

GULF TIMES

Barcode
0 668039 136499

WEDNESDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13649

February 11, 2026
Sha'ban 23, 1447 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

published in
QATAR
since 1978

YOU DESERVE

To treat yourself to new delights, instantly!

NEW
UNLIMITED
PLANSEnjoy exclusive Snoonu
delivery discounts on
Vodafone World

BUSINESS | Page 1

Sheikh Khalifa
named president
of Federation of
GCC Chambers
24th session

Amir leads National Sport Day fervour



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani took part in the National Sport Day activities held at Doha Golf Club yesterday morning. HH the Amir played golf alongside players from various age groups, as well as members of the national golf team, underscoring

His Highness's keenness to support sport, foster a culture of physical activity, and encourage members of society to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle. The Amiri Diwan had announced in advance that February 10, 2026 was designated an official holiday in Qatar in honour of National Sport Day, allowing

individuals and communities to participate in sporting events nationwide. The nation marked the 15th edition of National Sport Day under the slogan "I Chose Sport," with thousands of citizens and residents participating in sporting activities across the country from the early morning hours. **To Page 12**

Amir underpins importance of sport, healthy practices

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani said the National Sport Day serves as an annual occasion to underscore the importance of sport and healthy practices. In a post on his

official account on X, HH the Amir said that Qatar's National Sport Day highlights the value of sport and healthy lifestyles, extending his best wishes to all on this national occasion.

World record for
largest temporary
sports arena at
Stadium 974

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Qatar National Sport Day 2026 set a new Guinness World Record yesterday when Stadium 974 was officially recognised as the world's Largest Sports Arena (Temporary), hosting a nationwide celebration.

The Guinness World Record was confirmed after Stadium 974 and its surrounding areas registered as the world's largest temporary sports arena, spanning 113,169.68 square metres – more than 28 times the minimum requirement of 4,025 square metres.

During a ceremony held as part of the National Sport Day celebrations, Pravin Patel, official adjudicator for Guinness World Records, announced the approval and presented the certificate to the event's organising partners. Colonel Ahmed bin Hamad al-Thani, Vice-President of the Qatar Police Sports Federation, received the certificate on behalf of the Ministry of Interior and the Internal Security Force (Lekhiwya). Hamad Omar al-Mannai, CEO of Media City Qatar, and Ahmed Hamad al-Binali, Director of Events and Festivals at Visit Qatar, also accepted certificates representing their respective organisations, in the presence of senior officials and project partners. **To Page 6**



Stadium 974 was recognised by Guinness World Records as the Largest Sports Arena (Temporary).

PM participates in NSD activities



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani participated in the 15th edition of the nation's National Sport Day activities, which were held at the Qatar Sports Federation for Persons with Special Needs, featuring a variety of sports. The PM, alongside HE the Minister of Social Development and Family Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabri al-Nuaimi, also attended the National Sport Day activities of the Ministry of Social Development and Family at Al Bidda Park. He participated in sporting activities with the elderly and the staff of centres operating under the Qatar Foundation for Social Work.

The activities included a wide range of collaborative games and competitions aimed at engaging all family members and integrating all targeted groups in an atmosphere that reflected the importance of sport. **(QNA)**



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser at the Education City.
PICTURE: AR al-Baker

Over 15,000 turn out at QOC Half Marathon

The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) successfully held the second edition of its annual Half Marathon 2026 yesterday at Lusail Boulevard to mark National Sport Day (NSD). The event saw an extraordinary turnout with more than 15,000 participants and spectators, reflecting the growing community engagement in sports and active lifestyles.

The event was honoured by the presence of HE Sheikh Saad bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs; HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Olympic Council of Asia and the QOC; HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Thani, Minister of Transport; Jassim bin Rashid al-Buainain, secretary-general of QOC; and Sheikh Khalifa bin Khalid al-Thani, director of QOC Sport Sector and president of the QOC Half Marathon Organising Committee. The gathering also included senior Qatari officials,

high-level representatives of the Olympic Council of Asia, the Organising Committee of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games, and a distinguished lineup of Qatari sports stars, including Mutaz Essa Barshim, Abdulrahman Samba, Abubaker Hayder, and Moaz Ali. The Half Marathon attracted over 10,000 runners across all age groups and categories, including professional athletes, amateurs, and community participants from diverse nationalities and cultural backgrounds, creating a vibrant and inclusive sporting spectacle. Including the "Qatar Team Village" activities, total attendance exceeded 15,000, making it one of the largest community sporting gatherings in the country this year.

In a lively and energetic atmosphere, the "Fun Run" for children was held under the auspices of the Asian Olympic Council, attended by senior officials from the Council, the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Organising Committee, QOC leadership, staff, and families.

To Page 6



HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani at the QOC Half Marathon.

Sheikha Moza attends QF's National Sport Day events

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), led the National Sport Day activities at QF's Education City by attending in the activities at the

activities. Speaking to *Gulf Times*, Ghoroor Abdulwahed, health and sports specialist at QF-PUE said that the events at the Education City are spread out at various places and include activities for all age groups.

"I am looking after the activities at Oxygen Park and there are three zones at this venue. The first zone is where Qatar Foundation schools in collaboration with various sports federations clubs and other entities are taking part in the events.

"This year's edition of Sport Day has participation of 13 federations in the country, and one club, Qatar Sports Club. And the idea of the zone one is to provide exposure to the students to various sports federations in the country in different sports," explained Abdulwahed.

To Page 12



Turkish president receives credentials of Qatar's envoy



President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan received yesterday the credentials of Faisal bin Abdullah al-Hanzab as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Qatar to Turkiye. The ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, to the Turkiye president, and His Highness's wishes to the president for continued health and happiness, and to the government and people of Turkiye continued progress and prosperity. The president of Turkiye entrusted the ambassador to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him good health and happiness, and continued progress and development for Qatar. (QNA)

Al-Khulaifi meets Turkish president's chief adviser on national security, FM and deputy FMs



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met yesterday in Ankara with Akif Cagatay Kilic, chief adviser on national security and foreign policy to Turkish president. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation between the countries and ways to support and develop it, particularly enhancing joint co-operation in political and security fields, and exchanging views on the latest regional developments. (QNA)

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met yesterday in Ankara with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkiye Hakan Fidan. The meeting discussed co-operation between the countries and ways to advance them as well as the latest developments in the region, particularly in the Gaza Strip, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Iran, in addition to a number of regional and international issues. During the meeting, HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's support for all efforts aimed at reducing tensions and adopting peaceful solutions, thereby enhancing security and stability at both the regional and international levels. Qatar's ambassador to Turkiye Faisal bin Abdullah al-Hanzab attended the meeting. (QNA)



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met separately with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkiye Musa Kulaklikaya and Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Mehmet Kemal Bozay in Ankara. During the two meetings, they discussed bilateral co-operation and ways to support and strengthen it, in addition to a number of regional issues, particularly the latest developments in the Gaza Strip, Syria, Iran, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa, as well as support for peaceful solutions and conflict resolution through dialogue. They also considered several other topics of mutual interest. (QNA)



Qatar's embassies, consulates abroad hold wide-ranging events on National Sport Day



Qatar's diplomatic, consular, and representative missions abroad organised a variety of sports activities marking the 15th National Sport Day, under the theme "I Chose Sport." The agenda included wide-ranging sports activities amid broad participation from diplomats, staffers, and members of the public at Qatar's overseas missions. Addressing these events, the heads of Qatar's diplomatic, consular, and representative missions abroad, underlined Qatar's belief in the importance of sports in building humans, along with its role in enhancing life quality and ensuring the community's well-being. They noted that the nation's National Sport Day, which is held annually on the second Tuesday of February, helps consolidate sports as a lifestyle. (QNA)

Amir congratulates Portugal's president-elect

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to Antonio Jose Seguro on his election as president of the Portuguese Republic, wishing him success and for bilateral relations between the countries further progress and prosperity. (QNA)

National Sport Day 'reflects Qatar's vision for a healthy society'

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem affirmed that National Sport Day (NSD) embodies Qatar's clear approach, guided by the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, to advance public health and to entrench sport as a daily practice that supports quality of life and fosters a healthy, productive society.

In a press statement marking the Shura Council's participation in NSD activities, His Excellency emphasised that allocating a national day to sport reflects a deep-rooted conviction in the need to move beyond seasonal initiatives towards embedding sustainable behavioural practices within society. He noted that this year's slogan "I Chose Sport" embodies this transformation and underscores that practicing sport is now recognised as a deliberate choice integral to individual health and the stability of society.

HE the Speaker highlighted that Qatar's achievements in the sports sector have laid the foundations of a comprehensive and lasting legacy that extends beyond infrastructure and facilities to encompass the development of advanced organisational capabilities and specialised expertise. He stressed that these achievements enable the effective leveraging of national sporting gains to support community sport and to ensure the sustainable utilisation of available facilities. In this context, he cited the hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 as a clear example of the State's ability to translate major sporting milestones into long-term added value for society.

HE the Secretary-General of the Shura Council Nayeef bin Mohammed al-Mahmoud affirmed that the Council's annual participation in National Sport Day activities reflects a high level of societal awareness of the importance of physical activity and its role in promoting public health and preventing unhealthy lifestyles.

He explained that National Sport Day represents a practical platform for consolidating healthy practices and shifting sport from an activity associated



with specific occasions to a sustainable daily habit embedded in everyday life.

His Excellency added that the General Secretariat of the Shura Council is keen to actively participate in NSD through the engagement of its members and staff, stemming from an institutional conviction in the importance of fostering a work environment that supports health and well-being, while encouraging balanced lifestyles that positively influence job performance and work quality.

The secretary-general further noted that the facilities, tracks, and well-equipped sports venues provided by the State play a vital role in facilitating access to sport for all segments of society. He called for maximising the use of these resources and integrating physical activity into daily routines, in a manner that enhances individual health and strengthens social cohesion.

The Shura Council's participation in NSD activities, attended by HE the Speaker of the Shura Council, included a gathering of Council members and General Secretariat staff at Aspire Park, where they took part in a range of physical activities. (QNA)

Endowments ministry honours participants, instructors in Islamic Science courses

THE Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs honoured participants and instructors in the programmes and courses of the Da'wah and Islamic Sciences Institute for the year 2025, during a ceremony held at Imam Muhammad bin Abdulwahhab Mosque.

The award ceremony was attended by HE the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanem, Undersecretary of the Ministry Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Mohammed bin Ghanem al-Thani, Assistant Undersecretary for Da'wah and Mosques Affairs Mohammed bin Hamad al-Kuwaiti, and several ministry directors and professionals working in the field of da'wah.

This was part of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' ongoing efforts to raise the standards of imams, preachers, khateeb, muezzins, researchers, and Islamic jurists, and its commitment to qualifying them academically and professionally, enabling them to fulfil their educational and da'wah mission on sound scholarly foundations that keep pace with the requirements of the modern era.

The ceremony recognised a distinguished group of outstanding participants in scientific, skills-based, and specialised courses. The total number



of beneficiaries of the Institute's programmes during 2025 reached approximately 2,900, encompassing Shariah, knowledge-based, skills, administrative, and specialised programmes targeting various categories working in the da'wah field.

On this occasion, Director of the Da'wah and Religious Guidance Department at the ministry Jassim al-Ali, said that the recognition represents a culmination of a journey of scholarly and da'wah contributions. He noted that imams and preachers are the cornerstone of educational development and societal reform, and that their mission goes beyond the performance of rituals to include education, guidance, and awareness-building.

He stressed the importance of continuing to seek knowledge and develop skills in line with contemporary developments, serving societal issues with a spirit of moderation and balance.

For his part, participant Abd

dulrahman al-Bakri, one of the graduates of the New Qatari Imams Qualification Course, delivered a speech on behalf of the newly qualified Qatari imams, expressing his deep gratitude to the Ministry of Awqaf and the Da'wah and Islamic Sciences Institute for the high-quality foundational programmes. He affirmed that the imamate was a responsibility, and a lifelong mission that requires good example and a balanced, conscious connection between society and religion.

In this context, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs affirmed that the programmes of the Da'wah and Islamic Sciences Institute are among the comprehensive, high-quality initiatives aimed at enhancing the academic and professional competence of imams and preachers.

The ceremony concluded with handing out of certificates to outstanding participants and instructors. (QNA)

Qatar's diplomatic, consular, and representative missions abroad organised a variety of sports activities marking the 15th National Sport Day, under the theme "I Chose Sport." The agenda included wide-ranging sports activities amid broad participation from diplomats, staffers, and members of the public at Qatar's overseas missions. Addressing these events, the heads of Qatar's diplomatic, consular, and representative missions abroad, underlined Qatar's belief in the importance of sports in building humans, along with its role in enhancing life quality and ensuring the community's well-being. They noted that the nation's National Sport Day, which is held annually on the second Tuesday of February, helps consolidate sports as a lifestyle. (QNA)

Amiri Guard organises events to celebrate National Sport Day



The Amiri Guard yesterday organised sporting events at Barzan Camp to mark the National Sport Day 2026, with the participation of HE Amiri Guard Commander Major General Staff Mohammed bin Sultan al-Suwaidi.

Also participating were the deputy commander of the Amiri Guard and assistant commanders of the Guard, alongside a number of high-ranking officers, non-commissioned officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian staffers of the Amiri Guard.

The events ranged from football matches and horse riding to walking, volleyball, and table tennis, alongside padel and basketball, as well as a host of contests and recreational activities



with the objective of encouraging participation, interaction and fostering a spirit of positive competition among participants.

The Amiri Guard has been committed to annually marking this day through organising multiple sports programmes

and activities, with the participation of a wide diversity of military, security, and civil enterprises, stemming from its belief in sports as one of the core pillars to safeguard physical and mental health, as well as its consequential role in enhancing quality of life. (QNA)



Justice ministry, Cabinet secretariat hold multiple events to mark NSD

The Ministry of Justice and the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers celebrated the National Sport Day (NSD) by holding joint events on the campus of the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST), with broad participation from the staff of the ministry and UDST and their families.

The joint event included twelve sports activities, including walking and warm-up exercises, soccer, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, tug of war, foot bowling (kickball), trampolining, and target shooting. The activities also included sports events for children aimed at helping them internalise a culture of sport and interest in physical activity from an early age, and reinforcing awareness of the significance of practising sport as a healthy lifestyle for all age groups, including jump rope, sack races, and face painting.

On the margins of the ministry's events, HE Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali bin Issa al-Hassan al-Mohannadi emphasised that this celebration embodies the vision of the judicious leadership of the nation in strengthening the culture of sports and making it part of community life, as it plays a pivotal role in enhancing physical and mental health, as well as building a vibrant society capable of keeping up with the requirements of modern life.

The minister pointed out that the aforementioned Amiri Decision underscores the attention the nation gives to humans, as they represent the lynchpin of development,



stressing that the adoption of this day reflects Qatar's commitment to having a sport-supporting environment in place for all age groups, thereby helping improve quality of life and reinforcing social cohesion.

Health awareness and educational activities were organised concurrently, including an on-site health fair where health guidance was provided and biometric screenings were offered to participants, aiming to enhance health awareness among staff and their families and guide them toward healthy lifestyles that promote community safety awareness and improve quality of life.

The event also showcased friendly contests between participants from the two government institutions, culminating in the distribution of cups and medals to the winners, creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm and elation throughout the celebration.

The Ministry of Justice and the

General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers underlined the importance of this participation in building a healthy community capable of keeping up with modern lifestyles, epitomising the objectives of Amiri Decision No 80 of 2011, on the adoption of the nation's National Sport Day, with adherence to the standards and conditions announced by the Sport Day Committee.

Overall, the UDST activities were marked by their diversity and engagement of participants across different age groups, with a strong emphasis on encouraging employees to adopt physical activity as a sustainable healthy lifestyle.

The event also featured a friendly walking contest organised by the Public Relations and Communications Department, which awarded prizes to the 25 participants who were among the first to achieve 10,000 steps during the morning of the National Sport Day.

QIIB participates in Qatar Central Bank's National Sport Day activities

QIIB participated in the activities organised by Qatar Central Bank on National Sport Day, reflecting the bank's commitment to entrenching a culture of sport as a healthy and sustainable lifestyle within Qatari society.

The activities witnessed wide participation from QIIB's senior management and employees, and included a variety of competitions, such as running, football, volleyball, tennis, and other sports, held in a positive and interactive atmosphere aimed at enhancing physical activity, fostering team spirit, and translating the values embodied by National Sport Day as a unifying national occasion that invites all segments of society to practise sport and care for public health.

On this occasion, QIIB was keen to invite its customers and followers through its digital platforms and social media channels to adopt a healthy lifestyle and practise sport regularly, given its direct impact on improving quality of life and enhancing community productivity. Through its strategy and presence in various sports-supporting activities, QIIB views National Sport Day as an important national milestone through which it affirms that sport is not a seasonal event, but a way of life reflecting society's awareness of the importance of physical and mental health, and reinforcing positive human interaction among different segments of the community.

QIIB's participation in this occasion comes in line with the bank's institutional vision that places people at the heart of development. Its support for sport is driven by the reality that Qatar has become a global model in utilising sport as a developmental, economic and social tool.

QIIB has succeeded in building an integrated sports ecosystem combining advanced infrastructure, professional organisation



and the hosting of major international tournaments, which has been directly reflected in community sport and the spread of healthy lifestyles among citizens and residents.

QIIB views its support for sport as an integral part of its social responsibility. Accordingly, the bank is keen to sponsor and participate in many national sporting events and activities, foremost among them the sponsorship of the national teams and the Amir Cup for three years, in addition to sponsoring the Arab Cup, and supporting prominent sports institutions, such as Al Shaqab and Al Gharafa Club, as well as other initiatives and events that contribute to developing Qatari sport and strengthening its presence locally and regionally.

QIIB's participation in the Qatar Central Bank National Sport Day activities reaffirms the bank's belief that true investment is investment in people, and that a healthy work environment begins with caring for individual health, fitness and psychological balance, which positively reflects on performance, productivity and service to the community.

Qatar partakes in Arab Media committee meeting in Kuwait

Qatar participated in the 104th session of the Standing Committee for Arab Media in Kuwait yesterday, with the participation of representatives from media ministries and authorities in Arab countries.

The session was held in preparation for the meeting of the Council of Arab Information Ministers and to follow up on the implementation of joint Arab media strategies and plans.

The Qatari delegation was headed by Director of the Office of International Co-operation and Agreements at the Qatar Media Corporation Abdullah Ghanem al-Binali al-Mohannadi.

The session addressed a number of priority media issues, most notably strengthening the role of Arab media in supporting the Palestinian cause, countering misleading narratives, and intensifying international media efforts to highlight the suffering of the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights. The committee also discussed developments in the digital media landscape, particularly the use of artificial intelligence technologies in media work, the ethics of its use, and ways to combat the phenomenon of misinformation, rumours, and hate speech on digital platforms.

At the end of its meeting, the committee presented



a set of recommendations and proposals for approval by the Council of Arab Information Ministers, which will contribute to strengthening joint Arab media co-ordination, keeping pace with the rapid transformations in the media sector, and consolidating the presence of Arab media regionally and internationally. (QNA)



Health ministry, partners join hands to celebrate Sport Day

The Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corp (HMC) and the Primary Health Care Corp (PHCC), marked National Sport Day by organising a series of activities at Aspire Park and Al Bidda Park under the theme "I Chose Sport".

HE Mansoor bin Ebrahim al-Mahmoud, Minister of Public Health, attended the events held at Aspire Park. Several health sector leaders, employees, their families, and a significant number of the public from all age groups also participated in the events.

Al-Mahmoud stated: "National Sport Day is an annual occasion that reaffirms the State of Qatar's commitment to the health and well-being of its population. The day underscores the importance of sport in the lives of individuals and its fundamental role in promoting health and quality of life. It contributes to making physical activity a daily habit for members of society, and I am delighted to witness the strong community engagement with its activities,

initiatives, and awareness messages."

The minister explained that MoPH, together with health sector institutions, continues to prioritise promoting daily physical activity to support both physical and mental well-being among community members. In this context, he noted that the Ministry launched the booklet "Recharge Your Energy at Your Office" on the occasion of this year's National Sport Day, aiming to encourage employees to adopt an active, healthy lifestyle during office hours.

Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Suwaidi, managing director HMC, affirmed Qatar's commitment to promoting healthy living across all segments of society. He noted that National Sport Day is intended to encourage individuals of all ages to engage in a wide range of sports and physical activities, helping them integrate these activities into everyday life.

Dr Mariam Ali Abdulmalik, managing director PHCC stated that National Sport Day embodies Qatar's commitment to



HE Mansoor bin Ebrahim al-Mahmoud, Minister of Public Health, Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Suwaidi, managing director HMC and other dignitaries.

strengthening preventive health-care and reinforcing sport as a core component of a healthy daily lifestyle. She pointed out that PHCC views the occasion as a national platform for raising

health awareness and promoting positive health behaviours across the community.

Health sector employees and their families participated in a wide range of sporting, recreation-

The children's area featured interactive and educational activities centred on learning through play, including games related to healthy nutrition, simplified awareness activities addressing obesity and diabetes, obstacle course challenges, augmented reality games, and a "Junior Paramedic" station. This station introduced children to basic emergency response skills, while promoting values of responsibility, calmness, courage and teamwork, and highlighting the humanitarian role of the paramedic profession.

Meanwhile, the adults' area included various sports challenges focusing on balance, flexibility, strength and concentration, as well as football activities. It also offered health screenings such as vital signs measurements, body mass index assessments and diabetes testing, in addition to health awareness activities on obesity prevention, diabetes and tobacco control. First aid awareness and training programmes, a blood donation campaign and several other initiatives were also held.

QCDC participates in Education City's activations organised at Oxygen Park

Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC) took part in Qatar Foundation's National Sport Day 2026 activations at Oxygen Park in Education City, joining the day's community-wide programme.

QCDC delivered interactive, family-friendly sports activities that reinforced the idea that physical activity is not only a health goal, but also a practical entry point to building skills that strengthen long-term academic and career readiness. The activations included games designed to spark career curiosity and a sense of exploration among children and youth. They also highlighted the link between healthy habits and the core skills people need for their future pathways, such as teamwork, effective communication, clear goal setting, and discipline, aligned with the National Sport Day message of embedding an active-living culture as a driver of individual well-being, societal prosperity, and productivity.

QCDC highlighted inclusive participation by engaging volunteers from its EmpowerAbility programme for people with disabilities, who supported the delivery of QCDC's activities on the ground. Their participation formed part of the programme's work-readiness and employability-skills training, providing real-world exposure to teamwork, responsibility, event support, and public engagement.

Saad Abdulla al-Kharji, executive director of QCDC, said: "National Sport Day is a powerful



reminder that well-being is not separate from success. It's what enables it. When we support people in building healthier routines, we also support their confidence, focus, and readiness to learn and

work. We were especially proud to see our EmpowerAbility volunteers leading by example today, contributing meaningfully, strengthening their skills, and showing what inclusion looks like in action."

Tajikistan cultural show at Katara

The Cultural Village Foundation - Katara has hosted a distinguished artistic performance as part of the Tajikistan Cultural Week in Qatar. The event was attended by Katara General Manager Prof Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, and Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan Sattoriyan Matlubakhon Amonzoda, along with several diplomats and those interested in cultural affairs.

The performance, held yesterday evening, reflected the deep cultural ties between Qatar and Tajikistan. It featured musical performances and Tajik dance tableaux that showcased the richness and diversity of Tajikistan's cultural heritage. On this occasion, Prof Dr al-Sulaiti emphasised the importance of joint cultural events in fostering understanding between peoples, and affirmed that Katara continues to embrace international arts and cultures, contributing to building bridges of civilisational and human communication.

For her part, Amonzoda delivered a speech expressing her delight at the holding of Tajik Cultural Days in the State of Qatar. She emphasised that this event exhibits a facet of Tajikistan's rich artistic and cultural heritage. She expressed her pleasure that the Qatari public would be introduced to the beauty of the music and arts that reflect the identity and history of the Tajik people.

In turn, ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Qatar Nur Murad Mohammed Ali, expressed his appreciation to the Katara Cultural Village Foundation for its efforts in supporting cultural initiatives and promoting co-operation between peoples (QNA).

QIB observes National Sport Day with wellness-inspired activities

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) celebrated Qatar National Sport Day with a range of wellness and engagement initiatives designed to promote healthy living and strengthen community spirit among employees and customers. As part of this year's celebration, QIB organised an outdoor 'Sports Day' gathering for employees, featuring a variety of sports competitions and physical activities for employees and their families. The event created an open and energetic atmosphere that encouraged participants to stay active, connect with colleagues, and enjoy quality time with their families, reflecting the bank's continued focus on employee well-being and work-life balance. The day also included dedicated activities for children, ensuring an inclusive, family-friendly experience that allowed younger participants to take part in the celebration through fun and engaging movement-based games. At the end of the competitions, prizes were distributed to participants to recognise their efforts and further encourage employees to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle.

In parallel, QIB extended the celebration to customers through a dedicated Sport Day digital campaign across its social media platforms.

The campaign featured healthy lifestyle tips, engaging sports-related stories, and interactive competitions built around sports themes.

Customers and followers were invited to participate in these challenges for a chance to win



prizes, supporting QIB's ongoing efforts to promote wellness awareness through informative and engaging digital content. Mashaal Abdulaziz al-Derham, assistant general manager, head of Corporate Communications & Quality Assurance at QIB, said: "National Sport Day is a powerful reminder of the importance of active living. At QIB, we continue to encourage wellness through simple initiatives that bring people together, whether it is

an outdoor activity for our staff and their families or interactive digital campaigns that engage our customers." Since its establishment as an official holiday in 2012, Qatar National Sport Day has played a vital role in encouraging healthier lifestyles and emphasising the importance of physical activity. The initiative is dedicated to promoting the benefits of regular exercise for overall physical and mental well-being.



QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED QAFAC

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fee (Qrs)	Tender Bond (Qrs)	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/011/26	Four (4) year Call off Contract for Supply of Dimethyl Di Sulphide Evolution (DMDS-E) at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed.	300/-	200,000/-	08 th March 2026
2	QTC/012/26	Four (4) year Call off Contract for Supply of F-2240-A/B Filter Elements at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed.	300/-	25,000/-	08 th March 2026
3	QTC/008/26	EPIC of HVAC Upgrade and Replacement	300/-	120,000/-	15 th March 2026
4	QTC/005/26	Concreting of Ground Surface and Roof Shed installation outside Warehouse 2 and Warehouse 3	300/-	30,000/-	15 th March 2026

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

- Collection Date : From Wednesday, 11th February 2026 (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time : 08:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. during regular days
09:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. during holy month of ramadan
- 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:
 - 1. Official authorization on Company Letter Head.
 - 2. Proper Identification.
 - 3. Copy of valid Company's Commercial Registration.
 - 4. Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)
 - 5. Valid In Country Value (ICV) Certificate (Mandatory for No. 1 & 3)

Note: "Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local Companies (established under the Laws of state of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Bid Closing Date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned/notified) will not be accepted. Local Company that has been established for less than 2 years and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV digital Portal :- <https://icv.qa/US>



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (USD)	TENDER BOND (USD)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/PRD/7058/25 for CALL-OFF CONTRACT FOR CORPORATE FILMS – VIDEO CREATION AND EDITING SERVICES	08/02/2026 till 19/02/2026	N/A	USD 23,500/-	02/03/2026

Scope of Work:

- The objective of this CONTRACT is for the COMPANY to produce corporate films to cover requirements for its combined assets, operations, campaigns, and events as needed. The requirements under this contract are for the provision of the main Company corporate film update as well as key moments of the main corporate film for social media use. The contract will also have provisions for Ad-Hoc films and associated services on a call-off basis such as project update videos, B-Roll filming, editing and other production and post-production services.
- The CONTRACT comprises of a Firm Corporate film update, as well Call-off services for Ad-Hoc films and associated services throughout the CONTRACT duration based on actual need of the COMPANY.

Requirements of the Contractor including but not limited to:

- Contractor must provide the below deliverables:

A. Corporate Film - fixed scope

Contractor is required to update the company's current corporate film to ensure the storyline of company milestones is updated and enhanced as per the below. Film Versions required:

1. Upated Main Corporate Films: key corporate messages and asset information (max 10 minutes).
2. Corporate Film 60 second version: key moments of the main corporate film to use in social media.
3. Corporate Film 30 second version: key moments of the main corporate film to use in social media

B. Films Services Table – Call-Off Basis

Contractor is required to provide the below requirements covering the business around Operations & reliability, Major Projects, Health Safety & Environment and other achievements for a broad range of use and purposes. These are separate films to the main corporate film and are required for different audiences and purposes for events, campaigns, and other milestone events. The deliverables will be made up of the following:

1. Storyboard
2. Script writing
3. Editing
4. Filming
5. Voice Overs
6. Subtitles
7. Animation / graphics
8. Music
9. Interviews

Minimum technical requirement for Contractor including but not limited to:

- TENDERER shall provide a list of a minimum of 4 samples of similar WORKS / SERVICES during the last five (5) years he has done for his clients in Oil & Gas and other chemical/petrochemical industry including current / ongoing contracts and previous experiences in Qatar, if any, with a specific focus on demonstrating experience in film projects with proven experience in editing capabilities, storyboarding capabilities, voice-over capabilities, production and translation of subtitles, graphic and animations.
- TENDERER shall confirm their availability of professional in-house Doha-based editing suite for use of the WORK/SERVICES listed in the scope of work.

Bid Validity: Bid should be valid for 180 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

ITI document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Effective from 1st July 2023, bids received from Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal by Bid Closing Date will not be accepted. Local Company that has been established for less than 2 years and insurance companies are exempted from this requirement. For further details please visit ICV Digital Portal:- <https://icv.qa/US>

Youth empowerment key to food security, says minister

Qatar has taken part in the 49th session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome.

Qatar was represented at the meetings by HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad.

In her address, she stated that this year's meetings, under the theme *From Farm to Market: Investing with Young Entrepreneurs*, reflect a fundamental truth that the future of food security depends on empowering young people in rural communities to be producers, innovators, and leaders of change in food systems.

Highlighting that Qatar has been a member of the IFAD since the late 1970s, driven by its belief in the importance of agricultural development and rural transformation, HE Dr al-Misnad expressed the country's pride in the institutional maturity that the IFAD has achieved and its tangible ability to improve the lives of small producers and rural communities, in line with the vision of the wise leadership that places people at the heart of development efforts.

She emphasised that Qatar has made food security a national priority and a key pillar of its



international co-operation.

Through its partnerships and development programmes, it continues to support the building of more resilient food systems, enhance local production, and assist communities in facing climate and economic challenges in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Noting that the meetings were being held amidst increasing global challenges, including resource scarcity, climate change, and supply

chain disruptions, the minister said that these challenges simultaneously present a real opportunity to unleash the potential of young people in rural areas, empowering them to become entrepreneurs and innovators in the agriculture and food sector.

Out of this conviction, HE Dr al-Misnad said, Qatar's partnership with the IFAD focuses on three main pillars: strengthening resilient food systems, enabling young entrepreneurs to transition from farm to market, and accelerating innovation and digital transformation in the agricultural sector.

She added that Qatar views the IFAD as a key partner in translating international commitments into tangible impact on the ground, noting that the shared mission is clear: to empower rural families, support youth, and build more resilient and equitable food systems.

The minister emphasised that investing in productive youth is an investment in the future of all humanity, and that Qatar will continue to work with the IFAD and all partners to ensure that rural youth have the opportunities that enable them to be active participants and leaders in global food systems. - QNA

Ministry marks National Sport Day with diverse events

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) organised a variety of sports and recreational activities at Al Bidha Park to mark National Sport Day (NSD).

The events were attended by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, and HE the Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces Lieutenant-General (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Mannai.

The programme featured a wide range of sporting and recreational activities, including football, basketball, volleyball, and athletics, in addition to several competitive games and contests designed for the children of ministry personnel and members of the public.

The events were aimed at encouraging participation in sport among all age groups and segments of society, raise awareness of the importance of physical activity and its role in daily life, and promote sustained engagement in sport throughout the year.

They also sought to foster values of co-operation and teamwork, while strengthening the spirit of participation and social cohesion within the community. - QNA



UDC hosts NSD activities at The Pearl & Gowan islands

The United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gowan Islands, celebrated Qatar National Sport Day (NSD) by hosting a full-day community sports and wellness programme held simultaneously across both destinations.

The initiative brought together partner entities, employees, residents, and visitors of all ages in a shared celebration of active living, wellbeing, and community engagement.

The programme was delivered in partnership with officials and employees of the General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority (Daman) and supported by Ooredoo as the exclusive telecommunications sponsor.

It also saw the participation of UDC subsidiaries and affiliate entities, including Qatar District Cooling Company (Qatar Cool), represented by chief executive Nahar al-Mutawah, as well as Ronautica Middle East, Hospitality Development Company, The Pearl International Hospital, and Corinthia, reflecting strong institutional collaboration in support of national, community-focused initiatives.

Qatar National Sport Day is an important opportunity to bring people together through movement, wellness, and shared experiences," said Ooredoo Qatar chief executive Sheikh Ali bin Jaber bin Mohammed al-Thani. "By championing these community-driven initiatives, we continue to support Qatar National Vision 2030, advancing public health and social cohesion while strengthening the bonds that connect us all."

UDC organises sports and community activations annually at The Pearl Island and Gowan Island as part of its commitment to enhancing the quality of life and advancing integrated community living that places people at the heart of urban planning.

With extensive green spaces, waterfront promenades, sports facilities, fitness clubs, and lifestyle amenities, both destinations offer an ideal environment for healthy, active living.

Activities were hosted across key locations at The Pearl Island, including Porto Arabia, Qanat Quartier, and the sports courts at Temba Arena, as well as Crystal Walk at Gowan Island.

Ahmed Ali al-Hammadi, the director-general of the General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority (Daman) and UDC

chairman, said: "The significance of these activities lies in their inclusive community spirit, bringing institutions, families, and individuals together around a shared goal of health and wellbeing. Such initiatives embody the essence of National Sport Day and reaffirm that sport is a way of life that everyone can take part in."

"These activities reflect our vision of developing integrated urban destinations that go beyond residential and leisure offerings to become an integral part of residents' daily lifestyles," said UDC president and chief executive Yasser al-Jaidah. "National Sport Day provides a powerful moment to see our public spaces activated exactly as they were envisioned: open environments that encourage movement, support wellbeing, and create shared community experiences."

"Qatar National Sport Day is an important opportunity to bring people together through movement, wellness, and shared experiences," said Ooredoo Qatar chief executive Sheikh Ali bin Jaber bin Mohammed al-Thani. "By championing these community-driven initiatives, we continue to support Qatar National Vision 2030, advancing public health and social cohesion while strengthening the bonds that connect us all."

UDC organises sports and community activations annually at The Pearl Island and Gowan Island as part of its commitment to enhancing the quality of life and advancing integrated community living that places people at the heart of urban planning.

With extensive green spaces, waterfront promenades, sports facilities, fitness clubs, and lifestyle amenities, both destinations offer an ideal environment for healthy, active living.

The integrated urban ecosystem was clearly demonstrated during NSD as restaurants, cafés, and fitness venues recorded strong visitor turnout, highlighting how thoughtfully planned community activation drives economic vitality and creates shared value for all stakeholders.



MoT official takes part in 15th Marlog Conference in Egypt

Qatar's Ministry of Transport (MoT) Undersecretary HE Mohammed Abdullah al-Maadeed led Qatar's delegation to the 15th Marlog Conference, which opened in Alexandria, Egypt, on Sunday.

The event, attended by transportation ministers and maritime transportation experts, is under the patronage of the League of Arab States Secretary-General Dr Ahmed Aboul Gheit and Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister for Industrial Development and Minister of Transport and Industry Engineer Kamel ElWazir.

During a high-level panel discussion, HE al-Maadeed highlighted the main features of the development of Qatar's ports and logistics ecosystem, noting that Qatar has adopted a proactive approach, based on long-term planning, integration between infrastructure and regulatory policies, and the use of modern technology.

He said that Qatar has invested in developing infrastructure projects for that critical industry to grow across all fronts

and to support logistics services.

Hamad Port, he said, has been a pivotal turning point in this respect, reshaping supply chains and enhancing the country's ability to respond efficiently and flexibly to global changes.

The advanced infrastructure and modern, eco-friendly technology of Hamad Port, HE al-Maadeed, added, have contributed to transforming it into a regional hub port for re-exportation and transhipment, ranking it among the top 11 globally in the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) report 2024, issued by the World Bank - the first in the Gulf region.

He said that, in parallel with developing the ports, Qatar has been keen to build an integrated logistics system that extends from the ports to logistics zones and free zones.

That was backed by the rollout of digital solutions, updates to clearance procedures, and the launch of the smart ports and logistics hub concept.

HE al-Maadeed said that the MoT has

developed a national strategy for the logistics services sector to support national development requirements and promote economic diversification and environmentally sustainable solutions in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

The MoT also launched a masterplan for ground freight in Qatar to enhance integration among the sea, air, and ground freight industries.

He added that Qatar is committed to continuing to develop its ports and logistics services industries, not only through infrastructure investment but also through policy development, innovation promotion, and expanded regional and international co-operation.

The theme for this year's event is *Smart & Resilient Logistics Corridors - Future Gateway to the Green Trade*.

Rawabi Mini Marathon Season 3 concludes with record participation

The Rawabi Mini Marathon 2026 - Season 3 concluded with its highest-ever participation, marking the most impactful and widely attended edition to date.

Building on the momentum of the previous two seasons, this year's marathon received an overwhelming response from the community, further strengthening its position as a leading health and wellness initiative in Qatar.

Organised in partnership with the Qatar Sports for All Federation (QSFA) and the Rawabi Sports League (RSL), the event reflected a shared commitment to promoting active lifestyles and community engagement in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

The marathon was officially flagged off by Al Rawabi Group managing director Mohammed Abdulla in the presence of executive director Ajmal Abdulla, group directors Muhammed Sadiki and Haris Thayyil, associate director Muhammed Sinan and department heads.

"Reaching Season 3 with such an incredible response reflects the growing awareness and enthusiasm for fitness within our community," said Ajmal Abdulla. "The Rawabi Mini Marathon has evolved into a platform that brings people together with a shared purpose - embracing healthier choices and strengthening community bonds. This year's participation truly exceeded expectations."

The marathon saw enthusiastic participation from people of all ages and nationalities, creating an atmosphere of unity and positive energy.

The 2km walkathon route, starting from Al Gharafa Stadium and concluding at Rawabi Hypermarket, offered participants an accessible and engaging way to celebrate Qatar National Sport Day through physical activity.

The success of the event was further strengthened by the support of valued partners Sparx, Liyano, ECKA Sport, Parajohn, Elegant Star, Saleem Store Trading, English Garden, Haleeba, Farm Olivia, Kitchen Scent, Rawa, Baladna, Noogy, Royal Taj, and Trademen, whose contributions played a key role in enhancing the overall experience.

Participants shared their excitement and appreciation for the event's inclusive spirit.

One participant commented: "Seeing people from so many different backgrounds walking together was truly inspiring. The energy was amazing, and it felt like a real community celebration."

As part of the marathon celebrations, special marathon-day offers were introduced at Rawabi Hypermarket and Café Lovella, located in front of Rawabi Hypermarket Izghawa.



ندوة ونشرة المناطق الاقتصادية (مناطق) الشركات المحلية والعالمية المتخصصة للاشتراك بالمناقصة الآتية (بنظام عقد حسب الطلب).

MANATEQ (Economic Zones Company) would like to invite competent local and/or international specialized companies for the following Open Tender (In a Call off Basis Contract).

رقم المناقصة Tender No.	موضوع المناقصة Tender Subject	قيمة التامين الإبتدائي Tender Bond	رسوم المناقصة الغير مسترددة / غير مترددة Tender Fee / Non-refundable	موعد الإغلاق Closing Date
TC-21-2025	خدمات جمع النفايات ونظافة الطرقات في المناطق الخاصة بالشركة (فقد حسب الطلب) Garbage Collection and Road Sweeping at Manateq Zones (Call-off Services)	350,000.00 QR	5000.00 QR	3rd Mar. 2026

موعد مكان استلام وثائق المناقصة
يبدأ من 8 فبراير 2026 (9 صباحاً حتى 2 ظهراً).

الملف الرئيسي للشركة مناطق منطقة الصناعات
الصغيرة والمتوسطة (ادارة العمليات).

Email: opstendering@manateq.qa

يحتوي كتب «نذوة عن المناقصة» على
مزيد من المعلومات والتفاصيل. ويمكن
الحصول عليه مجاناً من خلال هذا الملف
أو الرابط أدناه.



<https://manateq.qa/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/TC-21-2025-Tender-Brief.pdf>

تتم دفع رسوم المناقصة من خلال شيك قابل للدفع
باسم شركة المناطق الاقتصادية (مناطق) أو عن طريق
طريق تحويل بنكي للحساب التالي:

Account Name : Economic Zones Company - Manateq
Bank : Qatar National Bank
IBAN No. : QA19QNBA00000000013026499001 SWIFT CODE : QNBAQQA

لتحصيل وثائق المناقصة يتعين الالتزام بما يلي:

- 1- اضمار نذوة لاستلام وثائق المناقصة.
- 2- نسخة من البطاقة الشخصية للمندوب الذي
- 3- سوف يحصل على وثائق المناقصة.

ايصال ايداع رسوم وثائق المناقصة.

أين سر لجنة المناقصات، شركة المناطق الاقتصادية، في العنوان الموضح أعلاه.
صندوق بريد: 29000 - الدوحة - قطر.

تحتفظ شركة المناطق الاقتصادية بحقها في تعديل شروط المناقصة في أي وقت بدون إيداع أسباب و/ أو إلغاء.

المناقصة بدون إيداع أسباب ودون أذن مسؤولية عليها في هذا الصدد أياً كان نوعها أو مصدرها.

الشركة ت聲明 في تعديل شروط المناقصة في أي وقت بدون إيداع أسباب و/ أو إلغاء.



MoFA hosts sports events

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) organised a variety of sporting activities at the Diplomatic Club to mark the 15th edition of Qatar National Sport Day (NSD), held under the slogan *I Choose Sport*.

The activities were attended by HE the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad al-Muraikhi and HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hamadi, along with a number of diplomats, officials, ministry staff, and their families.

The programme included football, volleyball, basketball, tennis, shooting, archery, and cycling, in addition to a number of traditional games and other activities. - QNA



DMC-10 marks NSD at end of training programme

The 10th Disaster Management Camp (DMC-10), organised by the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), marked Qatar National Sport Day (NSD) 2026 with a range of sports and recreational activities, following the completion of theoretical and practical training by all participating teams on the eighth day of the camp.

Held in the Seaside Resort area under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, and with the support of the Qatar Fund for Development (QFDD), DMC-10 brought together humanitarian professionals and volunteers for intensive capacity-building in disaster preparedness and response.

On the final training day, the Red Team underwent morning sessions on emergency planning and operations room management, while Group No. 6 received afternoon train-

ing on humanitarian information analysis.

In parallel, the Humanitarian Tent hosted a lecture by humanitarian QFDD aid expert Ahmed Abdullah al-Kuwaiti, who briefed participants on the fund's history, objectives, partnerships, operational mechanisms, and future plans to strengthen humanitarian and development efforts locally and globally.

Following the conclusion of the training programme, participants took part in sports and recreational activities to celebrate the NSD, including shooting, football, volleyball, and table football.

Knowledge-based competitions were also organised to assess participants' general awareness and the specialised skills acquired during the camp.

DMC-10 also received an official visit from a delegation representing Qatar Charity and Misr El Kheir Foundation.

The delegation was accompanied by Mohamed Bader al-Sada, the assistant



secretary-general for relief and international development at the QRCS and chairman of DMC-10, who showcased the camp's training activities and the QRCS's advanced disaster response capabilities.

These included the field hospital, ambulance services, the Disaster Information Management Centre, and the Mental

Health and Psychosocial Support Emergency Response Unit (ERU-MHPSS).

Misr El Kheir Foundation chief executive Dr Mohamed Refey commended the QRCS for its high level of preparedness and advanced emergency relief equipment.

He also congratulated the ERU-MHPSS on its official accreditation by the Inter-

national Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, making it the first unit worldwide to receive such recognition.

Refey expressed his organisation's readiness to share expertise and build on the DMC experience to enhance the capacities of humanitarian actors across the region.

Mannai Corporation hosts NSD events for staff, family

In a celebration reflecting Qatar's vision of embedding sporting values into the nation's culture and inspiring the community to embrace active lifestyles, Mannai Corporation and its subsidiaries celebrated Qatar Na-

tional Sport Day (NSD) yesterday at the Retaj Resort.

The annual event, a vibrant day of sporting activities, teamwork, and camaraderie, brought together more than 1,300 employees who participated in a wide range of

team sports and challenges, including football, volleyball, relay races, tug-of-war, and kabaddi - creating an atmosphere of energy and togetherness.

In the lead-up to the main event, Mannai organised internal tourna-

ments across different locations, including football, cricket, badminton, chess, basketball, volleyball, bowling, billiards, and table tennis.

Mannai Corporation senior general manager (human resources and administration) Emad Zaid al-Kilani emphasised the importance of the occasion.

"National Sport Day is a reminder that health, fitness, and teamwork are at the heart of our nation's progress," he said. "Seeing our colleagues step outside the office and into the spirit of sport shows 'The Mannai Way' in teamwork and demonstrates the fitness of our employees."

Group chief executive Alekh Grewal highlighted Mannai's long-term commitment to well-being.

"National Sport Day is a celebra-



tion across our organisation," Grewal added.

The day also featured a ceremony honouring employees who have dedicated 15 and 25 years of service to Mannai.

Awards were presented by Grewal, Group chief financial officer Santhosh Krishnamoorthy, and al-Kilani.



Ticket sales for 'Shakira Live in Doha' open

Visit Qatar has announced that ticket sales for the highly anticipated Shakira Live in Doha concert officially launched yesterday (February 10).

The concert marks a stop on her Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran World Tour, set to take place on April 1 at Stadium 974.

The Doha show will deliver a large-scale stadium production featuring the songs that defined Shakira's career across decades from Latin pop anthems to global crossover hits together with standout tracks from her latest Grammy Award-winning album, *Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran*.

More than 15,000 at Team Village, QOC Half-Marathon activities

From Page 1

Senior officials of the QOC and committee heads personally awarded winners in all categories of the main and supporting races.

They also presented commemorative gifts to the event's sponsors and partners in recognition of their contributions to the Half Marathon 2026's success.

The QOC, in co-operation with several Qatar sports federations, organised a wide array of recreational and sporting activities at "Qatar Team Village" in Al Saad Plaza.

Families and children from across the community participated enthusiastically in interactive games, sports competitions, and entertainment shows designed to promote teamwork, participation, and community engagement, creating a safe, fun, and inclusive environment.

HE Sheikh Joaan thanked the Olympic Council delegations and the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Organising Committee for their participation in the NSD events, particularly the Fun Run, which is part of the Council's "Asian Games for All" campaign.

He highlighted that such initiatives embody the QOC's vision: "To



be a leading nation uniting the world through sustainable sports development", while reinforcing the values of friendship, excellence, solidarity, diversity, and unity.

HE Sheikh Joaan affirmed that the QOC Half Marathon and the accompanying activities at Team Qatar Village represented a landmark event in this year's NSD, significantly contributing to the promotion of a culture of sport across all segments of society.

Sheikh Khalifa emphasised the scale of participation, reflecting the prominent place of sports in society.

He underscored the QOC's commitment to promoting the concept of "Sports for All" as a sustainable approach to building a healthy and active community.

World record for largest temporary sports arena at Stadium 974

From Page 1

"In that shared spirit, the Guinness World Records recognition at Stadium 974 reflects the scale of national collaboration behind Qatar National Sport Day and our collective ambition to build healthier, more connected communities in line with Qatar National Vision 2030," the officials said. "Achieving this milestone alongside national partners including the Ministry of Interior, the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and Visit Qatar highlights the shared commitment driving this nation-wide celebration."

Media City Qatar marked the record-breaking event by delivering the Esports Village and launching *Khawi*, a new mobile game, as part of the multi-zone sports destination created through collaboration between the Ministry of Interior, the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) and Visit Qatar.

The Esports Village, by Media City Qatar, managed by its licensed company SNRG, was one of 13 official zones developed as part of the Qatar National Sport Day 2026 celebrations at Stadium 974.

Designed as a technology-led experience, the zone brought together console gaming, virtual reality, arcade games, interactive challenges, and racing and cycling simulators, offering visitors inno-

vative ways to move, play, and compete alongside traditional sports activities.

In addition, Media City Qatar marked the occasion with the public launch of *Khawi*, a new mobile game developed by COREGAME Studios, a Media City Qatar-licensed company.

Unveiled during Qatar National Sport Day, it is now available for download on the App Store and Google Play.

Designed to encourage movement, discipline and teamwork, *Khawi* blends digital engagement with physical activity through interactive gameplay.

In a press statement, Media City Qatar chief executive Hamad Omar Al-Manai said: "The launch of *Khawi*, a locally developed mobile game that connects digital play with real-world movement, together with the Esports Village, demonstrates how media and technology can bring people together."

Media City Qatar's participation in Qatar National Sports Day 2026 builds on earlier activations such as the Ready, Set, Next Sports Activation at Sikkat Wadi Msheireb in 2025, which received the 2025 Qatar CSR Award.

It follows Qatar SoundBeat, most recently unveiled during the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025 final at Lusail Stadium, where the song *Nabd Qatar* premiered before more than 89,000 spectators.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, BUTHUBARAMBIL SAMSUDDEEN

holder of

INDIA Passport No. X7273187
QID No. 24035600381

hereby change my name

from

BUTHUBARAMBIL SAMSUDDEEN

to

SAMSUDDEEN PUTHUPARAMBIL

Any objection, please contact

THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR
NATIONALITY AFFAIRS

within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

MDD unveils 'Layali Msheireb' Ramadan seasonal programme

Msheireb Properties has unveiled its comprehensive seasonal programme for Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr 2026, themed *Layali Msheireb*.

Running through the holy month, smart and sustainable district Msheireb Downtown Doha (MDD) will become a glowing hub of community, celebration, and spiritual contemplation through a series of intricate installations and cultural activations.

The Barhat Msheireb will serve as the centre-piece for evening gatherings, hosting exclusive Iftar and Suhoor experiences in collaboration with the Mandarin Oriental Doha.

These "Baraha Ramadan Nights" offer families and friends a refined setting to break their fast amidst the district's striking architecture.

A defining feature of this year's programme is a citywide initiative in partnership with Qatar Charity (QC), engaging visitors in an interactive opportunity to contribute through donations while promoting a culture of giving and social responsibility.

"Our Ramadan programming captures the season's beauty and depth," said senior Msheireb Properties director (Corporate Communication) Dr Hafiz Ali Abdulla.

"The programme brings together spiritual, cul-

tural, and communal elements for our community," he said. "Visitors can engage with a variety of activities that celebrate tradition and togetherness. We invite everyone to experience the warmth and spirit of the holy month in an environment that honours both our past and our future."

As part of the activation, Fereej Msheireb will offer a creative transformation inspired by traditional neighbourhood life.

This area reintroduces Msheireb as it once was, blending heritage-inspired retail concepts and food offerings that reflect the businesses and experiences historically found in the district. - QNA

MoECC stresses on importance of Sport Day

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) organised a number of sporting events and activities as part of the National Sport Day celebrations, held at the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex.

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie took part at the activities alongside the assistant undersecretaries of the ministry, in addition to department directors, who joined employees in the activities in an atmosphere characterised by interaction and positive spirit.

The events included various activities such as padel and tennis, walking and fitness exercises, with notable participation from ministry employees and their children. The ministry was keen to provide a fully integrated organisational environment that observes safety and comfort standards to ensure a safe sporting experience for participants, reflecting the level of readiness and organisation in the implementation of its public events.

Accordingly, HE Dr al-Subaie stressed that National Sport Day represents an important national occasion for reinforcing concepts of quality of life, raising awareness of the importance of adopting healthy and sustainable lifestyles, and building a more active society. He noted that the ministry views sports as a supportive element in enhancing job performance efficiency, im-



proving the work environment, and strengthening employees' psychological and physical well-being, considering such initiatives as contributing to the creation of a positive and motivating workplace.

Dr Farhoud Hadi al-Hajri, director of the Public Relations and Communication Department at

the ministry, affirmed that National Sport Day represents a unifying national occasion reflecting the state's concern for human health and its commitment to entrenching a culture of sports practice in society as a fundamental element in building individuals and enhancing their capacity for contribution and productivity.

Municipality ministry takes part in various sports events

The Ministry of Municipality organised several activities yesterday on National Sport Day, held at Rawdat Al Hamama Park with the participation of HE Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah, Minister of Municipality.

Senior officials at the ministry took part at the activities, including Undersecretary Ali bin Mohamed al-Ali; Engineer Fahd Mohamed al-Qahtani, Assistant Undersecretary for Agriculture and Food Security Affairs; Engineer Abdullah Ahmed al-Karmani, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Services Affairs; as well as a number of general managers and department directors.

HE al-Attiyah took part in the sports activities organised by Qatar Sports Federation for Persons with Special Needs at its headquarters, affirming the support for inclusive sports and the empowerment of all segments of society. He also attended the events organised by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) at Aspire Park, and the activities of the Community College at Rawdat Al Hamama Park, reflecting a spirit of community partnership and the promotion of quality of life.

He stressed that National Sport Day represents an important national milestone for embedding a culture of sports practice and promoting a healthy lifestyle within society.

He said: "We renew our commitment to providing



integrated and inclusive sports facilities that serve all segments of society, and we strive to make our cities vibrant with sporting activities. This contributes to enabling people of all ages to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle and enhances quality of life, in line with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 and its investment in human capital."

He also practised walking, football, and a number of other sports, and was briefed on the programmes and activities organised by the ministry for the public in celebration of this occasion.



Qatar in sport mode

Thousands of residents took part in Qatar National Sport Day events turning them into a lively, inclusive celebration of movement, family and community spirit, making the most of a rare national holiday dedicated entirely to health and well-being

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

From Aspire Zone to Education City, thousands of residents turned Qatar National Sport Day (NSD) 2026 into a lively, inclusive celebration of movement, family and community spirit, making the most of a rare national holiday dedicated entirely to health and well-being.

At Aspire Zone, activities began early as wide green spaces steadily filled with participants eager to take part in a diverse programme of sports, fitness challenges and family-friendly activities.

Children darted between activity stations while parents joined group workouts, creating an atmosphere that was both festive and purposeful, with movement at its heart.

Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) organised more than 20 sporting activities across the open fields of Aspire Park, catering to all segments of society. The initiative aimed to promote a culture of physical activity and encourage the community to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle.

NSD activities this year were launched under the slogan "I Chose Sport" and ran across several locations within Aspire Park, including pitches 10, 11 and 12.

The programme saw wide participation from employees and families, who enjoyed activities ranging from a staff-only walking march around Aspire Lake to fitness classes, spinning sessions, football, gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, shooting, hockey, chess, padel, and skydiving. Youth 22 Initiative events, the Sports Corner and Aspetar activities further enriched the programme.

The event was attended by several senior officials, including HE Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem, Speaker of the Shura Council; HE Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah, Minister of Municipality; Engineer Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Meer, president of the Public Works Authority (Ashghal); Abdulla Nasser al-Naemi, Acting CEO of AZF and director general of Aspire Logistics; HE Engineer Yasser bin Abdulla al-Jamal, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Sports and Youth; and Khalid Ali al-Mawlawi, Acting Director General of Aspetar Hospital; alongside members of the Shura Council, sports stars and Aspire Zone officials.

Al-Meer said Ashghal's participation reflected its belief in embedding sport as a way of life and promoting public health while al-Naemi highlighted the broader national significance of the day.



Nasser Abdulla al-Hajri, Chief Marketing Officer of AZF, said the strong turnout reflected growing public awareness of sport's role in enhancing health and quality of life.

Aspetar Hospital also played a key role, with al-Mawlawi underscoring its commitment to community health. Aspetar provided free medical services at Field 11 in Aspire Park, including general checkups, health consultations, fitness assessments, nutrition guidance and educational workshops aimed at injury prevention and reducing chronic disease.

The celebrations were held in co-operation with several governmental and private entities, enhancing cross-sector engagement and reinforcing the promotion of physical activity nationwide.

Noha Tawfiq, Senior Events Production Officer at AZF, described National Sport Day as one of Qatar's most significant community events. "We do our best to encourage the community to get

out of their beds early and enjoy the sports and activities planned for them," she said, adding that Qatar's identity as a sports-oriented nation made the occasion especially meaningful.

A similar energy was evident at Education City, which hosted a variety of activities for all ages, including the popular Colour Run, health-focused panel discussions and women-only activities to ensure inclusivity.

Participants shared positive reflections on the importance of a national holiday devoted to sport. Meridy, from the Philippines, called it "a fun activity day and a chance to be active", while Kimmy described it as "family activities... a gathering for all the family". Rashid Obaidli said the holiday motivated people "to get up in the morning and go out and run", and Natarajan Swamynathan described it as "a great inspiration", thanking the government for encouraging community participation.

For Teresa Pinto, the highlight



PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam



was watching her seven-year-old complete a 2.5km run – a small but meaningful example of how Qatar National Sport Day continues to inspire healthier habits across generations.



Public Prosecution hosts several activities as part of National Sport Day



The Public Prosecution organised a number of activities on the National Sport Day, with the participation of HE Dr Issa Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi, Attorney-General, alongside a number of prosecutors, administrative leaders, and employees, as a practical embodiment of its commitment to supporting physical activity and its positive impact on building a balanced and productive work environment.

The events organised by the Public Prosecution included a variety of activities such as fitness exercises, running races, and team sports matches, which contributed to strengthening team spirit and cooperation among employees.

The events also featured sports ac-



tivities and competitions dedicated to

children, adding a family-friendly at-

The Public Prosecution stressed that this annual occasion represents a valuable opportunity to enhance human interaction and reinforce positive values among employees, positively reflecting on the work environment and raising the level of institutional performance.

Accordingly the members of the Public Prosecution expressed their admiration for the distinctive edition of National Sport Day, praising its organisation, which combined healthy sports competition with human solidarity.

They considered it an opportunity to reassess healthy lifestyle priorities and viewed the event as a practical reminder of the importance of balancing professional commitments with selfcare.



UDST celebrates National Sport Day with engaging experiences

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) marked Qatar National Sport Day 2026 with a community-oriented celebration that placed sport, wellness, and family participation at the heart of campus life.

The event brought together Dr Mohammed Yousef al-Mulla, vice-chair of UDST Board of Trustees and Dr Salem Al-Naemi, president of UDST, students, staff, their families, and members of the broader community, for a shared experience promoting healthy and active lifestyles.

Hosted at the UDST Events Park, the event attracted more than 700 participants of all ages. The campus was transformed into an interactive sports and recreation hub, making full use of UDST's state-of-the-art facilities.

In recognition of its outstanding efforts and impact, UDST was awarded Second Place at the National Sport Day Award, achieving a significant milestone among many government and private en-



ties across Qatar. This award recognises national institutions that advance community sports and sustainable initiatives to improve public health and encourage active lifestyles. As part of the National Sport Day Award initiative, UDST organised more than 37 sports and wellness events, engaging approximately 5,300 participants, demonstrating strong alignment with national objectives.

As a FISU Platinum Certified Healthy Campus, UDST's participation in National Sport Day reflects its strategic commit-

ment to wellness, active living, and community engagement. The event reinforces UDST's leadership in integrating sports and wellness into education, aligning with Qatar's vision to foster a healthier society.

Dr Al-Naemi said: "Qatar National Sport Day is a powerful reminder of the role that physical activity plays in strengthening individuals and communities. At UDST, we are committed to nurturing a culture of wellness that values health, balance, and active living. By bringing our

community together through sport, we support national efforts to promote well-being and contribute to the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030."

He commented on the award, noting that it reflects the direction the University has pursued since its inception to position itself as a hub for sport, health, and excellence. He also expressed his appreciation to the Ministry of Sports and Youth, and extended his appreciation to HE Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, Minister of Sports and Youth. He reaffirmed that the

University remains committed to its promise to serve as a leading model for knowledge, health, and sport, from Qatar to the world.

Anthony Martin, director of UDST's Sport and Wellness Directorate, said: "This year's programme reflects our continued commitment to promoting an active and inclusive campus culture. Through a dynamic mix of competitive and recreational activities, we aimed to engage our community, encourage participation at all levels, and reinforce the importance of wellness, teamwork, and connection."

The day opened with a Family Walk and Run, encouraging participants to begin the celebrations with a shared physical activity. Throughout the event, attendees took part in a broad selection of sports and fitness activities, including football, basketball, volleyball, padel, pickleball, badminton, table tennis, cricket, spinning sessions, athletics challenges, and beach volleyball. Specially designed activity zones for children and families featured interactive games such as football darts, human foosball, speed kick challenges, target shooting, under-soccer games, and inflatable play areas.

The programme was delivered in collaboration with leading sports partners, including Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), B2 Basketball, and TNT Athletics, who hosted activities across designated zones. Each zone offered exciting and engaging competitions and demonstrations that attracted strong participation throughout the day.

EU delegation focuses on wellness and unity with 'eunited in motion' event on Sport Day



The delegation of the European Union (EU) to the State of Qatar, in collaboration with EU member state embassies, organised the "eunited in motion" event celebrating Qatar National Sport Day 2026 at Doha Sands Beach, as part of its commitment to health, sustainability, and community spirit. The event welcomed around 40 participants, including diplomats, embassy staff, and their families, for a professionally led circuit-style fitness program combining indoor Pilates, outdoor beach bootcamp challenges, and a final group stretch and breathwork session. The EU ambassador, Dr Cristian Tudor, said: "Today was a celebration of unity, energy, and well-being. Through (eunited in motion), we not only encouraged healthy living but reinforced the bonds that bring our European community together." The event also featured strong EU visibility through custom blue-branded kits, including T-shirts, water bottles, and drawstring bags, all marked with the "eunited" identity. The delegation thanked all participating embassies for their active involvement and looks forward to making this initiative a recurring tradition that reflects the EU's values in action.

Shukran Cup sparks team spirit



As part of National Sport Day 2026 celebrations at Education City, the eighth edition of the annual Shukran Cup once again brought together members of Qatar Foundation (QF)'s workforce in a vibrant celebration of teamwork, well-being, and belonging.

The tournament featured 359 male and female participants, who competed across a variety of sports including volleyball, basketball, football, and cricket, reflecting the diversity, inclusivity, and energy of the QF community.

Throughout the tournament, employees demonstrated energy, teamwork, and sportsmanship, finishing with an

awards ceremony that recognised their contributions and sporting achievements. Awards were presented to the winners by Sara al-Mari on behalf of the QF Welfare Committee for female participants, Abdulla al-Muhanni on behalf of the QF Welfare Committee for male participants, and Ali Mana of QF Community Sports Activation for male participants. First launched in 2017, the Shukran Cup is organised annually by the QF Workers Welfare Department, in collaboration with QF Community Engagement and Activation, underscoring QF's ongoing commitment to well-being, inclusion, and recognition across its workforce.

QNA staffers, community members engage in sport

Qatar News Agency (QNA) took part in the National Sport Day under the theme "I Chose Sport", with the attendance of its staffers and community members.

The participants engaged in a mini football match, as well as wide-ranging sports games that had been prepared for the spectators and participants from various age groups.

The arena of Al Gharafa Club, which hosted the events, witnessed a family-friendly sporting atmosphere, and the events attracted a large audience of spectators, especially youth and children.

Amid the distinctive family sports environment, the events reflected the community's engagement with the Sport Day message, turning the occasion into an open space for full community participation and promoting physical activity and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

To mark this occasion, HE Director-General of QNA Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi underscored that the State of Qatar, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, continues to strengthen its global standing in sports as one of the core pillars for building humans and enhancing public health, in support of the comprehensive development pathway the nation pursues based on Qatar National Vision 2030.

Al-Rumaihi added that sports earns a pivotal standing in national policies due to its effective role in promoting lifestyle and achieving sustainable development, noting that the State of Qatar has succeeded in transforming sports into an enduring culture among community members, as well as a lifestyle that includes all members.

He also said that the National Sport Day, which takes place every year on the second Tuesday of February, was a unique to the State of Qatar among nations of the world, and aims to encourage practising sports as a lifestyle that boosts the physical and health capabili-

ties of every single member of the community. He said that QNA has been committed to taking part in Sport Day and highlighting the human and social aspect of sports by organising sports activities for its employees and their families and by the extensive coverage of the different sporting events, thereby contributing to spreading awareness of the significance of sports and its role in building a wholesome and balanced community.

HE al-Rumaihi added that the State of Qatar was among the first nations globally to prioritise the various forms of sports, recalling that the year 2025 witnessed the hosting of many major sporting tournaments, including global and continental championships in multiple sports, which ultimately reinforced the nation's sports presence globally and enhanced Doha's standing as the capital of sports and innovation.

He went on to stress that these organisational successes came by virtue of the constant investments in sports infrastructure, particularly the sophisticated facilities established to host FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which genuinely contributed to having an integrated sports environment in place that provides community members with the opportunity to practice many kinds of sports, which, at the end of the day, bolster their physical and mental capabilities, as well as health consciousness.

He noted that Qatar's success in sports and organising major sporting events demonstrated the country's urban and developmental progress in all fields, highlighting that sports played a role in showcasing Qatar's renaissance regionally and internationally.

HE the director-general of Qatar News Agency concluded his statement by stressing that the country's sports achievements reflected Qatar's national vision in terms of supporting sports and enhancing its role in society, noting that



sport will continue to be a pillar of comprehensive development and an integral component of a healthy, united society.



Sport Day is one of Qatar's most important events, playing a role in helping individuals lead a healthy life. (QNA)

US opposes West Bank annexation after Israel tightens grip

AFP
Washington

President Donald Trump opposes West Bank annexation and wants stability, a US official said, after Israel moved to

tighten its grip over the occupied Palestinian territory.

The United States, Israel's main ally, however held off from directly criticising the Israeli government's moves, which sparked a chorus of international condemnation. "As the president has

clearly stated, he does not support Israel annexing the West Bank," a Trump administration official said late Monday.

"A stable West Bank keeps Israel secure and is in line with this administration's goal to achieve peace," the official said in response

to a question on the Israeli actions.

Israel's security cabinet approved the move ahead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's latest visit to see Trump in Washington today, when he is expected to discuss pressure on Iran.

The Israeli security cabinet vot-

ed Monday to allow Jewish Israelis to buy West Bank land directly and to extend greater Israeli control over areas where the Palestinian Authority exercises power.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the UAE, Qatar, Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt and

Turkiye condemned the "illegal" move "in the strongest terms."

The European Union called the Israeli decision "another step in the wrong direction" while UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "gravely concerned."

Israeli strikes kill five in Gaza

Reuters
Cairo

Israeli air strikes and gunfire killed five Palestinians in Gaza yesterday, health officials said, the latest violence to undermine a four-month-old, US-brokered truce in the enclave.

In Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza, an air strike killed two people who were riding an electric bike, medics said. Later, Israeli drone fire killed a woman in Deir Al-Balah and troops shot dead a man in Khan Younis in the south, they said.

Another man was killed by Israeli gunfire in Jabalia in north Gaza, Palestinian medics said.

The violence came a day after Israeli forces killed four fighters in the southern city of Rafah after they emerged from an underground tunnel and opened fire on troops.

Without commenting directly on the four people killed yesterday, the Israeli military said it had carried out attacks targeting what it described as Hamas fighters in response to Monday's incident in Rafah.

In Gaza City, dozens of Palestinians rallied at the funerals of three people who were killed by an Israeli air strike on an apartment building in the area on Monday night.

One body was wrapped in a



Mourners react during the funeral of Palestinians, who, according to medics, were killed by an Israeli strike on Monday, at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, yesterday.

Hamas green flag, while another had a green Hamas ribbon on his forehead, signalling that the two were members of the fighter group.

Reuters was not able to ascertain the identities of those killed.

Israel and Hamas have repeatedly traded blame for violations of the ceasefire deal, a key element of US President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza war, the deadliest and most destructive in the generations-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The next phase of Trump's plan involves Hamas disarming, Israel withdrawing its troops from Gaza, and the deployment

of an international peacekeeping force. Hamas has long rejected calls to lay down its arms and Israeli officials say they are preparing for a return to full-scale war.

At least 580 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the October ceasefire deal was struck, Gaza's health ministry says. Israel says four soldiers have been killed by fighters in Gaza over the same period.

The Gaza war started with the October 2023 Hamas storming of southern Israel. Israel's air and ground war in Gaza has killed more than 72,000 people since then, according to Palestinian health ministry data.

Prince William meets footballers, gamers during Saudi tour

AFP
Riyadh

Britain's Prince William criss-crossed the Saudi capital Riyadh yesterday, meeting footballers, playing video games and chatting with customers at a cafe.

William, an avid environmentalist, was also set to later visit the historic city of AlUla, where he will learn about conservation efforts, according to Kensington Palace.

On his second day of a three-day tour of the Kingdom, the British royal visited an urban regeneration project, watched football drills with local girls' youth squads and then dropped by an e-sports tournament, according to Saudi media.

During his visit to a sports complex in Riyadh, the prince showed off his own skills and netted two goals while visiting with the footballers, according to footage posted by the British broadcaster Sky News.

William arrived in Riyadh on



Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales reacts as he learns about Saudi's gaming ecosystem during an E-Sports tournament during a visit to the Boulevard City in Riyadh, yesterday.

Monday evening and was welcomed by Saudi Arabia's de facto leader Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

During their meeting, the Saudi crown prince took the heir to the British throne on a private tour of the At-Turaiif Unesco World Heritage Site at Diriyah, the first capital of the Saudi state.

Amicable ties have long existed between the Saudi and British royal families, and Saudi Arabia is seen as one of Britain's most important partners in the Gulf. The late Queen Elizabeth II hosted Saudi royals during four state visits, on a par with other key allies such as France and Germany.

Lebanon, Jordan seek solutions after Damascus bans non-Syrian trucks

AFP
Beirut

Lebanon and Jordan are seeking a solution with Syria after the latter barred foreign trucks from entering its territory, officials from both countries said yesterday.

Damascus had issued a decision on Saturday stipulating that "non-Syrian trucks will not be allowed to enter" the country, and that goods being imported by road must be unloaded at specific points at border crossings.

The decision exempts trucks that are only passing through Syria to other countries.

Dozens of trucks unable to enter the country were lined up on the Lebanese side of the Masnaa

border crossing yesterday, an AFP photographer saw.

Ahmad Tamer, head of land and maritime transportation at the Lebanese transport ministry told AFP that discussions were underway with Damascus over the decision. He said the issue was not specifically targeting Lebanon – which is trying to reset ties with Damascus after the fall of Bashar al-Assad – adding that he hoped to hold a meeting with the Syrian side soon.

Lebanon sends around 500 trucks to Syria per day, according to Tamer.

In Jordan, also affected by the decision, transport ministry spokesperson Mohammed al-Dweiri told AFP that "discussions are currently underway, and we are awaiting a response from the



Lebanese truck drivers block the road on the Lebanese side of the Masnaa border crossing in protest against Syria's decision to ban non-Syrian trucks from entering its territory, yesterday.

Syrian side regarding allowing foreign trucks to enter and cross."

Dweiri said that Jordanian trucks were continuing to unload

their cargo at the free zone at the Nassib border crossing with Syria despite some "confusion".

Around 250 Jordanian trucks travel to Syria daily, according to him. A source in the Syrian General Authority for Ports and Customs told AFP that the decision aimed to "regulate the movement of cargo through the ports".

Representatives of unions and associations in Lebanon's transport sector denounced the decision yesterday and warning of "negative repercussions", according to the state-run National News Agency.

Syria is the only land route Lebanon can use to export merchandise to wealthy Gulf markets. As part of continued attempts to rekindle ties, the two countries signed an agreement on Friday to hand around 300 Syrian convicts over to Damascus.

Iran security chief meets Oman ruler after US talks

AFP
Muscat

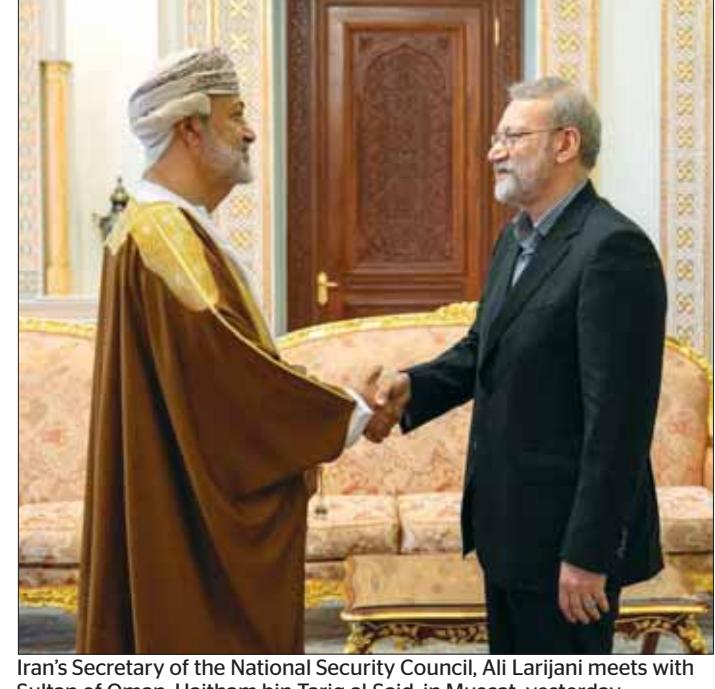
Iran's top security official met the Sultan of Oman in Muscat yesterday, days after a first round of talks there between officials from Washington and Tehran last Friday.

Ali Larijani, who heads the Supreme National Security Council, and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq "discussed the latest developments in the Iranian-American negotiations", the official Oman News Agency said.

Larijani also met Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi, who mediated Friday's indirect talks between US and Iranian officials, according to photos shared on Larijani's official Telegram channel. Larijani and Sultan Haitham also explored "ways to reach a balanced and just agreement between the two sides, and emphasised the importance of returning to the table of dialogue and negotiation".

While in Muscat, Larijani warned against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intervening in the talks, according to a post on X.

He urged the US to "remain alert" to what he described as Israel's destructive role ahead of



Iran's Secretary of the National Security Council, Ali Larijani meets with Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq al-Said, in Muscat, yesterday.

Netanyahu's trip to Washington, it said. During his trip to Muscat, Larijani also met Mohammed Abdulsalam, the spokesperson for Yemen's Houthi fighters.

Larijani will head to Qatar next, according to Iran's foreign minis-

try spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei. The trip comes after Iran and the US resumed negotiations in Oman on Friday for the first time since the 12-day Iran-Israel war last June, which was briefly joined by the US military.

Indonesia says proposed Gaza force could total 20,000 troops

Reuters
Jakarta

it is awaiting more details about the force's mandate before confirming deployment.

"The total number is approximately 20,000 (across countries) ... it is not only Indonesia," presidential spokesman Prasetyo Hadi told journalists yesterday, adding that the exact number of troops had not been discussed yet but Indonesia estimated it could offer up to 8,000.

The spokesman said, however,

that no deployment terms or areas of operation had been agreed.

Prabowo has been invited to Washington later this month for the first meeting of US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace. The Southeast Asian country last year committed to ready 20,000 troops for deployment for a Gaza peacekeeping force, but it has said

that no deployment terms or areas of operation had been agreed.

Prasetyo also said there would be negotiations before Indonesia paid the \$1bn being asked for permanent membership of the Board of Peace. He did not clarify who the negotiations would be with, and said Indonesia had not

yet confirmed Prabowo's attendance at the board meeting.

Separately, Indonesia's defence ministry also denied reports in Israeli media that the deployment of Indonesian troops would be in Gaza's Rafah and Khan Younis.

"Indonesia's plans to contribute to peace and humanitarian support in Gaza are still in the preparation and co-ordination stages," defence ministry spokesman Rico Ricardo Sirat told Reuters in a message.

"Operational matters (deployment location, number of personnel, schedule, mechanism) have not yet been finalised and will be announced once an official decision has been made and the necessary international mandate has been clarified," he added.

"We are just preparing ourselves in case an agreement is reached and we have to send peacekeeping forces," he said.

"Prasetyo also said there would be negotiations before Indonesia paid the \$1bn being asked for permanent membership of the Board of Peace. He did not clarify who the negotiations would be with, and said Indonesia had not

yet confirmed Prabowo's attendance at the board meeting.

Separately, Indonesia's defence ministry also denied reports in Israeli media that the deployment of Indonesian troops would be in Gaza's Rafah and Khan Younis.

"Indonesia's plans to contribute to peace and humanitarian support in Gaza are still in the preparation and co-ordination stages," defence ministry spokesman Rico Ricardo Sirat told Reuters in a message.

"Operational matters (deployment location, number of personnel, schedule, mechanism) have not yet been finalised and will be announced once an official decision has been made and the necessary international mandate has been clarified," he added.

"We are just preparing ourselves in case an agreement is reached and we have to send peacekeeping forces," he said.

"Prasetyo also said there would be negotiations before Indonesia paid the \$1bn being asked for permanent membership of the Board of Peace. He did not clarify who the negotiations would be with, and said Indonesia had not

yet confirmed Prabowo's attendance at the board meeting.

Separately, Indonesia's defence ministry also denied reports in Israeli media that the deployment of Indonesian troops would be in Gaza's Rafah and Khan Younis.

"Indonesia's plans to contribute to peace and humanitarian support in Gaza are still in the preparation and co-ordination stages," defence ministry spokesman Rico Ricardo Sirat told Reuters in a message.

"Operational matters (deployment location, number of personnel, schedule, mechanism) have not yet been finalised and will be announced once an official decision has been made and the necessary international mandate has been clarified," he added.

"We are just preparing ourselves in case an agreement is reached and we have to send peacekeeping forces," he said.

"Prasetyo also said there would be negotiations before Indonesia paid the \$1bn being asked for permanent membership of the Board of Peace. He did not clarify who the negotiations would be with, and said Indonesia had not

yet confirmed Prabowo's attendance at the board meeting.

Separately, Indonesia's defence ministry also denied reports in Israeli media that the deployment of Indonesian troops would be in Gaza's Rafah and Khan Younis.

"Indonesia's plans to contribute to peace and humanitarian support in Gaza are still in the preparation and co-ordination stages," defence ministry spokesman Rico Ricardo Sirat told Reuters in a message.

"Operational matters (deployment location, number of personnel, schedule, mechanism) have not yet been finalised and will be announced once an official decision has been made and the necessary international mandate has been clarified," he added.

"We are just preparing ourselves in case an agreement is reached and we have to send peacekeeping forces," he said.

"Prasetyo also said there would be negotiations before Indonesia paid the \$1bn being asked for permanent membership of the Board of Peace. He did not clarify who the negotiations would be with, and said Indonesia had not

yet confirmed Prabowo's attendance at the board meeting.

Separately, Indonesia's defence ministry also denied reports in Israeli media that the deployment of Indonesian troops would be in Gaza's Rafah and Khan Younis.

"Indonesia's plans to contribute to peace and humanitarian support in Gaza are still in the preparation and co-ordination stages," defence ministry spokesman Rico Ricardo Sirat told Reuters in a message.

"Operational matters (deployment location, number of personnel, schedule, mechanism) have not yet been finalised and will be announced once an official decision has been made and the necessary international mandate has been clarified," he added.

"We are just preparing ourselves in case an agreement is reached and we have to send peacekeeping forces," he said.

"Prasetyo also said there would be negotiations before Indonesia paid the \$1bn being asked for permanent membership of the Board of Peace. He did not clarify who the negotiations would be with, and said Indonesia had not

yet confirmed Prabowo's attendance at the board meeting.

Separately, Indonesia's defence ministry also denied reports in Israeli media that the deployment of Indonesian troops would be in Gaza's Rafah and Khan Younis.

"Indonesia's plans to contribute to peace and humanitarian support in Gaza are still in the preparation and co-ordination stages," defence ministry spokesman Rico Ricardo Sirat told Reuters in a message.

"Operational matters (deployment location, number of personnel, schedule, mechanism) have not yet been finalised and will be announced once an official decision has been made and the necessary international mandate has been clarified," he added.

"We are just preparing ourselves in case an agreement is reached and we have to send peacekeeping forces," he said.

"Prasetyo also said there would be negotiations before Indonesia paid the \$1bn being asked for permanent membership of the Board of Peace. He did not clarify who the negotiations would be with, and said Indonesia had not

yet confirmed Prabowo's attendance at the board meeting.

Separately, Indonesia's defence ministry also denied reports in Israeli media that the deployment of Indonesian troops would be in Gaza's Rafah and Khan Younis.

**CHAIRMAN**

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

Deputy Managing Editor

Kamran Rehmat

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

GULF TIMES

Keep spending: Big Tech sticks to AI binge despite market concerns

Last week's market turmoil – as an estimated \$1.8tn in market value was wiped out in a global tech sell-off – suggests the trade is hitting a turning point as investors weigh the promised payoff in artificial intelligence against its rapidly rising cost.

Even as the AI race intensifies, four of the biggest US technology companies together have forecast capital expenditures that will reach about \$650bn in 2026 – a mind-boggling tide of cash earmarked for new data centres and all the gear housed within them, according to a Bloomberg report.

The spending planned by Alphabet, Amazon.com, Meta Platforms and Microsoft – all in pursuit of dominance in the still-nascent market for AI tools, is a boom without a parallel this century. Each of the companies' estimates for this year is expected either near or surpass their budgets for the past three years combined. They would set a high-water mark for capital spending by any single corporation in any one of the past 10 years, according to Bloomberg data.

The search for a comparison to the spending projections – which came as the four reported earnings in the past weeks – requires going back at least as far as the telecommunications bubble of the 1990s, and perhaps to the build-out of the US railroad networks in the 19th century, or the postwar federal investments in interstate highways.

Even as the AI race intensifies, four of the biggest US technology companies together have forecast capital expenditures that will reach about \$650bn in 2026

employment reports, potentially making the overall economy look healthier than it actually is.

As the numbers push higher, what is still unclear is whether the companies will all be able to execute on their lofty ambitions. There's also the question of how they will afford it. Meta and Google, whose profit mainly comes from digital advertising; Amazon, the largest online retailer and cloud-computing provider; and Microsoft, the biggest seller of business software, are each dominant in their industries and have ample cash cushions.

Their willingness to plough huge chunks of that cash into an AI-fuelled future means those reserves, and investors' patience, will be tested. For months, investors have been growing increasingly anxious about how AI will potentially transform the economy. Last week, those concerns suddenly spilled over into the stock market.

The culprit was AI startup Anthropic, which released new tools designed to automate work tasks in various industries, from legal and data services to financial research. The announcements sparked fears that the innovations would doom countless businesses.

In response, investors dumped a broad range of stocks, and even with the end-of-week rebound, the damage was severe. When ChatGPT was launched in November 2022, anything linked to the AI theme surged – from chipmakers and software firms to raw-materials suppliers and even companies most exposed to AI disruption.

That lifted equity and debt markets to levels that have drawn bubble warnings from regulators and investors. Mind-boggling global AI spending spree is projected to cross \$2.5tn in 2026, a 44% increase year-over-year. But as of now, the global AI trade is starting to fracture as soaring capex, rising debt loads and doubts over who will profit from the technology force investors to draw sharper lines.

To Advertise

✉ gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display✉ 44466621
✉ 44418811**Classified**✉ 44466609
✉ 44418811

✉ gtcad@gulf-times.com

Subscription

✉ circulation@gulf-times.com

Get set for Berlinale

A picture taken with a zoom in effect shows the Berlinale logo at the Berlinale Palace as preparations are under way for the 76th Berlinale, Europe's first major film festival of the year, in Berlin yesterday. The 76th annual Berlin International Film Festival, usually called the Berlinale, will take place between February 12 and 22, 2026 in Berlin, Germany. (AFP)

Qatar's ratification of Palestinian workers agreement continues its pivotal role

Qatar ratified a bilateral agreement with the Palestinian government to regulate the employment of Palestinian workers in the Qatari labour market, under Amiri Decree No. (3) of 2026. The agreement was signed in Doha on May 27, 2025.

QNA
Gaza

Palestinian trade unionists and economists welcomed Qatar's ratification of the agreement regulating the employment of Palestinian workers in the country, describing it as an important step that strengthens bilateral co-operation.

They noted that it comes within a long-standing framework of economic, developmental, and humanitarian interventions through which Qatar has supported the Palestinian economy and society.

Qatar ratified a bilateral agreement with the Palestinian government to regulate the employment of Palestinian workers in the Qatari labour market, under Amiri Decree No. (3) of 2026. The agreement was signed in Doha on May 27, 2025.

Chairman of the General Union of Workers' Syndicates in Gaza Sami al-Amssi praised the ratification of the bilateral agreement, saying that Qatar's recruitment of Palestinian workers will help alleviate unemployment and improve living conditions for jobless workers, especially following two years of the Israeli war on Gaza, which devastated the Palestinian economy.

Al-Amssi told QNA that over the past years, Qatar has contributed to mitigating the effects of the Israeli blockade on Gaza, through the monthly Qatari grant, paving main streets, developing infrastructure and various service facilities, as well as building Hamad City, hospitals, clinics, sports fields, and cultural and educational institutions.

He pointed out that Qatar's ratification of the agreement comes as the Israeli war left about 400,000 workers in Gaza unemployed, in addition to unprecedentedly high unemployment rates, extreme poverty, food insecurity, and paralysis of economic and industrial sectors, including metal workshops, after the destruction of most productive sectors across all fields.

Al-Amssi stressed that Palestinian workers, particularly in Gaza, urgently need such agreements to secure employment during these difficult times faced by the Palestinian people. The union leader also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the wise Qatari leadership for this decision, affirming that it reflects the deep fraternal relations between the two peoples and underscores Qatar's ongoing commitment to supporting the Palestinian people, especially in economic, social, and humanitarian fields.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Abu Qamar, an economic expert, stated that Qatar's role in supporting Gaza and the Palestinian economy is pivotal and cumulative, not linked to a temporary circumstance, but rather part of a long-standing series of economic, developmental, and humanitarian interventions that helped mitigate the impacts of the blockade and successive wars.

In his remarks to QNA, Abu Qamar noted that the agreement to recruit Palestinian workers to work in Qatar represents a natural extension of this role and reflects a practical commitment to supporting the resilience of Palestinians during one of the most sensitive periods for the Palestinian economy.



Sami Al Amssi
Chairman of the General Union of Workers' Syndicates in Gaza

• We extend our thanks to the wise Qatari leadership for this decision, which reflects the depth and strength of the fraternal relations between the two brotherly peoples •

• Qatar's recruitment of Palestinian workers will help alleviate unemployment and improve living conditions for jobless workers •

• Over the past years, Qatar has contributed to mitigating the effects of the Israeli blockade on Gaza •



Ahmad Abu Qamar
Economic expert

• The agreement to recruit Palestinian workers to work in Qatar represents a natural extension of this role and reflects a practical commitment to supporting the resilience of Palestinians •

• Qatar was among the first countries to contribute practically to rebuilding large areas of Gaza, including infrastructure projects •

• The timing of this agreement is highly significant, given the near-complete collapse of the labor market in Gaza, especially after more than two years of the war •

80% Unemployment rates in Gaza

87% The GDP contracting

Prominent role

He stressed that Qatar's support for the Palestinian economy, whether in rehabilitating the labour market or contributing to Gaza's reconstruction, is not new but rather a continuation of previous efforts. Qatar was among the first countries to contribute practically to rebuilding large areas of Gaza, including infrastructure projects and residential towers across different areas.

Abu Qamar added that Qatar played a prominent role during the years of the blockade, whether through the Qatari grant or through multiple developmental projects that helped reduce unemployment, increase income levels, and improve Gaza's infrastructure, which had suffered extensive collapse during periods of blockade and wars.

The economic expert noted that the timing of this agreement is highly significant, given the near-complete collapse of the labour market in Gaza, especially after more than two years of the war, where unemployment rates exceeded 80 percent, while labour force participation did not exceed 33 percent, reflecting a sharp decline even in the number of job seekers.

Regarding the impact of this agreement on the Palestinian economic situation, he believes that opening opportunities for Palestinian labour to work in Qatar or other foreign labour markets constitutes a necessary economic response during a highly sensitive stage, with multiple positive effects, primarily reducing high unemployment rates and increasing income levels, which in turn helps alleviate poverty among workers' families, particularly in Gaza.

Specialised experience

He added that this step will positively affect the Palestinian gross national product, a key indicator of economic performance, which in turn impacts the overall Palestinian economy. Abu Qamar emphasised that attracting labour from Gaza to a market with strong economic and developmental capacity, such as Qatar, classified globally among countries with high soft power, will provide workers with opportunities to gain specialised experience that can later be transferred to the Palestinian market, especially during the expected reconstruction phase, ensuring optimal investment of Palestinian human resources.

He pointed out that the Palestinian economy, especially in Gaza, suffers from unprecedented contraction due to the war, with the GDP contracting by over 83 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year, rising to around 87 percent in 2025, reflecting the severity of the economic deterioration.

He confirmed that exporting Palestinian labour abroad will help alleviate this contraction by reducing unemployment, increasing income, and enhancing the purchasing power of citizens, thereby mitigating the decline in GDP.

The Palestinian economy, particularly in Gaza, has been in complete collapse due to Israel's systematic policies during two years of war, which destroyed industrial facilities, factories, companies, and commercial stores, imposed a strict blockade, and prevented the entry of commercial and industrial materials, halting work and turning thousands of workers into an army of unemployment.

India ramps up AI rules for social media platforms

India has tightened rules regulating artificial intelligence (AI), requiring social media platforms to clearly label AI content and comply with takedown requests by authorities within three hours.

The updated rules, issued by the ministry of information technology, will come into effect on February 20 and shrink the window for removing content that violates local laws from the previous 36-hour window.

India has more than 1bn Internet users, and AI-generated misinformation is becoming widespread in the world's most populous country.

The announcement comes as New Delhi is preparing to host a major global AI summit next week, which will be attended by French President Emmanuel Macron and a host of other world leaders.

The latest rules apply to content "created, generated, modified or altered through any computer resource" unless the information is generated in "routine or good-faith editing".

The rules, first issued in 2021, were amended to require online platforms like X, Instagram and Facebook to clearly label synthetic data or media manipulated by AI with permanent markings that cannot be suppressed or removed.

The updated regulations define synthetic data as information "that appears to be real... or is likely to be perceived as indistinguishable from a natural person or real-world event." - **AFP**

Starmer pledges to never walk away from his job, says UK govt is 'united'

Reuters/AFP
London

Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged yesterday to never walk away from his job to change Britain, brushing off a challenge to his authority by the Labour leader in Scotland and other figures in the party who have called on him to quit.

Under pressure over his appointment of Peter Mandelson as ambassador to Washington because of the Labour veteran's close ties to the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, Starmer came out fighting, urging his party to fight the real enemy - the populist Reform UK party - rather than among themselves.

He used a visit to a community centre in southern England to try to show that his political career was anything but dead, a

day after the biggest challenge to his authority when Scottish leader Anas Sarwar called on him to quit and he lost a second aide in as many days.

Sarwar, who is facing difficult elections in Scotland in May, became the most senior Labour figure to call for Starmer to step down, saying the "distraction needs to end".

"I will never walk away from the mandate I was given to change this country," Starmer told an audience. "I will never walk away from the people that I'm charged with fighting for, and I will never walk away from the country that I love."

He said the real fight was with "the politics of Reform, the politics of divide, divide, grievance, grievance, grievance that will tear our country apart".

He won a reprieve late on Monday after winning the backing of his top team of ministers, the support from potential lead-

ership rivals such as former deputy prime minister Angela Rayner and from many of his Labour lawmakers in parliament.

Yesterday another possible leadership contender, Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, also said he supported Starmer.

"Yes, he has my support, the government has my support," he said after a speech to the Resolution Foundation think-tank. "I think what we all need to do now is to drive the pace of change more quickly and that means greater unity across the whole family of the Labour movement."

Revelations about the depth of Mandelson's relationship with Epstein have spurred the greatest threat yet to Starmer, who has repeatedly said the former ambassador and Labour veteran had lied over his ties to the late sex offender.

Last month, the US Justice Department included e-mails suggesting that Man-

delson had leaked discussions on possible British asset sales and tax changes to Epstein during the financial crash.

Mandelson has not commented publicly on allegations he leaked documents, and has not responded to messages seeking comment.

He is now under police investigation for alleged misconduct in office.

Starmer has apologised to Epstein's victims and accused Mandelson of lying about the extent of his ties to the financier during the vetting process for his appointment to Washington.

No clear successor to Starmer has emerged and party rules make mounting a challenge difficult.

He faces a crucial by-election on February 26 before local elections in May, which could also influence how long he stays in office.

China enlists AI to sniff out corruption

China wants to use artificial intelligence (AI) in public tendering and bidding to guard against backroom deals and corruption, according to guidelines released yesterday, just as President Xi Jinping's years-long corruption purge intensifies.

AI-enhanced tools should be used to flag irregularities in tender and bidding documents, supervise review committees' decisions, and have "human-like" reasoning ability to generate recommendations, China's National Development and Reform Commission and seven other agencies said.

The systems should "dig for clues to suspected bid-rigging and provide a reference for relevant authorities enforcing discipline and laws", they said.

The guidelines followed Xi's call in January 2023 to enrich the country's anti-graft toolbox at a meeting of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the country's top corruption watchdog.

The commission also stressed "the use of big data to empower the fight against corruption and misconduct".

AI has already made some progress.

An anti-graft watchdog in the province of Zhejiang detained a state-owned asset administrator in January 2025 after AI flagged potential misconduct in several public projects' tendering processes, state broadcaster CCTV said in a documentary series highlighting corrupt officials last month. - **Reuters**



French President Emmanuel Macron gestures as he delivers a speech surrounded by employees during his visit to the ArcelorMittal plant in Dunkirk, France. - **Reuters**

the US was "drifting away from the rule of law".

The EU used joint debt in 2020 to re-boot the European economy after the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, but French attempts to make such tools permanent have faced stiff resistance from Germany and other more frugal northern member states.

Tomorrow's summit will include discussions around French-led plans for a "Made in Europe" strategy that would set minimum re-

quirements for European content in locally manufactured goods.

The approach has split EU countries and alarmed automakers.

"For me, the economic strategy to make our Europe a power lies in what I call protection, which is not protectionism, but rather Europe-an preference," Macron said.

He said the European Union's public and private investment needed around €1.2tn (\$1.4tn) per year, including green and digital technologies, defence and security.

French prosecutors have announced that a 79-year-old former educator had been charged in 2024 for aggravated assault committed against 89 minors in multiple countries between 1967 and 2022.

Prosecutor Etienne Manteaux spoke to reporters in the south-eastern city of Grenoble to publicise the case and appeal for witnesses and any other potential victims to come forward.

In an unusual move, he named the suspect, Jacques Leveugle, born in 1946 in Annecy, an Alpine town an hour's drive away from Grenoble.

He has been in custody since his indictment in 2024, the prosecutor said.

The crimes against the minors were allegedly committed in Germany, Switzerland, Morocco, Niger, Algeria, the Philippines, India, Colombia, and the French overseas territory of New Caledonia, where he worked as a freelance teacher and instructor, Manteaux said.

His varied roles included instructor of speleology, or the science of caves, and French teacher. - **AFP**

It also recouped more than the trial's net cost of €72mn (\$86mn) through increases in arts-related expenditure, productivity gains and reduced reliance on other social welfare payments, according to a government-commissioned cost-benefit analysis. - **Reuters**

Macron urges EU to use 'Greenland moment' to push needed reforms

Reuters/AFP
Paris

Europe should brace for more moments of US hostility, French President Emmanuel Macron has warned, and should treat what he called the "Greenland moment" as a wake-up call to push through long-delayed reforms to strengthen the bloc's global power.

In an interview with several European newspapers, the French leader said that the European Union should not mistake a lull in tensions with Washington for a lasting shift despite a pause in US threats over Greenland, trade and technology.

Macron urged EU leaders to use a summit in a Belgian castle tomorrow to inject fresh energy into economic reforms to bolster the bloc's competitiveness and strengthen its ability to stand up to China and the United States on the world stage.

"When there's a clear act of aggression, I think what we should do isn't bow down or try to reach a settlement," Macron warned in an interview with several European publications including France's *Le Monde*, English language publications *The Economist* and *The Financial Times*, and Germany's *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*. "We've tried that strategy for months. It's not working."

Burkina Faso dissolves all political parties

Junta-led Burkina Faso's parliament has dissolved all political parties, whose activities have been suspended since the military rulers seized power more than three years ago.

Under Captain Ibrahim Traore, who led a coup in September 2022, the junta has muzzled critics, arresting dissidents or forcing them into fighting religious militants.

On Monday, the transitional parliament adopted a bill repealing the laws governing political parties and groups in the west African country, according to a legislative assembly statement seen by AFP yesterday.

Authorities unveiled the plan two weeks ago, arguing it was necessary for "national unity".

Traore ousted Paul-Henri Sandogo Damiba, who

had himself only taken power nine months earlier in a military coup.

Under his leadership, political parties could not hold public meetings but were allowed to continue their activities.

Traore has made sovereignty his watchword, distancing Burkina from its former colonial ruler France.

The transition to democratic rule, initiated after the first coup in January 2022, was scheduled to end in July 2024.

However, the junta that year decided to extend the transition period by five years, allowing Traore to remain at the helm of the country, plagued by religious militant violence that has claimed thousands of lives for nearly 10 years. - **AFP**

Launch to space station delayed again: Nasa

Nasa is now aiming to launch four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) on Friday, in another delay over weather conditions, the US agency announced yesterday.

It is targeting February 13 for the lift-off of Crew-12's mission

aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, with a window opening at 5.15am local time (1015 GMT).

"Mission teams completed a weather review Tuesday morning and have waived off the Thursday, February 12, launch opportunity due to forecast weather conditions along Crew-12's flight path," the

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) said in a statement.

Weather at the site in Florida has been in fact favourable, Nasa officials told a briefing on Monday, but higher winds forecast across the rest of the East Coast are to blame for the delays. - **AFP**

S Africa records 16% decline in rhino poaching

South Africa recorded a 16% drop in rhino poaching last year, the second consecutive decline of that magnitude, the environment ministry said yesterday.

The ministry said in a statement that 352 rhinos were killed for their horns in 2025, down from 420 in 2024, and 499 in 2023.

Despite the overall drop in poaching last year, there was a sharp rise in the number of rhinos killed in the Kruger National Park, the country's flagship game reserve.

One hundred and seventy-five rhinos were killed last year in the park, much of which is remote and hard to police, up from 88 the year before. - **Reuters**

Indonesia falls 10 places in graft rankings, says TI

Reuters
Jakarta

Indonesia fell 10 places in an annual league table of global corruption in 2025, ranking 109th out of a total of 182 countries, a campaign group said yesterday, citing weakening civil society oversight.

Indonesia's score on Transparency International (TI)'s "corruption perception index" fell to 42 in 2025, down from 43 a year earlier, Ferdinand Yazid, a researcher at the group's Indonesian office, told reporters.

The index is measured on a scale between 0 and 100, where 0 represents the most corrupt country and 100 the least corrupt.

In 2023, TI placed Indonesia in 115th position with a score of 34.

The index was sourced from surveys and assessments made by 13 ratings agencies and surveys of experts and businessmen on issues such as the government's ability to eradicate corruption, nepotism and bribery and improve budget transparency.

TI's Danang Widoyoko said Indonesia's fall in the rankings was caused by the increasing incidence of bribery and corruption cases.

"Suppressed civil liberties have contributed to the weakening of oversight of corrupt practices. Weakened oversight by the media and civil society has allowed corruption to become more widespread," Widoyoko said.

He also highlighted the revocation of the permits of 28 firms amid accusations of environmental breaches that worsened last year's Sumatran floods, which killed at least 1,200 people.

Widoyoko said the revocation lacked transparency.

"This raises questions because (it is) being carried out without court process, audit, or giving companies a chance to explain," he said.

"Businessmen being interviewed perceived that nepotism still exists in the President Prabowo Subianto era... The system to prevent corruption is yet to be effective," Yazid said.

The president's spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Denmark was at the top of the index in 2025 while South Sudan ranked the lowest, TI said.

S Korea revives plan to add medical students

South Korea plans to boost medical student numbers by 16% in 2027 and further in subsequent years, the health ministry said yesterday, a step criticised by a doctors' association after similar plans triggered nationwide protests in 2024.

A healthcare crisis was unleashed from February 2024 to late 2025 after walkouts by thousands of trainee doctors to protest similar, but larger increases during the tenure of ousted former president Yoon Suk-yeol.

The current plan is to increase the quota of medical students to 3,548 in 2027, up 490 from 2024, in an effort to strengthen regional, essential and public healthcare facilities, the ministry said in a briefing.

It will continue phased increases until a total of 3,871 students is reached in 2030, the ministry added.

"The plan... was derived after discussions," said Health Minister Jeong Eun-kyeong. "The government will communicate with medical staff and the public with a humble attitude."

Jeong, appointed by current President Lee Jae-myung who came to power in June last year, was referring to the prior difficulties that stemmed from disagreement over the increases.

The Korean Medical Association, which represents medical practitioners, criticised the move in earlier remarks as "irresponsible" and based on "poor estimates and distorted data".

It was unclear whether doctors will agitate again against the new measure. - **Reuters**

Ireland rolls out pioneering basic income for artists

Ireland has rolled out a permanent basic income scheme for the arts, pledging to pay 2,000 creative workers €325 (\$387) per week following a trial that participants said eased financial strain and allowed them to spend more time on projects.

Ireland began the three-year trial in 2022 to help artists recover from coronavirus (Covid-19) shutdowns.

While similar pilots have been tried in San Francisco and New York, Ireland's Culture Minister Patrick O'Donovan said the scheme was the first permanent one of its kind in the world.

The move will "set Ireland apart from other countries with regard to how we value culture and creativity", O'Donovan said, launching the scheme in the James Joyce Room at Bewley's Cafe, a Dublin cultural institution which hosts lunch-time theatre performances. "This is a

gigantic step forward that other countries are not doing."

The randomly selected applicants will receive the payments for three years, after which they would not be eligible for the next three-year cycle.

O'Donovan said he would like to increase the number of recipients over time.

More than 8,000 applicants applied for the 2,000 places in the pilot scheme.

A report on the trial found it lowered the likelihood of artists experiencing enforced deprivation, and reduced their levels of anxiety and reliance on supplementary income.

It also recouped more than the trial's net cost of €72mn (\$86mn) through increases in arts-related expenditure, productivity gains and reduced reliance on other social welfare payments, according to a government-commissioned cost-benefit analysis. - **Reuters**



Amir leads Sport Day fervour



From Page 1

The celebration transformed prominent locations throughout Doha and beyond – including the Doha Corniche, Aspire Zone, The Pearl, Qatar Foundation, Lusail, Msheireb, and Katara – into vibrant open-air sports arenas, reflecting strong community engagement and the country's commitment to active living.

Families and children arrived early to take part in a wide variety of sporting and recreational activities organised by governmental and non-governmental entities across public parks, open spaces, and sports facilities. The events were spread geographically throughout the country to ensure broad accessibility and inclusive participation for all segments of society.

The lively scenes embodied the spirit of participation, unity, and social



cohesion that has defined the occasion since its launch in February 2012, following Amiri Decision No. (80) of 2011, which designated the second Tuesday of February each year as a national occasion for sport. This year's slogan, "I Chose Sport," reinforced the message that embracing physical activity is a conscious decision that enhances individual well-being and supports societal quality of life, in line with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030. (QNA)

Katara centre of all sporting action

Katara Cultural Village hosted a wide range of activities to mark National Sport Day (NSD), attracting a strong public turnout and broad participation from national and international entities, with visitors representing diverse nationalities and age groups. NSD events at Katara featured a comprehensive sports programme spread across several locations within the village, including Al Hikma Square, the Southern Hills and Katara Beach. Institutions and organisations delivered a range of activities to encourage physical activity and community engagement in open, accessible spaces. Prominent sports and national institutions took part, including the Qatar Football Association, Doha Marine Sports Club, Qatar Polo Club and the Air Sports Centre for Skydiving. They were joined by government and national bodies such as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the National Cyber Security Agency, the Ministry of Interior (Police Academy), the Supreme Judiciary Council and Qatar National Archives. Healthcare providers and private-sector organisations also contributed to the programme. Activities ranged from general fitness sessions to marine and aerial sports, reflecting Qatar's diverse sporting landscape. Highlights included the Dasha Marine Sports Festival, modern and traditional sailing championships, dragon boat activities and aerial sports demonstrations. Together, these events reinforced the spirit of National Sport Day by promoting inclusive participation and an active lifestyle.

Salem Mabkhout al-Marri, director of the Public Relations and Communication Department at Katara, said the events recorded wide participation from governmental, sports and health institutions. "These contributions helped deliver diverse interactive programmes aimed at encouraging physical activity, raising awareness of the importance of sport, promoting preventative health concepts, and strengthening community engagement across Qatar's cultural diversity," he said.

He added that the variety of activities – spanning fitness programmes, team sports, marine sports and aerial events – highlighted how sport has evolved beyond recreation to become an



effective tool for improving quality of life. "Katara has become a living model for using cultural spaces in the service of people and society," he noted.

Abdulaziz al-Balam, head of Communication and Public Relations at Qatar National Archives, said their participation aimed to engage the community directly and highlight the national importance of National Sport Day. The events also featured a dedicated corner showcasing the sporting achievements of a child with autism, along with souvenir photography areas and sports games featuring well-known athletes.

Mohammed Waleed al-Sayed, vice-president for Commercial Affairs at Es'hailSat, said the company's participation aligned with its national and health-focused mission. He noted that Es'hailSat offered a range of sports activities for children, including volleyball, basketball, tug-of-war, bowling and cycling, encouraging young participants to stay active. Visitors and participants expressed appreciation for National Sport Day's positive impact, noting that the diversity and accessibility of activities made sport enjoyable and motivating, and encouraged healthier, more sustainable lifestyle choices.

Sheikha Moza graces QF's action-packed NSD events



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser attends Qatar Foundation's National Sport Day activities.

PICTURE: Aisha al-Musallam

From page 1

Fatima Naama from the Partnership Department from Education Above All (EAA) Foundation told the media that EAA aims to link the National Sport Day activities and the community participation to an outcome that supports education and students. "The link we have between the community and education is that part of the proceeds of the Colour Run tickets will be allocated to support education and students through EAA Foundation," she said.

"Our message today is that we want to share that sport is not just an event that we engage in. It is something with a social impact and participation in such events is to connect with the community and giving and creating a real measurable difference in our community," she continued. Meanwhile, participants brought passion and determination to the finals of the fifth edition of the Women and Girls Football Initiative, with HE Sheikha Hind presenting awards to the winning teams of the initiative. And the Education City Run: Color Edition saw 1,200 female participants and 600 male participants enjoy a vibrant celebration of sport, movement, and community, with different race distances designed for everyone accompanied by



PICTURE: AR al-Baker

colourful bursts of powder. A portion of the proceeds from this activity was donated to Education Above All, the Education City Run: Color Edition's Social Impact Partner. Reem Massoud, a yoga instructor from Lebanon, led a class at Education City Stadium with YALLAYOGA. "I am doing a morning flow – a feel-good flow with a bit of breath work," she explained. "I think this is a great opportunity for people to practice yoga outside of the studio, in the open air, in a multi-activity space, which is amazing."

At Education City's Oxygen Park, families and children came together to enjoy a series of engaging sports and recreational

activities, including those organised by QF's Ability Friendly Programme. The activities provided young athletes with disabilities with the opportunity to participate in sports in a supportive environment, fostering a sense of belonging, confidence, and joy.

This year, Education City hosted a series of curated health talks during National Sport Day, featuring expert-led discussions on gut health, sustainable biohacking, and health misinformation. The sessions allowed participants to explore well-being and resilience, providing them with practical knowledge to support them in making informed health decisions.

Wellness, family-friendly activations draw crowds at Old Doha Port



Old Doha Port recorded strong visitor engagement in the lead-up to and on Qatar National Sport Day, driven by the MOVE Sports Festival and a full day of free public activations yesterday. Mina Park opened its spaces across multiple locations, welcoming the community to family-friendly sports and wellness experiences designed to promote active lifestyles.

Old Doha Port also welcomed several ministers and dignitaries, including HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani, former prime minister and minister of interior; HE Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, Minister of Finance; HE Gen Hamad bin Ali al-Attiyah, Adviser to His Highness the Amir for Defence Affairs; HE Engineer Yasser bin Abdullah al-Jamal, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Sports and Youth; and HE Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi,



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), who toured the MOVE Sports festival and the Mina Corniche. MoEHE also delivered a series of family-friendly fitness challenges at Mina Park, opposite the Containers Yard, from 7am to 1.30pm. The celebrations were complemented by a kite festival

understanding what it takes to sustain healthy and high-performing lifestyles.

"Through panel discussions, we shared real stories and expert insights that encouraged people to think differently about movement, well-being, and long-term performance. On National Sport Day, we were able to offer free and accessible activities across Old Doha Port, supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 by encouraging active lifestyles and long-term well-being." Throughout the week, Old Doha Port leveraged its infrastructure and operational readiness to host a diverse public programme spanning sports, wellness, retail, and food and beverage offerings. The strong turnout highlighted the Port's growing role as a platform for national celebrations and community-driven events.