "His Excellency has been a key figure and effective facilitator in Qatar's mediation efforts, engaging in sustained dialogue with Israel, Hamas, and mediation partners to secure the release of several hostages held by Hamas, negotiate much-needed aid to Palestinians, and to negotiate ceasefire agreements. His Excellency has also played a central role in Qatar's contribution to President Trump's 20-point plan to end the war."

Amir, Carney eye broad horizons

• Wide ranging talks focus on co-operation in various fields

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a session of official talks with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

The talks began with HH the Amir welcoming the Canadian PM and his accompanying delegation and wishing them a pleasant stay. His Highness expressed his hope that the prime minister's state visit would contribute to expanding the prospects for bilateral co-operation in a way that serves the interests of both friendly countries, wishing further progress and prosperity for the Qatari-Canadian relations.

The Canadian premier extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to HH the Amir for the warm welcome and generous hospitality, affirming his country's keenness to strengthen the bonds of friendship and co-operation with Qatar and propel them to broader horizons in various fields.

The talks discussed co-operation between the two countries and ways to support and develop it across various fields, particularly in the areas of economy, investment, defence, security, education, and health. They also exchanged views on boosting security and stability in the region and promoting international peace.

The session was attended by HE the Chief of the Amiri Diwan Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Khulaifi; HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwaiti; HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi; HE the Minister of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi; HE the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed al-Sayed; along with Their Excellencies the senior officials.

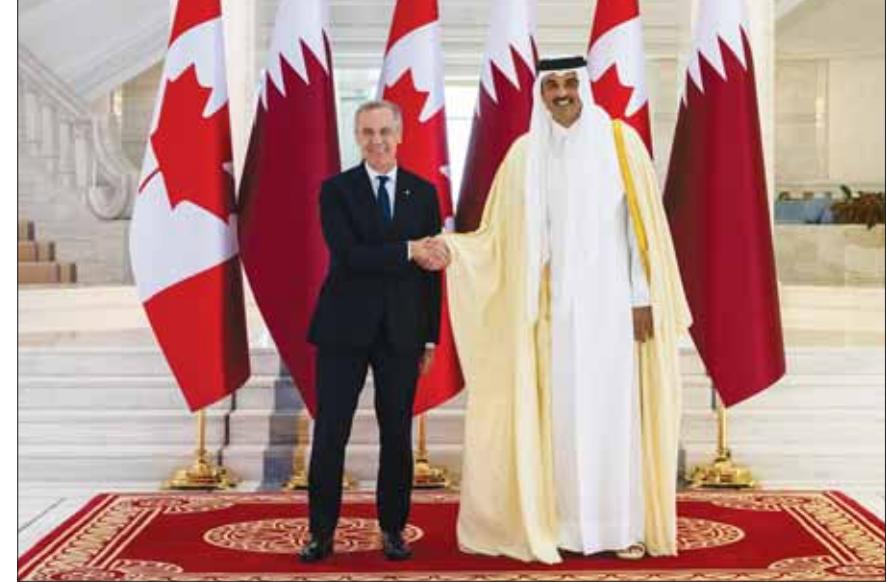
On the Canadian side, the session was attended by Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development Melanie Joly; Minister of Finance and National Revenue Francois-Philippe Champagne; Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand; Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Tim Hodson; and several members of the official delegation.

Following the talks, HH the Amir and the Canadian Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting, during which they discussed a range of issues of mutual interest.

HH the Amir hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting prime minister and his accompanying delegation.

Upon arriving at the Amiri Diwan, the Canadian premier was accorded an official reception.

(QNA) Page 12



WARM WELCOME: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani welcoming Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney yesterday.

Amir affirms expanded co-operation

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani affirmed that he discussed with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, avenues for advancing commercial and economic co-operation between Qatar and Canada.

Posting on his official X account, HH the Amir said he discussed with Canada's Prime Minister, Mark Carney, ways to

strengthen bilateral co-operation at the commercial and economic level. His Highness added that they discussed the shared aspirations toward expanding mutual investment opportunities, thereby reinforcing the bilateral strategic partnership in critical fields, as well as regional and global developments and the two nations' efforts in this regard. (QNA)

SK Holding Consolidates Acquisition of SK Real Estate and Ariane Holding, Ushering in a New Governance-Driven Era

A national development model linking sustainable urban development with economic vitality

SK Holding announced its full acquisition of SK Real Estate and Ariane Holding, including Ariane Real Estate and Ariane Assets, in a strategic move aimed at unifying institutional decision-making, enhancing management efficiency, and establishing a more disciplined operating model with clear accountability and execution. This step is expected to directly strengthen performance quality and reinforce market and client confidence. The acquisition represents a deliberate decision to improve performance and generate real value.

Sheikh Suhaim bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani
The acquisition is not a cosmetic change, but a strategic decision to enhance performance and create real value.

His Excellency Sheikh Suhaim bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani, Owner and Chairman of SK Holding and Ariane Holding, affirmed that this transformation marks the beginning of a new era based on institutional governance, commitment, and long-term planning. He emphasized that the current phase requires greater clarity in decision-making, stronger management cohesion, and direct accountability toward projects, clients, and the market alike. He noted that unifying the entities under a single umbrella enables faster and more effective decisions, closer oversight of execution phases, enhanced accountability, and a higher level of institutional discipline. Sheikh Suhaim stated:

"The acquisition is not a cosmetic change, but a strategic decision to enhance performance and create real value. Unifying decision-making under SK Holding strengthens execution speed and accountability, and we measure our success by our ability to deliver on our commitments on the ground."



This acquisition represents a practical translation of the company's vision, which views the real estate sector not merely in terms of project scale, but through an institution's ability to honor its commitments, manage assets efficiently, and strike a balance between ambition and execution capacity. Accordingly, the decision to unify all projects under a single umbrella aims to reorder priorities, intensify efforts, and establish a new phase built on seriousness, transparency, and sustainable operations.

This transformation falls within an integrated vision centered on innovation, quality, and sustainability, and seeks to deliver a real estate development model that balances modernity with identity, contributing to the creation of integrated communities that reflect the spirit of the times while preserving the core

values of Qatari society. This vision extends from a leadership philosophy grounded in balancing local expertise with a global outlook, enabling the delivery of high-quality projects that reinforce Qatar's position as a leading destination in the real estate sector.

The vision is rooted in the firm belief that real estate is not merely an investment product, but a genuine tool for impact creation, quality-of-life enhancement, and

the development of sustainable urban environments that respond to evolving patterns of living, working, and investment. This approach embodies a new national developer model that links sustainable urban development with economic vitality and seeks to shape a future urban landscape aligned with Qatar's ambitions for regional leadership and balanced growth.

Redefining the real estate development experience can only be achieved through a more integrated and expansive vision that places sustainability, innovation, and execution quality at the heart of every project. This contributes to shaping a vibrant, modern urban environment aligned with national objectives to develop advanced and integrated urban infrastructure in harmony with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The companies take pride in their deep national roots and in managing their projects from within the local landscape, supported by a team with solid expertise and a strong ability to keep pace with market dynamics and precisely direct solutions toward real needs—enhancing operational flexibility and execution effectiveness.

Executive Leadership and the Shift from Planning to Execution

The transition of executive leadership during this pivotal phase represents a key factor in transforming strategic vision into tangible results felt by clients, partners, and the market. In this context, Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer of SK Real Estate, Ariane Real Estate, and Ariane Assets, emphasized that assuming executive responsibility at this stage is not merely an administrative assignment, but a full professional commitment to establishing clear operating foundations that translate institutional vision into measurable performance and recalibrate the relationship between planning and execution according to high professional standards.

Sheikh Jassim stated: "Assuming executive leadership responsibility during this pivotal phase represents a professional challenge we embrace with pride and a genuine opportunity to establish clear operational foundations that translate vision into tangible results felt by clients, partners, and the market." This approach aligns with his emphasis that the upcoming phase requires precise management, well-considered decisions, and a structured transition from planning to execution—ensuring timeline control, clarity of responsibilities, and actual delivery commitment. The real challenge in real estate projects lies not in launching concepts and plans, but in transforming them into reality with consistent quality, disciplined execution, and clear accountability across all operational levels.

**Amir sends condolences to Saudi king**

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

Amir congratulates Uganda president on re-election

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni on the occasion of his re-election for a new presidential term, wishing him success in performing his duties, and for the relations between the two countries further development and growth. (QNA)

Qatar Armed Forces holds joint certificate award ceremony for military colleges and academies

Under the auspices and presence of HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani, Qatar Armed Forces held the joint certificate award ceremony for the military colleges and academies. HE Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces Lieutenant General (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai attended the ceremony. The ceremony included the awarding of certificates to graduates of the 21st batch of officer cadets from Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College, the 13th batch of officer cadets



from Al Zaeem Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Attiyah Air Academy, the 4th batch of officer cadets from Mohammed bin Ghanem Al Ghanem Naval Academy, and the 4th batch of officer cadets from the Cyber Space Academy. At the conclusion of the ceremony,

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani awarded certificates to the top graduates, in the presence of a lineup of senior Qatar Armed Forces commanding officers. (QNA)

Al Zaeem Air Academy celebrates 13th batch graduation of female cadets

Al Zaeem Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Attiyah Air Academy celebrated the graduation of its 13th batch of female cadets, under the patronage and in the presence of HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali al-Thani. The ceremony was also attended by HE Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces Lieutenant General (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai. This celebration followed the graduates' completion of a four-year academic programme encompassing aviation and related air support specialisations, adhering to the highest academic and military standards.



At the conclusion of the ceremony, HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs presented the graduates with their

certificates, in the presence of several senior commanders and officers of the Qatar Armed Forces, as well as the graduates' families. (QNA)

Qatar attends meeting on consolidating peace in DRC and Great Lakes Region

Qatar took part in the High-Level Meeting on the Coherence and Consolidation of the Peace Process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Great Lakes Region, held in Lome, the capital of the Republic of Togo. Qatar was represented at the meeting by Ahmed Essa al-Sulaiti, adviser at the Office of HE the Minister of State at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting focused on addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Great Lakes region and exploring practical pathways towards achieving sustainable peace. Discussions also covered strengthening political coordination, enhancing regional security and de-escalation mechanisms, supporting

humanitarian efforts, and promoting economic integration. The meeting was held in the wake of the signing of the Doha Framework for Peace between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Congo River Alliance (M23 Movement), reflecting sustained momentum in efforts to promote peace and stability in the region. (QNA)

Minister of Interior meets Canada's FM

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 Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Anita Anand, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed several topics of mutual interest, in addition to aspects of co-operation in security fields and ways of supporting and advancing them. Following the meeting, a letter of intent (LOI) was signed between the Security Committee of Qatar and the Royal

Canadian Mounted Police to support the exchange of experiences and best practices and the partaking of Qatari security staff in the playing fields. This comes as part of the ongoing preparations for the participation of Qatari forces in securing the FIFA World Cup 2026 held in the United States of America, Canada and Mexico. The LOI was signed on the Qatari side by HE the Minister of Interior, Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya), and Chairman of the Security Committee, while for the Canadian side it was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada. (QNA)

Health minister meets Canada's PM

Prime Minister of Canada, Dr Mark Carney, met yesterday with HE the Minister of Public Health Mansoor bin Ebrahim al-Mahmoud. During the meeting, they reviewed co-operation between the countries and ways to enhance and develop them in the health field. (QNA)

**Hamad International Airport installs first EV charging station**

Hamad International Airport (DOH) has announced that the 1st Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations for the public have been installed at the ground level of the Airport's East car park.

According to its press release, Hamad International Airport said that this development was achieved thanks to a collaboration with the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corp "Kahramaa" under the National Programme for Conservation and Energy Efficiency, 'Tarsheed'.

It added that this joint effort supports the Qatar National Vision 2030 goal of reducing the country's carbon emissions by 25%.

The new fast charger can serve two vehicles simultaneously, delivering up to 50kW of power and provides approximately 125 kilometres of driving range in just 30 minutes.

Integrated with the Tarsheed Smart EV mobile app, the application enables drivers to locate charging points, check real-time status, start or stop charging sessions remotely, and track electricity usage.

Commenting on this, Senior Vice-President of Facilities

The new fast charger can serve two vehicles simultaneously, delivering up to 50kW of power and provides approximately 125 kilometres of driving range in just 30 minutes

Management at Hamad International Airport, Omar Najarri stated, "Energy conservation is a key component of Hamad International Airport's sustainability goals. Our collaboration with Kahramaa is a testament to our commitment to adopting energy-efficient practices by investing in new technologies and implementing initiatives to lower electricity use."

In turn, Manager of Conservation and Energy Efficiency Department at Kahramaa, Engineer Rashid Alrahim said, "We always seek to promote energy efficiency and smart technologies that improve the quality of life while protecting the environment. Collaborating with Hamad International Airport on the new EV charging station initiative demonstrates our shared commitment to the State of Qatar's sustainable future. Together, we are building a

cleaner, greener transportation ecosystem for the country."

The National Programme for Conservation and Energy Efficiency, 'Tarsheed' aims to encourage the use of efficient infrastructure, including smart building devices, water-saving tools, and energy-efficient building designs and systems, to minimise waste and enhance overall resource efficiency.

Hamad International Airport has already implemented several measures to reduce electricity consumption as part of its long-term sustainability roadmap. These measures include optimising district cooling plants, replacing lighting with energy-efficient alternatives, deploying smart metering for real-time monitoring and improved electricity management, with plans to expand its EV charging station initiative. (QNA)

Qatar welcomes ceasefire agreement between Syrian govt, SDF

Qatar welcomed the agreement on ceasefire and the full integration between the Syrian government and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), considering it a significant step towards consolidating civil peace, enhancing security and stability, and building a state of institutions and law. In this context, Qatar also commended the effective efforts of the friendly United States of America that contributed to reaching the agreement.

In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs stressed that the stability and prosperity of Syria require the state to have a monopoly on weapons in a single army that represents all Syrian components to guarantee the preservation of the country's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

The ministry reiterated Qatar's full support for Syria's sovereignty and unity and the aspirations of its fraternal people for freedom, development, and prosperity. (QNA)

Qatar takes part in GCC civil retirement panel meeting

The General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority (Daman) will participate in the 63rd meeting of the Technical Committee of Civil Retirement and Social Insurance Agencies of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries. Hosted by Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the three-day meeting begins today with the participation of representatives from civil retirement and social insurance agencies in the GCC member states.



It aims to strengthen joint GCC co-operation in the field of civil retirement and social insurance systems, exchange institutional expertise, and develop policies and initiatives that serve GCC citizens working both within and outside their home countries, contributing

to the establishment of a more integrated and sustainable social protection system. The meeting will discuss strategic topics on its agenda, including the action plan of the committee of heads of civil retirement and social insurance agencies for the period 2026-2030, updating the unified system for extending social security coverage to GCC citizens working outside their home countries, among others. (QNA)

PM meets Jordan's king, PM and deputy PM



King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein of Jordan met in Amman yesterday with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's greetings to the Jordan king and His Highness's wishes of good health, happiness and enduring progress and prosperity for the brotherly people of Jordan. King of Jordan entrusted HE the PM with his greetings to HH the Amir, wishing His Highness good health and happiness and the people of Qatar further development and growth. During the meeting, they discussed ways to support and boost bilateral co-operation between the countries, as well as various matters of shared interest. **Centre:** Prime Minister of Jordan, Dr. Jaafar Hassan, met in Amman yesterday with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani. During the meeting, they discussed avenues for supporting and reinforcing bilateral co-operation between the countries, as well as developments in the region, particularly in the Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories. **Right:** HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met in Amman yesterday with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Ayman Safadi. During the meeting, they addressed a range of matters of shared interest. (QNA)

MoJ and QICDRC outline Doha Legal Forum agenda

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) have organised a press conference on the inaugural Doha Legal Forum, slated to be convened from January 26 to 27, 2026.

The forum will be held under the title "Emerging Trends and Forward-Looking Insights", with broader legal participation from almost 12 nations and over 40 keynote speakers in panel discussions and roundtables.

Addressing the conference, Chief Executive Officer of QICDRC, Faisal bin Rashid al-Sahouti, said the forum is intended to be a leading global platform to reinforce justice and the rule of law, envisioning the future of legislation and the judiciary, as well as deepening Qatar's standing as a legal regional and global hub that



supports economic growth and sustainable development.

This forum is set to study the legislative, judicial, and jurisprudential developments in a variety of law branches, in addition to promoting conversation and sharing expertise among experts and decision-makers from various nations, thereby helping advance innovative legal systems and to establish an investment-

supportive environment, al-Sahouti said.

Al-Sahouti further elaborated that the forum will contribute to projecting the role of the judiciary and swift justice in bolstering investment trust, weighing up global experiences in developing investment-supportive legislation, and fashioning practical recommendations to further the legal system in support of

economic growth and sustainable development. Director of the MoJ's Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, Dr. Abdulla Hamad al-Khalidi, outlined that the forum will convene almost 40 keynote speakers from policymakers, experts, and in-the-know legalists, along with three roundtables to be held on the margins of this event with the participation of almost 13 speakers.

The Doha Legal Forum: youth edition is set to be convened on January 25, in partnership with Qatar University (QU), to enable College of Law students to effectively contribute to the legal and academic deliberations, since those students are the next generation of legal thought leaders, al-Khalidi pointed out.

Al-Khalidi further noted that the Doha Legal Forum will convene biennially in Qatar. (QNA)

PM, Jordan deputy PM co-chair joint higher committee's fifth session



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan Dr. Ayman Safadi co-chaired the meetings of the 5th session of the Qatari-Jordanian Joint Higher Committee, held in Amman, yesterday. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed Qatar's keenness to enhance co-operation with Jordan and to push them to broader horizons. At the conclusion of the session meetings, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the field of endowments, a second executive programme for a co-operation protocol in the fields of youth and sports, MoU for co-operation in the fields of tourism and business events and a MoU on bilateral political consultations. (QNA)

Al Faisal Foundation unveils new book

Al Faisal Global Foundation for Culture and Knowledge, in tandem with Al Faisal Publishing House (AFPH), has issued a new book, *A Historian Without a Pen: Historical Documents and Hidden Secrets*, authored by HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani.

This genre spans 480 pages across 11 chapters in both Arabic and English, showcasing, through photographs, an extraordinary perspective on reading history via heritage carpets, regarded as living documents that chronicle events and personalities from an era preceding the invention of the camera and television.

It showcases visual documentation alongside a narrative account of almost 350 rare carpets, each telling precise details about nations and people, leaders and rulers, myths and wars, and the transformations of civilisations over hundreds of years.

In his book's preface, HE



hoping it will help nurture human knowledge and acknowledgement of the value of carpets as witnesses to civilisations. The book traverses awe-inspiring narratives, from "Half a Carpet" and "A Treasure by Chance" to "The Maker of Happiness", highlighting the social role of carpets in Qatar and worldwide. It reviews heritage carpets from Egypt, the cradle of civilisation, Algeria as a national identity, Morocco as a cross-border culture, and enduring crafts in Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, and beyond.

Sheikh Faisal underlines that not all history is written and not everything written is saved, citing carpets that chronicle history through threads, knots, and patterns from eras never lived by anyone. He highlighted that this genre documents a portion of his rare collection of carpets to be preserved for future generations and heritage enthusiasts,

The genre also traces the impact of Islamic civilisation on carpet-making globally, exploring historic themes like travel and falconry between Qatar, India, and other lands, rendering each carpet a living visual record of human history. (QNA)

Classes begin for QU's Spring 2026 semester

Qatar University (QU) has announced the start of classes for the Spring 2026 semester for newly admitted and continuing students across its colleges and academic programmes.

In a statement issued yesterday, QU said that the total number of students enrolled during the semester reached approximately 28,000 male and female students.

Student effective engagement in college activities and campus life is a foremost priority, as these events would have a positive impact on strengthening students' experience and their academic excellence, said Vice-President for Student Affairs at QU, Dr. Mohammad Diab.

Diab underlined the university's commitment to having a terrific student experience in place within a campus-supportive and motivating environment that promotes creativity and excellence.

He called on new students to have a glimpse of QU-provided resources and services, which invariably aim to support their academic pathway and reinforce their inclusion in college life. Exploring and advancing per-

sonal talent through practicing a variety of hobbies and joining student clubs matter most, as this step would literally help develop capabilities, hone skills, and build character, Dr Diab stressed.

QU's Enrollment Management Department emphasised the importance of completing the registration of the academic curricula ahead of the end of the add-and-drop period. The department called on students to adhere to the academic regulations and policies set out in the student guide.

The final deadline for the add-and-drop period is January 22.

The last date to withdraw from an individual course is March 12, while the deadline to withdraw from the semester as a whole is April 2. Final examinations will be held from May 10, until May 21, the department outlined.

As such, QU urged students to consistently follow university e-mails and its official website to be apprised of any updates. The Academic Advising Center continues to provide academic support and advising services to all students. (QNA)

cilities, and improved road safety for residents and visitors.

Regarding the works to be implemented within the project, Eng. Abdulaziz Khalid said that they include the construction of 22km of roads, the installation of 677 lighting poles, and the provision of 2,800 parking spaces.

Works also include 20km of

stormwater drainage networks, a 15km treated water network, and a 16km sewage network, in addition to landscaping works involving the planting of 449 trees, he added.

Regarding the current works on site, the existing asphalt layer is currently being removed in some areas to prepare for the com-

encement of infrastructure work. In other locations, deep excavation work is underway to lay pipes for stormwater and treated water drainage networks.

It is worth noting that the project relies on 100% local materials and manufacturers, in line with Ashghal's support for local manufacturers and its

"Taheel" initiative launched in 2017. These materials include cement, asphalt, road base course materials, steel bars, limestone, gabbro, lighting poles and fixtures, signage, barrier materials, interlocking pavers, geotechnical fabric, drainage pipes, precast manholes, as well as concrete and reinforcing steel. (QNA)

match with a score of 2-0. Meanwhile, the Police team from the Ministry of Interior secured third place after defeating the General Command Support Force team with a score of 2-0.

At the conclusion of the championship, President of the Military Sports Association Major General (Dr) Youssef Dasmal al-Kuwaiti presented the awards to the winning teams. (QNA)

Ashghal project upgrades roads, infrastructure in Jeryan Nejaima

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) continues to implement the remaining roads and infrastructure works in Jeryan Nejaima project, as part of its efforts to develop the road network and improve infrastructure services in the area.

Project engineer in the Drainage Networks Projects Department at

The Armed Forces Beach Volleyball Championship concluded at the beach volleyball court in Al Gharafa Sports Club, in the presence of President of the Military Sports Association Major General (Dr)

Youssef Dasmal al-Kuwaiti. The championship was organised by the Military Sports Association.

The Amiri Air Force team won the championship title after defeating the Amiri Navy team in the final

Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya). At the individual officers level, Capt. Faisal Hassan al-Qahtani of Lekhwiya secured first place, while Saeed Farhan of the Qatar Amiri Air Force claimed first place among individual participants.

In the team officers ranking,

Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) achieved first place, while the Qatar Amiri Air Force team from the Ministry of Interior secured third place after defeating the General Command Support Force team with a score of 2-0.

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Winners crowned in Armed Forces beach volleyball tourney

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QIB officials at the blood donation drive.

QIB hosts a blood donation drive in collaboration with HMC

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has hosted a blood donation drive at its new head office, in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

The donation drive saw enthusiastic participation from QIB employees, highlighting the bank's ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and its dedication to supporting healthcare services in Qatar. The donations will contribute to replenishing the HMC blood bank reserves, ensuring that vital blood supplies remain available to patients in need across the country.

QIB organises a series of campaigns to highlight the significance of blood donation. These initiatives emphasise the critical need for blood while acknowledging the pivotal role donors play in sustaining the blood bank reserves at HMC.

"We appreciate our colleagues'

dedication to supporting this initiative and for coming together for a cause that makes a difference in people's lives. QIB's employees' commitment to donating blood represents the values we hold as an organisation. We are pleased to continue our collaboration with HMC, and we thank the team for their expertise and collaboration in facilitating this initiative. Together, we continue to promote health and community well-being across Qatar," said Mashaal Abdulaziz al-Derham, assistant general manager, head of Corporate Communications and Quality Assurance at QIB.

QIB is dedicated to CSR initiatives focused on fostering positive transformations within both the organisation and the local society. The bank's efforts are aligned with and supportive of the four primary pillars outlined in Qatar National Vision 2030.

talabat partners with QF to support student loan repayment through employment

talabat, the leading on-demand delivery platform in the Mena region, reaffirms its commitment to supporting young talent in Qatar.

talabat is recognised as an approved provider of paid service opportunities due to its licensing by the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) which allows Qatar Foundation (QF) graduates who received student loans during their undergraduate studies to repay those loans by working at talabat.

This benefit is designed by QF's Student Financial Services to ease the financial transition from university to the workplace, while encouraging young graduates to pursue career opportunities at talabat. Serving as a testament to its supportive and dynamic workplace culture, talabat has been recognised as 'A Great Place to Work' three times, including its latest recognition in 2025.

In a press statement, Francisco



Miguel de Sousa, managing director at talabat Qatar, said: "Supporting young talent is the heart of our values at talabat. Through our participation in the QF loan waiver initiative, we are proud to create a pathway that eases the journey for graduates as they begin their careers. We want graduates to know that when they choose talabat, they are unlocking opportunities that help them build their future with confidence."

talabat's commitment to growth and innovation, combined with it being recognised as an approved company for QF's Student Financial Services loan repayment programme, reinforces its reputation as an employer of choice. Graduates eager to make an impact can find opportunities to grow and thrive in talabat Qatar by applying for roles at: <https://careers.deliveryhero.com/talabat>

Vodafone Qatar to showcase smart technology and connectivity solutions at DIMDEX 2026

Vodafone Qatar is participating in the Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX 2026), taking place today at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. The company's participation underscores Vodafone Qatar's commitment to advancing technological innovation and digital transformation, as well as strengthening collaboration with government entities and stakeholders across the defence and security sectors. At the exhibition, Vodafone Qatar will showcase its advanced connectivity solutions and smart technology services designed to enhance operational efficiency, support secure communications, and enable resilient digital infrastructure for critical environments. As part of its presence, Vodafone Qatar will feature five live mission-critical demonstrations highlighting secure communications, real-time



operational visibility, tactical 5G, satellite connectivity, and safety-driven video solutions. The demos include 'Secure Command Communications', showcasing mission critical push to talk and push to video capabilities; 'Secure Operations Twin', a real time digital twin for operational monitoring; 'Secure Horizon Connectivity', demonstrating enterprise-grade satellite connectivity for remote and maritime environments; 'Secure Forward 5G illustrating deployable private 5G', tactical connectivity and drone enabled

UK minister visits Doha to attend DIMDEX '26

The United Kingdom's (UK) Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry, Luke Pollard, is in Doha to attend DIMDEX 2026 and hold meetings with senior Qatari officials.

The visit takes place within the framework of the growing strategic relationship between the UK and Qatar. Discussions will focus on strengthening co-operation in defence and industry, as well as exchanging views on regional developments of mutual interest.

The UK's participation in DIMDEX highlights the importance of dialogue and international co-operation in supporting security and stability in the region, particularly in the current regional context.

In a press statement, Neerav Patel, British ambassador to Qatar said: "The visit underlines the strong UK-Qatar partnership and the value of close co-operation in defence and security in contributing to regional stability and addressing shared challenges."

The visit reaffirms both countries' commitment to continued collaboration and to further developing their long-standing relationship.

ARPM Tender Committee announces the following Tender

Tender No.	(Tender Title) Scope of work	Tender Fee	Tender Bond	Opening Date	Closing Date
ARPM/240/2026/TEN/DOH	Tender for CCTV Camera System Maintenance at ARPM Hotels-2 Year Term	1000	10,000	19-Jan-26	15-Feb-26

- Interested parties can collect copies of the tender documents from ARPM Purchasing Department, via email to m.aseef@arpm.com.qa and j.castillo@arpm.com.qa during working hours 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Fri & Sat Closed)
- A payment of a non-refundable document's fees should be deposited in cash to:
 - Beneficiary Name: Al-Rayyan Projects Management (ARPM)
 - Account No. 0013-022375-004 (Qatar National Bank)
 - IBAN No. QA86QNBA00000000013022375004
- And the original deposit receipt should be submitted upon receiving of the terms and conditions.
- A tender bond (as stated above), issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and valid for 180 days from the closing date should accompany tenders. The executed tender bond should be included with the technical offer.
- All tenderers MUST collect their original bonds from ARPM – Purchasing department upon expiry of the Tender Bond, unless alternative instructions are issued by ARPM.
- Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the RFP requirements in both HARD COPY & SOFT COPY on CD or USB.
- Copies of valid Company Commercial Registration, Computer Card & Authorization Letter must be submitted in order to collect the tender documents.
- The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar equivalent to 10% of the total contract sum and shall be valid for a period expiring 180 days after contract expiry.
- Offers should be valid for 180 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).
- ARPM has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms and conditions.
- ARPM is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show any reasons thereof.
- Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on the closing date and must be deposited into the Box, provided in the ARPM Purchasing office, located at the 9th Floor, ARPM, Head office and should be in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman - Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject.
- Deadline for accepting requests and inquiries, 7 days prior to closing date.
- Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

CHAIRMAN – TENDER COMMITTEE

TEL: 40341804



QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED QAFAC

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following

Tender in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fees.	Tender Bond Qrs.	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/002/26	Supply of 3T & 5T Diesel Forklift & 2T Electric Forklift	Qrs. 300/-	Qrs. 29,000/-	15 th February 2026

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender documents as follows:

- Collection Date : From Monday, 19th January 2026 (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time : 08:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Location : The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Tender Fees : As shown above, (**non-refundable**) can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- Validity : Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond : Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 Days from closing date.
- Authorization : Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 - Official authorization on Company Letter Head
 - Proper Identification
 - Copy of Company's Commercial Registration
 - Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)

SK Holding Consolidates Acquisition of SK Real Estate and Ariane Holding, Ushering in a New Governance-Driven Era

Unifying decision-making under a single umbrella enhances execution speed and clarity of accountability

SK Holding announced its full acquisition of SK Real Estate and Ariane Holding, including Ariane Real Estate and Ariane Assets, in a strategic move aimed at unifying institutional decision-making, enhancing management efficiency, and establishing a more disciplined operating model with clear accountability and execution. This step is expected to directly strengthen performance quality and reinforce market and client confidence. The acquisition represents a deliberate decision to improve performance and generate real value.

His Excellency Sheikh Suhaim bin Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani, Owner and Chairman of SK Holding and Ariane Holding, affirmed that this transformation marks the beginning of a new era based on institutional governance, commitment, and long-term planning. He emphasized that the current phase requires greater clarity in decision-making, stronger management cohesion, and direct accountability toward projects, clients, and the market alike. He noted that unifying the entities under a single umbrella enables faster and more effective decisions, closer oversight of execution phases, enhanced accountability, and a higher level of institutional discipline.

Sheikh Subaim stated:

"The acquisition is not a cosmetic change, but a strategic decision to enhance performance and create real value. Unifying decision-making under SK Holding strengthens execution speed and accountability, and we measure our success by our ability to deliver on our commitments on the ground."

This acquisition represents a practical translation of the company's vision, which views the real estate sector not merely in terms of project scale, but through an institution's ability to honor its commitments, manage assets efficiently, and strike a balance between ambition and execution capacity. Accordingly, the decision to unify all projects under a single umbrella aims to reorder priorities, intensify efforts, and establish a new phase built on seriousness, transparency, and sustainable operations.

This transformation falls within an integrated vision centered on innovation, quality, and sustainability, and seeks to deliver a real estate development model that balances modernity with identity, contributing to the creation of integrated communities that reflect the spirit of the times while preserving the core values of Qatari society. This vision extends from a leadership philosophy grounded in balancing local expertise with a global outlook, enabling the delivery of high-quality projects that reinforce Qatar's position as a leading destination in the real estate sector.

The vision is rooted in the firm belief that real estate is not merely an investment product, but a genuine tool for impact creation, quality-of-life enhancement, and the development of sustainable urban environments that respond to evolving patterns of living, working, and investment. This approach embodies a new national developer model that links sustainable urban development with economic vitality and seeks to shape a future urban landscape aligned with Qatar's ambitions for regional leadership and balanced growth.

Redefining the real estate development experience can only be achieved through a more integrated and expansive vision that places sustainability, innovation, and execution quality at the heart of every project. This contributes to shaping a vibrant, modern urban environment aligned with national objectives to develop advanced and integrated urban infrastructure in harmony with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The companies take pride in their deep national roots and in managing their projects from within the local landscape, supported by a team with solid expertise and a strong ability to keep pace with market dynamics and precisely direct solutions toward real needs—enhancing operational flexibility and execution effectiveness.



A new phase for Ariane grounded in precise planning and direct oversight



A national development model linking sustainable urban development with economic vitality

- » The acquisition represents a natural extension of a phased growth strategy aimed at expanding the scope of operations and enhancing operational sustainability within the real estate sector.
- » This approach contributes to the development of integrated urban communities that serve as a fundamental pillar for building more sustainable, vibrant, and balanced cities over the long term.
- » Developing the operating framework on an integrated basis enhances competitive readiness and strengthens the ability to pursue structured and well-planned expansion.
- » A strong focus on comprehensive quality enables the delivery of real estate projects that reflect effective alignment between operational efficiency and sustainable societal value.
- » Expanding the real estate portfolio opens broader horizons for building a balanced investment model capable of enhancing financial stability and confidently withstanding market fluctuations over the long term.

Executive Leadership and the Shift from Planning to Execution

The transition of executive leadership during this pivotal phase represents a key factor in transforming strategic vision into tangible results felt by clients, partners, and the market. In this context, Sheikh Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer of SK Real Estate, Ariane Real Estate, and Ariane Assets, emphasized that assuming executive responsibility at this stage is not merely an administrative assignment, but a full professional commitment to establishing clear operating foundations that translate institutional vision into measurable performance and recalibrate the relationship between planning and execution according to high professional standards.

Sheikh Jassim stated:

"Assuming executive leadership responsibility during this pivotal phase represents a professional challenge we embrace with pride and a genuine opportunity to establish clear operational foundations that translate vision into tangible results felt by clients, partners, and the market." This approach aligns with his emphasis that the upcoming phase requires precise management, well-considered decisions, and a structured transition from planning to execution—ensuring timeline control, clarity of responsibilities, and actual delivery commitment. The real challenge in real estate projects lies not in launching concepts and plans, but in transforming them into reality with consistent quality, disciplined execution, and clear accountability across all operational levels.

He further affirmed:

"In the coming phase, we are focused on disciplined execution and delivering projects according to clear timelines. We manage projects through a professional approach based on clarity and accountability—the new phase is defined by seriousness and organized work."

This methodology represents a direct extension of the institutional work philosophy being embedded, where execution is viewed not merely as an operational function, but as an integrated system encompassing detailed planning, risk management, quality control, continuous monitoring, and periodic performance evaluation. This approach helps narrow the gap between promise and delivery and strengthens mutual trust with the market and clients.

Executive management also places particular importance on building a clear communication framework with clients, providing accurate information in a timely manner, actively listening to feedback, and addressing it with responsibility and professionalism.

"Our goal is to deliver projects with confidence, create genuine added value, and build long-term relationships with our clients based on mutual respect and commitment."

Sustainability, Innovation, the Qatari Market, and Urban Transformation

In their new phase, the companies operate from a vision that regards sustainability, innovation, and execution quality as inseparable pillars of real value in real estate development. A successful real estate project is no longer measured solely

by its lifespan or investment size, but by its ability to endure, adapt to change, achieve balanced operational efficiency, and deliver added value to end users, society, and the economy simultaneously. Accordingly, the companies are redefining the real estate development experience through a more comprehensive vision that places these principles at the core of every project.

This vision reflects a conscious approach toward shaping a vibrant, modern urban environment aligned with national objectives to develop advanced and integrated urban infrastructure, responsive to rapid urban transformations without compromising local identity or authentic societal values.

The balance between modernity and identity is a defining feature of the adopted development model, with projects designed to integrate naturally into the social and cultural environment while serving as platforms for future needs.

The companies believe that real estate is a genuine tool for impact creation, not merely an investment product detached from its social and economic context. High-quality projects enhance quality of life through well-considered solutions that respond to evolving patterns of living, working, and mobility, improve resource efficiency, and foster more connected and sustainable communities. This approach embodies a national developer model that links sustainable urban development with economic vitality and seeks to shape an urban future aligned with Qatar's ambitions for regional leadership and balanced growth.

Within the Qatari market context, the sector continues to experience growth

characterized by balance and resilience, supported by advanced infrastructure and a clear national vision guiding the state steadily toward economic diversification and sustainable development in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. Despite global economic challenges and geopolitical shifts, the local real estate sector has demonstrated adaptability and resilience, underpinned by strong financial stability, flexible regulations, and increasing openness to foreign investment—creating an attractive environment for long-term development models.

The companies recognize that this environment places heightened responsibility on developers to adopt more forward-looking business models capable of anticipating future horizons. Market momentum is not a temporary surge, but an ongoing opportunity to rethink planning tools, design approaches, and operating methodologies—ensuring projects are prepared for the demands of the coming decade, not merely current needs.

The companies view smart communities, sustainable developments, and mixed-use spaces as key future opportunities and have placed them at the heart of their strategy as strategic priorities rather than situational choices. Smart communities redefine the relationship between people, place, and technology, enhancing service efficiency, quality of life, and environmental and economic sustainability. Mixed-use developments provide greater flexibility to accommodate evolving patterns of work, commerce, and living while optimizing land and infrastructure use.

They believe that organizations capable of embracing digital transformation and real estate technology across all planning and execution stages will be best positioned to lead this phase with innovation and differentiation. This includes deploying digital tools in project management, data analysis, quality monitoring, operational efficiency, and transparent stakeholder communication. From this standpoint, the companies are committed to developing human-centric, development-driven projects that enhance quality of life, support national economic competitiveness, and attract high-quality investments that reinforce Qatar's advanced position on the regional real estate map.

Innovation, in this context, does not imply abandoning accumulated experience or overlooking local specificity, but rather integrating deep local market knowledge with global best practices—achieving a healthy balance between bold development and prudent execution. Responsible development is not built on uncalculated risk-taking, but on careful data analysis, informed risk assessment, and well-considered decision-making that safeguards resource sustainability and market stability.

Accordingly, the companies reaffirm their commitment to operating according to the highest professional standards and delivering real estate projects that enhance quality of life, strengthen social and economic stability, and keep pace with rapid sectoral changes through the adoption of advanced technologies and flexible operating models that respond to market needs—contributing to the creation of an integrated real estate environment that meets the aspirations of individuals and institutions alike.

This commitment forms part of a long-term vision that views sustainability not as a design feature or environmental certification, but as an integrated system encompassing mindset, decision-making processes, resource management, community engagement, and human capital development—making sustainability an institutional culture reflected in every stage of the project lifecycle, from initial planning to long-term operation.



Qatar's real estate sector enters a phase of maturity driven by sustainability, innovation, and quality of execution



Chairman of beIN group, Qatar Sports Investment receives 'Entertainment Makers Diamond Award'

The sixth JOY Awards 2026 set a defining tone with the presentation of the "Entertainment Makers Diamond Award", as General Entertainment Authority (GEA) chairman Turki Alshikh honoured Nasser bin Ghani al-Khelaifi, the chairman of beIN Media Group and Qatar Sports Investments (QSI), for his transformative impact on the global sports entertainment and media landscape.

The tribute, met with a standing ovation, set the tone for an evening that celebrated leadership, creativity and international cultural impact under the umbrella of Riyadh Season.

Held on Saturday in Riyadh, the ceremony was organised by the GEA in partnership with MBC and attended by Alshikh, alongside a distinguished gathering of stars and industry leaders from cinema, television, music, sports and digital media across the Arab world and beyond.

With extensive media coverage and strong public engagement, the event highlighted its status as one of the region's most prominent entertainment showcases.

Broadcast live on MBC1, MBC Maser, MBC Iraq and MBC5, as well as via the Shahid streaming platform, the ceremony attracted millions of viewers who followed the lavender carpet arrivals before the programme unfolded into a seamless blend of awards, honorary recognitions and live performances.

The evening officially began with the Saudi royal anthem, followed by an exceptional opening performance by global superstar Katy Perry.

Her production combined orchestral arrangements, dancers and immersive visual effects, reflecting the scale and technical sophistication behind the JOY Awards.

Additional artistic interludes by Pilobolus, Angham, Jude Kofie and other performers added depth and variety to the programme.

Central to the night was the "Entertainment Makers Diamond Award", presented to al-Khelaifi for his role in shaping modern sports broadcasting, media innovation and global entertainment ecosystems.

The honour stood out as one of the cer-

emony's most symbolic moments, highlighting leadership that transcends borders and industries.

The awards programme recognised excellence across multiple categories.

In television, Abdulmohsen AlNemer won "Favourite Series Actor", while Karissa Bashar was named "Favourite Series Actress".

Share' al-Asha claimed the "Favourite Gulf Series" award, and Ashghal Shagha Geddan took the "Favourite Egyptian Series" award.

In music, Angham was named "Favourite Female Singer", while Fadel Chaker won "Favourite Male Singer".

The sports categories saw Yassine Bou-nou named "Favourite Male Athlete" and Saudi footballer Layla AlQahtani taking "Favourite Female Athlete".

International presence remained a defining feature of the night.

British actress Millie Bobby Brown received the "Personality of the Year" award, drawing strong applause and underscoring the global reach of the JOY Awards.

"Lifetime Achievement Awards" were presented to Egyptian cultural icon Fa-



Nasser bin Ghani al-Khelaifi receiving the award.

rouk Hosny and Hollywood star Forest Whitaker, while Assala was honoured in a special tribute that reflected her enduring artistic legacy.

An emotional "In Memoriam" segment, performed by Abeer Nehme, paid tribute to artists who passed away in

2025, offering a poignant pause that resonated deeply with the audience.

The ceremony concluded with major cinema awards, including "Favourite Movie" for Siko Siko, and a closing artistic segment that revisited iconic works beloved by audiences.

Old Doha Port unveils 'Move' to champion healthy living

Old Doha Port announced yesterday the launch of "Move", a first-of-its-kind sports festival that brings together physical activity and health awareness.

Organised in collaboration with No Limits, a Qatari company specialising in organising races and sports events, the festival will take place from February 5-10 at Mina Park, kicking off on the weekend ahead of National Sport Day (NSD) and concluding on the day itself.

"Move" draws its inspiration from the locally used Qatari expression "Tarayyad", which refers to engaging in physical activity.

Rooted in everyday language, the term reflects how movement is naturally woven into daily life and serves as an open invitation to embrace a healthier, more active lifestyle.

While widely used in the Qatari and Gulf dialects today, "Tarayyad" is not purely colloquial in origin, as it traces back to classical Arabic.

In classical usage, the phrase "tarayyada al-rajul" denotes strolling or engaging in physical exercise.

This enduring linguistic connection gives the festival's name a culturally authentic dimension, bridging local identity with contemporary health values.



Dedicated spaces will also host fitness classes, alongside a running race along the Mina Corniche, scheduled to take place on February 7, with registration available through the social media platforms of Old Doha Port and No Limits.

The festival will also feature dedicated retail spaces for sports products to encourage lifestyle changes ahead of the NSD, healthy restaurants and cafés, a children's area designed to promote movement and activity, as well as recovery and relaxation zones.

Together, these elements create an integrated experience that prepares the wider community, both physically and mentally, for the NSD, while celebrating movement as a way of life.

"Move" reflects our ongoing commitment to promoting sport as a way of life, while highlighting Old Doha Port and its infrastructure as a space that brings together sport, health, and recreation," said Old Doha Port chief executive Engineer Mohammed Abdulla al-Mulla. "By launching this festival in the lead-up to National Sport Day, we aim to encourage the community to stay active and take part in structured, accessible health and recreational programmes designed for all."

The festival will span six days and feature seven main zones, offering a range of experiences tailored to diverse audiences.

The programme includes daily panel discussions with athletes and sports-sector specialists, exploring themes related to health, fitness, and active lifestyles.

Cleaning staff honoured for co-operating with security authorities

Engineer Abdullah Ahmed al-Karani, the assistant undersecretary for Public Services Affairs at the Ministry of Municipality, has honoured public cleaning worker Mohamed Nour El-Din in recognition of his honesty and effective co-operation with the security authorities, after he discovered smuggled narcotic substances while performing his duties in the northern area of the country.

The ceremony was attended by Engineer Abdulaziz al-Rumaihi, the director of the Projects and Development Department at the ministry.

This recognition came after El-Din directly reported the incident to the security authorities, in co-ordination with the operations manager at Lavajet Company.

The security authorities then carried out the necessary field procedures, and the seized materials were confiscated in accordance with the applicable legal procedures.



QC, UNHCR ink pact to support Rohingya refugees



Qatar Charity (QC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have signed a letter of understanding (LoU) accompanied by a Data Sharing Addendum, to enhance their joint response to the humanitarian needs of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The LoU was signed as part of a broader co-operation framework aimed at strengthening co-operation and collaboration between the two organisations, particularly in the areas of shelter and settlement, as well as the provision of humanitarian aid materials and essential services for the most vulnerable refugee populations.

The agreement was signed by Ivo Freijisen, representative of UNHCR Bangladesh, and Zakarya al-Motair, country director of Qatar Charity's Bangladesh branch.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, MOHAMADMEAZAN MPHAMMAD RAFEQ

holder of

Bangladesh Passport No. A19114522
QID No. 29005000059

hereby change my name

from

MOHAMADMEAZAN MPHAMMAD RAFEQ

to

MOHAMMAD MEEZAN
MOHAMMAD RAFIQUE

Any objection, please contact

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR

NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

2nd 'Consumer School' initiative launched

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), is implementing the "Consumer School 2026" initiative under the theme *Smart Consumer* for the second consecutive year.

The programme is part of the ministry's efforts to promote sound consumer culture and raise awareness of consumer rights and responsibilities.

The "Consumer School 2026" initiative, involving 20 schools across various educational stages for both boys and girls, includes student visits to ministry's headquarters, as well as field visits to participating schools, where specialised teams will deliver awareness programmes, interactive presentations, and educational activities related to consumer protection and combating commercial fraud.

Topics covered in the initiative include defining consumers and providers, goods and services, consumer rights, provider obligations, and the harms of commercial fraud.

The programme also offers practical tips and demonstrates complaint submission procedures through mobile applications, using interactive educational methods such as games, competitions, and hands-on activities. - QNA

QT headquarters relocates to MDD

Msheireb Properties has announced the relocation of Qatar Tourism (QT) headquarters to Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD).

This move enhances the MDD's position as Qatar's premier destination for leading government institutions and major organisations.

The relocation provides the QT – including its marketing arm Visit Qatar – with state-of-the-art facilities within the MDD's sustainable urban environment.

The city offers a strategic hub through smart city infrastructure and proximity to key cultural, business, and transport centres.

The MDD's Gold and Platinum LEED-certified buildings feature energy-efficient systems and smart infrastructure designed to optimise operations whilst supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 objectives.

"Our strategic decision to relocate the QT's headquarters to the MDD reflects our steadfast and un-

wavering commitment to the highest standards of operational excellence and strategic positioning," QT chairman HE Saad bin Ali al-Khatri said.

"Msheireb, with its world-class sustainable infrastructure and deep-rooted cultural authenticity, provides us with the optimal environment that aligns with the QT's lofty vision aimed at establishing Qatar's position as a world-class tourism destination par excellence," he said.

"It is with pride and honour that we welcome the QT to the MDD," said Msheireb Properties chief executive Eng Ali al-Kuwaiti.

"Their decision to relocate to Msheireb embodies our vision to provide a distinguished environment that attracts the most prestigious government institutions, which deepens Msheireb Downtown Doha's position as Qatar's leading and preferred destination for institutional and strategic excellence," he said.

Zakat Affairs Dept reports outlays exceeding QR335mn last year

The Zakat Affairs Department at the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs accomplished milestones throughout 2025.

Zakat Affairs Department director Mai Allah Abdulrahman al-Jaber said that the total Zakat outlays during 2025 amounted to QR335,262,731, a figure that he stated reflects the magnitude of responsibility entrusted to the department and the persistent efforts to ensure that Zakat funds are allocated to their approved Shariah-compliant channels, in accordance with the highest standards of accuracy and transparency, while meeting the community's aspirations and reinforcing societal trust in the Zakat system.

The department processed 18,000 files and aid requests for eligible beneficiaries during 2025, al-Jaber continued, noting that the value of assistance provided to deserving families reached QR175,123,122.

As part of the efforts devoted to supporting the education pathway as a fundamental pillar of development, the official highlighted that tuition assistance

during 2025 amounted to QR102,931,317, benefiting 4,800 students.

On the humanitarian stage, al-Jaber said that the department has provided QR9,684,980 in aid to Gazans, including the wounded and injured, as part of the humanitarian role and solidarity undertaken by Qatar, along with Awqaf's commitment to playing an effective role in mitigating humanitarian suffering and translating the values of solidarity and mutual support.

Zakat programmes in 2025 included support for 233 medical cases, 132 indebted individuals through the debt relief programmes, alongside assistance for 75 persons with special needs.

Regarding the Sharia and awareness aspects, al-Jaber said that the department has forged ahead to undertake its advisory and oversight role, responding to 880 Sharia inquiries related to Zakat provisions, in addition to calculating the Zakat of 201 firms. - QNA

Dukhan Bank announces final winner of Thara'a savings account QR1mn grand prize



Sharifa Mohamed al-Romaihi receiving the mock cheque for QR1mn in the final draw for the Thara'a Savings Account for 2025.

Dukhan Bank has announced that Sharifa Mohamed al-Romaihi is the winner of the QR1mn grand prize in the final draw for the Thara'a Savings Account for 2025.

The winner was selected through an electronic draw, conducted under the supervision and in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)'s Qualitative Licence and Market Control Department.

The Thara'a savings campaign had a total prize pool of QR5.02mn and 327 winners throughout the year, including the three grand prizes of QR1mn each, drawn every four months, as well as monthly draws for a

single prize of QR50,000 and 35 additional prizes valued at QR5,000 each.

Commenting on her win, al-Romaihi said: "I would like to thank Dukhan Bank for this rewarding opportunity."

"The amount I deposited was modest, yet it qualified me to participate in the draw and win a valuable prize," she said. "I encourage everyone to open an account with Dukhan Bank and make the most of these great opportunities."

The draw marks the conclusion of the Thara'a Savings Account campaign for 2025.

The bank is encouraging customers to stay tuned for more opportunities and prizes to be announced this year.

Ministry of Sports, Youth launches 'Generation Proactive' programme

QNA
Doha

Represented by its Youth Affairs Department, the Ministry of Sports and Youth yesterday launched the 'Generation Proactive' programme, one of the national programmes aimed at empowering Qatari youth and building their capacities in the field of designing and implementing youth initiatives with a positive impact on society, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and Qatar National Youth Policy.

The programme's training courses will run from January 18–February 2, with the participation of a group of Qatari youth, and under the supervision of a select group of certified trainers and specialists in the fields of initiatives, innovation, and community development.

The 'Generation Proactive' programme aims to equip and empower participants to transform their creative ideas into practical, implementable initiatives that address societal issues and strengthen the role of youth as active partners in national development. It also focuses on developing leadership skills, teamwork, creative thinking, strategic planning, resource management, and marketing and promotion of initiatives.

The programme includes a number of integrated stages, starting with the registration and



selection of participants according to specific criteria, followed by the training stage, which includes specialised workshops that address the topics of choosing the initiative idea, setting goals, implementation mechanisms, measuring impact, and building work plans, leading up to the evaluation of initiatives.

The programme will also contribute to launching six innovative youth initiatives linked to the pillars of Qatar's National Youth Policy and feasible on the ground, thereby enhancing youth participation in community service and consolidating the values of responsibility, citizenship and leadership.

'Generation Proactive' is supported by a number of national entities, including Qatar University, Qatar Foundation, and the Qatar Voluntary Center.

The Nama Center presented several forms of cooperation and

support to the participants after the end of the programme, by providing a number of training courses that would greatly contribute to developing the participants' skills and enhancing their readiness to implement their initiatives.

As for the centres affiliated with the Ministry of Sports and Youth, their services will be available to support members,

through the Innovation Incubator at the Scientific Club, in addition to tourism-related programmes from Qatar Youth Hostels and the Friends of the Environment Center. The Young Entrepreneurs Club also welcomed co-operation, expressing its keenness to provide services and attract initiatives related to entrepreneurship.

The organisation of the 'Generation Proactive' programme comes within the efforts of the Ministry of Sports and Youth aimed at supporting and empow-

ering national youth energies, investing in their ideas and initiatives, and enhancing their role in actively contributing to the advancement of society and building a sustainable future.

Director of the Youth Affairs Department at the Ministry of Sports and Youth Fawaz Abdullah al-Musaifri said that the launch of the 'Generation Proactive' programme stems from the belief of the Ministry of Sports and Youth, represented by the Youth Affairs Department, in the importance of empowering Qatari youth and investing their energies and creative ideas, in a way that contributes to strengthening their role as active partners in the national development process, and in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and Qatar National Youth Policy.

He emphasised the Youth Affairs Department's commitment to designing the 'Generation Proactive' programme as an integrated platform aimed at building the capabilities of young people and qualifying them to transform their ideas into practical initiatives with a positive and sustainable impact on society, by providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills in the areas of leadership, planning, innovation, and community work. He noted that this programme embodies a model of integration and co-operation between various national entities. (QNA)

PHCC holds seventh Partners and Family Advisory Group meeting

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) held the seventh meeting of the Partners and Family Advisory Group (PFAG), chaired by PHCC managing director Dr Mariam Ali Abdulmalik.

The meeting brought together PFAG members, PHCC leaders and staff, as well as a number of distinguished guests from national institutions.

The meeting agenda included a review of the PHCC's journey toward adopting the person-centred care model, presented through a 10-minute live creative sand art performance.

The presentation highlighted real-life initiatives and experiences of PFAG members in an inspiring visual format that reflected the human dimension of health-



care and underscored the PHCC's dedication to developing services aligned with patients' needs and care preferences.

Dr Laila al-Duhaim delivered a panel discussion on the School Health Support Groups initiative,

which aims to empower students living with diabetes and support them and their parents.

The initiative exemplifies national integration through collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE),

the Qatar Diabetes Association, a PFAG member, and PHCC's School Health Department.

Diabetes Qatar executive director Dr Abdullah al-Hamaq, MoEHE occupational health and safety consultant Issa al-Ansari, and

Mustafa Talaat, PFAG member and parent of a child living with diabetes, took part in the discussion.

In a related segment, PFAG member Dr Mohammed al-Anzi led a session that employed facilitation skills and brainstorming

techniques to generate practical solutions to three key challenges facing the PHCC with a direct impact on patient experience and satisfaction indicators: Improving medical follow-up and continuity of care, reducing unjustified demand for antibiotic prescriptions, and promoting a culture of mutual respect and addressing manifestations of workplace violence.

The session produced innovative ideas and practical recommendations, highlighting the value of diverse perspectives in addressing shared healthcare challenges between service providers and service users.

It also reinforced the role of patients and their families as active partners in improving service quality, rather than merely recipients of care.

Aspetar sets new benchmark in football injury prevention

Aspetar, Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, has set a benchmark in football injury prevention with the successful rollout of its pioneering Sports Injury and Illness Risk Management Plan (RMP) tool across all 18 professional football clubs in Qatar.

This league-wide initiative, supported by recently published scientific papers, offers a practical roadmap for professional football globally to better protect players' health while sustaining high performance.

Ahead of the 2022–23 season, Aspetar experts trained club medical and technical staff to use the RMP tool to identify, assess and prioritise injury and illness risks at team, player and season level.

Clubs identified 809 risks – an average of 45 per team – with 72% related to individual players, highlighting the importance of personal prevention approaches.

From these, 265 prioritised risks were selected for action and addressed through 354 targeted tasks, including individualised strength programmes, better communication pathways and refined load management around congested match calendars.

"Prevention has always been at the heart of Aspetar's work," said Aspetar acting director-general Khalid Ali al-Mawlawi.

"This project marks the next evolution moving from excellence within individual teams to collective prevention across an entire league," he said. "By giving every club access to the same science-based risk-management tools, we are investing in players' long-term health, safeguarding careers, and offering a model of preventive sports medicine that can shape the future of football worldwide."

"Our partnership with Aspetar reflects a shared vision to embed prevention at the heart of Qatar's football ecosystem," said Qatar Stars League (QSL) chief executive Hani Taleb Ballan. "Aspetar continues to lead globally by developing and implementing robust, evidence-based



Khalid Ali al-Mawlawi

standards for managing injury and illness risks across all league clubs – a milestone that sets new benchmarks in safeguarding QSL players' health and sustaining their performance throughout the season."

"This collaboration exemplifies the synergy between Qatar's leading sports institutions to create a safe, professional, and sustainable environment that supports player welfare, and enhances their performance," he added.

The RMP project builds on Aspetar's Injury and Illness Prevention programme for Performance, with almost half of all planned mitigation tasks directly aligned with IP2 focus areas, such as the Nordic hamstring and Copenhagen adduction exercises, recovery strategies and targeted player education on sleep, nutrition and mental health.

In total, 58 specialists across the league were assigned 363 task-manager roles and 535 specific responsibilities, underscoring a culture of shared accountability between doctors, physiotherapists, fitness coaches, technical staff and players.

"The Aspetar RMP tool takes risk management in football from concept to daily practice," said Prof Roald Bahr, the director of the AS-PREV programme. "By identifying an average of 1.9 risks per player and prioritising the most critical ones for action, clubs now have a structured, data-driven method to reduce injury and illness risk season after season."

Weekend destination: Qatar Kite Festival 2026

All roads led to the Mina Park at the Old Doha Port over the weekend as the Qatar Kite Festival 2026 bespeckled the winter skies with colour and creativity.

Running from January 15–24, the festival has quickly become one of the season's most anticipated attractions, drawing families, tourists, and kite enthusiasts alike.

The event offers free entry and features a packed programme of day and night kite displays, with international teams performing synchronised aerial shows against the backdrop of the city's skyline.

Visitors can expect themed kites of every shape and size, cultural stage performances, carnival parades, and a festive atmosphere that stretches across the park.

Children are at the heart of the celebration, with dedicated play zones, kite-making workshops, and giveaways ensuring plenty of hands-on fun. Food and beverage outlets line the venue, making it easy for families to spend the entire day enjoying the spectacle.

Festival timings run from 3pm–10pm on weekdays and from 10am–10pm on weekends, giving ample opportunity for residents and visitors to experience the magic of the skies.





Shark mauls boy swimming in Sydney Harbour

AFP
Sydney

A shark mauled a boy swimming in Sydney Harbour yesterday, leaving him in a critical condition with serious leg injuries, authorities said.

The predator bit the boy, believed

to be about 13 years old, during the late afternoon off Shark Beach, New South Wales state police said.

"The injuries are consistent with what is believed to have been a large shark," police said in a statement.

Officers pulled the boy from the water off the harbour beach within minutes of being alerted to the incident, police said.

They gave the boy first aid for "serious" leg injuries while he was aboard a police boat, applying two medical tourniquets.

Paramedics transported him to Sydney Children's Hospital, where he was said to be in a critical condition.

"Swimmers are advised to avoid entering nearby waters at this time," police said. Shark Beach, in

Sydney's eastern suburb of Vaucluse, was closed and police evacuated nearby beaches in the harbour, the state government said.

Wildlife experts were working to identify the shark species involved, it said in a statement.

"This is a tragic shark attack on a young boy having a swim yesterday afternoon near a harbour beach

in Sydney's east," New South Wales Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty said. "Our thoughts are with the young boy and his family. I understand there were also other young people with him at the time of the attack, our thoughts are also with them."

There have been more than 1,280 shark incidents around Australia since 1791, of which more than

250 resulted in death, according to a database of the predators' encounters with humans.

Increasingly crowded waters and rising ocean temperatures that appear to be swaying sharks' migratory patterns may be contributing to a rise in attacks despite overfishing depleting some species, scientists say.

Indonesia finds wreckage of missing plane carrying 10 people

Reuters
Jakarta

Indonesian authorities yesterday said they had located the wreckage of a fisheries surveillance plane that went missing in South Sulawesi province on the slope of a fog-covered mountain and had recovered the body of one of the 10 people on board.

The ATR 42-500 turboprop owned by aviation group Indonesia Air Transport (IAT) lost contact with air traffic control on Saturday at about 1.30pm local time (0530GMT) around the Maros region in South Sulawesi.

There were seven crew members and three passengers on board the plane, which was chartered by Indonesia's marine affairs and fisheries ministry to conduct air surveillance on fisheries. The passengers were ministry staff members.

Authorities had initially said eight crew members were on board but later revised the figure. The plane was flying to Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi, from Yogyakarta before losing contact.

Yesterday morning, local rescuers found the wreckage in different locations around Mount Bulusaraung in the Maros region, said Andi Sultan, an official at South Sulawesi's

rescue agency. The mountain is roughly 1,500km northeast of the sprawling island nation's capital, Jakarta.

"Our helicopter crews have seen the debris of the plane's window at 7.46am," Sultan said.

"And around 7.49am, we discovered large parts of the aircraft, suspected to be the fuselage of the plane," he said, adding the tail of the plane was also seen at the bottom of the mountain slope.

Rescuers have also located other wreckage such as the aircraft engine and passenger seats.

Personnel have been deployed to the locations where the wreckage was discovered, Sultan said, adding the search was hampered by thick fog and mountainous terrain.

Yesterday afternoon, rescuers found a crash victim's body in a ravine around 650 feet from Mount Bulusaraung's peak, Sultan said.

The status of the other nine people on board was not yet known.

The head of South Sulawesi's rescue agency, Muhammad Arif Anwar, had said that after finding the wreckage, the priority was to find the victims and 1,200 personnel would be deployed to search for the missing.

Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee (KNKT) head Soerjanto Tjahjono said based on the

agency's initial findings, the aircraft had crashed into the mountain's slope.

"We call this controlled flight into terrain. The pilot was able to control the plane and the crash was not intentional," Soerjanto told local media outlets.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the crash, he added. KNKT did not respond to request for comment.

IAT said in a statement that the aircraft had technical problems but it was declared airworthy before flying to Makassar.

"There was a problem with the engineering but we have fixed it and tested the plane on Friday, the flight from Halim airport in Jakarta to Semarang and Yogyakarta city went well without a hitch," said IAT operations director Edwin.

Aviation experts say most accidents are caused by a combination of factors. The ATR 42-500, manufactured by Franco-Italian plane-maker ATR, is a regional turboprop aircraft capable of carrying between 42 and 50 passengers.

Flight tracking website Flightradar24 said on X that the surveillance plane was flying over the ocean at a low altitude so its tracking coverage was limited, and the last signal was received at 0420GMT about 20km northeast of Makassar airport.

Snowfall shrouds Beijing



Vehicles park on the side of a road during a snowy day in Beijing, China, yesterday.

China factory blast kills two, injures 66

AFP
Beijing

An explosion at a steel factory in northern China killed two people and injured 66 yesterday, with five more still missing, state media said.

The blast occurred at around 3pm (0700GMT) at a Baogang United Steel plate plant in Baotou city in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, state news agency Xinhua reported.

"As of 5.30pm yesterday, local emergency management and fire rescue authorities reported two

fatalities and five people missing," Xinhua said.

"Sixty-six individuals have been sent to hospitals for treatment, three of whom are in severe condition."

Footage on social media showed collapsed ceilings and rubble at the factory, huge plumes of smoke overhead and fire engines at the scene.

Other videos showed an object being blasted into the sky as smoke billowed from the factory and a large, cylindrical hunk of metal that appeared to have come from the plant lying among the rubble of buildings.

Residents kilometres away re-

ported that the explosion shook their homes and shattered windows.

The cause of the incident is being investigated, Xinhua said, while the rescue operation continues.

Industrial accidents are common in China due to lax safety standards.

An explosion at a fireworks factory in Hunan province in central China in June killed nine people and injured 26 others.

In 2015, blasts at warehouses containing flammable chemicals in the port city of Tianjin killed more than 170 people and injured 700 others.

Rain turns Jakarta roads into pools



A youth dives into floodwaters after heavy rain left residential areas partially submerged in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday.

Ex-king voices concern at state of Nepal after protests

AFP
Kathmandu

Nepal's former king Gyanendra Shah has expressed concern over the state of the country four months after a youth-led uprising toppled the previous government.

At least 76 people were killed during the demonstrations last September, which saw four-time prime minister KP Sharma Oli ousted and replaced by former chief justice Sushila Karki in an interim capacity until elections scheduled later this year.

Shah, who was deposed in 2008 at the end of a decade-long civil war, has largely refrained from commenting on Nepal's fractious politics.

But in a 12-minute video ad-

dress for national unity day, he warned Nepal "itself might not survive anymore".

"Nearly two decades since we left the palace, the crisis the country continues to face has us worried," Shah said, with a picture of the late king Prithvi Narayan Shah, the first to rule a united Nepal, visible in the background.

"Yesterday, there was a concern that there was no development in the country, but today there is a bigger worry that the country itself might not survive any more."

He criticised leaders who had failed to heed the needs of young people and this had "bred dissatisfaction among the youths".

"Seeking solutions without national consensus is merely wasting time. Let us all unite and move forward in the journey of prosperity."

Japan attempts to dig deep-sea rare earths

Reuters
Shizuoka, Japan

A Japanese mining ship has departed for a remote coral atoll to probe mud rich in rare earths, part of Tokyo's drive to curb its reliance on China for critical minerals as Beijing tightens

its technological achievement. The vessel, with 130 crew and researchers, is scheduled to return to the port on February 14.

Earlier this month, China banned exports of items destined for Japan's military that have civilian and military uses, including some critical minerals. The *Wall Street Journal* reported Beijing has also begun restricting rare-earth exports to Japan more broadly.

Japan has condemned China's dual-use ban but declined to comment on the report of a broader ban, which China has not confirmed or denied. Chinese state media, though, have said Beijing was weighing the measure.

Japan is no stranger to facing China's wrath over rare earths. In 2010, China held back exports following an incident near disputed islands in the East China Sea.

Since then, Japan has reduced its reliance on China to 60% from 90% by investing in overseas projects like trading house Sojitz's tie-up with Australia's Lynas Rare Earths, and promoting rare-earths recycling and manufacturing processes that rely less on the minerals.

The Minamitorii Island project, however, is the first to attempt to source rare earths domestically.

"The fundamental solution is to be able to produce rare earths inside Japan," said Takahide Kiuchi, ex-

ecutive economist at Nomura Research Institute.

"If this new round of export controls ends up covering a lot of rare earths, Japanese companies will again make efforts to move away from China, but I don't think it will be easy," he said.

For some heavy rare earths, such as those used for magnets in electric- and hybrid-vehicle motors, Japan is almost totally dependent on China, analysts say - a major risk for its key automotive industry.

Since the 2010 scare, the Japanese government and private companies have built stockpiles of the minerals, though they do not disclose volumes.

At an even for Japan's mining industry earlier this month, several executives said they were better prepared than before to cope with the potential disruption, citing Japan's diversification efforts and stockpiles.

But Kazumi Nishikawa, principal director of economic security at the trade ministry, said the government had to continually remind companies to diversify their supply chains.

"Sometimes, you know, some event happened, then the business reacts, but the event finishes, the business forgets. We have to maintain continuous efforts," Nishikawa said on the China Talk podcast.

Maruti Suzuki to invest \$3.9bn in new India plant

Reuters
Ahmedabad

Indian automaker Maruti Suzuki will invest Rs350bn (\$3.9bn) in a plant it plans to set up in the western Indian state of Gujarat, the state's government said.

The plant will add production capacity of up to 1mn vehicles a

year for the automaker as it expands manufacturing to meet rising demand in India, the world's third-largest car market, and for exports, Gujarat said in a statement.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said in a post on X that the project will generate employment opportunities for over 12,000 people and catalyse the

growth of ancillary units and SMEs in the state - creating a robust auto manufacturing cluster.

Patel said, "The project aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Make in India, Made for the World, and will further strengthen what he described as India's most competitive automobile manufacturing corridor.

"Gujarat's policy-driven gov-

ernance, robust infrastructure, industry-friendly ecosystem, and the long-standing India-Gujarat-Japan partnership in manufacturing will go a long way here.

"Gujarat has firmly emerged as one of India's leading automobile hubs and a preferred destination for global investors," Patel further added.

Production at the plant is expect-

ed to begin in financial year 2029 and will add to the annual production capacity of 2.4mn vehicles for Maruti, which is majority-owned by Japan's Suzuki Motor and is India's top carmaker by sales.

The company has an order backlog of about one and a half months for its entry-level models, its marketing and sales head, Partho Banerjee, said this month.

The company said its sales to domestic dealers rose 37% in December to a record 178,646 units.

Maruti's board of directors this week approved an initial investment of Rs49.6bn rupees to acquire land for the plant. The Gujarat plant will be set up on 1,750 acres of land provided by Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC).

British Columbia eyes closer ties on trade, resources with India

Reuters
New Delhi

British Columbia is seeking to deepen its commercial ties with India in sectors including liquefied natural gas, critical minerals, lumber and technology, the Canadian province's Premier David Eby said at the end of his India visit.



Eby said his visit sought to build relationships with Indian companies "so that we're able to facilitate agreements and business relationships to create jobs for British Columbians and support India"

Both countries are seeking to rebuild trade ties after a two-year freeze and to diversify their supply chains in reaction to US tariffs.

"With unjustified tariffs from the US impacting B.C. workers and businesses, it's more important than ever to deepen strategic relationships with international partners," Eby said in an interview, adding India offered "enormous opportunities for trade".

His visit to India, which ended on Saturday, is expected to be followed by one from the Cana-

dian Prime Minister Mark Carney, though the dates of that have yet to be made public.

Eby said his visit sought to build relationships with Indian companies "so that we're able to facilitate agreements and business relationships to create jobs for British Columbians and support India".

Contacted by Reuters, the Indian government declined to comment. British Columbia is expanding its liquefied natural gas production and has six facilities that are "either online, coming online, or reaching final investment decision in the next year", Eby said.

Eby met with government and business leaders in Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh and Bengaluru to explore investments from Indian companies, as part of the province's target to attract \$200bn in investment in the next 10 years.

His delegation also held meetings with state-run oil major Indian Oil, he disclosed. The company has not commented.

Apart from collaborating on energy with India, the world's third-highest energy consumer, Canada is seeking new outlets for its lumber exports, which have fallen to the US because of tariffs.

Eby said the province was looking to sell more wood to India's growing construction and furniture markets.

Trade negotiations between Ottawa and New Delhi were put on hold in 2023 after Ottawa accused New Delhi of involvement in the killing of a Canadian Sikh separatist.

Talks on rebuilding trade ties are in early stages.

Scottish independence vote possible if SNP wins majority: Swinney

Scotland's First Minister, John Swinney, yesterday said he would call for another independence referendum if his SNP won a majority in May's Scottish parliament elections. Swinney, leader of the pro-independence Scottish National Party which has governed Scotland for nearly 19 years, appealed to independence-minded voters to hand his party a big majority in May, when Wales will also vote in Welsh parliament elections. In a referendum in 2014, Scots rejected ending the more than 300-year-old union with England by 55% to 45%, but nationalists argue that the vote for Brexit two years later, which the majority of Scottish voters opposed, changed everything. Asked by Sky News whether winning a majority in May would be a green light to demanding another independence vote, Swinney said: "Yes... if people in Scotland want Scotland to become independent the SNP has got to do really well in this forthcoming election."

Annual bull-taming festival



Participants try to control a bull during an annual bull-taming 'Jallikattu' festival in Palamedu village on the outskirts of Madurai, India.

India, EU trade pact will be 'mother of all deals': minister

AFP
New Delhi

A trade deal between India and the European Union will be the "mother of all deals", Delhi's Commerce Minister said, as both sides seek to overcome the final sticking points.

The deal comes after relations between New Delhi and Washington have soured following US President Donald Trump's punishing tariffs aimed at stopping India's purchases of Russian oil - which it says finances Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The EU and India's trade chiefs said last week they were getting closer to reaching a deal after days of talks in Brussels.

"This (India-EU trade pact) will be the mother of all deals," Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said, according to the Press Trust of India news agency.

The 27-member bloc is pushing for a trade deal that will strengthen intellectual property rules and lower entry barriers for exports, including cars and goods.

New Delhi has pushed to improve skilled labour mobility and wants easier market access for products such as textiles and pharmaceuticals.

The leaders of the EU and India are expected to hold a summit at the end of January and the two sides have been pushing to wrap up negotiations for that event.

A senior Indian commerce ministry official, Rajesh Agarwal, told reporters on Thursday that the negotiating teams were "very close" to a deal and had "closed 20 out of 24 chapters".

India, the world's most populous nation with 1.4bn people, is on track to become the world's fourth largest economy this year, according to International Monetary Fund projections.

China embassy site protest



Britain's main opposition Conservative Party leader, Kemi Badenoch speaks to crowds gathering at the site of the former Royal Mint in London to demonstrate against a proposal to move China's embassy to this site, a stones-throw from The Tower of London. Britain's government is set to announce this week whether China can relocate its embassy from its current site in the upmarket Marylebone district, to Royal Mint Court.

UK teenager jailed for possessing terror manual

Reuters
London

A British teenager who praised the killer of three young girls at a Taylor Swift-themed dance event and said he planned to bomb British rock band Oasis' reunion concert was sentenced to detention for possession of an Al Qaeda manual.

McKenzie Morgan, 18, was arrested at his home in Wales after sending messages on social media platform Snapchat in which he praised Axel Rudakubana, who murdered three girls and stabbed 10 others in July 2024, prosecutor Corinne Bramwell said.

Morgan told a psychiatric nurse on the morning of his arrest in June that he "planned to commit a Rudakubana-style terrorist attack" and had been researching

how to stab people, Bramwell told Morgan's sentencing hearing at London's Old Bailey court.

The teenager twice tried to buy a 6-inch kitchen knife from Amazon, searched online for local playgrounds and a youth dance academy and put the academy on a document on his mobile phone entitled "places to attack", Bramwell added.

She said Morgan later told another Snapchat user that he planned to bomb the Oasis concert in Cardiff last July 4, the band's first gig of their comeback tour, and claimed to have tried to make the deadly poison ricin.

He was arrested on June 2 and a 188-page Al Qaeda training manual was found on one of his electronic devices. Morgan pleaded guilty to a single count of possession of information likely to be of use to a person engaged in terrorism.

UK's Labour party readies for EU reset fight

AFP
London

Britain's so-called Brexit wars dominated parliament for years. Now the Labour government is bracing for new battles as it eyes legislation to move closer to the European Union.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer immediately set about repairing and rebuilding relations with the 27-member bloc after winning the July 2024 election that ousted the Conservatives after 14 years in power.

He hopes a deeper relationship with European neighbours can help

fire up Britain's insipid economy and inject life into a premiership that has so far been deeply unpopular with the public.

His Labour government is preparing to introduce a bill that would provide a legal framework for his much-touted "reset" of relations with the EU.

Despite Labour's crushing majority in parliament, the move is expected to be fiercely opposed by the right-wing opposition parties - the Conservatives, who took Britain out of the EU, and hard-right Reform UK, which leads opinion polls.

"Bring it on," a UK government official said, referring to likely "Brexit betrayal" claims from the

Tories and Reform's leader, arch-Eurosceptic Nigel Farage.

The move also risks splitting open divisions within Labour, including over whether the party should breach a manifesto promise not to rejoin the EU customs union.

Last year, Starmer struck an economic agreement with EU leaders that aims to boost trade by easing red tape on food and plant exports.

They also agreed to work on a new electricity deal that would integrate the UK into the EU's internal electricity market, with the intention of lowering energy costs.

The agreements form part of Britain aligning itself with EU rules in certain areas.

The bill has not been published yet but the government official, who asked not to be named, said it would provide a "mechanism" for an alignment.

"The bill will provide the powers to adopt the rules and set out the role parliament will play in that," the official said.

The government hopes to introduce the legislation in the spring or summer, meaning it could coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Brexit referendum, which was held in June 2016.

Three years of bitter parliamentary wrangling about what Britain's relationship with the EU should look like post-departure followed

the vote, ultimately leading to the resignation of Theresa May as prime minister.

The deadlock was broken when her successor, Boris Johnson, won a landslide general election victory in December 2019 to force through the exit.

Opinion polls regularly show that most Britons regret the razor-thin vote to leave the EU and view the Brexit project as a failure, something Starmer hopes can work in his favour.

"Labour members are almost wholly united in wanting to see some of the damage done by the Tory-Farage Brexit exposed and fixed," said one supportive Labour MP.

"Closer alignment helps our economic message, has the backing of members and most MPs, and will provide a boost to British business," the lawmaker, who asked not to be named, said.

But not all Labour MPs are in agreement.

Thirteen of them recently voted in favour of a bill by the pro-EU centrist Liberal Democrat party that called for the UK to begin negotiations to rejoin a customs union with the EU.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting, widely seen as the favourite to succeed Starmer as Labour's next leader, has indicated his support for such an agreement.

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GULF TIMES**Saks Global leans on real estate to keep doors open during bankruptcy**

Saks Global's prime real estate portfolio could serve as a crucial bargaining chip with lenders as the hard-hit luxury shopping empire navigates its restructuring after filing for bankruptcy.

The upmarket US department store conglomerate filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last week, barely a year after a debt-laden takeover intended to create a luxury powerhouse by bringing Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman and Neiman Marcus under the same roof. While Saks Global secured a \$1.75bn financing package to help keep operations running through the bankruptcy process, questions remain on whether the owner of some of the best-known US luxury chains can get back in the saddle.

Shutting down underperforming retail space could be a key strategy to ensure the business survives, said Brandon Isner, head of US retail research at New York-based real estate advisory firm Newmark.

"One of the ways to monetise its portfolio would be through the sale-leaseback option, where Saks could sell its assets to an investor and lease them back to continue making money on the asset," said Matt Weko, division president of consumer goods and services at real estate investment adviser JLL.

Saks Global operates about 125 stores spanning about 13mn square feet in the US, and owns or controls ground leases at 39 of them, according to its court filing. Its retail empire consists of prime locations on high streets such as Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and luxury corridors in Beverly Hills, California, as well as top-tier malls like Bal Harbour Shops in Florida, where Saks and Neiman Marcus banners anchor high-end tenant mixes.

"One of the ways to monetise its portfolio would be through the sale-leaseback option, where Saks could sell its assets to an investor and lease them back to continue making money on the asset"

Selling such properties would command a discount of between 40% to 50% to their "lit value", which takes in to account the fact that a store is open, according to a real estate adviser familiar with the discussion around Saks' real estate, and who has evaluated the portfolio. To keep shelves stocked, the distressed luxury retailer is expected to prioritise clearing payments to vendors to coax brands to supply fresh merchandise after a year in which more than 100 labels paused deliveries, bankruptcy experts note.

The financing package, still to be approved by the court, could buy time for Saks to retain the value of its real estate assets and monetise them, rather than force it to shut stores quickly at discounts, often known as a fire-sale closure, analysts and experts said.

However, Saks and Neiman Marcus frequently co-anchor the same luxury centres, creating internal competition. At the Galleria Mall owned by Simon Property Group in Houston, for example, Neiman Marcus sits alongside Saks in a mall boasting more than 400 stores and several luxury brands, including Balenciaga, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Bottega Veneta.

These co-locations would need to be reviewed and could be among the first to be sold as Saks conducts a review of its portfolio, analysts said. Saks, Neiman Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman also face increasing competition from luxury brands like Louis Vuitton or Chanel, which gravitate more and more toward their directly owned stores.

"Why would a shopper choose Saks over a brand's flagship boutique, where they receive VIP perks and immersive brand experiences? Multi-brand retail only works when the environment adds value, and Saks hasn't delivered that," said George Gottl, chief creative officer at FutureBrand, which advises multi-brand retailers on store design. — Reuters

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Justice with compassion: Reimagining insolvency through an Islamic lens

● How Qur'anic ethics and classical fiqh can inform a modern bankruptcy framework for Qatar

By **Mohammed Muslehuddin Musab**
Doha

As Qatar debates a proposed bankruptcy law, a familiar dilemma returns to centre stage: can an insolvency regime be both economically efficient and morally compassionate? The easy answer is to choose one over the other. The harder, and more interesting, answer is rooted in Islamic legal tradition; neither are mutually exclusive.

For more than fourteen centuries, Islamic jurisprudence has sought to hold justice ("adl) and mercy (rahmah) together within one coherent framework. Islam treats debt as a serious, almost sacred undertaking.

The Qur'anic command in Surah Al-Maidah requires the believers to be faithful, "O you who believe, fulfil your contracts" and grounds commercial life in trustworthiness (amānah). Yet this obligation is immediately tempered by a call to mercy in Surah Al-Baqarah; those in hardship are to be granted time until ease, and forgiveness, when possible, is better. This dual emphasis is not a rhetorical flourish, but it is a practical architecture for handling financial distress in ways that neither abandon creditors nor crush debtors.

Classical jurists translated these values into legal mechanisms that look strikingly modern. The doctrines of iflās (bankruptcy or insolvency) and hajr (court-ordered restraints on a distressed debtor's disposal of assets) performed functions we now associate with automatic stays, supervised liquidation, and debtor protections. They aimed to prevent value-destroying races to seize assets, ensure proportionate distribution among claimants, and preserve the debtor's basic subsistence and dignity. In short, Islamic law never required a choice between order and compassion, rather it insisted on both.

Three Pillars for a Modern Shariah-Aligned Framework

Predictability without rigidity: Credit markets rely on clarity. Creditors, conventional or Islamic, must know how claims are verified, prioritised, and satisfied, and over what timeline. Digital filing, standardised procedures, and professional insolvency administration are not alien to Islamic ethics; they are contemporary expressions of amānah and procedural fairness. A predictable system lowers the cost of capital, channels funds to productive uses, and ultimately benefits households and firms alike.

Relief without moral hazard: The Qur'anic call to grant respite in Surah Al-Baqarah does not erase debt, but humanises its enforcement. It is a temporary moratorium where hardship is genuine, restructuring plans preserve viable businesses and, after transparent co-operation, access to discharge for honest failure becomes an option. Islamic social finance adds a distinctive tool as the category of gharim (overburdened debtors) as one of the rightful recipients of zakat. Linking well-governed zakat and waqf institutions to the



Mohammed Muslehuddin Musab

formal process can retire residual, good-faith debts when doing so demonstrably prevents long-term exclusion and restores economic participation.

Second chances with accountability: Islamic sources distinguish sharply between ethical default and commercial risk. The prophetic warnings about the "bankrupt" person target those who wrong others intentionally and purposefully, not entrepreneurs whose ventures fail despite diligence. Modern law should reflect that nuance, deterring fraud and negligence vigorously but not stigmatising honest failure. Safe harbours for directors acting in good faith, streamlined small- to medium-enterprise restructurings, and post-discharge rehabilitation, including financial education and access to microfinance, help convert temporary setbacks into future productivity.

Three Phases for Effective Insolvency Reform

Pre-bankruptcy (early intervention and preparedness): Encourage out-of-court workouts and pre-pack plans, supported by mediation centres fluent in murābāhah, istisnā, ijārah, and mushārakah. Early dialogue preserves going-concern value, reduces litigation, and respects Sharia-compliant structures. Add timely disclosures and data sharing to flag stress early, so parties can negotiate credible standstills and stabilise operations before formal filing.

Bankruptcy occurs (orderly protection and fair priorities): When proceedings begin, apply a calibrated, time-limited stay, echoing hajr, to pause unilateral enforcement while viability is assessed and a plan is crafted. Include narrow carve-outs for perishables, critical supplier payments, and clear public-interest needs. Clarify priority

rules that honour trust relationships: protect amānah-like assets (client monies, segregated accounts), define treatment of profit-sharing investment accounts, and empower courts to avoid preferential or sham transfers.

Post-bankruptcy (reintegration and institutional learning): Create referral pathways from courts to zakat and waqf bodies under transparent governance. Use targeted public-private funds to retire residual obligations where this verifiably improves reintegration and lowers future welfare costs. Publish anonymised outcomes, durations, and recovery rates to build jurisprudence and guide pricing; use the evidence to streamline micro-cases, seat specialised benches for complex cross-border matters, and calibrate timelines for cost and fairness.

For Qatar and Beyond

A Shariah-attuned insolvency law should infuse competitiveness. Entrepreneurs need a path back after honest failure, households require assurance that distress will be managed with dignity, and investors need the expected and promised returns with fairness. Bringing these aims together within a normative Islamic frame can produce a system that is recognisably ours; principled, compassionate, and modern. Crucially, the synthesis is not a compromise between "Western efficiency" and "Islamic values". Mercy without structure breeds moral hazard, while structure without mercy erodes the social trust on which commerce depends. The classical pairing of iflās and hajr, animated by the Qur'anic ethic of contract fidelity and hardship relief, offers a third way, an insolvency regime where enforceability and empathy reinforce one another.

As Qatar refines its draft, the opportunity is larger than compliance or procedural tidiness. It is to model a framework in which creditor remedies are credible, debtor dignity is preserved, and second chances are real, though never costless. Such a law would speak fluently to international markets while remaining rooted in Islamic jurisprudence. It would also send a cultural signal that failure, handled honestly and transparently, is not a life sentence but a chapter in a longer story of responsibility and renewal. Insolvency law, at its core, is a social covenant. We promise creditors that temporary hardship need not define a lifetime. And we promise our community that commerce will be conducted within an ethic that is both timeless and timely, where justice and compassion meet, and where markets serve people without allowing anyone to escape accountability.

● **Mohammed Muslehuddin Musab** is a Researcher at Hamad Bin Khalifa University's Center for Islamic Economics and Finance.

(This piece has been submitted by HBKU's Communications Directorate on behalf of its author. The thoughts and views expressed are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect an official University stance.)

Greenland welcomes European response to Trump's tariffs

Reuters
Copenhagen

Greenland thanked European nations yesterday for maintaining their support for the Arctic island despite being targeted by punitive tariffs from US President Donald Trump who wants to annex the Danish-ruled territory.

France, Germany, Britain and other European countries this week sent small groups of military personnel to Greenland at Denmark's request, prompting Trump to threaten trade tariffs on eight European allies until the US is allowed to buy the island.

European leaders on Saturday warned of a "dangerous downward spiral" over Trump's tariff threat, vowing to uphold their backing for Greenland and Denmark's sovereignty. Ambassadors from the Eu-

ropean Union's 27 countries will convene on Sunday to discuss their response to the tariff threat. "We live in extraordinary times that calls not only on decency but also great courage," Greenland cabinet minister Naaja Nathanielsen, responsible for the island's business, energy and minerals, said in a statement.

Trump says Greenland is vital to US security because of its strategic location and mineral deposits, and has not ruled out using force to take it, raising alarm in Europe at the prospect of direct confrontation between Nato states.

Greenland's own companies were unlikely to see a significant impact from the US tariffs, said Christian Keldsen, the head of the Greenland Business Association.

"The goal therefore does not seem to be Greenland, but to put pressure on our allied European Nato countries," Keldsen wrote on LinkedIn.

thanking governments for standing firm. Thousands of protesters in Denmark and Greenland demonstrated on Saturday and called for Trump to leave the Arctic island to determine its own future.

Denmark's foreign minister said he will visit Oslo on Sunday followed by London and Stockholm in the coming days to discuss the need for Nato countries to boost their coordination, presence and deterrence in the Arctic.

"What our countries have in common is that we all agree that Nato's role in the Arctic must be strengthened, and I look forward to discussing how," Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said in a statement.

Sweden on Saturday began intensive discussions with other EU countries as well as Britain and Norway to work out a co-ordinated response, Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said.

Farmers protest against Mercosur deal



Farmers use tractors to block access to Belgian landmark The Atomium during a protest to demand measures supporting the agricultural sector and to demonstrate against the trade agreement between the European Union and Mercosur, in Brussels yesterday. - AFP

Major EU states condemn Trump tariff threats, consider countermeasures

Reuters
Brussels

Major European Union states decried US President Donald Trump's tariff threats against European allies over Greenland as blackmail yesterday, as France proposed responding with a range of previously untested economic countermeasures.

Trump vowed on Saturday to implement a wave of increasing tariffs on EU members Denmark, Sweden, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland, along with Britain and Norway, until the US is allowed to buy Greenland.

All eight countries, already subject to US tariffs of 10% and 15%, have sent small numbers of military personnel to Greenland, as a row with the United States over the future of Denmark's vast Arctic island escalates.

"Tariff threats undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral," the eight-nations said in a joint statement published yesterday.

They said the Danish exercise was designed to strengthen Arctic security and posed no threat to anyone. They said they were ready to engage in dialogue, based on principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said in a written statement that she was pleased with the consistent messages from the rest of the continent, adding: "Europe will not be blackmailed" a view echoed by Germany's finance minister and Sweden's prime minister.

"It's blackmail what he's doing," Dutch Foreign Minister David van der Weel said on Dutch television of Trump's threat.

Cyprus, holder of the rotating six-month EU presidency, sum-



Danish soldiers walk after disembarking at the port in Nuuk, Greenland, yesterday. Major European Union states decried US President Donald Trump's tariff threats against European allies over Greenland as blackmail yesterday as France proposed responding with a range of previously untested economic countermeasures. - Reuters

moned ambassadors to an emergency meeting in Brussels.

A source close to French President Emmanuel Macron said he was pushing for activation of the "Anti-Coercion Instrument", which could limit access to public tenders, investments or banking activity or restrict trade in services, in which the US has a surplus with the bloc, including digital services.

Bernd Lange, the German Social Democrat who chairs the European Parliament's trade committee, and Valerie Hayer, head of the centrist Renew Europe group, echoed Macron's call, as did Germany's engineering association.

Meanwhile, Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin said that while there should be no doubt that the EU would retaliate, it was "a bit premature" to activate the anti-coercion instrument.

And Italian Prime Minister

Giorgia Meloni, who is closer to the US President than some other EU leaders, described the tariff threat yesterday as "a mistake", adding she had spoken to Trump a few hours earlier and told him what she thought.

"He seemed interesting in listening," she told a briefing with reporters during a trip to Korea, adding she planned to call other European leaders later on Sunday.

Italy has not sent troops to Greenland.

Asked how Britain would respond to new tariffs, Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy said allies needed to work with the United States to resolve the dispute.

"Our position on Greenland is non-negotiable ... It is in our collective interest to work together and not to start a war of words," she told Sky News yesterday.

The tariff threats do though call into question trade deals the US

struck with Britain in May and the EU in July.

The limited agreements have already faced criticism about their lopsided nature, with the US maintaining broad tariffs, while their partners are required to remove import duties.

The European Parliament looks likely now to suspend its work on the EU-US trade deal. It had been due to vote on removing many EU import duties on January 26-27, but Manfred Weber, head of the European People's Party, the largest group in parliament, said late on Saturday that approval was not possible for now.

German Christian Democrat lawmaker Juergen Hardt also mooted what he told *Bild* newspaper could be a last resort "to bring President Trump to his senses on the Greenland issue", a boycott of the soccer World Cup that the US is hosting this year.

German industry lashes out at Trump's demands

Reuters
Berlin

German industry reacted with anger yesterday to US President Donald Trump's planned use of tariffs to crank up the pressure on Denmark to sell Greenland, calling on Europe not to cave in to his demands.

Trump has vowed to implement a wave of increasing tariffs on European allies until the US is allowed to buy the strategically important island - expanding a trade war days before the EU's parliament is set to vote on tariff cuts.

"If the EU gives in here, it will only encourage the US president to make the next ludicrous demand and threaten further tariffs," said Bertram Kawlath, president of the German engineering association VDMA.

"Highly controversial political goals are being tied to economic sanctions in an unacceptable manner," said Volker Treier, a for-

mer trade specialist at the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK).

Both called for a unified response from the European Union.

This could include the EU's 'Anti-Coercion Instrument', which allows the bloc to retaliate against third countries that put economic pressure on EU members to change their policies.

Saturday's threat could derail tentative deals Trump struck last year with the European Union and Britain, which is also a target of the planned Greenland tariffs.

The VDMA and DIHK cast doubt on the likelihood that EU lawmakers would vote on the deal with Washington this month, principally involving the removal of many EU duties on US goods imported into the bloc.

"The European Parliament cannot possibly decide on tariff cuts for the US next week as long as Washington is putting pressure on the European Union with new punitive tariffs," Kawlath said.

Italian PM calls US tariffs over Greenland a 'mistake'

AFP
Seoul

Italy's prime minister called US President Donald Trump's threat to slap tariffs on opponents of his plan to seize Greenland a "mistake" yesterday, adding she had told him her views.

"I believe that imposing new sanctions today would be a mistake," Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni told journalists during a trip to Seoul.

"I spoke to Donald Trump a few hours ago and told him what I think, and I spoke to the Nato secretary-general, who confirmed that Nato is beginning to work on this issue."

However, the far-right prime minister - a Trump ally in Europe - sought to downplay the conflict,

telling journalists "there has been a problem of understanding and communication" between Europe and the United States related to the Arctic island, an autonomous territory of Denmark.

Trump has threatened to impose tariffs of up to 25% on all goods sent to the United States from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Finland over their objections to his moves.

Meloni said it was up to Nato to take an active role in the growing crisis.

"Nato is the place where we must try to organise together deterrents against interference that may be hostile in a territory that is clearly strategic, and I believe that the fact that Nato has begun to work on this is a good initiative," she told reporters.

Massive fire kills 6 in Karachi, destroys shopping centre

Reuters
Karachi

AFP
Karachi

AFP
Belgrade

Serbia's sole refinery, majority owned by Russian companies, resumed its work yesterday due to a temporary reprieve from sanctions targeting Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Serbia's energy minister said.

Washington's sanctions on the Petroleum Industry of Serbia (NIS), part of its crackdown on Russia's energy sector, forced the shutdown in early December of the refinery, which supplies around 80 percent of the Balkan country's fuel needs.

But on December 31, the United States granted NIS a temporary sanctions reprieve.

NIS has obtained a licence from the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) allowing it to continue operations until January 23, as well as a licence to negotiate the sale

until March 24. "After almost two months' break, today the production of oil derivatives in the Pančevo refinery has started," Serbian Energy Minister Dubravka Djedovic Handanovic said on Instagram.

She added that she is "proud that we have fulfilled the promise to the citizens" that there will be no consequences to NIS due to sanctions and announced that euro-diesel will be available at the gas stations by January 27.

The measures have hit hard in Serbia, a key Kremlin ally and one of the few European countries not to have imposed sanctions on Russia over the Ukraine war.

After nine months of successive postponements, Washington on October 9 imposed sanctions on NIS, demanding the complete exit of Russian shareholders and preventing the refinery from receiving supplies. Gazprom is in negotiation with the Hungarian fossil fuel company



Firefighters douse a fire that broke out at a shopping mall in Karachi yesterday. - AFP

engulfed in flames." Rescue 1122 spokesperson Hassanul Haseeb Khan told Reuters.

Police surgeon Dr Sumaiya Syed said six bodies had been brought to Karachi's Civil Hospital and 11 people who had been injured, adding that police were "invoking mass disaster protocols".

Images of the mall's interior revealed the charred remains of stores and a bright orange glow as flames continued to rise throughout the building.

Local media reported that parts of the building had started to collapse and rescue officials feared the whole structure could come down.

Sanctioned Serbian oil refinery resumes production: minister

AFP
Belgrade

AFP
Belgrade

AFP
Belgrade

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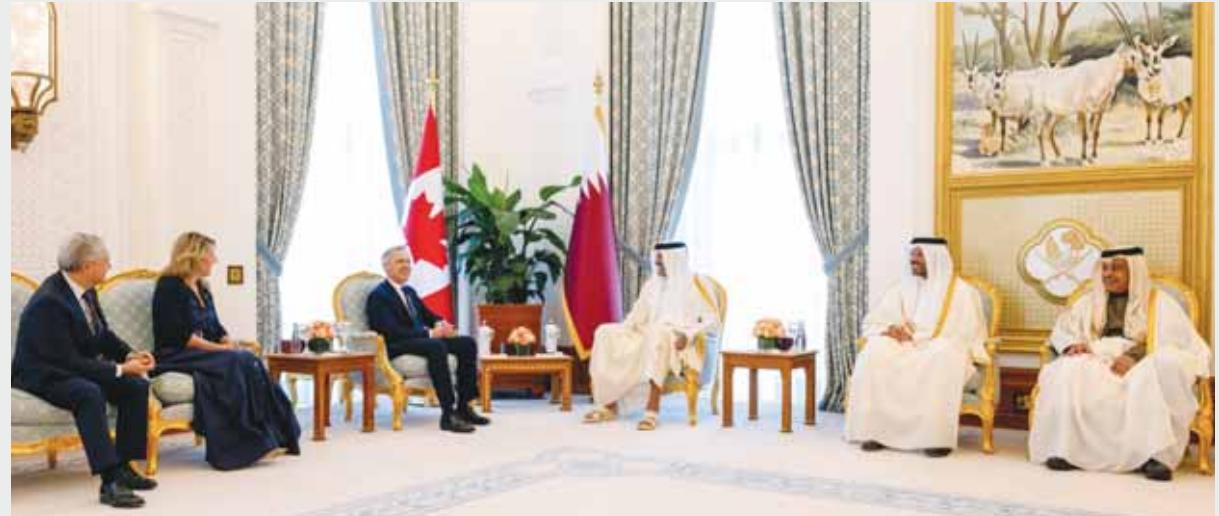
MOL to sell the 56-percent stake controlled by Gazprom Neft and Intelligence, two subsidiaries of the Russian giant.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said in an interview with RTS on Friday that he expects Hungarian oil company MOL and Gazprom Neft to reach a draft contract for the purchase of Russian shares in NIS within one to three days.

This, according to him, should allow for an initial license extension from OFAC.

He added that the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) from the United Arab Emirates is also part of the negotiations with MOL to join the potential purchases.

NIS is 45% owned by Gazprom Neft, which has been targeted by US sanctions. Its parent company, Gazprom, transferred its 11.3% stake in NIS in September to another Russian firm, Intelligence.

**Amir welcomes Canadian PM**

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani welcomed Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and his delegation at the Amiri Diwan yesterday for talks on bilateral co-operation in a way that serves the interests of both friendly countries, and prosperity for the Qatari-Canadian relations.

**Interior minister attends award ceremony for 8th batch of officer cadets at Police College**

HE the Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, who is also Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Police Academy, attended yesterday the certificate-award ceremony for the 8th batch of officer cadets at the Police College.

The graduating class was made up of 168 cadets, among them scholarship students from Kuwait, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Libya, and Somalia.

The ceremony took place at the academy's headquarters, with the attendance of senior officials and officers from the Ministry of Interior and Lekhwiya, along with the families of the graduates.

During the ceremony, HE Sheikh Khalifa awarded certificates to the graduates. - QNA



Dimdex 2026 all set and ready to open

Qatar has completed preparations for the ninth Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (Dimdex 2026), set to open today at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), according to Dimdex 2026 organising committee chairman Staff Brigadier (Sea) Abdulbaqi Saleh al-Ansari.

Dimdex 2026 is held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Supreme Commander of the Qatar Armed Forces.

The event is organised and hosted by the Qatar Armed Forces with the theme *A Global Hub for Defence Innovations – Invest in Possibilities to Shape a Secure Tomorrow*.

Speaking during a press conference yesterday in the presence of VIP Delegation and Protocol director Capt (Sea) Khalid Mohammed al-Siddiqi, Staff Brigadier al-Ansari said that the 9th Dimdex is the largest and most expansive since the exhibition's inception.

He noted that the scale of the event reflects growing international interest in Dimdex, which has established itself as one of the most prominent platforms on the global defence calendar.

Staff Brigadier al-Ansari added that the exhibition brings together cutting-edge technological advancements and innovations to address evolving needs in the defence and security sectors, offering a comprehensive showcase of naval, air and land defence systems.

Related sectors on display in-



clude cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), radar, advanced surveillance systems and other technologies critical to modern military operations.

The exhibition also represents a major hub for companies to conclude commercial agreements, drive business growth and stimulate investment, while providing valuable opportunities to establish strategic partnerships," Staff Brigadier al-Ansari said.

“Moreover, Dimdex facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise, offering fresh perspectives on defence-related issues and enabling a deeper understanding of emerging geopolitical and security challenges,” he added.

Staff Brigadier al-Ansari high-

lighted that Dimdex 2026 will bring together more than 200 national and international companies specialising in security and defence, alongside eight major international pavilions.

The event will also feature a strong presence of local companies from related sectors, as well as participation from various branches of the Qatar Armed Forces.

Innovations and technologies will be showcased across more than 40,000sq metres of exhibition space.

Staff Brigadier al-Ansari emphasised the decision to extend the exhibition to four days, in response to exhibitors' requests, to ensure maximum benefit for participating companies and visiting delegations.



Captain (Sea) Khalid Mohammed al-Siddiqi (left) and Staff Brigadier (Sea) Abdulbaqi Saleh al-Ansari at the press conference yesterday.

Dimdex 2026 will host several established components, including the Middle East Naval Commanders Conference, organised in co-operation with the Joaan Bin Jassim Academy for Defence Studies.

The programme includes official VIP delegation visits and the reception of international visiting warships at Hamad Port.

In addition, specialised workshops will be delivered by exhibitors over three days, from January 20-22, in a dedicated exhibition area, enabling companies to present their latest innovations directly to delegations and attendees.

As part of the event, Hamad Port welcomed eight visiting warships



earlier today, including the Qatar Amiri Naval Forces vessel Al Fulk, in the presence of local and international media.

Exhibition hours are from 9am to 5pm on January 19, 20 and 21, and from 9am to 4pm on January 22.

Visitor access on the opening day, January 19, will be from 12 noon to 5pm.

The event is expected to attract more than 25,000 visitors.

Attendance is available through prior online registration on the website at www.dimdex.com

MoECC takes part in Qatar Camel Beauty Festival

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has been participating in the Qatar Camel Beauty Festival "Jazeelat Al-Atta", held from January 15-February 7.

Salim Qadri al-Yami, the assistant director of the MoECC's Wildlife Protection Department, said that the department is participating through an awareness pavilion aimed at spreading awareness about the importance of environmental protection, preserving rangelands and wild grazing plants, highlighting the risks of overgrazing, regulating camel grazing practices, and stress-

ing the need to maintain the cleanliness of camping sites after the end of the season.

He added that the pavilion includes presentations on types of environmental violations, as well as the distribution of awareness and guidance materials to promote positive ecological behaviour among festival visitors.

The ministry's participation included the organisation of interactive environmental and agricultural workshops that addressed ways to protect the environment and introduced local wild plant seeds and cultivation methods.

