



Qatar Insurance
Financial Results (Q1 2026)

Gross Written Premiums (GWP)
13% ▲
QAR 3.2B

Net Profit
6% ▲
QAR 217M

Investment Income:
10% ▲
QAR 238M

Insurance Service Results:
70% ▲
QAR 130M

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GULF TIMES


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SPORT | Page 1

Holdings Gharafa target final as Sadd face Duhail in heavyweight clash



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SCAN TO SHOP

Shura Council recommends national body on parental care, family cohesion

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The Shura Council has agreed to submit a formal motion to the government recommending the establishment of a national body on parental care and family cohesion, alongside a package of measures aimed at strengthening family stability in the face of accelerating social change. The decision was taken at the council's regular sitting yesterday, chaired by HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem. At the opening of the sitting, members welcomed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani's participation in the recent Gulf consultative summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, noting its significance in advancing joint Gulf action and co-ordination on international and regional matters. The chamber also commended the Amir's recent working visit to Greece, where he held talks with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and reviewing wider geopolitical developments. Following deliberations on a committee report from the Social Affairs, Labour and Housing Committee, members endorsed a series of recommendations to be put to the government. These include the development of regulatory frameworks governing children's use of technology and the expansion of public awareness and family support initiatives. The motion also calls for reforms to employment practices, with flexible working arrangements, parental leave or care hours, and wider adoption of remote working among the proposals tabled to support work-life balance. Further measures cover revisions to domestic labour policies, expanded childcare provision, a review of school timetables and curricula, and national programmes to deepen co-operation between parents and schools. Members also flagged the role of media and religious institutions in reinforcing values and national identity through targeted campaigns. **To Page 5**

Amir honours 180 outstanding QU graduates

QU president hails wise leadership for steadfast support

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani patronised the graduation ceremony of the 49th batch (Class of 2026) of Qatar University, held at the University's Sports and Events Complex yesterday morning. During the ceremony, His Highness the Amir honoured 180 outstanding graduates across various disciplines, while President of Qatar University (QU) Dr Omar bin Mohammed al-Ansari conferred degrees upon 902 graduates. On this occasion, the president of Qatar University delivered a speech, and student Abdullah Khalid al-Kaabi gave an address on behalf of the graduates. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani attended the ceremony, along with Their Excellencies Sheikhs and ministers, as well

as members of QU Board of Trustees, QU Vice-Presidents, students' guardians and senior officials. QU President Omar al-Ansari emphasised that the wise leadership's continued support for QU, and its firm belief in the role of higher education and the capabilities of Qatari youth, is a fundamental pillar in the nation's journey, and enhances the university's position as a leading academic institution that contributes to building the individual and developing society. In his remarks during the graduation ceremony of QU's 49th batch, Class of 2026, he said that QU has served as a beacon of rigorous scholarship. Across generations, students and faculty have contributed to building a strong academic legacy and a community that sees knowledge not as a luxury, but as a necessity, and learning not as a phase, but as a lifelong journey. He pointed out that the graduation day is a culmination of years of dedication and hard work, and the beginning of a new chapter, defined by purpose and impact. **To Page 12**



PM, Uzbek FM discuss regional developments



HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Uzbekistan Minister of Foreign Affairs Bakhtiyor Saidov, who is visiting the country. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and means to enhance and develop them. The meeting also addressed the latest regional developments, particularly those related to the ceasefire between the US and Iran as well as ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions in support of regional security and stability. The PM underscored the importance of all parties engaging constructively in ongoing mediation efforts, noting that such engagement would help address the root causes of the crisis through dialogue and peaceful means, and contribute to achieving a sustainable agreement that prevents further escalation. **(QNA)**

Amir strongly condemns Iran attacks in UAE president call

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a phone call yesterday with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan. During the call, His Highness the Amir expressed Qatar's strong condemnation of the Iranian attacks targeting civilian sites and facilities in the United Arab Emirates using missiles and drones, reaffirming Qatar's full solidarity with the UAE and its unwavering support for all measures taken to protect the country's security and stability. The two leaders also discussed regional and international developments and efforts aimed at enhancing security and stability in the region. Earlier, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also strongly condemned



UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan

the Iranian attack that targeted an Emirati tanker operated by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc), which was struck by two drones while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, describing it as a blatant violation of international law and the principle of freedom of maritime navigation, as well as a flagrant breach of Security

Council Resolution No. 2817. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's categorical rejection of using the Strait of Hormuz as a tool of pressure, calling for its unconditional reopening and affirming that freedom of navigation in this vital waterway is a firmly established principle that must not be compromised. It added that the continued closure of the Strait would jeopardise the vital interests of countries in the region. The ministry stressed the need to halt unjustified Iranian attacks on the property of fraternal states, reaffirming Qatar's full solidarity with the UAE and its support for all measures it may take to safeguard its assets. **(QNA)**

Iran hits ships, UAE oil port after Trump orders Navy to open strait

Reuters
Dubai/Washington

Iran hit several ships in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday and set a UAE oil port ablaze, as President Donald Trump's attempt to use the US Navy to free up shipping provoked the war's biggest escalation since a ceasefire was declared four weeks ago. Trump's new mission "Project Freedom", which he announced on social media overnight to release ships stuck in the strait, was the first apparent attempt to make

use of naval power to unblock the world's most important energy shipping route. But at least in the initial hours yesterday, the gamble appeared to have backfired, bringing no surge of merchant shipping through the strait while provoking a show of force from Iran, which had long threatened to respond to any escalation with new attacks on its neighbours. The US military said two US merchant ships had made it through the strait, without saying when. Iran denied any such crossings had taken place.



Vessels anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas in southern Iran yesterday. **(AFP)**

The commander of US forces in the region said his fleet had destroyed six small Iranian boats, which Iran also denied. Admiral Brad Cooper said he "strongly advised" Iranian forces to keep clear of US military assets carrying out the mission. Iranian authorities, for their part, released a map of what they said was an expanded sea area now under their control, which went far beyond the strait to include swathes of international waters, including long stretches of the United Arab Emirates' coastline on either side of the strait. **To Page 9**



Congratulations Class of 2026

The Board of Trustees, President Bienen, Dean Marwan M. Kraidy, faculty, and staff of Northwestern University in Qatar wish the Class of 2026 success in their future endeavors.

Abdallah Haroun Sarhan
Abdulla Abdulaziz Al-Attiah
Abdulla Rashid Al-Kuwari
Abdullatif Mashari Al-Mana
Ahmad Dafer Hallawa
Aisha Khaled Al-Remithi
Aizere Yessenkulova
Alanoud Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Aldana Fahad Al-Thani
Aljazi Issa Al-Thani
Almayasa Fahad Al-Thani
Alreem Al-Mosallam
Amina Aktailakova
Amna Mohammed Alsahoti
Asmaa Hamad Al-Thani
Ayesha Salam Khan
Banna Khalifa Al-Dosari
Dana Abdulrazak Al-Meer
Dana Ahmad Al-Marzouqi
Dana Mabrouk Ziani
Dana Tarek Saber
Deema Faisal Al-Sulaiti
Dhabya Al-Suwaidi
Donya Mohammad Johari
Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Mana
Fajer Abdullah Al-Ghufaili
Fajer Saad Alshahwani
Fan Wu
Fatima Ahmad Al-Hussaini
Fatima Fadalah Al-Fadalah
Fatima Rashid Al-Khater
Fayiqah Adel Bodai
Geer Chen
Ghada Khalid Al-Kaabi
Ghalya Mana Al-Hajri
Hala Yousef Al-Ansari
Hannah Ahmad AlMannai
Haya Abdulaziz Al-Thani
Haya Nasser Kano
Hiba Sobaii
Hissa Abdulrahman Al-Obaidan

Hissa Saleh Al-Mana
Houra Hussain Haji
Iman Elmoctar
Isra Fejzullaj
Jana Basem Al-Otoum
Jannat Malik
Jasmina Bondare
Jassim Mohamed Al-Thani
Jawaher Mubarak Al-Ghanim
Julia Ayres Cabral
Juyoung Kim
Kaltham Jassim Al-Sayed
Khalid Zeyad Al-Jaidah
Lama Turki Al-Khater
Lolwa Mohammed Al-Misned
Malika Assanseitova
Manahil Naveed
Manal Mohammed Al-Kuwari
Mansoor Ahmed Al-Khater
Maryam Abdulhakeem Mostafawi
Maryam Abdulla Al-Thani
Maryam Abdulwahab Almusleh
Maryam Adel Al-Darbasti
Maryam Ibrahim Al-Mannai
Maryam Khalid Al-Hajri
Maryam Khalifa Al-Tamimi
Maryam Mohammed Al-Maadheed
Maryam Nasser Al-Mohannadi
Maryam Rubaih Al-Kubaisi
Meera Jamal Al-Jamal
Mehul Bhattacharya
Mohamed Abdelkreem
Mohammed Fahad Al-Emadi
Mohammed Khalid Almana
Mona Hammoudi
Moza Faysel Al-Harami
Mubarak Faisal Al-Thani
Mubarak Ghanim AlNaimi
Mubarak Mohammed AlNaimi
Mubashir Hanif
Mudawi Bader Al-Mana

Musaed Saad Al-Muhannadi
Najiya Mohammed Al-Kuwari
Najlaa Mohammed Al-Muhannadi
Nawaf Ahmed Al-Kubaisi
Neel Ujjaval Shelat
Noof Mohammed Al-Otaibi
Noor Khalid Al-Sulaiteen
Noor Mohamed Emara
Noora Abdulaziz Al-Bakri
Noora Abdulaziz Al-Thani
Noora Mohammed Al-Marri
Noora Mohammed Al-Otaibi
Noora Mohammed Shams
Noora Sultan Al-Marzouqi
Nuzah Mansoor
Nwair Ibrahim Al-Tamimi
Olzhasbek Zhakenov
Omar Tamer Amin
Pinyi Zeng
Raghd Ibrahim Al-Suwaidi
Rahaf Khalid Al-Boinin
Ramazan Zhetpysbayev
Retag Sherif Moustafa
Rizwanul Islam
Roa'a Ahmad Nassif
Roudha Abdulla Al-Nuaimi
Saad Abdulaziz Al-Boinin
Sabrina Nisabwe
Sara Mohammed Al-Hajri
Sara Fahad Al-Thani
Sara Khamis Al-Muraikhi
Sara Qassim Al-Mahmoud
Shouq Mohammed Al-Ali
Shrijan Raj Pandey
Talyta Venancio Franca
Thaneesha Vashishta
Thani Feisal Al-Thani
Ting-Wei Wu
Umme Tasmeha
Wadha Ali Abaalzamat
Yousef Ahmed Al-Hammadi

Labour minister meets Uzbekistan Migration Agency chairman



HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met yesterday with Bekhzod Musaev, chairman of the Migration Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The meeting discussed ways to enhance bilateral co-operation in the labour sector and means to further strengthen relations between the two countries. (QNA)

Deputy PM receives call from Singapore counterpart

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from the Minister for Defence and Co-ordinating Minister for Public Services of the Republic of Singapore Chan Chun Sing. During the call, the two sides discussed the latest regional and security developments, as well as aspects of joint co-operation and co-ordination in light of current circumstances. (QNA)

GCC chief, Uzbek FM discuss international, regional issues

Secretary General of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Bakhtiyor Saidov to discuss a number of international and regional issues, foremost the recent treacherous Iranian attacks on GCC states.

During the meeting, they reviewed the strategic relations between the GCC and Central Asian states, expressing their anticipation for the upcoming second joint summit. They also discussed GCC-Uzbekistan bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and consolidate them to accomplish desired objectives. Furthermore, they explored several economic proposals aimed at enhancing investment and economic co-operation between the two sides.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both sides underlined the significance of intensifying joint efforts to enhance security and stability both regionally and globally. (QNA)



GCC chief condemns attack on UAE tanker in Hormuz

GCC Secretary-General Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi has strongly condemned an attack on a tanker operated by the UAE's energy company Adnoc while it was transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Albudaiwi described the incident as "piracy and dangerous coercion" against maritime security, accusing Iran of continued attacks on vessels passing through the strategic waterway. He said such actions constitute a "flagrant violation" of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 2817, and pose a serious threat to freedom of navigation and global energy supplies. The GCC chief expressed full solidarity with the UAE, affirming the council's support for all measures taken by Abu Dhabi to safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability. (QNA)

Deputy PM meets Uzbek foreign minister



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani met yesterday with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Bakhtiyor Saidov and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the country. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest regional and security developments, as well as aspects of defence co-operation and joint co-ordination in light of current circumstances. The meeting was attended by a number of senior officers from both sides. (QNA)

MoPH steps up efforts to tackle asthma burden

Qatar's Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is marking World Asthma Day today, highlighting the need to improve access to essential treatments under this year's theme "Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for All - Still an Urgent Need".

Health officials said the initiative reflects Qatar's ongoing efforts to align with international strategies aimed at reducing the burden of Asthma, one of the most common long-term diseases worldwide.

Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad al-Thani, Director of Non-Communicable Disease Prevention Programs at the ministry, said current policies are shifting beyond general awareness campaigns towards encouraging behavioural change. He said this includes promoting early detection, improving adherence to treatment, and ensuring patients and their families are equipped to manage the condition effectively. He also urged the public to fol-



low medical advice, avoid triggers and stick to prescribed treatments, stressing that awareness remains central to reducing the disease's impact and improving public health outcomes.

The ministry said it continues to expand national efforts to prevent asthma and enhance patients' quality of life through a range of awareness programs and health initiatives targeting all segments of society. These efforts are being developed in line with the National Health Strategy 2024-2030, with the aim of reducing complications linked to chronic respiratory diseases.

Officials added that partnerships with national healthcare

providers are being strengthened to ensure more integrated prevention and treatment services.

Among the key initiatives is the Asthma-Friendly Schools Program, which has been rolled out across government schools to improve readiness in dealing with asthma cases. The program includes unified guidance for schools and awareness campaigns targeting students, parents and staff.

Asthma is a chronic condition affecting the airways, causing breathing difficulties. When exposed to irritants, the airways can become inflamed and narrowed, increasing mucus production and restricting airflow, which may lead to asthma attacks. (QNA)



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2026
GRADUATION
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Congratulations Class of 2026

DOCTORS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

FRONT ROW: Abdelrahman Mahmoud Abdalla, Lina Ahmed, Azwa Dilawar, Leena Fatima Syed, Ayaterahman Draidia, Maryam Abdulrahman Arabi, Khadija Ahmed Elmagarmid, AlDana Jamal Al-Khalaf, Ghalya Ali Hashim Al Awadi, Leena Attyani, Amal Abdulla AlNaemi, Noor Faisal Al-Sayegh, Shouq Bandar Al-Thani, Eman Ossama Radwan, Aya Husam Alshareef.

SECOND ROW: Khalid Khalil Alsabbagh, Aisha Abdulrahman Al-Heidous, Leena Elsheikh Aboidris, Aparajita Sarkar, Esha Subhash, Razan Hemaid Al-Mousawi, Haya Yousef Al-Ansari, Sumaya Omar Hussein Ali, Surin Lee, Aimen Javed, Jawaher Ahmad Alemadi, Aisha Ahmad Al-Hammadi, Maha Mohammed Al-Namla, Lujain Khalid Al-Emadi, Nafila Nasser Al-Attiah.

THIRD ROW: Hubaib Haider, Owais Moumen Hasnah, Abdulrahman Junaid Tahir, Hussain Abdulali Hussain, Mohammed Yousuf Al-Ansari, Yousef Anmar SA Al-Najjar, Ahmad Mohamed Hamza, Isa Waleed Almannai, Abdulla Alavi Al-Hashimi, Ibrahim Nasser Al-Mutawa, Ahmad Abdulla Al-Ansari, Kareem Imad Fanous, Yazan Emad Kaddorah, Kareem Essam Aly, Amr Hosameidin Ahmed, Shaunak Sarker.

NOT PICTURED: Haya Ali Al-Kuwari, Zoha Baig, Aqib Abdul Rahman, Doo Hee Jang, Marwan Sherif Nour Abdalla, Jassim Ibrahim Taimour.

Shura backs national body for parental care

From Page 1

Opening the debate, HE al-Ghanem said the pace of social change had heightened the need for co-ordinated legislative and policy responses, stressing the



HEC Paris, Doha to hold online info session for Executive MBA Emerging Leaders Track

HEC Paris, ranked among the world's top business schools, invites professionals in Qatar to an online info session on its Executive MBA Emerging Leaders Track on May 13 from 5.30pm-6.30pm. The session will be led by Dr Wolfgang Amann, Professor of Strategy and Leadership at HEC Paris. Designed for ambitious professionals with at least 5 years of work experience, the programme equips

participants with advanced leadership capabilities and a strategic mindset to accelerate their careers or launch businesses. Alumni will also share insights on how the EMBA contributed to their transformation and opened new opportunities. Upon registration, attendees will receive a confirmation e-mail with a link to join the session.

QRCS launches Adahi Project

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has launched Adahi Project for 1447 AH under the slogan "Make Their Eid", a seasonal initiative aimed at facilitating the performance of the ritual sacrifice by enabling donors to book Sharia-compliant livestock, including sheep, cattle, and goats, under the organisation's supervision. In a statement issued on Sunday, QRCS said it will oversee the delivery of donated sacrificial meat to eligible beneficiaries inside Qatar and abroad, in accordance with applicable hygiene and humanitarian standards. The organisation added that the

project falls within its "Keep Your Balance of Good Deeds Alive" campaign, launched during the holy month of Ramadan, noting that it aims to distribute slaughtered and canned Adahi meat as food assistance to more than 250,000 people in 17 countries. Managing Director and Secretary-General of QRCS, Ebrahim bin Hashim AlSada, said the organisation is launching the annual Adahi project for the tenth year to ease the process for individuals wishing to perform the ritual. He noted that donors can complete the process through a few steps by selecting the country, specifying the type of sacrifice,

and making the payment. He added that QRCS specialists co-ordinate all necessary arrangements with partners and relevant authorities to carry out slaughtering, preparation, and distribution to displaced persons, refugees, and those in need, enabling donors to combine the spiritual reward of the sacrifice with the humanitarian benefit of supporting vulnerable communities. The statement noted that the project consists of two components: one inside Qatar targeting families registered under social assistance lists, and another targeting beneficiaries outside the country. (QNA)



Katara opens Contemporary Graphic Art Exhibition featuring 29 artists

Katara Cultural Village Foundation opened a Contemporary Graphic Art Exhibition featuring 29 artists from Qatar and abroad, showcasing more than 170 works across modern printmaking techniques. The exhibition runs until May 18 at Hall 18 in Katara. The show brings together artists from different generations, reflecting diverse styles and schools within printmaking. Exhibition co-ordinator Ab-

dulrahman al-Muttawa praised Katara's support, saying it strengthens the presence of printmaking in the art scene and unites specialised artists from Qatar and around the world. He noted his six exhibited works are inspired by the character and societal role of Qatari women. Artist Haifa al-Khuzai said the exhibition highlights the breadth of printmaking techniques and serves as a platform for dialogue

on its aesthetics and methods, adding that her works draw on traditional Qatari women's attire through silk printing. Artist Lina al-Ali commended Katara's support for the visual arts, describing the exhibition as a reflection of Qatar's rich cultural scene and a platform for artistic exchange. She said her works explore the identity of Qatari women and their connection to national heritage. (QNA)

Qatar Charity's emergency water project in Yemen benefits 13,500

Qatar Charity (QC) has launched an emergency water project in Taiz, Yemen, to help address the city's severe water crisis. The project benefited around 13,500 people in three main districts of Taiz - Al Mudaffar, Salh, and Al Qahira amid worsening water shortages caused by drought. A total of 108 water distribution points were covered, with 36 points in each district. Taiz is facing one of Yemen's most severe water emergencies, particularly in elevated neighbourhoods, where water supply interruptions can last for months. For many families, access to drinking water has become a daily struggle, placing heavy financial and physical burdens on already vulnerable households. (QNA)



McDonald's Qatar Contributed QAR 396 Million to Qatar's Economy, Oxford Economics Reports



Thirty years after opening its first restaurant in Qatar, McDonald's Qatar has released new independent research developed in partnership with Oxford Economics, a leading independent advisory firm in global economic analysis. The study outlines the McDonald's Qatar's contribution to the local economy, workforce development, and community initiatives across the country. In 2024, McDonald's Qatar contributed an estimated QAR 396 million to Qatar's national GDP while supporting approximately 2,600 jobs across its restaurants, supply chain, and the wider economy. For every QAR 1 million in direct GDP generated by McDonald's, a further QAR 3.6 million is supported across Qatar's wider economy, reflecting the strong multiplier effect of its operations and long-term local presence. McDonald's Qatar currently operates 76 restaurants across the country, serving millions of customers each year while working closely with local suppliers and partners. "Our research demonstrates the significant contribution that McDonald's makes to local business and communities across Qatar, driving economic activity through job creation, and partnerships with local suppliers," said Stephen Foreman, Associate Director at Oxford Economics. The research also highlights McDonald's Qatar's collaboration with a strong network of local suppliers, including key partners such as Batteel and Baladna Food Industries. In 2024, McDonald's Qatar invested approximately QAR 36 million in new restaurant openings and upgrades. Additionally, a significant portion of its total supplier spend is directed toward local partners, supporting businesses, creating jobs, and driving economic activity across multiple sectors.

Our research demonstrates the significant contribution that McDonald's makes to local business and communities across Qatar, driving economic activity through job creation, and partnerships with local suppliers

Stephen Foreman
Associate Director at Oxford Economics

Beyond its economic impact, the report also highlights McDonald's Qatar's commitment to community and workforce development. Through its Rahlatuna 'Our Journey' CSR platform, the company supports education programs, community partnerships, and annual Ramadan initiatives in collaboration with leading NGOs in Qatar. Workforce development remains a key focus, with women representing 46% of employees and 36% of leadership roles. These efforts are supported by ongoing diversity and inclusion programs, with McDonald's Qatar recognized as one of the Best Workplaces in Qatar by Great Place to Work®. As McDonald's Qatar marks 30 years in Qatar, the report reinforces its position as a 100% locally owned and operated business under Al Mana Restaurants & Food Company W.L.L., continuing to contribute to economic growth while investing in its people, partners, and communities.



Public Announcement

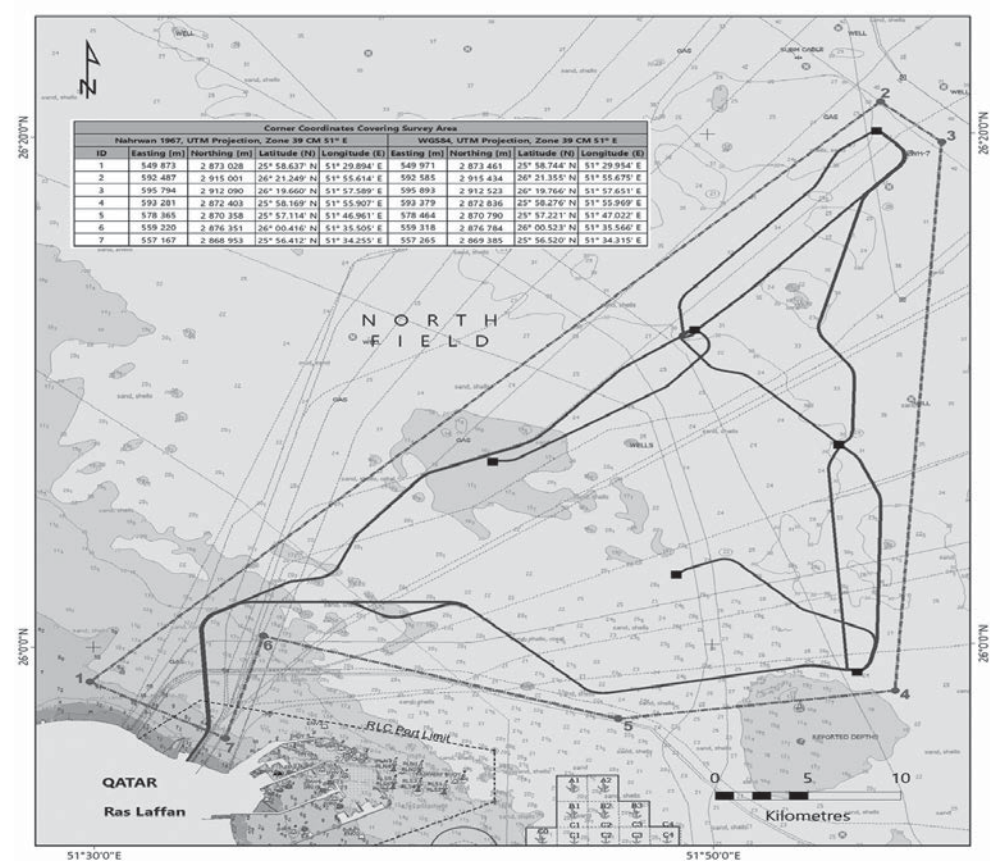
To all Ships, Fisherman, and Mariners
Subsea Survey Works Offshore in "North Field"
By the Vessel "Halul 53"

Subsea Survey Works Offshore Qatar from
05th May 2026 to 31st July 2026

In pursuant and under directives from the Seafarers Affairs and Registration Department, Ministry of Transport, State of Qatar, this announcement is to inform all Vessels, Mariners, and Fisherman that "QatarEnergy LNG" formerly known as Qatar Gas Operating Company Limited intends to undertake geophysical survey by the vessel "Halul 53" in North Field locations, bound by the coordinates and location map shown below.

All Vessels, Mariners, and Fishermen are expected to keep clear of the survey locations during the operations.

QatarEnergy LNG takes no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to outside parties in association with this operation following the publication of this notice.



ID	Easting [m]	Northing [m]	Latitude [°N]	Longitude [°E]	Easting [m]	Northing [m]	Latitude [°N]	Longitude [°E]
1	549 873	2 873 028	25° 58.637' N	51° 29.894' E	549 971	2 873 461	25° 58.742' N	51° 29.934' E
2	550 487	2 915 001	26° 21.249' N	51° 55.614' E	552 585	2 915 434	26° 21.355' N	51° 55.675' E
3	559 794	2 912 090	26° 19.600' N	51° 57.589' E	556 893	2 912 523	26° 19.766' N	51° 57.631' E
4	593 251	2 872 403	25° 58.169' N	51° 55.907' E	593 279	2 872 836	25° 58.276' N	51° 55.969' E
5	578 365	2 870 358	25° 57.114' N	51° 46.901' E	578 464	2 870 790	25° 57.221' N	51° 47.027' E
6	559 220	2 876 351	26° 00.410' N	51° 35.505' E	559 318	2 876 784	26° 00.517' N	51° 35.566' E
7	557 167	2 868 953	25° 56.412' N	51° 34.255' E	557 265	2 869 385	25° 56.520' N	51° 34.315' E

For more details contact 30672614



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026

مبروك دفعة ٢٠٢٦

Aisha Jassim Al Hardan
Aldana Abdulla AlSulaiti
Alice Mohammed Aslem
AlJazi Ahmed AlKhulaifi
Alyaa Nasser Al Shibani
Anoud AbdulAziz Al-Attiya
Asma Ousama Mlisan
Ayan Rashad Ismayilova
Ayat Mansoor Alhayki
Dana Salem Al-Kubaisi
Diya Sarah Koshy
Fariha Ahmed
Fatima Abdukareem AlQassabi
Fatima Abdulla Al-Kuwari
Fatima Ibrahim Al-Haddad
Fatima Khalid Al Muhannadi
Fatima Nazir
Ghada Saleh Alhumaidi
Hajer Adel Alsayed
Haya Ali AlThani
Hissa Khalid Al Abduljabbar
Hissa Yousuf Al-Mahmoud
Jameela Abdulaziz Al Humaidi
Jameela Khaled Mahmoud
Jana Ahmed Bishr
Joanna Jaber
Jood Elbeshti
Julianne Villanueva Pagulayan
Khadija Ahmad Al-Saegh
Khawla Zaki Al-Essa
Laila Yousif Roberts
Lolwa Abdulaziz AlMulla
Lolwa Khalid Al Sulaiti
Lubna Saad AlRumaihi
Maira Azhar

Maram Nouredinne Charchour
Mariam Ahmad Al Hashemi
Maryam Abdulla Alkubaisi
Maryam Ghanim Al Mannai
Maryam Hassan Al-Suwaidi
Maryam Mohammed Alkhater
Moza Mohammed Al Marri
Nada Tamer Abdo
Noor Mubarak AlNaemi
Noora Ammar Alsulaiman
Noora Hassan Alderham
Nourhane Tarroun
Osama Towfik Katbi
Reem Ghanem Al-Sulaiti
Reema Khamis Almohannadi
Salma Tareq Addaoudi
Sara Hamad Al-Mannai
Sara Khalid Mansour
Sara Ramzi Mari
Selma Fejzullaj
Shahad Ali AlAli
Shahd Mesfer Al-Shahwani
Shahed Alawad
Shawky Ahmed Abdalla
Shaymaa Mohammed Al-Khauri
Shaymaa Naji AlBaker
Sruthi Subash
Syeda Deeba Fatima
Tala Adel Abusbaitan
Tarfa Ali Al Shahwani
Tarishah Ramanda Fadilah
Tehreem Fatima
Yara Tawfik Alazab
Yasmin Alhaidari

مرام نورالدين شرشور
مريم أحمد الهاشمي
مريم عبدالله الكبيسي
مريم غانم المناعي
مريم حسن السويدي
مريم محمد الخاطر
موزه محمد المري
ندى تامر عبده
نور مبارك النعيمي
نوره عمار السليمان
نورة حسن الدرهم
نورهان طرون
أسامة توفيق كاتبي
ريم غانم السليطي
ريما خميس المهندي
سلمى طارق الداوودي
ساره حمد المناعي
ساره خالد منصور
سارة رمزي مرعي
سلمى فيزولا
شهد علي العلي
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شهد خالد العوض
شوقي أحمد عبد الله
شيماء محمد الخوري
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ياسمين الحيدري

عائشه جاسم الحردان
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QATAR

QPC highlights seven journalism challenges during wars and crises

The Qatar Press Centre (QPC), in co-operation with the Media Department at Qatar University (QU), held a seminar marking World Press Freedom Day under the theme “Press Freedom in Times of Crises and Wars.” The event, part of the “Press Council” sessions, brought together academics and media professionals at Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Nema Hall.

Speakers included Dr Taleb al-Atba, a specialist in strategic and crisis communication at QU; Palestinian journalist Najwan Samri; and Dr Abdullah al-Har, a lecturer in QU’s Media Department.

Held against a backdrop of escalating global conflicts, the seminar outlined seven key challenges confronting journalism today: tensions between national security and the public’s right to know; rapid digital transformation; the growing influence of artificial intelligence; increasing difficulty in verifying information; the spread of misinformation; the emergence of digital platforms as arenas of information warfare; and declining safety guarantees for journalists.

The discussion framed these issues within this year’s World Press Freedom Day theme, “Shaping a Future of Peace,” which highlights



The seminar concluded that press freedom in times of crisis is inseparable from journalist safety, public access to information, and societal resilience against misinformation.

the relationship between journalism, technology, civic space, and human rights.

Dr al-Atba said crisis communication differs from routine media work, as it is defined by immediacy, speed, and credibility. These conditions, he noted, test whether media organisations can pursue truth or drift into reinforcing dominant narratives.

He described crises as unstable environments that force journalists to rethink the meaning and

limits of press freedom. In modern conflicts, restrictions extend beyond access to information to include algorithmic influence, selective content promotion, and control over what audiences see.

“Media today does not simply facts,” he said, noting that it increasingly shapes perception and public understanding. Narrative control, he added, now operates at a behavioural and cognitive level, not just through reporting.

Al-Atba warned that artificial

intelligence has become a powerful tool in misinformation, enabling the creation of highly realistic images, audio, and fabricated scenes. The challenge is no longer just identifying false content but cultivating critical awareness among journalists and audiences.

He called for a dual approach: institutional measures such as regulations and training on AI use, and individual responsibility through stronger verification skills and awareness of context and sources. Collaboration between academia and practitioners, he added, is essential to developing professional standards that protect public understanding.

Dr al-Har emphasised that preparing journalists for crises cannot remain confined to classrooms, pointing to a gap between academic theory and field realities. He said professional resilience comes from combining theoretical grounding with practical training.

He also highlighted media literacy as a core pillar — not only for journalists but for audiences, who now actively shape the information environment. Journalists today must go beyond producing content to understanding audience engagement and the impact of their reporting.



Samri shared her experience reporting from Palestine, describing a highly restrictive environment shaped by security pressures and competing narratives. She said such conditions affect access to information, freedom of movement, and the ability to report accurately.

She pointed to the ban on Al Jazeera as a significant escalation, signalling broader efforts to limit independent coverage. Since October 7, she said, conditions have deteriorated further, with journalists facing direct targeting, displacement, and disrupted communications.

Samri described the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh as a turning

point that underscored the risks faced by clearly identified journalists. Subsequent events, she added, show a pattern of attacks on media workers, offices, and infrastructure.

She stressed that protecting journalists requires concrete international action, not statements, and that the risks faced today extend beyond professional challenges to personal safety and loss.

Despite these conditions, Samri said maintaining professionalism requires discipline, verification, and ethical responsibility toward both victims and audiences. War coverage, she noted, tests not only skills but also humanity and endurance.

EAA contributes to French G7 Presidency discussions

QNA
Doha

Education Above All (EAA) Foundation participated in a series of high-level engagements in Paris under the French G7 Presidency, contributing to international discussions on the future of development finance and the growing role of philanthropy in advancing sustainable and inclusive development.

In a press release issued yesterday, the Foundation stated that EAA Foundation CEO Mohammed al-Kubaisi participated as a featured speaker in the official high-level side event of the G7 Development Ministerial Meeting, titled “Strategic Partnerships for a Renewed Development Paradigm: Engaging Philanthropy in Blended Finance.” The session opened with welcoming remarks from Minister Delegate to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, responsible for Francophonie, International Partnerships, and French Citizens Abroad, Eleonore Caroit, and Special Envoy for the Pact for Prosperity, People and the Planet, Moussa Faki.

The roundtable, organised by OECD Network of Foundations Working for Development (net-FWD), brought together senior representatives from the Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Simon Hodson, Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, the King Khalid Foundation, Thomas Me-



lonio, Agence française de développement (AFD), and FMO Dutch Entrepreneurial Bank.

The event also marked the launch of the statement “Philanthropy as a Strategic Partner in a Renewed Development Paradigm,” which EAA Foundation endorsed alongside other leading philanthropic actors. EAA Foundation’s participation reflected the growing international recognition of the Foundation’s role in advancing innovative, impact-oriented approaches to education financing and development.

EAA Foundation also engaged in a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings with senior representatives from key international institutions, including the OECD, Unesco, and AFD, as part of efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships and explore opportunities for deeper collaboration across education, development, and financing priorities.

Commenting on the Foundation’s participation, EEA Founda-

tion’s CEO Mohammed al-Kubaisi, said: “Education Above All Foundation’s participation in these important discussions reflected the growing recognition that philanthropy has a vital role to play in shaping a more inclusive, effective, and partnership driven development finance system,” stressing the need to keep an education at the centre of global development financing conversations and to strengthen partnerships that can help expand impact for children and youth around the world.

EAA Foundation’s participation across these engagements underscored its commitment not only to contributing to global dialogue but also to supporting practical solutions that help strengthen financing systems and expand opportunities for underserved communities. By engaging across policy, political, and technical discussions, the Foundation helped ensure that education and human development remained central to the international development agenda.

Hayya wins Silver Stevie Award for public sector innovation in Mena

Qatar Tourism (QT) has announced that the Hayya platform has been awarded the Silver Stevie Award in the Innovation in Public Administration category at the 2026 Middle East & North Africa Stevie Award, recognising its role in transforming travel, tourism and event management through advanced digital solutions.

Hayya was selected for its continued evolution into a comprehensive digital platform for e-visa processing, event access and accreditation, supported by seamless integration with government systems. This ecosystem is further strengthened by a portfolio of complementary solutions, including the Hayya Mobile App, Hayya Portal (HMP), the Hayya Accreditation and Credentialing System (HACS), Hayya Move, the Hayya Reporting System (HRS), and the Group Visas and Accreditations Service (GVA), collectively enhancing operational efficiency and the overall user experience.

The platform’s innovation is reflected in its adoption of advanced technologies, including optical character recognition to minimise manual input, artificial intelligence for photo compliance verification, and NFC-enabled passport scanning to simplify data entry.

Saeed al-Kuwari, director of Hayya, said: “This recognition



reflects Hayya’s continued development as a national platform supporting digital transformation across the tourism ecosystem. We remain focused on advancing solutions that enhance operational efficiency and deliver a seamless experience for visitors and partners, while contributing to the long-term development of Qatar’s tourism sector.”

Maggie Miller, president of the Stevie Awards, said: “We are delighted to recognise the achievements of such a diverse group of organisations across the Mena region in the 2026 edition of the Middle East and North Af-

rica Stevie Awards. We look forward to celebrating Stevie winners during our gala event on September 11 at the InterContinental Hotel, Istanbul, Türkiye. The quality of nominations received this year was exceptional, and the programme continues to grow, reflecting the strong pace of innovation across the region.”

Operated by QT, Hayya serves as the State of Qatar’s official e-visa platform and central digital gateway, streamlining access to the country through integrated visa processing and event services within a single, user-friendly interface.

QTri hosts 2nd Annual Aquathlon at Azure Beach Doha

QTri organised the second edition of the QTri Aquathlon at Azure Beach Doha, alongside a 5km running race. The event was held under the patronage of the Qatar Sports For All Federation, in co-operation with Qetaifan Projects Company, hosted by Azure Beach Doha, and supported by

Meryal Waterpark and Rixos Premium Qetaifan Island North.

Now in its second consecutive year at Azure Beach and fifth time on Qetaifan Island North, the race attracted 265 Aquathlon participants and 100 runners, with strong Qatari, resident, and GCC participation. A special category for ath-

letes with disabilities reinforced QTri’s commitment to inclusivity.

Competitors started with a sea swim from the shores of Azure Beach, followed by a scenic run along the island’s promenade. Participants praised the professional organisation and stunning setting. This successful edition high-

lights Qetaifan Island North’s emergence as a leading sports destination in Qatar.

Azure Beach Doha, located on the brand-new and much-anticipated Qetaifan Island North and nestled among white sands and shimmering blue waters, sets the scene for endless seaside fun.



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Aoun seeking a deal before Israel talks

AFP
Beirut

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said yesterday a security deal and an end to Israeli attacks were needed before any meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, sought by Washington.

Aoun's office said in a statement that the president "reiterated his view that the timing is not appropriate now for a meeting" with Netanyahu.

The statement quoted Aoun as saying: "We must first reach a security agreement and stop the Israeli attacks on us before we raise the issue of a meeting between us."

Israeli and Lebanese representatives last month met twice in Washington – the first such meetings in decades, which came after Iran-backed Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war on March 2, sparking heavy Israeli strikes and a ground invasion.

After the first talks, US President Donald Trump announced a 10-day ceasefire in Lebanon that began on April 17, and a three-week extension after the second round.

The two countries are preparing for direct negotiations.

The statement from Aoun's office said a third round of "preparatory talks" were expected "in the coming days".

At the second meeting later in April, Trump said he expected Aoun and Netanyahu to meet jointly with him at the White House "over the next couple of weeks".

Last week, the US embassy in Beirut urged such a meeting, saying that "Lebanon stands at a crossroads. Its people have a historic opportunity to reclaim their country and shape their future," adding that "the time for hesitation is over".

A direct meeting between Aoun and Netanyahu, "facilitated by President Trump, would give Lebanon the chance to secure concrete guarantees" including on sovereignty, the embassy added, at a time when Israeli troops are still operating in south Lebanon.



Israeli artillery units and military vehicles in formation on the Israeli side of the Israel-Lebanon border, in northern Israel yesterday. (Reuters)

Hezbollah says fighters clashed with Israeli troops

Hezbollah said its forces clashed with Israeli soldiers yesterday in south Lebanon near the border where the troops are still operating, despite a ceasefire since April 17. Hezbollah said in a statement that after Israeli troops attempted to advance near the town of Deir Seryan – which is inside the Israeli-declared "yellow line" where Lebanese residents have been told not to return – its fighters "opened fire on the enemy force and engaged in heavy clashes with them". The Israeli military confirmed there were clashes with Hezbollah fighters in south Lebanon. "Earlier today, two IDF soldiers were moderately injured as a result of a close-quarters encounter with Hezbollah terrorists in southern Lebanon," the military said in a statement. "The soldiers were evacuated to receive medical treatment at a hospital." (AFP)

The planned negotiations have caused a rift in Lebanon, with Hezbollah rejecting direct negotiations as well as Beirut's previous commitment to disarm it. Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem earlier Monday criticised direct talks, saying they put Lebanon "under tutelage", and instead called for diplomacy that leads to an end to the war. "Direct negotiations are a gratuitous concession, without results," Qassem said. Aoun said "there is no turning back from the path of negotiations, because we have no other option", according to the statement from his office, reiterating that the process sought to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Israeli strikes have killed almost 2,700 people in Lebanon, including dozens since the ceasefire.

Mali Junta chief to replace slain defence minister

AFP
Bamako

Mali's junta leader, Assimi Goita, will assume the additional role of defence minister, according to a decree announced yesterday, after the death of the previous minister in large-scale attacks.

Mali is facing a security crisis following an assault on junta strongholds led by Tuareg separatists and Al-Qaeda-linked jihadists more than a week ago, during which defence minister Sadio Camara was killed by a car bomb at his residence.

The separatists and jihadists were able to capture the key northern town of Kidal in their assault on multiple junta locations, in the largest attack in the west African country in nearly 15 years.

The fighting resulted in the death of at least 23 people, with the UN children's agency Unicef reporting that civilians and children were among the dead and injured.

Militants from Al-Qaeda's branch in the Sahel region – the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM) – joined forces with the Azawad Liberation Front (FLA), an ethnic Tuareg separatist movement, in the attacks against the junta and its Russian mercenaries.

Goita, in his new role, will be assisted by General Oumar Diarra, according to a separate decree.

Diarra had been serving as military chief of staff but is now minister delegate to the minister of defence.

Both decrees were read out on public broadcaster ORTM.

'Cat and mouse'

In the wake of the attacks during the weekend of April 25-26, the militants had announced a blockade of the capital Bamako in retaliation for "the population's support of the army".

However, that blockade has only partially been effective, according to an AFP correspondent in the city.

"The militants are merely engaging in harassment," an officer in charge of patrolling the highway connecting the city of Kayes to Bamako told AFP correspondents on the ground.

"We haven't actually encountered them anywhere. They are playing cat and mouse with us but – admittedly – the population is panicking

A manager at a transport company that operates along the Bamako-Sikasso route said, however, that his firm had "suspended all departures for Bamako until further notice".

One person heading to Bamako from Segou told AFP of having travelled "with knots in our stomachs" but there was no major incident.

Another said some people were taking detours to avoid certain areas.

UAE slams latest Iranian attacks

The United Arab Emirates slammed the latest Iranian barrage targeting its country yesterday. "These attacks represent a dangerous escalation and an unacceptable transgression, posing a direct threat to the state's security, stability, and the safety of its territories," the UAE's foreign ministry said in a statement. It added that the UAE "reserves its full and legitimate right to respond to these attacks". (AFP)

Residential building in Oman targeted

Two people were injured when a residential building was targeted in Oman's Bukha along the coastline of the Strait of Hormuz, state media reported yesterday. "A security source reported that a residential building for employees of a company in the Tibat area of Bukha was targeted, resulting in moderate injuries to two expatriates, damage to four vehicles and broken glass in one of the nearby houses," the Oman News Agency said. (AFP)

Tehran denies US sank six boats

Iran denied yesterday that the United States had sunk Iranian boats, state television reported, after an American admiral said US forces had destroyed six vessels. "The US claim that it sank a number of Iranian war boats is false," a senior Iranian military official said on the state television. (AFP)

Remote learning at UAE's schools

In the wake of latest attack on its territories, the United Arab Emirates yesterday ordered all schools to temporarily return to remote learning for the rest of the week, the education ministry said. "The Ministry of Education announces a decision to shift to a remote learning system starting from Tuesday, May 5, 2026, until Friday, May 8, 2026," read a statement by the ministry. (AFP)

UAE accuses Iran of firing at empty ADNOC oil tanker

Reuters
Cairo

The United Arab Emirates yesterday accused Iran of attacking an empty crude oil tanker belonging to the Abu Dhabi state oil firm ADNOC with drones as it attempted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

ADNOC's maritime energy logistics unit said the Barakah was empty when it was attacked by two drones, and no injuries were reported.

"The UAE further stressed the need for Iran to halt these unprovoked attacks, ensure its full commitment to an immediate cessation of all hostilities, and the complete and unconditional reopening of the Strait of Hormuz," the foreign ministry added.

Iran has blocked entry and exit from the Gulf to most non-Iranian ships since the US and Israel began attacking it on February 28. It has threatened to attack unauthorised vessels as they transit the Strait, conduit for around a fifth of the world's oil and gas shipments.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations agency said earlier that a tanker had reported being hit by unknown projectiles while about 78 nautical miles north of UAE's Fujairah.

UAE: OPEC exit 'not directed against anyone'

AFP
Abu Dhabi

The UAE's shock decision to leave Saudi-dominated OPEC was not targeted at anyone, the UAE minister who heads the state oil giant said yesterday.

The move aimed at focusing on national priorities and the UAE economy, said Sultan Al Jaber, who is ADNOC's CEO and the country's industry and advanced technology minister.

The decision, which took effect on Friday, followed months of tensions with neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and de facto leader of OPEC, over foreign policy, oil output and the Middle East war, which has strained Gulf economies.

A close partnership between the Gulf nations has turned into open rivalry since a public falling out in December over Yemen, but the minister said the decision to withdraw from the oil cartel was not aimed at any nation.

"The United Arab Emirates' sovereign decision to reposition itself within the global energy landscape, and to exit OPEC and OPEC+, is not a decision directed against anyone," he told a conference in Abu Dhabi.

The exit of the UAE, which was OPEC's fourth-largest producer,



Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber, the UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, ADNOC Managing Director and Group CEO, and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company "Masdar", attends the fifth edition of the "Make it in the Emirates" conference in Abu Dhabi yesterday. (AFP)

dealt a blow to the cartel's ability to control oil prices.

It also further strained UAE-Saudi ties, which plunged after

their row over Yemen in December, according to analysts. The two sides have long been at odds over OPEC production quotas.

Leaving OPEC "serves our national interests and long-term strategic objectives, aligns with our industrial, economic, and de-

velopmental ambitions, and gives us greater ability to accelerate investment, expand, and create value", Jaber said.

"This move was not done in isolation," he said at the Make It In The Emirates conference on UAE industry.

"It is part of a broader effort to reshape our economy and industrial base through a vision that connects energy, technology, and industry, aligning our resources with national priorities to build a stronger, more resilient economy."

While the UAE is not the first country to leave OPEC, it is by far the biggest producer to do so.

The UAE has long been frustrated with OPEC's quotas, which sought to cap Emirati production at 3.4 million barrels a day.

Abu Dhabi seeks to expand the UAE's production capacity to five million barrels a day by 2027. On Sunday, ADNOC pledged to spend \$55 billion on new projects over the next two years.

The added revenue from oil sales would allow the UAE to step up its investments in artificial intelligence and other high-tech sectors, some analysts have said.

"There is a great difference between those who focus only on surviving crises... and those who seize them as opportunities... and turn them into new beginnings," Jaber said.

Nigeria to evacuate 130 citizens from South Africa after attacks

Nigeria is organising emergency repatriation flights for citizens living in South Africa, as the foreign ministry Monday warned Pretoria it wasn't doing enough to tamp down on anti-immigrant threats and harassment.

South Africa – the continent's most industrialised nation – has seen repeated waves of xenophobic and anti-migrant protests over the years, including renewed violence in recent weeks that has targeted mostly people of African origin.

The country's top diplomat in Abuja was summoned by the Nigerian foreign ministry yesterday, following a similar move by Ghana last month, "for discussions on documented instances of mistreatment of Nigerian citizens and attacks on their businesses".

"We've seen cases whereby Nigerians have been threatened," foreign ministry spokesman Kimiebi Ebieña told reporters after the meeting. The South African government has denounced the attacks, though Ebieña said that "if those that are carrying out the attacks are not punished, are not questioned, are not stopped – indirectly you're allowing them to do whatever they are doing".

So far, some 130 Nigerians have indicated they want to return home, Ebieña said, in a group that includes both legal residents of South Africa who "felt the country is not safe for them" as well as undocumented immigrants.

"This figure is expected to rise," Nigerian Foreign Minister Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu said in a statement Sunday, adding that



A child with her mother who is holding a placard, during an anti-xenophobia march in Johannesburg. (Reuters/File Photo)

"Nigerian lives and businesses in SA must not continue to be put at risk."

Odumegwu-Ojukwu also said at least two Nigerians – Amamiro Chidiebere Emmanuel and Nnae-

meka Matthew Andrew – died in two separate incidents involving South African security personnel last month.

Ebieña called for "impartial" investigations into their deaths.

South Africa's Foreign Minister Ronald Lamola said he and Odumegwu-Ojukwu agreed in talks on Monday to deepen cooperation.

"We reflected on the challenges posed by irregular migration and committed to working to address the root causes, find common and sustainable solutions to this shared concern," he said in a statement.

The Nigerian foreign minister alleged that a "repetitive wave" of a "xenophobic pattern" flares up "especially prior to elections in South Africa, and anti-foreigner

opposition parties leverage this situation to garner votes".

South Africa holds municipal elections on November 4.

The country's acting police minister last week condemned anti-immigrant violence, saying attacks on foreign nationals were "unlawful" and violated the constitutional values of dignity and equality.

"Acts of xenophobia, violence, looting or intimidation will not be tolerated under any circumstances," Firoz Cachalia said.

According to the statistics agency, some three million foreigners, or 5.1% of the population, live in the country.

More than 63% come from countries in the 16-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) bloc.

UK Labour Party loses grip on the heartland

AFP
Cardiff

Wales – the cradle of Britain's revered National Health Service and a former industrial powerhouse – has been a Labour Party stronghold for well over a century. But that is set to end in crunch polls Thursday as impatient Britons abandon their old political loyalties for anti-establishment parties amid persistent cost of living pressures.

A Labour defeat in the country of three million people will be a major indictment of lacklustre UK leader Keir Starmer's two-year-old premiership and likely amplify calls for his resignation.

"I feel very sad that I'm not voting Labour this time," said 59-year-old Ross Mumford, explaining he had always supported the centre-left party, just like his father and grandfather.

"It's been a part of the family but it's coming to an end this year," the delivery driver told AFP outside the Welsh parliament in the capital Cardiff.

Wales, with its strong working-class roots and deep sense of community, has been woven into the fabric of Labour since the party was founded in 1900.

The party's first leader, Keir Hardie, represented a constituency in the country's industrial South Valleys, while Welshman Aneurin Bevan spearheaded the



A polling station direction sign is attached to a lamp post ahead of upcoming local and mayoral elections in England and devolved general elections in Wales and Scotland on May 7. (Reuters)

founding of the NHS in 1948.

Labour has led Wales' devolved government – whose powers include running health, education and transport – since the inception of the parliament, called the Senedd, in 1999.

Polls widely predict that 27-year-run will finish when voters head to the polls on May 7, although a new voting system means who will triumph instead is uncertain.

Surveys show Labour trailing the hard-right Reform UK party and progressive Welsh nationalists Plaid Cymru, mirroring a UK-wide squeeze of Britain's ruling party from both ends of the political spectrum.

Mumford thinks Starmer has

"lied through his teeth" in a scandal over sacked US envoy Peter Mandelson. He will vote Reform, believing firebrand leader Nigel Farage is a straight-talker.

"Let's give them a try. What have we got to lose?" he said, a common refrain among voters unhappy with how Labour has governed the UK since July 2024 following 14 years of Conservative rule.

Hope Porter, 35, another previous Labour voter told AFP she will likely cast her ballot for the left-wing Greens.

She is angry at Starmer's stance on the Gaza war.

"They're Tories in red at this point. I don't think they are actually for working class people



A Labour Party placard outside a house in Cardiff. (AFP)

anymore," the artist said, enjoying an evening stroll outside the Senedd.

In Cardiff city centre, sitting near a statue of ex-Labour MP Bevan, 83-year-old Sue Jenkins said she isn't ready to give up on Labour yet. The retiree thinks Starmer "could do better" but feels he has done well to stand up to President Donald Trump over the US and Israel conflict.

"If Labour don't get in, I'll be very upset," Jenkins told AFP.

Labour candidate Huw Thomas insists one party will find it difficult to win a majority, meaning "it's all to play for".

"The narrative that this is the end of the Labour Party in Wales, I don't think that's a given," he told AFP.

Twenty-three miles (37 kilometres) north in Merthyr Tydfil – where Hardie was an MP – half a dozen Reform volunteers hand out fliers from under a gazebo.

Several passing drivers sound their horns in support, receiving thumbs up from the canvassers, although one woman shouts "racists" at the group.

Unemployment and deprivation are the main issues in the post-industrial town once famous for its coal mining and ironworks,

says candidate David Hughes.

"People are losing hope," the 59-year-old told AFP.

Volunteer Robert Clarke, 69, likes Reform's pledge to scrap net zero energy targets – he's "not a great fan" of wind turbines on Wales' rolling hills – and cut irregular immigration.

"Unless we change the direction this country is taking, I feel my grandchildren will not have a country," he told AFP.

In the nearby picturesque town of Pontypridd, Plaid Cymru campaigners buoyantly knock on doors, sensing victory in another traditional Labour heartland.

"We're definitely picking up disaffected voters," candidate Heledd Fychan told AFP, saying people felt "betrayed" by Labour's moves to remove heating subsidies from the elderly.

Back in Cardiff, 65-year-old retired teacher Ceri James says he will vote for Plaid because of their "positive" messaging.

Speculation is rife in Westminster that losing Wales could be the moment restless Labour MPs decide to try to oust Starmer as leader. Defeat "will pose enormous problems for the party," politics expert Laura McAllister of Cardiff University told AFP.

Car ploughs into crowd in Leipzig, killing two

AFP
Leipzig

A car ploughed into a crowd on a street in Germany's eastern city of Leipzig on Monday, killing at least two people and injuring several others, authorities said.

Germany has been shaken by a series of car-ramming attacks in recent years, including one targeting a Christmas market in 2024 in Magdeburg, and also in Berlin and Munich.

In the latest incident in Leipzig, the driver was arrested after his vehicle careered from a main square down a major city centre street, close to historic sites.

Leipzig mayor Burkhard Jung gave a death toll of two, adding: "We still don't really know the motivation. We don't know anything about the perpetrator."

Police and the fire service also said two people were killed.

At least two people were seriously injured while 20 others were more lightly hurt, according to local fire chief Axel Schuh.

Police said that the car ploughed into people on Grimmaische street, a major pedestrian zone in the city's old town lined with shops and historic buildings.

"The driver has been arrested; there is currently no further danger from him," they said.

The driver stopped of his own accord, they added.



The scene where several people were injured yesterday during an incident involving a car in Leipzig, eastern Germany. (AFP)

TV pictures showed a white vehicle with a badly damaged windshield and hood, and the street cordoned off and surrounded by emergency vehicles.

Police deployed in large numbers along with firefighters, emergency medical personnel and two helicopters.

Since the Berlin attack in December 2016, carried out by a Tunisian, who drove a truck into the crowd, killing 13 people, Germany has faced repeated ramming attacks.

In 2024, a Christmas market in Magdeburg was targeted by a Saudi man with extremist views, who

drove a car into the crowd, killing six people and injuring more than 300.

In February 2025, a mother and her daughter were killed and around 30 people injured by the Afghan driver of a vehicle that rammed into a march taking place in Munich.

The attacks came as sensitivities have grown in parts of German society over immigrants, following a large migrant influx in 2015.

Immigration and security have risen up the political agenda in German political debate, helping fuel the rise of the far-right party Alternative for Germany (AfD).

Modi's party set to gain big in state elections

Reuters
Mumbai

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party was on course to win two of four crucial state elections yesterday, expanding its influence and weakening its key rival half-way into his third term in office.

Modi's ruling party – Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – was set to return to power in the eastern state of Assam for the third straight term, and was sweeping West Bengal, counting trends on the Election Commission website showed. Both states border Bangladesh and infiltration into India was a key poll issue.

The BJP has never ruled West Bengal, a state where it had only three local lawmakers until 2021.

Modi, his closest aide and Home Minister Amit Shah and several senior BJP leaders have campaigned extensively in West Bengal in the lead up to elections, focusing on what they called illegal immigration from Bangladesh and the weak local economy under incumbent Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Banerjee is a fierce critic of Modi and a key member of India's opposition alliance. She has been in power in the state since 2011.

The positive trend for the BJP in West Bengal also boosted market sentiment, with the 10-year bond yield down 2 basis points at



A supporter with the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) party election symbol painted on his body in Kolkata yesterday. (AFP)

6.9954%, bond traders said.

In the southern state of Tamil Nadu, a major hub for electronics and automobiles, popular movie star Joseph Vijay, a first-time entrant into politics who launched his party only two years ago, looked on course to oust the ruling DMK party.

The actor, who goes by the single name Vijay, has a frenzied fan following in the state, which has a history of electing film stars to the top office.

In the other southern state of Kerala, an alliance led by the Congress party looked set to defeat the ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist).

The DMK is also a vocal rival of

Modi, and DMK and Banerjee's ruling TMC party were the main pillars of the Congress-led opposition INDIA alliance.

The alliance jointly fought the 2024 general election and deprived Modi of an outright majority, forcing him to rely on the support of regional parties to form a coalition government.

Their losses are expected to significantly weaken opposition to Modi in 2029, when he will contest for a record fourth term in office.

Final results are expected to be clear by Monday evening but the outcome is not expected to have an immediate impact on politics or policy at the federal level.

EU to support Palestinians facing settler violence

The European Union will soon launch a programme to support Palestinians facing Israeli settler violence in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Authority and the EU office in Jerusalem yesterday.

"In coordination with the government, the European Union will launch a programme to support victims of settler terrorism," Palestinian prime minister Mohammad Mustafa said in a statement.

"It's a project that the EU is developing with local and international NGOs with the aim of documenting attacks on Palestinians by violent Israeli settlers and to support the communities that are victims of such attacks," the office of the EU representative in the Palestinian Territories told AFP.

A source at the office added that the project, led by civil society organisations and supported by the EU, "will provide protective presence and protective equipment such as fences to Palestinian

communities facing attacks from settlers". The programme is expected to be finalised within a few months, and its budget should be "around six million euros", the source added.

Settler violence has long been an issue, and has only increased as settlements expand in the West Bank. Rural communities are most vulnerable due to their isolation, with beatings, damaged crops, cattle theft and arson reported almost daily.

There has been a spike in deadly attacks by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank since the start of the Iran war on February 28, Palestinian officials and the United Nations have said.

Excluding east Jerusalem, more than 500,000 Israelis live in the occupied West Bank in settlements that are illegal under international law, among some three million Palestinians.

Israeli has occupied the West Bank since 1967. (AFP)

US to move forward with EU car tariffs plans

Reuters
Washington

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told European Union and German trade officials over the weekend that the US will move forward with President Donald Trump's plan to raise EU car import tariffs to 25%, according to a statement made yesterday on CNBC.

"I was in contact with both European and German trade officials this weekend to help them understand why this was happening and remind them of all the conversations we've had about their compliance," Greer told CNBC in an interview. "I'll continue to have those conversations, but the president's moving forward with this action."

Asked if the tariff should be considered just a piece of a larger negotiation or a permanent state, Greer added: "It's one part of the deal."

As of Monday at 1 p.m. ET, the



US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. (Reuters/File Photo)

new tariffs had not been officially adopted.

Trump said on Friday he would increase tariffs on cars from the EU to 25% next week from the previously agreed 15%, saying the bloc had not complied with its trade deal with the United States.

The European Commission rejected Trump's claim that Brussels was not complying with last

summer's trade deal and said it would keep its options open to protect EU interests if Washington breached the terms of the agreement.

Trump fired off the tariff post amid escalating tensions between the US and the EU over the war in Iran and European countries' refusal to send navies to open the Strait of Hormuz. The

White House said Friday it plans to remove 5,000 US troops from Germany after German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the US was being "humiliated" by Iran in talks to end the conflict in the Middle East.

The Trump administration last year imposed a 25% tariff on global automotive imports under a national security trade law, but reached a separate deal with the EU in August to lower those duties to a net 15%, inclusive of prior duties.

Shares in German carmakers slid yesterday following Trump's decision to hike US tariffs on imported European cars to 25% from the 15% levy previously agreed, dealing a fresh blow to the already battered sector.

The pan-European automobiles and parts index was down 2.3% as of 1046 GMT, while shares in Porsche, BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen were all down 2% to 3%.

Iran hits ships

From Page 1

South Korea reported one of its merchant ships had been hit by an explosion and fire inside the strait. The British maritime security agency UKMT0 reported two ships had been hit off the coast of the UAE, and the Emirati oil company ADNOC said one of its empty oil tankers was hit by Iranian drones while trying to cross.

"Iran has taken some shots at unrelated Nations with respect to the Ship Movement, PROJECT FREEDOM, including a South Korean Cargo Ship. Perhaps it's time for South Korea to come and join the mission!" Trump posted on social media yesterday.

But there was no immediate sign that large numbers of merchant ships were making new attempts to cross, and major shipping companies said they were likely to wait for an agreed end to hostilities before trying to sail through.

In a post on X, US Central Command said some of its Navy guided-missile destroyers were inside the Gulf supporting the operation, and that two US-flagged merchant vessels had crossed the strait "and are safely headed on their journey". It did not identify either the warships or the merchant vessels.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said no commercial vessels had crossed the strait in the past few hours, and that US claims to the contrary were false. Earlier, Iran said it had fired on a US warship approaching the strait, forcing it to turn around. An initial Iranian report had said a US warship was struck, but Washington denied this and Iranian officials later described the fire as warning shots.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said there was a fire and an explosion onboard the Namu, a merchant ship operated by HMM.

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GULF TIMES

Troop cuts show limits of Nato efforts to keep US on board

European officials have been working on ways to convince Donald Trump to keep the United States in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) despite severe tensions over the Iran war. However, his abrupt move to cut US forces in Germany is the latest sign that such efforts have their limits and are far from certain to succeed. The substance of the decision announced last week to remove 5,000 troops from Germany did not come as a surprise to Nato officials.

European leaders have agreed with the US president that Europeans will take over more responsibility for their own security from US forces.

Dropping a plan to deploy long-range US Tomahawk missiles to Germany was more concerning for Berlin.

However, even that was not a huge shock, as that deal was made by Trump's predecessor, Joe Biden, and US Tomahawk stocks have been depleted by the US-Israeli war against Iran.

More alarming for European governments was how the move was made – with little prior notification or consultation and with US officials linking it to Trump's displeasure at German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's criticism of US conduct of the Iran war.

“What is worrying is not the figure of 5,000 troops, but the political signal from Washington that longstanding, absolutely reliable partnerships no longer seem to count for anything and appear to be subject to arbitrary decisions,” said Siemtje Moeller, a senior lawmaker from Germany's Social Democrats, who are part of Merz's governing coalition.

The move followed accusations by Trump that US allies have not been doing enough to support the US in the Iran war and suggestions by him that this meant Washington no longer needs to honour the alliance's Article 5 mutual defence clause.

Trump also pushed the alliance to the brink by threatening to take Greenland from Denmark, a fellow Nato member.

Nato Secretary-General Mark Rutte helped to defuse that crisis but the underlying dispute has not been resolved.

European diplomats say they fear Trump may make further moves that could test the alliance before a summit of its 32 national leaders in Ankara in July, especially if the Iran war is not over by then and he is still venting anger at allies.

“The longer game for Nato and European allies is getting through Ankara,” said a European diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. “We need to do things with the Americans if we can, and without them if we must.”

Defence experts say Europeans have little choice but to try to keep the US on board, given their heavy reliance on the United States to deter any possible attack by Russia.

As part of their efforts to convince Trump of the value of European allies, officials have said many European countries are honouring agreements to allow US forces to use bases on their soil and fly in their airspace during the Iran campaign – even if they are not keen to advertise the fact, given Trump and the war are deeply unpopular in much of Europe.

European officials are also working to make a broader case to Trump, other US officials, lawmakers and Republican-friendly think tanks that it is in their interests to stick with Nato.

While there is broad support for these efforts across the alliance, the crisis has also exposed stark differences among European Nato leaders over how to respond to the war on Iran.

Leaders of Western European countries such as Spain, France and Germany have voiced blunt criticism, reflecting domestic public opinion but risking Trump's ire.

Rutte, by contrast, has made clear he sees anti-war rhetoric as unhelpful.

Some eastern European countries, fearing any weakening of Nato will embolden Russia, have taken a similar view, diplomats say.

Rutte has also said that several countries were “pre-positioning essential logistical and other support” such as minehunters and minesweepers near the Gulf to be ready for a possible Strait of Hormuz mission after the war ends.

The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany have said they are sending ships that could be part of such a mission.

France, which is leading planning of a potential mission with Britain, also has ships in the Middle East that could take part.

“European leaders have gotten the message, they've heard the message from the US loud and clear,” Rutte told reporters at a summit of European leaders in Armenia. – Reuters

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Spring in pink



Visitors are seen walking amid Rhododendron and Azalea blossoms in Richmond Park, London, Britain. (Reuters)

Redistricting and the Supreme Court have cut voters out of US House races

By Joseph Ax
Reuters

The number of competitive US House of Representatives districts in this fall's midterm elections was already near historic lows before the US Supreme Court's decision on Wednesday opened the door to even more aggressive efforts to draw district lines for political gain.

The court's ruling, which arrived amid what was already an unprecedented national fight over congressional redistricting, may usher in a new era of nakedly partisan gerrymandering that results in still fewer competitive elections, leaving voters with less power than ever.

The lack of competitive races means that control of the US House of Representatives will likely be determined in November's midterm election by fewer than 10% of Americans, with the winners in the vast majority of districts all but assured before a single ballot is cast, a Reuters analysis found.

Only 32 of the House's 435 seats are currently considered competitive, according to the analysis.

Those districts were rated either toss-ups or leaning toward Democrats or Republicans by three leading independent forecasters: Cook Political Report, the University of Virginia's Crystal Ball, and Inside Elections.

Most other districts are simply out of play.

Cook, for instance, rates 375 seats, more than 85% of the House, as either “Solid Republican” or “Solid Democrat”, which means its analysts do not expect them to be seriously contested.

Another 28 races are “likely” Republican or Democratic, according to Cook, meaning they are not competitive at present but might become so under new conditions.

This year boasts the fewest competitive House races at this stage of the election cycle since at least 2008, according to an



A sign for voters to have photo ID ready is seen outside of the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Early voting for Louisiana's May 16 primaries began this week for US Senate and Louisiana state party candidates. However, Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry has postponed the state's congressional primaries in light of a recent US Supreme Court decision that would give state lawmakers time to redraw congressional maps. (AFP)

archive of prior Cook ratings.

Democrats need to gain just three seats to win a House majority, giving them the power to block President Donald Trump's legislative agenda and initiate investigations into his administration.

The shrinking House battlefield is the result of several factors, including increased political polarisation.

However, the weaponisation of congressional redistricting, or gerrymandering – which has gone into overdrive since last year, when Trump began pushing Republicans to draw new maps – is a critical element that is only going to accelerate after the Supreme Court's ruling, according to experts.

“We are now in a cycle of gerrymandering wars,” said Justin Levitt, a professor at Loyola Law School who maintains the website All About Redistricting. “What used to be a cold war has gotten very hot.”

The court hollowed out a provision of the federal Voting Rights Act that had blocked state legislatures from dismantling districts with mostly racial minority voters.

Political observers expect Republican-led states to target a dozen or more Democratic-held majority-Black and majority-Latino seats that previously enjoyed stancher protections.

“I think it gets worse before it gets better,” Levitt said. “And I think there's plenty of room for it to get worse.”

The lack of competitive districts can have consequences for Congress, said Matthew Klein, a House analyst with Cook.

If House candidates only need to appeal to their base voters to win elections, rather than moderates or members of the opposing party, they are more likely to move toward the extremes instead of the political middle.

“If you look at Congress and how it acted 20 years ago, 30 years ago, even farther back, you see a Congress that is both less acrimonious and also more productive,” he said. “There used to be bills that passed with huge majorities on major issues. We just don't really see that anymore.”

Gerrymandering has long been a feature of American democracy, but the practice has

been supercharged in recent years as guardrails, both legal and institutional, have been torn down.

In 2019, the Supreme Court found that while partisan gerrymandering may be undemocratic, federal courts had no role in regulating it.

Last year, Trump successfully pressured Texas Republicans to rip up their map and draw a new one targeting five Democratic incumbents, triggering a nationwide arms race that spread to nearly a dozen other states.

That move eviscerated what had been a traditional norm limiting most redistricting to the start of each decade, after the US Census population count is completed.

The Supreme Court's ruling on Wednesday, meanwhile, has given even more leeway to lawmakers to draw districts for their party's benefit.

And all of those developments have come against a backdrop of technological advances, with mapmakers able to identify Democratic and Republican voters down to the census block.

“If there are no guardrails, there are no guardrails,” Levitt said. “I think the constraint is now realpolitik and imagination, not, ‘We just don't do that.’”

Gerrymandering is not the only culprit to blame for the lack of competitive districts.

Voters have become more geographically sorted, as rural areas have trended conservative while suburban regions moved left.

And just as House members have become more polarised, so too have voters.

Split-ticket voting, in which voters choose a candidate of one party for a higher office and another for a lower office, was once fairly common, but no longer.

In 2000, there were 86 House members elected whose districts voted for the opposing party's presidential candidate, according to research by Kyle Kondik, the managing editor of Crystal Ball.

In 2024, that number was down to 16.



A cherry tree in full bloom outside the US Supreme Court in Washington. (Reuters)



Dr al-Ansari delivering the graduation address.



The Class of 2026 at Northwestern University in Qatar's 15th annual graduation ceremony, held at Raffles Doha.

NU-Q celebrates Class of 2026

Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2026 at its 15th annual ceremony, held at Raffles Doha yesterday.

The event brought together university leadership, faculty, staff, families, and distinguished guests to honour the achievements of 123 graduates who now join Northwestern's global alumni community.

The Class of 2026 represents a diverse and resilient cohort, shaped by a period of regional uncertainty and global change.

The graduating class is made up of students from 22 countries who majored in communication and journalism, with many completing interdisciplinary minors across artificial intelligence (AI) and media, strategic communication, Middle East studies, and joint programmes within Education City.

Thirty-two graduates were recognised with Dean's Scholastic Honours.

In his address, NU-Q dean and chief executive Marwan M Kraidy reflected on the Arabic concept of *muruna, or resilience with purpose.

"Muruna is not simply flexibility," he said. "It is the ability to

remain grounded, principled, and engaged, especially when the world around you is uncertain."

Kraidy encouraged graduates to approach their future with intention and responsibility, emphasising that storytelling carries both meaning and consequence.

"Words and images are not neutral," he noted. "They shape perception, memory, and possibility," he noted.

Delivering the graduation address, Dr Majed Mohammed al-Ansari, adviser to the Prime Minister and official spokesperson for Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke about the evolving role of communication in a complex media landscape.

Reflecting on his experience moving from academia into public service, he emphasised the growing responsibility that comes with having a voice.

"Your words will travel faster than your intentions, and being articulate is no longer enough, you must be responsible," al-Ansari said.

He urged students to remain grounded in truth and integrity amid increasing pressure for speed and visibility.

"It used to be: Who got it right?



Northwestern University Provost-Elect Erik Luijten addressing the graduating class.

Now it is often: Who got there first, or who made the most noise?" he said, cautioning against the pull of immediacy over accuracy.

Joining the ceremony, Northwestern University Provost-Elect Erik Luijten addressed the graduates and highlighted the strength and resilience of the class.

He noted that the cohort represents a truly international community prepared to engage across cultures and disciplines.

"You have the capacity to make positive change in our increasingly complicated world," he said, encouraging graduates to take thoughtful risks and remain open to new perspectives.

Luijten was appointed provost

in January and will assume the role later this spring.

He is the Liu-Wang Liming Professor of Materials Science and Engineering in Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering.

Student speaker Isra Fejzullaj reflected on the shared journey of the class, shaped by uncertainty, growth, and perseverance.

Drawing on both personal and collective experiences, she spoke about learning to navigate ambiguity and finding strength in community.

"We learned that progress does not look perfect, and that some of the most important lessons were not scheduled or easy," she said.

She also emphasised the respon-



Dean and chief executive Marwan M Kraidy addresses the Class of 2026.



Class of 2026 speaker Isra Fejzullaj reflects on a shared journey of growth, resilience, and the responsibility of storytelling.

sibility that comes with storytelling, urging her peers to remain intentional in how they represent others and the world around them.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone for the graduates, who now step into professional and

academic paths across journalism, communication, research, and a variety of emerging fields.

As they leave Northwestern Qatar, they do so with a shared commitment to curiosity, responsibility, and impact.

A transformative journey: From Education City to global diplomacy

By Noor al-Rawi
Doha

Graduating from Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q), AlDana Ahmad al-Sulaiti reflects on a journey shaped by leadership, policy engagement, and global exposure within Qatar Foundation (QF).

As she prepares to graduate from Georgetown University in Qatar, al-Sulaiti represents a new generation of young leaders shaped by the multidisciplinary ecosystem of Qatar Foundation, combining academic excellence with real-world impact.

"My experience was all-encompassing, it went far beyond academics."

Q: As you graduate from Georgetown University in Qatar, how would you describe your journey at Qatar Foundation?

First and foremost, my experience at Georgetown was all-encompassing. It wasn't just academic, I had opportunities for leadership, internships, and volunteer experiences. It was a very well-rounded journey.

I was able not only to strengthen my academic skills but also to develop technical and professional

competencies through internships facilitated by Georgetown.

"I wanted to study policy from within the region I hope to serve."

Q: Why did you choose Georgetown University in Qatar and Education City for your studies?

I chose Georgetown because I aim to work in policy, specifically within Qatar. I believed the best way to do that was to study within the region I want to serve and influence.

Qatar Foundation institutions offer more than academics. They provide opportunities that foster both professional and personal growth, making Georgetown the ideal choice for my future goals.

"Research and mentorship shaped my academic path."

Q: How did Qatar Foundation help shape your academic and personal growth?

Academically, I pursued two major research projects. For my honours thesis in international politics, I examined Qatar's strategic relationships with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) and the US, particularly in defence and Major Non-Nato Ally (MNNA) status.

My second research project explored Al Jazeera's formative years and its role in shaping



AlDana Ahmad al-Sulaiti

narratives in the region.

I was supported by faculty mentors, including Prof Gerd Nonneman and Prof Rory Miller, reflecting the strong academic support system at Georgetown.

"Interdisciplinary learning gave me a broader worldview."

Q: How valuable was the interdisciplinary model at the QF, including cross-registration with other universities?

The interdisciplinary model at Qatar Foundation is extremely valuable.

Through cross-registration, I pursued a certificate in media and politics in collaboration with Northwestern University in Qatar, a partner university of Qatar Foundation.

This exposed me to students from different academic backgrounds, allowing me to engage with diverse perspectives and better prepare for the workforce.

"Leadership opportunities confirmed my path in foreign affairs."

Q: In what ways did leadership and volunteer opportunities at QF prepare you for life beyond university?

Through Georgetown, I applied to join the Qatar Youth Delegation to the AFS Youth Assembly in New York in 2025.

After being selected, I grew significantly as a leader and confirmed my interest in foreign affairs.

I was later appointed as Qatar's ambassador to the AFS Youth Assembly and will lead the delegation to Geneva in 2026.

This is an opportunity I would not have encountered outside Qatar Foundation.

"Media and politics together shape how we understand the world."

Q: You pursued media and politics, why are these fields important in today's regional context?

While my primary focus is politics, I also have a strong interest in media and how it shapes narratives.

News is inherently political, but it also influences how people perceive the world.

Understanding both fields allows for a more comprehensive view of regional and global dynamics.

"I was exposed to global platforms at the highest level."

Q: How did your international experiences reflect the values and opportunities offered by Qatar Foundation?

One of my most defining experiences was my internship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where I worked in the Office of the Minister of International Co-operation.

I contributed to briefing files, post-meeting notes, and attended bilateral meetings.

I also participated in major international events such as the Doha Forum 2025, the UN Second World Summit for Social Development, and the Qatar-Africa Business Forum in Johannesburg.

These opportunities reflect the global exposure enabled by Georgetown University in Qatar and Qatar Foundation.

"Qatar Foundation prepares leaders, not just graduates."

Q: What role do you believe the QF plays in preparing young leaders

for Qatar and the world?

Qatar Foundation provides an ecosystem that goes beyond academics.

It equips students with leadership skills, global exposure, and interdisciplinary learning opportunities, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to Qatar and the wider world.

"I aspire to contribute to Qatar's foreign policy."

Q: What are your aspirations after graduation?

My goal is to work in policy, particularly in foreign affairs within Qatar.

Through my academic background and professional experiences, I hope to contribute to shaping Qatar's foreign policy and strengthening its global role.

"Take every opportunity, this is a platform for growth."

Q: What message would you share with future Qatar Foundation students?

Take full advantage of every opportunity available to you.

Qatar Foundation is more than an academic institution, it is a platform for growth, exploration, and leadership. The more you engage, the more you will gain.

How QF engineering grads aim to serve Qatar and the world

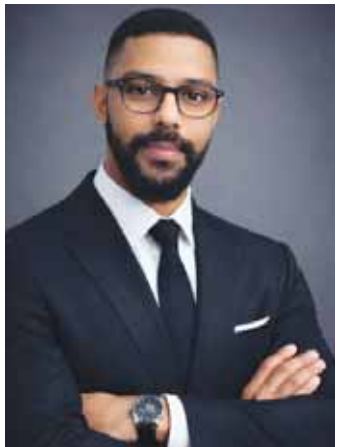
As Qatar Foundation's (QF) Convocation 2026 ceremony approaches and graduates prepare to celebrate with their families and friends, its newest engineering graduates are marking the occasion by reflecting on their transformative journey – sharing how their experiences have reshaped their perspectives and broadened their worldview.

Looking back at his first semester in 2024 at QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Abdelaziz Hussain – the first in his family to graduate from QF, having completed his Master's in Sustainable Energy – says: "After two years of studying in this programme at HBKU, I graduated with a key strength, which is the ability to bridge the gap between research and practice."

"My experience extends beyond theoretical understanding, enabling me to translate real-world challenges into research questions, and in turn transform findings into practical solutions. This was further reinforced through my thesis work, which explored the intersection of water, energy, and the environment."

Hussain explained that his degree is more than a certificate – it's a foundation he plans to build on as he addresses real-world challenges. He stressed that sustainability matters because the choices we make today will directly shape the world that future generations will inherit.

He feels a responsibility to contribute to Qatar, where he was born and raised, especially when misin-



Abdelaziz Hussain

formation in engineering is made public. He also says that engineers and researchers hold knowledge that the public often relies on, and this knowledge should not be confined to a specific community.

"On several occasions, such as during global pandemics or conflicts, I encountered inaccurate claims about science or engineering topics and stepped in to offer clear, evidence-based explanations," he said.

"What made those moments significant was not simply the correction itself, but the deeper realisation that accurate information carries real weight, and that the absence of it can cause genuine harm."

Looking ahead to the next five years, Hussain aims to contribute to projects that directly benefit communities and address global

water and energy challenges.

"Through my work in water desalination and sustainability, I aim to develop solutions that improve access to clean water, reliable energy, and a healthier environment, while enhancing resource efficiency and environmental performance," he said.

And he wants people to see QF as more than a place of study – he sees it as a platform for collaboration, diverse perspectives, and meaningful connections that enrich both professional and personal growth.

QF's graduates are lifelong learners – the ecosystem prepares them to manage their time effectively, meet deadlines, and take responsibility for their work.

This is epitomised by Wala Abdelhalim, a Chemical Engineering graduate from Texas A&M University at Qatar, a QF international partner university, who says QF gave her a sense of independence when travelling abroad and collaborating with entities outside Qatar.

"When you work in a lab outside Qatar, you start off as an unknown, and there is always that pressure to prove yourself," she says. "During my internship at Texas A&M's home campus, I was given a lot of independence in how I conducted my work."

"It was entirely on me to show up, run experiments, learn about equipment, and maintain it properly. That responsibility pushed me to take ownership not just of the results, but of the entire process and space."

When asked about the moment she feels her voice as an engineer

really matters, Abdelhalim replies: "My work on electronic skin is rooted in chemistry, but I approach and present it from an engineering standpoint. I break it down into systems and explain it in a way that is accessible rather than niche. That is where I feel my voice matters."

"As an engineer, you are not only building something, but you are also responsible for understanding its impact on people, and that sense of responsibility has shaped how I approach research."

But does Abdelhalim's journey end once she graduates, or will she continue to give back to her university and leave an impact on future students?

"What stands out most to me is the focus on impact," she says. "I now naturally think about who a study affects, what it changes, and what opportunities it creates. That way of thinking has made me more forward-looking and has shaped my curiosity and desire to keep exploring."

"I hope to create meaningful work, something that both the version of me today and the version of me from a few years ago would be proud of. In the long term, I would love to have a lab of my own and mentor others, just as I was supported throughout my journey."

As Abdelhalim prepares to graduate in a few days, she says: "I want to continue pursuing research, I have grown to love the process as much as the outcome. I do not like setting strict timelines, but I hope that in the next 10 years I am still as curious and driven as I am now."

Qatar joins UNCTAD expert meeting

QNA
Geneva

The State of Qatar participated in the 12th session of the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-Building and Sustainable Development, organised by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on May 4-5 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Qatar was represented by HE the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva Dr Hind Abdulrahman al-Muftah.

Her Excellency presented an overview of the UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2026, reaffirming Qatar's strong commitment to co-operate with UNCTAD in hosting the forum in Doha from October 25 to 27 under the theme "Investing in the Future."

She said Qatar is working diligently to ensure the forum is held successfully and without delay despite current regional crises, noting that it will focus on key tracks including global value chains, the digital economy, green transformation, and peace and reconstruction.

She addressed the recent regional escalation and its impact on critical infrastructure and



gas production facilities, highlighting the fragility of global supply chains and the profound effects of geopolitical shocks on the economic resilience of developing countries.

She stressed the urgent need to protect global economic infrastructure and maintain secure trade corridors to ensure continued development and economic security for all nations.

She also underscored Qatar's strategic position combining leadership in energy security with investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure, stating that the country is accelerating strategic investments to strengthen its role as a regional hub for innovation and a stabilising force in global markets, and expressed her anticipation of welcoming delegations to Doha in October.



Amir honours 180 outstanding QU graduates

From Page 1

Across generations, students and faculty have contributed to building a strong academic legacy and a community that sees knowledge not as a luxury, but as a necessity, and learning not as a phase, but as a lifelong journey.

Al-Ansari pointed out that the graduation day is a culmination of years of dedication and hard work, and the beginning of a new chapter, defined by purpose and impact.

“With pride, honour, and gratitude, we celebrate today the graduation of the 49th cohort, welcoming a new group of graduates to the nation’s journey of contribution, who will help shape the future of the State of Qatar through their knowledge and capabilities,” he said. “Today marks a defining moment in the lives of a generation preparing to carry responsibility.”

“At the same time, the QU continues to move forward with confidence in advancing its strategic repositioning initiative – a comprehensive institutional effort to define the QU’s place within the academic landscape, both locally and globally,” al-Ansari said. “This initiative strengthens our institutional identity and reinforces our role as a national institution leading the higher education ecosystem, while contributing to the State’s vision of a diversified, knowledge-based economy.”

The QU president highlighted that this role is not a response to passing global changes but stems from a firmly rooted national vision that affirms the University’s place and long-standing contribution to higher education.

Qatar University is a comprehensive institution that places education at the forefront of its priorities, supported by high-quality research aligned with national priorities, driving meaningful, lasting impact on society through close partnerships with institutions across the country, under the guidance of our wise leadership.

Addressing the graduates, he said: “You are the result of a journey marked by dedication and sustained effort.”

“What we celebrate today is more than an academic milestone,” he continued. “It is the shaping of minds, the grounding of values, and the growth of capabilities ready to help shape the future. As you step into a fast-changing world that calls for creativity and adaptability, remember that those who know how to think will always find their way.”

“Sincerity in your work, integrity, and a commitment to excellence are the principles that will guide you forward,” al-Ansari added. “As you leave your years of study behind, the spirit of the university will stay with you. Move ahead with confidence, work with purpose, and let knowledge light your path, while strong values anchor

and protect your journey.”

Addressing the parents, the QU president said: “You share greatly in this achievement. You have been the constant support and backbone, true partners throughout this journey with all the patience and dedication you have shown. Congratulations on this well-earned moment and may Allah (SWT) bless your efforts.”

He further said: “I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to my colleagues among the faculty, staff, and all those working at the University for their dedication and continued contributions, which have played a vital role in preparing a generation that is aware, capable, and ready to contribute to the nation’s progress.”

“As the QU continues its journey toward further development and renewal, it reaffirms its commitment to remain an active national partner in advancing the aspirations of the State of Qatar.”

Graduate Abdullah al-Kaabi, from the College of Medicine, delivered the address on behalf of the 49th graduating class.

“Today, we stand at Qatar University not to close a chapter, but to open a wide horizon where our contributions can take shape,” he said. “These years were not simply time spent in study, but a quiet process of inner growth. With every lecture, our horizons expanded; with every

Snapshots from the graduation ceremony.



discussion, a new question emerged; and with every exam, we came to understand that knowledge is not what we memorise, but what we truly grasp.”

Addressing his fellow graduates, al-Kaabi said: “We leave Qatar University with a clear conviction: we have not received a ‘certificate’ as an endpoint, but an ‘entrustment’ with which we begin shaping the future.”

“We are the nation’s most valuable investment,” he added. “Qatar, a nation that has believed in people as its greatest asset

and in knowledge as its path, has not treated education as a phase, but as a national project, embodied in its vision.”

Hamad Faisal al-Emadi, a graduate of the College of Law, delivered remarks as the master of ceremonies.

“Our achievement today is not simply the result of a few years of effort; its roots run deeper, shaped over time,” he said. “It is part of a legacy that began 49 years ago, when the QU was founded as a beacon of knowledge and a guiding light toward a promising and prosperous future.”

Visit Qatar backs major events to boost global presence

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Visit Qatar is continuing to position major events as a cornerstone of its tourism strategy, with officials emphasising their growing role in attracting international audiences and reinforcing Qatar’s global visibility.

Speaking on the sidelines of the launch of the third edition of the Doha Boat Show 2026, Visit Qatar public relations and communications director Jassim al-Mahmoud highlighted the organisation’s ongoing support for the event and its wider significance within Qatar’s tourism landscape.

“Our attendance today is actually to celebrate this milestone with Doha Old Port,” he said, referring to the launch of the latest edition of the show.

He noted that Visit Qatar has been “proudly a main sponsor for the past two events,” underscoring a commitment to initiatives that drive visitor engagement.

The Doha Boat Show, he added, has rapidly established itself as one



Jassim al-Mahmoud

of the country’s leading events. “This event has proven that it is one of the biggest events happening in Qatar, the numbers speak for themselves,” he said, citing participation figures of more than 27,000 visitors, 105 nationalities, and 65 exhibitors. Al-Mahmoud pointed to the event’s evolving nature, noting that

this year’s edition reflects a renewed vision.

“From the launching, we feel that there is something really different happening at the backstage,” he said, referencing the event’s new theme, *Crafting Wonderful*, which aims to enhance the visitor experience.

He confirmed that discussions are ongoing to extend the partnership for a third consecutive year.

Al-Mahmoud stressed that events such as the Doha Boat Show play a vital role in supporting Qatar’s tourism ambitions.

“From a tourism perspective, we are always happy and proud to support such initiatives because it is in line with our vision,” he said.

“It works to put Qatar on the tourism map as a hub for people who love sailing,” he added, highlighting the growing appeal of maritime and lifestyle tourism.

Al-Mahmoud also emphasised that Qatar’s infrastructure is a key enabler of such events.

“Qatar has the infrastructure for many aspects, considering sports, health, wellness, and of course, sailing and boat shows is one of them,” he said.

QM expands AI Tour with French, Chinese support

By Joey Aguilar
Doha

Qatar Museums (QM) has expanded its artificial intelligence (AI)-powered tour platform with new French and Chinese language support, alongside a range of features designed to transform the way visitors experience museums, public art, and heritage sites across Doha.

The upgraded QM AI Tour builds on its existing English and Arabic interface, bringing the total number of supported languages to four and making the platform more accessible to a broader international audience.

First launched in early 2025, the initiative offers a personalised cultural journey powered by AI, allowing users to interact with a virtual guide that fits recommendations to individual interests.

At the core of the experience is an AI Art Specialist that engages users in conversation, asking about their preferences before curating a customised itinerary across Qatar’s cultural landmarks.

The system then guides visitors through selected museums, public installations and heritage sites, offering insights, directions and contextual information throughout the journey.

According to the QM, the platform introduces interactive features such as real-time question-and-answer functionality, voice and chat support, and an image-recognition tool that allows users to snap photos of artworks to receive instant background information and analysis.

Each stop on the tour includes AI-generated summaries and detailed content pages, while integrated navigation through platforms such



as Google Maps and Uber ensures a seamless visitor experience.

Developed in partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the AI Art Tour aligns with the objectives of Qatar’s Digital Agenda 2030, which prioritises innovation and digital transformation.

The platform also connects with the QM’s digital calendar, offering exhibition recommendations based on users’ location, time and interests.

Visitors can further explore creative features powered by generative AI, enabling them to reinterpret artworks through guided prompts.

Officials said the initiative strengthens the discoverability of Qatar’s cultural assets for both residents and international visitors, while creating a more engaging and intuitive way to explore the country’s artistic and historical offerings.

The expansion comes as the QM marks its 20th anniversary, reflecting two decades of efforts to position the country as a global cultural destination.

It also forms part of “Evolution Nation”, a nationwide programme curated by Qatar Creates to celebrate 50 years of cultural development and creative growth in Qatar.

By Joey Aguilar
Doha

Food became a bridge to cultural understanding in Doha as Philippine ambassador Mardomel Celso D Melicor hosted Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) diplomats to mark Filipino Food Month, highlighting shared traditions and regional solidarity.

Melicor recently welcomed heads of mission from the Asean Committee in Doha (ACD) to a special dinner at The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa, held as part of the Philippine embassy’s 2026 culinary campaign, “Connected by Taste: A Journey of Filipino Flavours in Qatar.”

The initiative coincides with the annual observance of Filipino Food Month every April, in line with Presidential Proclamation No. 469.

Through partnerships with selected restaurants and hotels, the embassy aims to support local businesses, encourage restaurateurs, and invite residents of Qatar to connect through the universal language of food.

In his remarks, Melicor encouraged fellow diplomats to explore the diversity of Philippine cuisine, describing it as a reflection of shared traditions and cultural influences across Asean.

Filipino Food Month unites Asean diplomats in Doha

The dinner featured a range of Filipino dishes, including kinilaw, sisig, lumpiang shanghai, chicken inasal and beef kaldereta.

The ACD comprises diplomatic missions from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, underscoring the gathering’s regional dimension.

The dinner followed the official launch of the embassy’s culinary campaign on April 26 at IKEA Restaurant, one of the campaign’s partner establishments.

The event brought together guests and media representatives, with the ambassador highlighting the role of food in fostering cultural understanding, particularly at a time when communities are called to strengthen resilience and mutual support.

During the launch, the IKEA team, led by Ehab and Chef Hamza, presented a selection of Filipino dishes, including signature creations by Filipino Chef JP.

Guests were offered a dynamic dining experience showcasing the variety and richness of Philippine flavours.

Melicor also invited Qataris and residents to explore Filipino cuisine, showcasing its vibrant colours, diverse tastes and cultural narratives.



Philippine ambassador Mardomel Celso D Melicor, with other Asean envoys, at a special dinner marking Filipino Food Month.

He encouraged the public to join the Filipino community in celebrating a cuisine that reflects the warmth and hospitality of the Filipino people.

As part of the campaign, IKEA Restaurant is offering a curated menu that includes a “Filipino Dish of the Day” and a special weekend Filipino breakfast menu.

Running from April 26 to May 10, the

“Connected by Taste” campaign brings together eight restaurants and two hotels across Qatar, including Barbecue Fusion, Degada Restaurant, Filipino Hotpack, Gerry’s Grill, Lifestyle Avenue Restaurant, Maharlika Park Restaurant and Tap-silogan, along with Warwick Doha Hotel and The Westin Doha Hotel & Spa.

The initiative also serves as a gesture of



solidarity and appreciation for the people and residents of Qatar, while promoting Filipino cuisine as a means of cultural exchange.

With the campaign running through early May, the embassy is inviting the public to take part in the celebration and, as the Filipino phrase goes, “Kain tayo,” or simply, let’s eat.