



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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TIMES

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SCAN TO SHOP

Amir crowns Al Gharafa champions



By A Sports Reporter
Doha

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani attended the 2026 Amir Cup final yesterday as Al Gharafa defeated Al Sadd 4-1 at the iconic Khalifa International Stadium.

Following the match, His Highness presented Al Gharafa players with the Amir Cup trophy and gold medals, while Al Sadd received the silver medals. The final was also attended by the Personal Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani; His Highness Sheikh

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Thani; HE Sheikh Jassim bin Khalifa al-Thani; HE Speaker of the Shura Council, Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem; along with a number of Sheikhs and ministers. Among those present were senior officials from friendly countries, heads of Arab and international

sports federations, members of the media and football supporters. In what turned out to be a commanding performance, Al Gharafa completed a 4-1 win in front of 37,823 fans. Captain Yacine Brahimi, the Algerian veteran, scored a hat-trick. He scored in the 27th, 63rd and 90+1 minutes. The first



تميم بن حمد

@TamimBinHamad

“Congratulations to Al Gharafa Club on the win, and better luck to Al Sadd Club.”

goal for Al Gharafa was scored by Tunisian Ferjani Sassi. For Al Sadd, the only goal of the match was scored in the 89th minute by Javairò Dilrosun. Yesterday's win was Al Gharafa's ninth Amir Cup title glory. Al Sadd have won Qatar's most prestigious football title 19 times. "It is an amazing feeling. Winning two times in a row is really amazing. This group of players was the main focus. We had a strong mentality for this game. We know nothing less than a win will do for our fans," Brahimi, the Man of the Match, said yesterday. "We came to the stadium to win the Amir Cup final. It was a tough game. I thought we did amazingly. We wanted to give something to our fans because we couldn't win the league (title) but we had to do something great and we did," he added. **Sport Page 1**

PM, Saudi, Egypt FMs discuss regional situation

HE Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held a phone call with Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan al-Saud to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments. The two sides discussed co-operation between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and explored ways to further strengthen ties. The discussions also focused on developments in the region, particularly efforts related to a ceasefire between the US and Iran as well as ongoing diplomatic initiatives aimed at reducing tensions and reinforcing regional security and stability. HE the Prime Minister stressed the importance of all parties responding positively to mediation efforts in order to address the root causes of the crisis through dialogue and peaceful means. The Prime Minister also received a phone call from Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Badr Abdelatty. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to support them. They also discussed developments in the region, particularly those related to the ceasefire between the US and Iran, and efforts aimed at de-escalation, contributing to enhancing security and stability in the region. **(QNA)**

New research vessel set to boost marine monitoring

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has commissioned a new vessel dedicated to marine monitoring and scientific research, in a move aimed at strengthening Qatar's environmental surveillance, broadening field operations, and advancing marine protection and research programmes. In a statement yesterday, the ministry said the launch forms part of wider efforts to improve environmental data quality

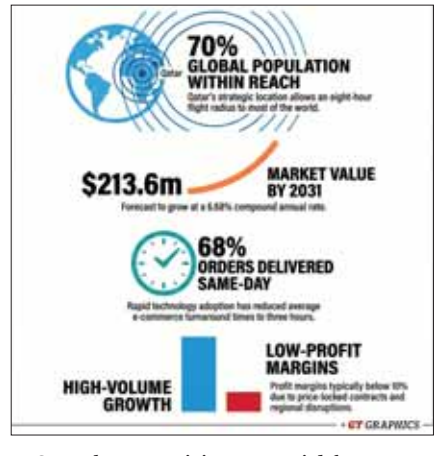
and inform decision-making in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. Director of the Marine Protection Department Mohammed al-Khanji said the vessel is fitted with advanced technical capabilities that allow it to carry out monitoring and research missions efficiently, reach remote and shallow waters, and respond swiftly to environmental emergencies at sea. He said it will support a range of operations, including marine sample collection, preliminary analysis, and the tracking of environmental phenomena such as red tides and fish die-offs. **To Page 6**



Tech, speed and squeeze: CEP market in transition

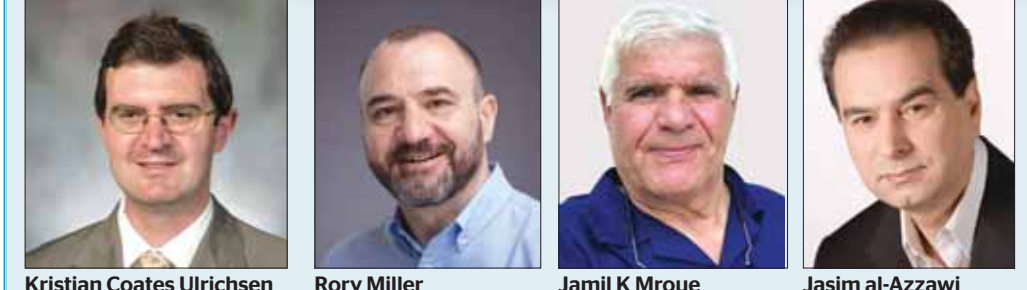
By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

Qatar's courier, express and parcel (CEP) market is being reshaped from a traditional domestic delivery business into a technology-driven supply chain ecosystem – even as Middle East disruptions and the price-locked nature of e-commerce squeeze margins from both ends. Changing consumer expectations, the e-commerce boom, the rollout of digital addressing in place of PO Boxes, and accelerated infrastructure build-out are the four pillars driving this shift in a country that sits within an eight-hour flight of 70% of the world's population. The market, slated to further evolve towards a hyper-fast, tech-enabled delivery ecosystem, is seeing greater integration of CEP providers and third-party logistics firms, as the sector becomes sophisticated with growth visible in temperature-controlled logistics like the pharma and food sectors.



Qatar has promising potential for expansion of cold-chain logistics for vaccines, biologics and perishable goods, and CEP providers that invest in specialised infrastructure and compliance capabilities can capture premium margins in these niche areas. **To Page 11**

Gulf Times adds distinguished contributors



Gulf Times has announced the addition of a distinguished group of international journalists, academics and media professionals who will contribute regular analysis and commentary, further strengthening the newspaper's editorial offering. The move reflects Gulf Times' continued commitment to delivering high-quality, insightful journalism, while expanding its coverage of regional and global developments across key sectors including geopolitics, energy, media and international affairs. Among the new contributors is **Kristian Coates Ulrichsen**, a leading scholar specialising in Gulf politics and international political economy. A fellow at the Baker Institute and co-director of the Middle East Energy Roundtable, Ulrichsen brings extensive expertise on the evolving role of Gulf states in the global order. Also joining the publication is **Rory Miller**, Professor of International Politics at Georgetown University in Qatar. Miller is a widely published author and commentator, with contributions featured in leading international outlets including *Foreign Affairs*, *The Economist* and *The Wall Street Journal*. *Gulf Times* will also feature the work of **Jamil K Mroue**, a veteran editor and media executive with decades of experience in Arab and international journalism. His column will provide strategic analysis of Middle East affairs, placing regional developments within a broader global context. **To Page 5**

Doha to host global half marathon

By A Sport Reporter
Doha

The Qatar Sports for All Federation, under the Ministry of Sports and Youth, will stage the third edition of the global half marathon "One Run for All" on May 24 at Lusail International Circuit, drawing more than 2,500 runners across all ages and categories, including men, women, children and senior citizens. Addressing a press conference, Executive Director of the Qatar Sports for All Federation, Abdullah al-Dosari, outlined details of the race, now in its third year in Qatar. He said Doha was once again gearing up to host one of the world's biggest half marathons, run simultaneously in over 110 countries with more than 200,000 participants worldwide, 160,000 of them from Russia and 40,000



from other nations, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, China, Brazil, Serbia, Cameroon and Armenia. Al-Dosari said this year's event would feature six race categories, with the introduction of a 400m race for children and a 2.5km course designed to broaden participation and encourage families to run alongside their children. The programme will also include 1km, 5km, 10km and 21.1km races. He said the event promised an enjoyable evening for running enthusiasts, with entertainment activities at the fan zone kicking off at 4.30pm and the races starting at 9pm. All races are due to wrap up by 10pm. The executive director said race day would be a memorable occasion for participants and their families and friends, as in previous editions.

Obesity: You are not alone

By Professor Usama ALAlami

“Get well soon” – these are the words that people who suffer with diabetes, heart disease or cancer hear too often. Not so if you suffer with obesity or overweight, where people closest to you will point the finger of blame, suggesting you should eat less, exercise more, and that you are just lazy.

And yet, obesity, which affects over one billion people worldwide, and where in Qatar over 70% of the population are suffering with obesity and overweight, is as much a chronic disease as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. If anything, obesity is the root cause behind over 200 diseases, including physical, mental and mechanical (see references 1, 2, 3).

Guidelines worldwide agree that obesity is a chronic, progressive and relapsing disease. Its impact on people will differ depending on the distribution and function of the fat involved.

Our appetite is driven by our brain, which controls three aspects of eating – eating because you are hungry; emotional eating because you are feeling sad, or even eating for the pleasure of eating; and finally, the part of your brain that exercises control over emotional eating. Studies have shown that the link between the control part and the emotional part of eating is not working in people with obesity. Biology and brain have a big part to play in explaining the science behind obesity (see reference 4).

Obesity has traditionally been assessed through measurement of the body mass index, which relates to height and weight, and where a measurement above or equal to 30 indicates obesity (see reference 5).

New staging methods such as the Edmonton Obesity Staging take into consideration the complications of obesity as well.

Like many other chronic diseases, obesity requires long-term management to ensure that the weight you lose stays off. Your body fights weight loss; if you thought losing those few kilograms was a challenge, then maintaining the weight loss is an even bigger challenge.

Start your journey with your doctor – it’s a partnership. Set short-, medium- and long-term goals, and not just for weight loss but more importantly for health gain. You will be part of a team who will give you dietary advice and encourage you to do regular physical activity. Your doctor might recommend using medication or other medical interventions. You may start to notice gradual and positive changes in your life, and the health improvements that you don’t even see are as important.



1 in 2 adults in Qatar lives with *obesity*.¹

It's not just about numbers or appearances.
Obesity and overweight lead to more than **200 diseases²**,

Heart attack
Stroke
Diabetes
Hypertension
13 types of cancer³

AM I OBESE OR OVERWEIGHT?
To start with, calculate your Body Mass Index (BMI) and know where you stand

≥25 overweight
≥30 obesity⁴

SHARE THE WEIGHT

You don't have to manage your weight alone.
Talk to a doctor and discover the latest treatment options.

SCAN to calculate your BMI and find weight management support



References:

1. World Obesity Atlas 2025. Available from: <https://www.worldobesity.org/resources/publications>

2. World Obesity Atlas 2025. Available from: <https://www.worldobesity.org/resources/publications>

3. Lau D et al. Canadian Adult Obesity Clinical Practice Guide-lines: The Science of Obesity. Available from <https://obesitycanada.ca/guidelines/science>.



4. Lau D et al. Canadian Adult Obesity Clinical Practice Guide-lines: The Science of Obesity. Available from <https://obesitycanada.ca/guidelines/science>.

5. Adult clinical practice guideline | Obesity Canada




The moment you realise...

**You can *Share*
The Weight**

You don't have to manage your weight alone.
Medical options exist.

LIVE LIGHTER



SCAN to calculate your BMI and find weight management support

The writer is Professor of Health Sciences, Medical Manager, Novo Nordisk, Qatar

References:

1. Prevalence of Obesity | World Obesity Federation
2. World Obesity Atlas 2025
3. Horn et al. Postgrad Med 2022;134:359-75.
4. Lau D et al. Canadian Adult Obesity Clinical Practice Guide-lines: The Science of Obesity. Available from <https://obesitycanada.ca/guidelines/science>.
5. Adult clinical practice guideline | Obesity Canada

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Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar celebrates
the 106 members of the Class of 2026.

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Qatar stresses safeguards in labour migration cycle

At the Second International Migration Review Forum in New York, Qatar urged the global community to prioritise three pivotal areas to advance the future of migration governance.

Central to Qatar's approach is the strategic expansion of regular migration pathways.

Qatar advocated for these pathways to be embraced as proactive policy instruments rather than mere reactive alternatives to irregular migration.

It emphasised that countries investing in comprehensive migration governance today will secure a decisive competitive advantage amid the transformative impacts of climate change and technological innovation on global labour markets.

Building on this foundation, Qatar highlighted the imperative of embedding protection throughout the entire migration cycle – from recruitment in countries of origin to reintegration upon return.

This necessitates an international framework of shared responsibility that seamlessly integrates labour and residency governance with robust, co-ordinated efforts to combat human trafficking.

Recognising that accountability is critical



cal to progress, Qatar further stressed the importance of strengthening measurement mechanisms within the Forum's framework.

It asserted that declarations of progress carry genuine weight only when anchored in agreed indicators, consistently monitored through successive review cycles.

The Global Compact's 23 objectives, Qatar noted, demand monitoring tools commensurate with their ambition.

Qatar's statement, delivered by HE the Undersecretary of Labour Sheikhha Najwa bint Abdulrahman al-Thani, framed these principles within the broader context of the Forum's purpose: to achieve tangible and measurable progress beyond dialogue.

Qatar's involvement, she said, is rooted in the firm belief that humane and effective mi-

gration governance is both attainable and accountable.

Expanding on these commitments, HE Sheikhha Najwa reaffirmed Qatar's dedication to advancing this agenda through close partnership with the international community, expressing readiness to collaborate with states seeking to enhance their migration governance frameworks.

The statement then provided a detailed overview of Qatar's comprehensive national reforms.

It began with a fundamental restructuring of the expatriate labour system, founded on a rigorous rights-based framework.

Among the key reforms is the ending of exit permit requirements, granting workers greater freedom to change employers.

This significant step is complemented by the introduction of the region's first non-discriminatory minimum wage, setting a new standard for labour rights.

To further safeguard workers, Qatar has established visa centres in countries of origin, ensuring protections commence prior to departure.

These are supported by advanced complaint mechanisms that guarantee effective remedies and unfettered access to justice.

Recognising that reform must be coupled with enforcement, Qatar has bolstered its oversight framework and instituted clear legal and criminal accountability for violations, reaffirming that reform without enforcement ultimately falls short of its objectives.

Acknowledging the transnational nature of human trafficking – a crime exploiting regulatory loopholes – Qatar has responded by establishing an integrated governance model.

This model unites labour, migration, residency, law enforcement, and anti-trafficking policies into a cohesive system.

Through these reforms, HE Sheikhha Najwa said, Qatar has evolved from a participant state to a global leader within the Global Compact framework, serving as a practical point of reference that influences the lives of more than 2mn individuals daily.

The statement concluded that states pursue reforms not in response to external pressures but from the conviction that investing in human rights is essential to societal stability and economic competitiveness.

While acknowledging that no system is without gaps, Qatar emphasised its commitment to addressing these openly through robust measurement tools and active collaboration with international partners, including the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), alongside close co-operation with countries of origin.

Complementing these multilateral efforts, HE Sheikhha Najwa utilised the Forum's platform to engage in constructive bilateral discussions with Lesotho's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Lejone Mpotjoane and Somalia's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ali Mohamed Omar. – QNA



Ministry takes part in ITF Summit 2026 in Leipzig

Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Transport, took part in the International Transport Forum (ITF) 2026 Summit held in Leipzig, Germany, on May 6-8, under the theme *Financing Resilient Transport*.

Held this year under the presidency of Azerbaijan, the forum discussed ways to enhance the resilience of transport systems and their ability to address economic, technological, and environmental challenges.

It also reviewed best practices in financing transport infrastructure projects, supporting the transition towards more sustainable and innovative transport systems.

The Ministry of Transport said this participation came within the framework of strengthening partnerships and constructive dialogue,

keeping pace with the latest global policies and trends in the transport sector.

It also aimed to enhance co-operation with countries and international organisations, as well as hold meetings with counterparts from various countries, thereby supporting national interests and facilitating the exchange of expertise.

The summit brought together transport ministers from around the world, along with representatives of international organisations, the private sector, and experts.

It is considered one of the most prominent global events in the transport sector and the largest annual gathering of transport ministers and decision-makers to discuss policies and future trends and promote international co-operation. – QNA

Preparations begin for DIBF volunteers

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Qatar Volunteer Centre, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, has begun preparing and training volunteers for the 35th Doha International Book Fair (DIBF).



The Qatar Volunteer Centre.

The centre conducted interviews with those interested in joining the volunteer teams and held introductory meetings to select and train participants and assign them to various tasks related to the organisation of the fair.

These tasks include welcoming visitors, providing guidance, organising events, and offering logistical support within the DIBF grounds.

The first phase of preparation involved interviewing a number of young people interested in voluntary work and participating in cultural activities.

The interviews were focused on evaluating the applicants' skills in areas such as organisation, public communication, and media, to ensure a unique experience for fair visitors.

The Qatar Volunteer Centre places particular importance on youth participation in national and cultural events, stemming from its role in promoting a culture of volunteerism and instilling the values of social responsibility, as well as supporting initiatives that contribute to developing the capabilities of volunteers and involving them in major events hosted by the country.

The Doha International Book Fair is considered one of the most prominent cultural events in Qatar and the region, attracting annually a large number of publishing houses, intellectuals, and those interested in books and knowledge, in addition to its diverse cultural programme that includes seminars, dialogues, and accompanying activities for all age groups.

Programme advances recovery of 500 cancer survivors

Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has marked a significant milestone in cancer care, with 500 patients having successfully transitioned through a Cancer Survivorship Programme, since its launch two years ago, to routine follow-up appointments at Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) health centres.

The programme is designed to support breast cancer survivors, providing structured medical and psychosocial follow-up, with future plans for expansion to include additional cancer types.

This structured approach ensures patients receive appropriate follow-up care while benefiting from accessible services closer to home.

To support delivery, the PHCC has designated Al Sadd, Al Meshaf, Al Khor, and Al Waab health centres, offering multidisciplinary care led by oncologists, primary care physicians, and nursing teams, supported by a dedicated patient pathway coordinator to ensure continuity of care with specialists at the HMC's National Centre for Cancer Care and Research (NCCCR).

The programme includes long-term side effect management, psychological and social support, as well as rehabilitation and health education to enhance quality of life.


The collaboration between the HMC and PHCC represents a major step forward in redefining cancer survivorship in Qatar, shifting the focus from treatment completion to long-term wellness and quality of life.

Qatar slams attack against Smara city

Qatar has issued a statement condemning the attack that targeted the city of Smara in Morocco.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) affirmed Qatar's full solidarity with Morocco and support for Morocco's sovereign rights in the Moroccan Sahara, as well as all measures taken to preserve its sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, security, and stability.

The MoFA reiterated Qatar's firm stance rejecting violence, terrorism, and criminal acts, regardless of motive or justification. – QNA



Waseef

Tender - Waseef

Waseef Asset Management (Waseef) would like to invite competent Service Providers for the below Open Tender:

Tender Number	Subject	Bid Bond (QAR)	Non-refundable Tender Fee (QAR)	Bid Submission Closing Date
GTC/WSF/MAD/RW/11/2026	TENDER FOR COMPREHENSIVE REFURBISHMENT OF RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS INCLUSIVE OF SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF CIVIL & MEP WORKS IN MADINATNA PROJECT	90,000	1,000	June 10, 2026

The Tender Document will be available from **May 10, 2026** onwards upon submission of the below documentation to tender@waseef.qa.

To collect please provide the following:


- Authorization Letter on Company letterhead, copy of Commercial Registration and valid Identification of the representative.
- Bank deposit slip carrying tender number and subject details. Tender fee shall be deposited to Account Name – Waseef Asset Management Co., Account Number **0002-105222-200** with Al Rayan Bank.

Minimum requirements to be eligible for obtaining the Tender Documents:


- The company shall have a valid Commercial Registration in Qatar.
- The contractor must hold a valid General Contracting classification in its Commercial Registration (CR)


Please note the following:

- Bidders should submit a bid bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar, valid for 120 days from the tender closing date, corresponding to an expiry date of **9 October 2026**.
- Technical and Commercial offers must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes and delivered to the below-mentioned address:
GTC Secretary, 3rd floor, Waseef Head Office, New Waseef Tower (formerly Alaqaria Tower), Museum Park Street, Doha, Qatar



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QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY


INVITATION TO TENDER

QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ-6000005383	Exchanger tubes Mechanical Specialist Cleaning Services	500/- (Non-refundable)	N/A	10.05.2026 11.05.2026 12.05.2026 13.05.2026 14.05.2026 17.05.2026 18.05.2026	15.06.2026

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
 - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
 - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
 - IBAN : **QA51QNBA00000000013025828058**
 - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important!**) during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to jhafek@qafco.com.qa on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the submission of Tender Fee receipt, you may contact at jhafek@qafco.com.qa or on 44227740.
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- The Tender shall be strictly submitted using the QAFCO's Supply Chain Portal – SAP Ariba, on or before the "Tender Closing Date". Tenderers who fail to adhere to this requirement will result in the disqualification of their Tender.



The Transport Company MOWASALAT (KARWA)

Mowasalat (Karwa) announces the following tender:

Tender Ref. No.	Tender Title	Tender Fee	Electronic Tender Fee Payment Dates	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
TC-015-ITC-2026	Supply of Hand Tools & Electrical Consumables on Call Off Basis	QAR 500	10 to 17 May 2026	QAR 23,000	16 June 2026


CONDITIONS:

- Interested bidder shall pay the tender fee to Mowasalat Bank Account details as shown:


Beneficiary Name	MOWASALAT-KARWA COMPANY
A/C No.	0013 - 011272 - 060
IBAN	QA07 QNBA 0000 0000 0013 0112 7206 0
Swift Code No.	QNBAGAGA
Branch Address	Corporate Branch, P.O Box 1000, Doha - Qatar
Currency	QAR
CR No.	26887
- Bidder must submit proof of tender fee payment (Bank Deposit Slip + a Signed & Stamped Expression of Interest (indicating Tender Ref. No. and Title / Company Name and details of nominated contact person i.e., Tel. No., Fax No., and Email address) + Copy of valid Commercial Registration to Mowasalat Secretary - Tender Committee at email: tenders@mowasalat.com
- Tender documents will be released via email on the next working day after the tender fee payment date to all bidders who have submitted the bank deposit slip and other documents requested.
- Bonds: Tender Bond & Performance Bond:** Bids must be accompanied by Bonds issued by a local bank operating in the State of Qatar as per the Qatar Central Bank template. Further details of bonds can be found in the tender documents. **Bids without Tender Bond shall not be considered.**
- Tender validity:** Bid validity period shall be 180 days from the bid closing date.
- Tender documents submission:** Bids must be submitted in 3 separate sealed (**IN RED WAX**) envelopes addressed to **Secretary - Tender Committee** clearly highlighting the Tender Ref. No. & Tender Title:
 - Envelope 1#** must include the Technical Bid submission (1 Original + 1 non-Editable copy in a USB)
 - Envelope 2#** must include Commercial Bid submission (1 Original + 1 Editable MS Excel spreadsheet copied in a USB)
 - Envelope 3#** must include the Tender Bond (1 Original) + 3 years Audited Financial Statements.
- Bid Closing Date:** Bid submission deadline is **12.00 noon Doha Local Time** as on the Bid closing date shown above. The 3 envelopes must be handed over to the Office of The Secretary - Tender Committee, located at Mowasalat Head Office, Industrial Area. Any tender submitted after the deadline will not be considered.


Tel.: 4458 8724

Fax: 4458 8850



Supplier Registration Mowasalat Location





Health ministry holds workshop to enhance infection surveillance

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is working to strengthen national capacities in healthcare-associated infection surveillance and support the implementation of a unified national programme based on standardised criteria and scientific evidence.

The ministry said that strengthening surveillance systems is a pillar of effective infection prevention and control programmes, as it enables healthcare institutions to detect risks at an early stage, monitor trends and key performance indicators, and implement targeted interventions that help improve patient outcomes.

The MoPH recently organised a national workshop on healthcare-associated infection surveillance, with the participation of around 100 healthcare professionals from governmental, semi-governmental, and private sectors.

Attendees included infection prevention and control specialists, quality and patient safety leaders, as well as frontline representatives from nurses, physicians, microbiol-

ogists, and pharmacists working in hospitals, primary healthcare centres, and diagnostic and treatment facilities.

The workshop reviewed the main components of the national surveillance programme and implementation roadmap, focusing on surveillance objectives and methodologies, standardised data collection tools, and strengthening the ability to analyse and use infection prevention and control indicators such as surgical site infections, device-associated infections, hand hygiene compliance, and exposure to blood and body fluids.

It also highlighted evidence-based best practices for infection prevention, reinforcing the link between surveillance and the implementation of effective preventative measures.

Experts from the MoPH and Hamad Medical Corporation delivered comprehensive scientific sessions covering standardised surveillance definitions and methodologies, as well as approaches to data collection and reporting.

There were interactive discussions, simulations, and practical exercises based on real-life scenarios, helping to enhance participants' ability to apply acquired knowledge in daily practice and bridge the gap between theory and practice.

The ministry stressed that the organisation of the workshop reflects the growing commitment within the healthcare sector to reinforcing infection prevention and control practices, as well as the importance of collaboration and shared responsibility in supporting national healthcare quality initiatives.

The MoPH's Healthcare Quality Department continues to organise specialised capacity-building workshops aimed at reaching a wider range of healthcare professionals and supporting them in advancing surveillance practices.

These efforts, the ministry added, contribute directly to building a safer and more sustainable healthcare system in Qatar, where patient safety remains a top national priority. - QNA



Al Asmakh & Barwa Plaza's 'Shop & Win Gold' Ramadan promotion concludes

Al Asmakh & Barwa Plaza Mall has concluded its Ramadan promotion, "Shop & Win Gold", rewarding shoppers with gold prizes worth a total of QR50,000. The gold was sponsored by Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

The mall-exclusive campaign, held throughout the holy month of Ramadan, offered shoppers the chance to win 8g gold bars.

A total of 12 lucky shoppers emerged as winners during the promotion.

Pictured here are Landmark Group Qatar senior vice-president and country head Shumalan Nacker and associate general manager (marketing) Rajgopal with one of the winners.

International Humanitarian Law Day 'reflects values rooted in civilisations, legal systems'

The annual observance of International Humanitarian Law Day on May 9 is a reflection of a vision that highlights the protection of human beings during armed conflicts as a deeply rooted value long recognised by civilisations and legal systems, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and chairman of the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law (NCIHL), HE Saeed bin Abdullah al-Suwaidi, has said.

HE said in a statement yesterday that the idea of marking this day originated with the NCIHL following a comparative historical and legal study examining humanitarian models in ancient civilisations and monotheistic religions.

The study concluded that the instructions of Caliph Abu Bakr al-Siddiq to the army of Usama bin Zaid represent one of the historical texts closest, in content and principles, to the provisions and principles of modern international humanitarian law.

HE al-Suwaidi said that the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), in co-ordination with the NCIHL, adopted the initiative and presented it during the 42nd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), held in Kuwait in 2015.

At the 2015 session in Kuwait, May 9 was adopted as International Humanitarian Law Day through a resolution based on a recommendation from the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent.

The NCIHL chairman added that the selection of this date is not religious in nature, but rather grounded in its humanitarian and legal dimensions, as it reflects a historically advanced model embodying the principles on which modern international humanitarian law is based.

The official pointed out that the charter includes advanced humanitarian rules consistent with contemporary principles



HE Saeed bin Abdullah al-Suwaidi

of international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians, the prohibition of mutilation of bodies, the protection of places of worship, and safeguarding the environment and resources essential for civilian survival during armed conflicts.

HE al-Suwaidi affirmed that Qatar continues to play a leading role in supporting and promoting international humanitarian law and disseminating its principles.

HE added that the NCIHL will work to propose an initiative to designate May 9 as International Humanitarian Law Day across the Arab world through the Arab Permanent Committee for International Humanitarian Law of the League of Arab States.

HE al-Suwaidi further noted that the initiative will be presented, in co-operation with Arab, Islamic, and friendly committees concerned with international humanitarian law, during the Sixth Global Meeting of National Committees and Similar Bodies on International Humanitarian Law, organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, with the aim of adopting the day globally and raising awareness of shared humanitarian values underpinning the law.

HE said that the Arab and Islamic committees for international humanitarian law mark the occasion annually through seminars, workshops, and awareness programmes, stressing the commitment of Qatar's NCIHL to continue organising scholarly and awareness-raising events that promote a culture of respect for international humanitarian law and reinforce the values of human dignity in all circumstances.

The official stressed that respect for human dignity is a legal and moral obligation, calling for greater awareness of international humanitarian law across all sectors of society and for embedding its principles in daily practice, both in peacetime and during armed conflict. - QNA

Dukhan Bank announces May winners in Thara'a savings account prize draw

Dukhan Bank has announced the names of the most recent round of draw winners for Thara'a, its Shariah-compliant savings account, at the bank's headquarters under the supervision of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)'s Qualitative Licence and Market Control Department.

Talal al-Obaidly and Rami AbuSalah each won the top prize of QR20,000, while the following winners each received QR5,000: Dsilva Dsilva, Ahmed al-Hawaj, Andrea Bonfim, Shaikh Ahmed, Ali al-Kuwari, Miguel Perez, Saeed al-Jassim, Jassim al-Romaihi, Nasser al-Tamimi, Omer Arslan, Hissa Murad, Ismahine Aissi, Khalid al-Tamimi, Ruba Abdulaziz, Bakhita al-Abdulla, Abdulaziz al-Hammedi, Mashael al-Ibrahim, Fai Chan, Abdullah al-Qahtani, Sherif el-Meslemay, Bana Arwani, Abdulaziz al-Qatabri, Ayedh al-Qahtani, Choonda Jodibas, Layla al-Emadi, Mona al-Yafei, Soud al-Bardawil, Yousuf al-Yousuf, Abdulkader Amer, Abdulla al-Romaihi, Abdulbari al-Sadi, Yusuf al-Mutawa, Salma al-Naimi, Marwan Mhaidat, Noora Hassan, Ali Abdulla, Sanad AbuKheraiba, Maytha al-Muraihi, Abdulrahman Fakhroo, Maryam Khayat, Tamim al-Abdulla, Abdulla al-Khulaifi, Saad al-Romaihi, Ali al-Ibrahim, Maryam al-Heidous, Fawziya Maarafiya, Ibrahim Titouche, Khazana Hussain, Achraf Lohmari, Jassem al-Deyab, Hassan al-Mejaba, Saleh al-Tamimi, Abdullah Khweis, Mouna Ksouri, Hassan al-Malek, Sanaa AbouHasera, Lana el-Natsha, Shamsa al-Maadeed,



Rahat Hussain, and Albandari al-Mana.

Running until December 31, 2026, the Thara'a campaign offers more customers the chance to win, with four grand prizes of QR1mn each, alongside multiple monthly prizes, including two monthly prizes of QR20,000 and 60 monthly prizes of QR5,000, awarded through scheduled draws throughout the year.

Customers can open a Thara'a savings account through Dukhan Bank's branches, website, or mobile application and will be automatically entered into the campaign draws, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

For more information, customers may call 8008555 or visit Dukhan Bank's website.

Gulf Times adds distinguished international contributors

From Page 1

In addition, **Jasim al-Azawi**, an experienced news anchor, programme presenter and media instructor, will contribute opinion pieces and insights drawing on his extensive career in international broadcasting and journalism.

The inclusion of these contributors marks a significant step in enhancing the breadth and depth of *Gulf Times's* editorial content.

Their collective experience spans academia, policy, media and strategic analysis, offering readers diverse perspectives on global issues.

This initiative aligns with the newspaper's broader editorial strategy to provide authoritative commentary and informed analysis that supports a deeper understanding of developments shaping the region and the world.

By bringing together voices with extensive international experience and subject-matter expertise, *Gulf Times* aims to further position itself as a platform for credible, thought-provoking journalism that connects regional insights with global perspectives.

The newly appointed contributors are expected to begin publishing regularly, offering readers informed viewpoints and in-depth analysis across a range of topics critical to today's rapidly evolving global landscape.

End of the Liquidation Announcement

The Liquidator – Rami Mohammad Ali Qudah

Deloitte & Touche – Qatar Branch

declares

finalizing the procedures of the Liquidation of

Bulbul Street Food Restaurant W.L.L

(the "Company")

Commercial Registry No. (94196)

In accordance with the provisions of the law, he disclaims his responsibility for the Company, and its commercial registration was canceled from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Tender / مناقصة

تدعو شركة مرافق قطر د.م.م الى المناقصة الآتية:-
MARAFEQ Qatar LLC invites competent Service Providers for the following engagement:

رقم المناقصة Tender No.	موضوع المناقصة Tender Subject	قيمة التأمين البنكي Tender Bond	رسوم المناقصة غير مستردة Tender Fees Non-Refundable*	جدول التوقيت Tender Timelines	
				Issue	Closing
RFP-034-26	توفير خدمة تأجير مركبات لشركة مرافق قطر د.م.م لمدة ثلاث سنوات Provision of Rental Vehicles for Marafeq Qatar L.L.C for three (03) years.	QR 5,000/-	QR 500/-	Sunday, (يوم الأحد) May 10, 26	Monday, (يوم الإثنين) May 25, 26

*non-refundable & non-negotiable

موعد ومكان استلام وثائق المناقصة:
Starting: Sun (May 10, 2026) through Monday (May 25, 2026) (from 09:00am through 03:00pm, working days only) 2026 من يوم الأحد 10 مايو وحتى يوم الإثنين 25 مايو 2026 خلال ساعات الدوام الرسمي (9:00 صباحاً حتى 3:00 بعد الظهر)

Location: MARAFEQ Qatar LLC, C&P Department, 7th Floor, Al-Baraha Tower, Marina District, Lusail City, Qatar
في مقر شركة مرافق قطر د.م.م - إدارة العقود والمشتريات - الطابق السابع - مبنى كتارا للضيافة (برج البراحة) - منطقة المارينا - مدينة لوسيل، قطر

Document Collection Process:
Bidders can collect tender documents from the Document Collection Location during the specified dates and times. يمكن لمقدمي العطاءات استلام وثائق المناقصة في المكان المذكور أعلاه وخلال المدة المحددة فقط.
Bidder's nominee must present the following documents at the time of document collection:
على ممثل مقدم العطاء تقديم المستندات التالية:

- نسخة بتاريخ حديث من مستخرج السجل التجاري لمقدم العطاء.
- أصل خطاب التفويض من الشركة مقدمة العطاء موجه إلى مرافق قطر د.م.م بتحويل ممثلها باستلام وثائق المناقصة.
- أصل إيصال دفع رسوم المناقصة.

إرشادات دفع رسوم المناقصة:
يجب دفع رسوم المناقصة في الحساب البنكي المحددة تفاصيله أدناه فقط. ويرجى ذكر رقم العطاء (اعلام).

الاسم: مرافق قطر د.م.م
البنك: مصرف الريان (فرع حمد الكبير)
الحساب: 0003-127914-001
رقم الحساب المصرفي الدولي: QA68 MAFR 0000 0000 0003 127914 001
سويفت: MAFR QA QA
يرجى التواصل عبر:
البريد الإلكتروني: procurement@marafeq.com.qa
الهاتف: +974-4012-0358

Means of Communication:
Mailto: procurement@marafeq.com.qa
Phone: +974-4012-0358

تحفظ شركة مرافق قطر د.م.م بكامل حقها في تعديل شروط المناقصة في أي وقت بدون إبداء أسباب و/أو إلغاء المناقصة بدون أسباب وبدون أدنى مسؤولية عليها في هذا الصدد إلا كان نوعها أو مصدرها
MARAFEQ Qatar LLC reserves its right to modify the terms and conditions of the tender advertisement and/or tender documents at any time, or cancelling the tender entirely, without justification or any liability on its part.

Qatar urges international community to confront repeated Israeli violations

QNA
New York

The State of Qatar stressed the need for the international community to fulfil its responsibilities in confronting repeated Israeli violations and implementing relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including Resolutions 2334 and 2803. It also reaffirmed its support for efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace, as well as its steadfast backing for the Palestinian cause and the resilience of the Palestinian people, based on international legitimacy and the two-state solution, including the establishment of an independent Palestin-

ian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The remarks came in the statement of the State of Qatar delivered by HE the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, during an Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The meeting was organised by the United Kingdom, the French Republic, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Hellenic Republic, and the Republic of Latvia at the UN headquarters in New York.

HE Sheikha Alya said the meeting came at a timely moment to highlight the ongoing escalation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, despite



efforts to achieve peace and end the war in the Gaza Strip through the comprehensive plan proposed

by the President of the United States Donald Trump.

She said the settlement activities

were illegal and constituted a flagrant violation of international law, Security Council resolutions and the 2024 advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice.

In that context, Sheikha Alya expressed the country's condemnation of the Israeli occupation's decision to designate land in the occupied West Bank as so-called "state land", and its rejection of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and legal status of the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem.

She stressed that such measures constitute an assault on the viability of a Palestinian state and on the implementation of the two-state solution, and undermine ongoing efforts to achieve

peace and stability, including the 20-point plan on Gaza.

She also added that the State of Qatar condemned the incursions into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound by Israeli officials and settlers and the raising of the Israeli flag within its courtyards, describing the actions as a flagrant violation of international law and a provocation to Muslims around the world. She underscored the need to preserve the existing legal and historical status quo in Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy sites.

HE Sheikha Alya also noted Qatar's condemnation of the escalating violence by settlers against Palestinians, including recent attacks on schools and Palestinian children, calling for accountability for those responsible for these violations.

MoECC celebrates World Migratory Bird Day

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) celebrated World Migratory Bird Day 2026, observed annually on May 9, under the theme "Every Bird Matters - Your Observations Make a Difference", with the aim of highlighting the importance of community participation in monitoring and documenting bird sightings to support scientific efforts to protect migratory birds and preserve their natural habitats.

In a statement issued yesterday, the ministry affirmed that the celebration comes within the framework of its efforts to raise environmental awareness about the significance of migratory birds and their role in maintaining ecological balance. It noted that migratory birds are vital indicators of environmental health and the sustainability of natural resources, as well as an important component of Qatar's rich biodiversity.

The ministry pointed out that Qatar represents an important stopover point along bird migration routes, with numerous species crossing its skies and settling in its diverse natural environments. These birds benefit from a range of habitats, particularly coastal areas, mangrove forests, meadows, salt flats, and water bodies, which provide safe spaces for resting and feeding during seasonal migration.

According to environmental data, Qatar serves as an important migration corridor for around 300 bird species, of which approximately 280 species have been recorded. Most are migratory birds passing through the country during annual migration seasons, including the Greater Flamingo, Painted Bee-eater, Hoopoe, and Eurasian Oystercatcher, in addition to several other coastal and terrestrial species.

Director of the Public Relations and Communications Department at the Ministry, Farhoud Hadi al-Hajri, said the ministry's participation in World Migratory Bird Day reflects the national awareness role in highlighting the importance of wildlife and promoting a culture of protecting birds and their habitats, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the state's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Al-Hajri added that this year's theme reflects the important role community members can play in supporting environmental



knowledge through observation, monitoring, and documentation. He stressed that every documented sighting of a migratory bird represents a valuable contribution to scientific data and helps researchers and specialists better understand migration routes and the changes affecting bird populations and habitats.

He noted that the ministry, through its awareness programmes and platforms, encourages members of the public, particularly environmental enthusiasts and birdwatchers, to regard migratory birds as a natural resource deserving protection and to avoid practices that may negatively affect their well-being or habitats.

For his part, Director of the Wildlife Development Department Khalid Juma al-Muhammadi affirmed that migratory birds are a vital element of biodiversity, playing a key role in seed dispersal, maintaining ecological balance, and reducing certain pests, in addition to serving as indicators of ecosystem health.

Al-Muhammadi noted that Qatar's environment hosts many bird species during migration seasons, including the Greater Flamingo, Bee-eater, Hoopoe, and Eurasian Oystercatcher, underscoring the ecological value of the country's natural areas as transit and resting points along intercontinental migration routes.

He explained that protecting natural habitats is a fundamental aspect of conserving migratory birds, emphasising that coastal areas, mangrove forests, meadows, and water bodies play a crucial role in providing suitable environments during their long journeys. He stressed the need to preserve these habitats and limit practices that



may disrupt ecological balance.

The Director of the Wildlife Development Department also stressed the need to avoid disturbance to birds or approaching nesting and gathering sites, and adhering to sound environmental practices when visiting natural areas, in order to preserve these species and ensure that Qatar remains a safe haven for migratory birds during migration seasons.

The ministry further called on members of the public to contribute to bird monitoring and documenting sightings using scientific methods and specialised applications, in support of community participation in environmental action and to enrich databases related to migratory birds and their migration routes.

This year's celebration coincides with the 60th anniversary of the World Waterbird Census, reflecting the growing role of scientific monitoring and community participation in protecting migratory birds globally, as well as the complementary role of individuals and institutions in preserving migration routes and natural habitats. (QNA)

UDC set to launch 2nd women's padel tourney for The Pearl, Gewan residents

United Development Company (UDC), master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, will launch the second edition of its Women's Padel Tournament 2026 today (May 10) following the strong success of its inaugural edition.

The initiative is exclusively open to residents of the two islands, reinforcing UDC's ongoing commitment to promoting an active, inclusive, and community-focused lifestyle across its developments.

The tournament kicks off today, with the semi-finals taking place on May 12 and the finals on May 14. Matches will run from 6pm-8pm at the padel courts in Fanar Fayrouz - Temba Arena. A total of eight teams is expected to participate, creating a vibrant and engaging atmosphere of friendly competition and social connection.

Engineer Abdullatif Ali al-Yafei, UDC executive director of Public Services, said: "Women represent a vital and dynamic part of our community, and we are committed to creating meaningful opportunities that support their engagement, well-being, and active participation."

"Following the success of the first edition, we are proud to bring this tournament back, further reinforcing our efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and strengthen community bonds across The Pearl Island and Gewan Island."

The initiative aligns with UDC's broader vision to position its developments as leading destinations for sports, leisure, and high-quality living experiences.



Winners during the inaugural edition of the competition. (File photo)



Through curated community events such as this tournament, UDC continues to enhance resident engagement while fostering a strong sense of belonging.

The Women's Padel Tournament offers participants and spectators alike an exciting opportunity to enjoy the sport in a lively and engaging setting, with prizes adding to the competitive spirit. Whether competing on the court or cheering from the sidelines, residents are invited to be part of this unique community experience.

New research vessel to spur marine monitoring

From Page 1

The vessel will also bolster marine environment assessment programmes run by the Marine Protection Department in co-ordination with the Environmental Monitoring and Inspection Department and other units, including Wildlife Development, Nature Reserves, and Environmental Monitoring.

Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Inspection Department Hassan al-Qasimi said the vessel pairs operational effi-

ciency with lower running costs than larger boats. The 45-foot craft, which can carry up to 12 people, is powered by four engines that enable it to cover long distances at speed, improving marine coverage during both routine and emergency missions.

He added that the vessel is equipped with advanced navigation and communication systems, including GPS, radar, and the Starlink satellite network, ensuring continuous contact with field teams in remote waters and sup-

porting more efficient monitoring and research work.

The vessel also houses an on-board environmental laboratory for preliminary analyses and field sample processing, along with a crane for handling research equipment. It is fitted with water-quality monitoring systems, marine sediment sampling tools, plankton nets, and dedicated storage for diving cylinders, supporting scientific and field missions with high standards of safety and efficiency.

Qatar-European ties to attain new heights in diverse areas

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The potential scope of co-operation between Qatar and Finland is expanding and set to cover many areas, including tourism, civil defence, education, culture, high-tech services, and clean energy, among others, according to Finnish ambassador Juma Mustonen.

Speaking to the media on the occasion of Europe Day, celebrated annually on May 9, he said Qatar is a key and vital strategic partner to Europe, as Europe-GCC relations are "of great importance" and "set to grow even further in all fields" beyond business and economy and extends to people-to-people relationships.

The ambassador noted that Finland has immense experience in disaster management and civil defence, noting "big opportunities for mutual co-operation."

Qatar and Finland have very successful and growing co-operation in the field of education with the Qatar-Finland International School with more than 10 years of established success.

More co-operation in this field is set to happen in the future building on such successes. Further, there are major technological and networking companies working in Qatar and offer sophisti-

Qatar has emerged as a key strategic partner for both Finland and the EU, citing the country's role as a regional mediator, an advocate of multilateral dialogue, and a leader in future-oriented economic transformation

cated technology in various fields, including health services.

The ambassador expects that both countries are heading towards "more open fields of effective co-operation" that go beyond the already "excellent state relations", extending to direct people-to-people relations, especially in culture, tourism and student exchange.

He said more efforts are being exerted to further introduce Finland's business community to Qatar investors and vice versa to enhance mutual investment opportunities in both countries for the private sector. He also stressed that Qatar and Finland have a shared view of the importance of peaceful negotiations to settle disputes and overcome the state of uncertainties imposed by the ongoing war, which negatively impact the lives of people. Both countries are considered two big actors in extending humanitarian aid to the targeted vulnerable people around the world, he emphasised.

Mustonen stressed that Qatar-European ties are expanding, citing the partnership between Fin-



Participants at 'Gulf, Nordic, and Europe' seminar.

land and Qatar formalised during a high-level seminar held earlier at the UN House in Doha titled 'Gulf, Nordic, and Europe: The New Strategic Partnership for Human Capital and Digital-Driven Future Economies'.

The seminar, co-organised by the embassies of Finland and Sweden, the Unesco Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen, and the Delegation of the EU to Qatar, brought together policymakers, diplomats, academics, and international experts to explore the future of Gulf-European co-operation in an increasingly complex global environment.

Addressing participants, Mustonen described the event as a reflection of the evolving relationship between Europe and the Gulf region, particularly the growing recognition that partnerships centred on human capital, innovation, ed-

ucation, and digital transformation will define the next era of international co-operation.

The ambassador noted that Qatar has emerged as a key strategic partner for both Finland and the EU, citing the country's role as a regional mediator, an advocate of multilateral dialogue, and a leader in future-oriented economic transformation. He stressed that Qatar's commitment to knowledge-based development aligns closely with Finland's own national priorities in education, technology, sustainability, and innovation.

"Finland sees Qatar not only as an important Gulf partner, but as a country that shares many of Europe's long-term aspirations regarding human development, digital advancement, and international co-operation," Mustonen said, adding that the relationship between Qatar and Europe has ma-



Finland's ambassador to Qatar Juma Mustonen.

"Finland and Qatar are united by a shared belief that investing in people is the foundation of national resilience and economic competitiveness. There is enormous potential for our countries to co-operate in digital governance, education reform, artificial intelligence, green technologies, and innovation-driven growth," he said.

Mustonen also stressed the importance of strengthening people-to-people connections between Qatar and Europe. Educational exchange programmes, academic partnerships, and research collaboration were identified as essential pillars for building long-term trust and mutual understanding.

"Expanding participation in European initiatives, such as Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe, alongside deeper co-operation between Gulf and Nordic universities, is considered as a priority for the coming years," he added.

Under the Slogan *“The Most Blessed Days”* Qatar Charity Launches Dhul-Hijjah Campaign 1447 AH – 2026



Qatar Charity (QC) has launched its Dhul-Hijjah Campaign for the season 1447 AH – 2026, under the slogan “The Most Blessed Days”. Driven by the generosity of donors in Qatar, the campaign seeks to mobilize support for the implementation of various humanitarian and development projects worldwide, and the distribution of sacrificial meat in 43 countries, including Qatar. The campaign also includes Eid clothing and Eid gifts, marking the spiritual significance of the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah.

The Gambia, South Africa, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Palestine (Ramallah and the Gaza Strip), Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria,

The project targets thousands of orphans sponsored by generous donors through Qatar Charity, with a total cost of approximately

Projects Inside Qatar

Within the State of Qatar, the “Alaqraaboon” Center of Qatar Charity will implement the Udhayah project, targeting the distribution of the meat from 1,750 sacrificial animals at a cost of approximately QAR 1.5 million, benefiting nearly 20,000 people. Beneficiaries will include low-income households, orphan families, families of prisoners, and other vulnerable groups.

Food Security and Water Projects

The campaign will go beyond Udhayah and Eid clothing to mobilize support for an integrated package of food security and water projects outside Qatar. These will include food baskets, hot meals, support for community kitchens and bakeries, in addition to interventions to address malnutrition in countries most affected by hunger. It will also

projects, and support for vulnerable families—offering donors multiple opportunities to maximize the impact of their contributions.

Maximizing Humanitarian Impact

Commenting on the campaign, Mr. Abdulaziz Jassim Hejji, Executive Director of Communications and Community Impact Qatar Charity, stated: “The Most



Through this campaign, Qatar Charity aims to promote solidarity, bring joy to vulnerable families during Eid al-Adha, address growing humanitarian needs in several regions, and broaden its humanitarian reach to benefit millions of people.

As part of the campaign, Qatar Charity plans to distribute the meat from 42,650 sacrificial animals, at a total estimated cost of approximately QAR 28 million, reaching an expected 838,000 beneficiaries within the State of Qatar and abroad.

Udhayah Outside of Qatar

Outside of Qatar, the organization—with the generous support of donors—aims to distribute the meat from 40,900 sacrifices across 42 countries worldwide. With a budget exceeding QAR 26.5 million, this initiative is expected to benefit approximately 818,000 people.

The project will be implemented in Niger, Indonesia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Philippines, Pakistan, Tanzania,

Ethiopia, Morocco, Benin, Burundi, Togo, Mali, Syria, Albania, Jordan, India, Yemen, Burkina Faso, Turkey, Chad, Tunisia, Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya, Egypt, Mauritania, Somalia, Bangladesh, Senegal, and Sudan.

In its international Udhayah operations, Qatar Charity focuses on countries and regions most affected by protracted crises and disasters, with priority given to Palestine (including the Gaza Strip), Somalia, Syria, Kenya, and Sudan. This approach aims to strengthen food security and ensure access to assistance for the most vulnerable populations.

Eid Clothing Outside Qatar

The campaign also includes the implementation of the Eid Clothing Project for orphans in around 21 countries, including: Türkiye, Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sudan, Somalia, Niger, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Tunisia, Djibouti, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Palestine (Gaza Strip and West Bank), Kosovo, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Côte d'Ivoire.

QAR 2.5 million. It aims to benefit around 8,200 children by providing them with Eid essentials, contributing to bringing joy to their hearts during this special occasion.



To spread joy during Eid, the center will also implement the “Eidi” Project, targeting 1,500 children from orphan families and low income households. In addition, it will organize the “Eid Joy Festival,” which will target hundreds of orphans and their families. The campaign will further include support for 2,500 urgent humanitarian cases inside Qatar.

mobilize support for clean water projects, like drilling wells, to help communities facing severe drought and water shortages.

A key component of the campaign is the “10x10 Initiative,” which features ten high-impact projects during the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, focusing on food security and economic empowerment—such as feeding programs, income-generating

“Blessed Days” campaign comes at a time when humanitarian needs are rising in several regions around the world. Qatar Charity is committed to directing its interventions toward those most in need, in accordance with the highest professional standards. During these blessed days, we recall the saying of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him): “There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days.” This serves as a powerful motivation for everyone to seize the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah to multiply their charitable acts and expand their reach, ultimately helping us serve the greatest number of beneficiaries and maximize our collective humanitarian impact.”

How to Donate

Supporters can contribute to the campaign through Qatar Charity’s official website at www.qcharity.org and via the Qatar Charity mobile application at www.qch.qa/app.

Donations may also be made through the Home Collector Service available on the mobile app, by contacting the Call Center at 44290000, or by donating directly at Qatar Charity branches and through authorized collectors in shopping malls.

Sheikh Moe al-Thani attends GU-Q convocation

Qatari adventurer Sheikh Mohammed (Moe) bin Abdullah al-Thani has urged Georgetown Qatar's (GU-Q) graduating Class of 2026 to choose purpose and resilience.

"Find your mountain, that one thing that lights your soul on fire. Climb it. And then hold the door for others," stated Sheikh Mohammed, the first Qatari to reach the highest peak on all seven continents and ski to the South Pole.

For a group of graduates whose experiences over the past four years shaped them in profound ways, the presence of the Qatari adventurer and businessman carried particular weight.

Sheikh Mohammed, who is also chairman of Musafir.com and High Camp Holding Company, urged graduates to pursue their dreams but don't forget to live a meaningful life.

"You are never at the top for more than a moment at a time. Power, fame, and money are the tools, not the destination. Chase them if they serve your purpose, but they are not the mountain. The mountain is that at the end of your life, someone's life is better because you are in it," he said.

For many graduates, Sheikh Mohammed's message matched the reality of their time at GU-Q. Parents, siblings, peers, faculty, and staff filled the room to celebrate the accomplishments of the 121 Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service graduates and 27 Executive Master's alumni, many of whom



Students of Georgetown Qatar's graduating Class of 2026.

faced difficult and deeply personal challenges throughout their years at the university.

The undergraduate Class of 2026 started college when masks and Covid-19 restrictions still shaped daily life. Over the next four years, they watched wars unfold in Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen, Gaza, and Lebanon, while political changes across the region affected many of their lives personally. For

some students, those conflicts were not distant headlines, but realities impacting their families, communities, and classmates.

In their final semester, the war with Iran and Iran's targeting of the GCC fractured the campus itself, separating students from one another, when they should have been celebrating together.

The geopolitical map they studied in classrooms shifted beneath

their feet in real time. No cohort could have been better placed to understand what was happening – or better prepared to respond.

At the Tropaia Awards ceremony last week, student speaker Remas Alhawari, a Palestinian-Jordanian International Politics major, stood before her peers and stated what they had all endured. She said "none of it diminished" what GU-Q had given them.

"The privilege that came with this place will follow you. It will sit quietly in the background until you deliver," she said.

Against everything, the Class of 2026 leaves behind a record that holds under pressure and excels: Twenty-two students earned honours in the major. Nine were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Two won Schwarzman Scholarships. Graduates will continue their

studies at institutions, including the University of Cambridge, Sciences Po, Johns Hopkins University, Tsinghua University, and through the Erasmus Mundus Programme – destinations that reflect both their high ambitions and broad preparation.

Dean Safwan Masri, joined GU-Q at a time when the Class of 2026 arrived at the university as freshmen students. Masri who concludes his own tenure this year, sent the students off with a charge that wove together the institution's Jesuit and Islamic traditions. "The Jesuit ideal of being people for others calls us beyond the narrow borders of the self. The Islamic ideals of justice, mercy, duty, and the dignity of knowledge deepen that call. Your education, in this sense, is generational. It prepares you to build futures commensurate with the needs of our time," Masri said. As Masri and the Class of 2026 embark on the next stage of their journeys, they leave behind a legacy that has helped establish Georgetown Qatar as a regional hub of excellence.

The university admitted just 9% of applicants into its incoming class this year and saw applications surge 92%, the highest level of interest in GU-Q's history. And with the offering of a new major in Science, Technology and International Affairs, one of the few programmes of its kind in the region, GU-Q continues to position itself as a proving ground for the next generation of global leaders.

QRCS marks World Red Cross, Red Crescent Day 2026

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) joined all sister national societies in celebrating World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, observed on May 8.

Under this year's theme 'United in Humanity', QRCS called for putting humanity first, particularly by respecting the Red Crescent and Red Cross emblems worn by frontline aid workers: those who risk their lives and face immense challenges to save lives and alleviate people's suffering.

Engineer Ebrahim bin Hashim al-Sada, managing director – secretary-general of QRCS, said: "Throughout its almost-half-a-century history, QRCS has been a perfect representation of Qatar's impressive humanitarian image.

"As an active member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its large-scale relief and development operations go far beyond borders to reach out to affected and underserved people in the four corners of the world."

He said, "At all times, humanity has been our driving force to work harder and smarter towards the ultimate goal of serving humanity everywhere, without partiality or discrimination.

"At the same time, we harness the power of humanitarian diplomacy to advocate for the causes of vulnerable victims of disasters, conflicts, and poverty, inspired by the noble religious teachings, genuine Qatari traditions, and fundamental principles of the movement."

Al-Sada noted that the world needs to enforce international laws and conventions that protect both civilians and aid workers during



Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

armed conflicts. Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in attacks on humanitarian workers, who were visibly wearing Red Crescent or Red Cross emblems and were by no means involved in hostilities.

"Sadly, we at QRCS have lost beloved colleagues who were heroically providing relief and medical services in Syria, Gaza, and other conflict zones," said al-Sada, adding that such actions are "blatant violations of the underlying principles of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the four Geneva Conventions", as well as "grave betrayals of humanity."

He added: "Aid workers are not just service providers; they are, first and foremost, human beings. Most of them come from the very affected local communities. They choose to volunteer and help their friends, neighbours, and family members. This should never make them a target. They deserve recognition and support."

Kate Forbes, president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), issued joint statements.

"Across conflicts and crises, we are witnessing a dangerous erosion of the very values and safeguards designed to preserve human life and dignity. Too many of our colleagues have been killed. When those who care for the wounded, evacuate the injured, or keep health services running are attacked, the loss goes far beyond individual lives. Communities lose a lifeline. Trust is shaken. Our shared humanity is diminished," the statement read.

It added: "On May 8, we call on all those with influence and responsibility to uphold the protections that civilians, medical personnel, humanitarian workers, and communities depend on. Respect for the emblems, for humanitarian



Engineer Ebrahim bin Hashim al-Sada, managing director - secretary-general of QRCS.



Kate Forbes, president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

rules and principles, is therefore essential.

"Today, we also say to colleagues across our movement: we see you, we thank you, and we stand with you. At a time when division, violence, and disregard for human suffering are testing the limits, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement remains united in humanity," the statement said.

Msheireb Properties wins four Communitas Awards

Msheireb Properties has received four Communitas Awards, underlining its pioneering role as a regional leader in smart, sustainable urban development and recognising its approach to corporate social responsibility through strategic partnerships spanning education, technology, healthcare, inclusivity, and youth development.

The Communitas Awards, an international initiative, recognises organisations that go beyond business objectives to deliver social, environmental, and economic value. This marks Msheireb Properties' second major recognition, following its success at the SEAL (Sustainability, Environmental Achievement & Leadership) Business Sustainability Awards in February this year.

Msheireb Properties won three sustainability awards, demonstrating its commitment to reducing its environmental footprint. Initiatives highlighted include the Green Roofs Project, which cools urban spaces by improving energy efficiency, managing stormwater, and supporting biodiversity, as well as the Liquid3 bioreactor, which captures carbon dioxide and airborne pollutants far faster than conventional trees. Msheireb Downtown Doha is fully sustainable, with all buildings either Gold or Platinum LEED-certified, accumulating 32 Platinum certificates and 42 Gold certificates respectively.

The fourth award, for Excellence in Community Service, recognised Msheireb Museums as a dynamic platform for community engagement and cultural dialogue. The four historic

houses of Bin Jelmoode House, Company House, Mohammed Bin Jassim House, and Radwani House have been transformed into a vibrant cultural destination that extends beyond traditional museum displays, serving as the centre for community collaboration, social dialogue, and the preservation of Qatar's national narrative.

Through a strategic ecosystem of community partnerships, Msheireb Museums has engaged thousands of community members by positioning heritage as a living, accessible, and evolving experience.

In the past year alone, the museums hosted more than 25 events developed in collaboration with local and international partners, including youth summits, collaborations with government entities and embassies, and science cafés.

Engineer Ali al-Kuwari, CEO of Msheireb Properties, said: "Winning four Communitas Awards across sustainability and community service reflects the dual commitment that defines Msheireb Properties.

"In Msheireb Downtown Doha, we built a city where environmental responsibility is embedded in every structure, and in Msheireb Museums, we created a living platform where heritage fuels dialogue and strengthens community bonds."

He added: "Together, they represent a single vision: that sustainable urban development and cultural preservation are not parallel pursuits but inseparable ones. This international recognition affirms the strength of that vision, and deepens our resolve to advance it as a model that resonates well beyond Qatar."

Ibtechar celebrates winners of 8th Sanea Competition

Ibtechar has concluded the eighth edition of the Sanea Competition in a closing ceremony that brought together students, teachers, and industry leaders to celebrate the achievements of Qatar's next generation of innovators.

A total of 17 teams from 10 schools across northern Qatar participated in this year's edition, showcasing a wide range of innovative projects developed through the 2025-2026 Sanea programme.

The six-month STEM-focused experience engaged over 80 students and 20 teachers, fostering hands-on learning and innovation. As part of the programme, teachers also received advanced training, while students developed the skills needed to transform innovative ideas into practical, working prototypes.

Teams presented their final projects to an expert panel of judges, showcasing technology-driven



solutions built on critical thinking, collaboration, and problem solving, while demonstrating a strong understanding of the design process, product functionality, and real-world application. Projects were evaluated based on criteria including innovation, technical execution, teamwork, and presentation.

Prizes were awarded across the Preparatory and Secondary grade levels, recognising outstanding achievement in innovation, technical execution, and real-world impact. Across the Preparatory

grades, AMANIX from English Modern School secured first place, followed by The Bus Guard from Etqan Global Academy (Girls) in second place, and AcoustiCore from Nord Anglia International School in third place.

Across the Secondary grades, CalmBand from Al Khor International School secured first place, followed by Nord Anglia International School in second place for its Room Air Quality Monitoring device and app, and The Pulse of Corridors from Al Andalus School

for Girls in third place. Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards were also presented across both categories, recognising outstanding achievement from all participating teams.

Nayef al-Ibrahim, co-founder and CEO of Ibtechar, said: "What we are celebrating today goes beyond a competition. It shows what becomes possible when young people are empowered with the space, tools, and trust to innovate, they become the innovators shaping Qatar's future. Across schools in Qatar, we have seen students move from curiosity to confidence, and from ideas to real-world solutions."

Since its inception in 2016, the Sanea Competition has empowered more than 500 Qatari youth to innovate through hands-on discovery and creative problem-solving. Ibtechar has also trained over 180 teachers to provide technical and mentorship support, resulting over 200 project submissions.

Ooredoo, beIN renew ties



Ooredoo has extended its partnership with beIN MEDIA GROUP (beIN), to ensure customers across the country continue to enjoy access to the world-class sports and entertainment content, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup in USA, Canada and Mexico.

The agreement was signed by Ooredoo Qatar CEO Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammad al-Thani and beIN MENA CEO Mohammad Abdulaziz al-Subaie.

Sheikh Ali said, "Sports and

entertainment bring people together, across borders, languages, and generations. By combining advanced connectivity with world-class sports and entertainment, we are creating a seamless digital experience that evolves with our customers' expectations."

Al-Subaie added: "Our renewed partnership with Ooredoo reflects a shared vision to deliver unparalleled access to premium sports and entertainment experiences."

Indonesia rescuers retrieve hiker's body after volcanic eruption

AFP
Jakarta

Indonesian rescuers retrieved yesterday the body of one of three hikers killed in a volcanic eruption in a seismically active no-go zone, a rescue official said.

Mount Dukono on Halmahera island erupted on Friday, sending an ash cloud 10km (6 miles) into the sky, with no towns or villages near enough to face any immediate threat.

The eruption killed two hikers from Singapore and one from Indonesia, local police chief Erlichson Pasaribu said on Friday.

Seventeen other climbers, including seven Singaporeans, had

been brought down safely.

Rescuers combing the area around the edge of the volcano's crater found a woman's body, local search and rescue agency head Iwan Ramdani said, without specifying her nationality.

"The joint search and rescue team... found the dead victim at 2:30pm (0530 GMT) along with her backpack," Iwan said in a statement.

The body was transported to a local hospital for identification, he added.

Images shared by the rescue agency showed a team carrying a black body bag on a makeshift stretcher down the mountain.

The search for the remaining victims has been suspended due

to rains and volcanic ash and will resume on Sunday, Iwan said.

The volcano erupted again several times yesterday, once spewing an ash column about three kilometres (1.8 miles) high, according to the national Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation.

Preliminary information suggested the two Singaporeans' bodies were about 20-30m (65-100 feet) from the rim of the crater, national disaster mitigation agency spokesman Abdul Muhari said in a statement.

Singaporean media quoted the foreign ministry saying it was working with the embassy in Jakarta to provide assistance to affected citizens and families.

Dukono, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, has been on level two of the country's four-tiered alert system since 2008.

Authorities have imposed a 4km (2.5-mile) exclusion zone around the crater since December 2024, according to Lana Saria, the head of the government's Geology Agency.

The police's Erlichson said on Friday that the hikers had ignored social media appeals and warning signs put up at the entrance of the trail to stay away.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago nation, experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where tectonic plates collide.

The Southeast Asian country has nearly 130 active volcanoes.

Vietnam adds hundreds of acres in South China Sea island-building

Reuters
Washington

Vietnam has expanded its island building in the South China Sea's disputed Spratly archipelago in the past year, adding 534 acres (216.1 hectares) of land, and has also begun to construct specialised infrastructure there, a US think-tank reported.

The report on Friday by the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies added the following details:

The new dredging across the Spratlys brings the total area of artificial land reclaimed by Vietnam in the archipelago to about 2,771 acres.

After finishing landfill operations at Barque Canada Reef, now Vietnam's largest base in the islands, in spring 2025, Hanoi began smaller expansions at several new features in the second half of 2025.

The expansion has caused additional environmental damage.

Vietnam's total reef destruction, including reefs covered by landfill and areas dredged to create channels and harbours, now

stands at roughly 4,120 acres.

Vietnam's island-building activities in the Spratlys had appeared to be catching up to China's in early 2025, but new Chinese reclamation activities at Antelope Reef have widened the gap, with China's totals now about 5,460 acres of artificial land, and 6,224 acres of reef destruction.

Vietnam has made notable infrastructure developments on larger, more developed reefs, with an additional three harbours taking shape at Grierson Reef, Petley Reef, and South Reef.

The new work brings the total number of harbours Vietnam has in the archipelago to 15, 11 of them created since 2021. Initial construction of another likely harbour can already be seen at Landsdowne Reef.

Vietnam's Washington embassy did not immediately respond to request for comment. Last year, China said it opposes Vietnam's construction activities at Barque Canada Reef, calling it Chinese territory. China claims almost the entire South China Sea, despite overlapping claims by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Indonesia detains over 300 foreigners in gambling crackdown

AFP
Jakarta

Indonesian authorities have detained more than 300 foreign nationals this week for allegedly running an online gambling ring in the capital Jakarta, police said yesterday.

Gambling is illegal in the archipelago, with punishments extended to bookmakers, punters and those who promote gambling content online.

Police raided a building in Ja-

karta on Thursday, where they found and detained 321 foreigners and seized phones, passports, laptops and computers.

The majority of those detained, 228 people, were Vietnamese nationals. The group also included 57 from China, 11 from Laos, five from Thailand and three each from Cambodia and Malaysia, police official Wira Satya Triputra told a news conference.

Some 275 people face charges of gambling and money laundering, Wira said, adding that authorities were still investigating the rest.

"We caught the perpetrators red-handed, meaning they were conducting an online gambling operation," he said.

Preliminary investigations suggested that the ring, which started operations about two months ago, targeted victims outside Indonesia, Wira said, without specifying where.

Police have previously said that many scammers had moved operations to Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries following a crackdown in China.

Elsewhere in Indonesia this

week, immigration authorities raided an apartment building in Batam, in Riau Islands province, arresting 210 foreigners suspected of running an investment scam.

In February, Police raided two villas on the resort island of Bali and arrested 39 Indian nationals for allegedly running an illegal gambling operation.

Turnover linked to online gambling reached more than 280tn rupiah (about \$16bn) last year, official data showed, with more than 12mn Indonesians estimated to be engaged in the illicit activity.

Australia's far-right party wins first lower-house seat

Reuters
Sydney

Australian far-right populist party Pauline Hanson's One Nation won its first seat in the country's House of Representatives in a by-election yesterday, a preliminary vote count showed. The result is in line with a surge of electoral support for far-right populist parties globally. Britain's ruling Labour party this week suffered a widespread loss of seats at council elections. David Farley, a former agribusiness executive, won the rural seat of Farrer, some 550km (340 miles) south of Sydney and 320km (200 miles) north of Melbourne, for the anti-immigration party with 59.3% of the vote, defeating the incumbent centre-right Liberal Party, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

One Nation's first preference vote in the by-election was 42%, the ABC said, compared to the 6.6% first-preference vote it got at a federal election last May.

"We're like a mason with a chisel and we're carving letters into Australia's democracy," Farley said at a televised election event. "One Nation has reached the end of its beginning."

The result is significant in that it marks the first time One Na-

tion has won a lower-house seat since Hanson formed the party 30 years ago.

But it does not affect the parliamentary majority of the ruling Labor Party, which holds 94 of 150 lower-house seats. The seat was left vacant when Liberals leader Sussan Ley resigned in February.

The Labor Party did not run a candidate in the contest for the seat that has been held by the opposition conservatives since it was formed more than half a century ago.

Party leader Pauline Hanson, a senator, standing beside Farley, said the result was "a win for Farrer but a bigger win for the nation".

"She knew her party was favoured to win but when the first television station projected victory "I actually got a tear in my eye", she said.

"You really don't understand the journey I've been on," she added.

Liberal leader Angus Taylor said at another televised event that the by-election was "always going to be a mountain to climb ... and we have to take away some hard lessons from this".

Taylor said his party would focus on immigration rates. "For too long we have been a party of convenience, not of conviction, and that must change," he added.

UK's Starmer names ex-PM Gordon Brown as adviser

UK PM aiming for leadership reset

Reuters
London

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer named former premier Gordon Brown as his envoy on global finance yesterday, turning to a man credited with shoring up banks during the financial crisis to bolster his support after a crushing local elections defeat. Starmer is on the back foot after his Labour Party recorded the worst losses of a governing party in municipal polls since 1995, prompting a growing number of his own lawmakers to call on him to quit.

Aiming to reset his leadership and win back party support, Starmer's office announced the appointment of two Labour grandees, Brown, 75, and Harriet Harman, also 75, to his team as advisers.

Brown will seek to drive new investment and hone relations with the European Union, in a bid to boost economic performance and win back votes, while Harman will focus on tackling misogyny and violence against women and girls, creating economic opportunities.

Amid fresh calls for him to resign yesterday from several of his own lawmakers, as the extent of the defeat emerged, Starmer re-



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and former prime ministers David Cameron and Gordon Brown. (Reuters/File photo)

peated: "I'm not going to walk away from this."

He said he will respond to the message from voters by seeking to convince them their lives will improve, adding that his new hires, Brown and Harman, were part of the plan.

"They're vital to how we strengthen our country and take it forward and provide the opportunities that give people that hope for a better future," he said.

Brown, 75, will join as an adviser on global finance and cooperation, while former Labour deputy leader Harman, 75, will become the prime minister's adviser on women and girls.

Brown's task will be to develop new international finance part-

nerships that can support defence and security investment, including measures that underpin Britain's relationship with the European Union, a statement said.

As Tony Blair's finance minister, Brown was a key architect of the New Labour project which won the party three consecutive general elections from 1997.

Serving as prime minister himself from 2007-2010, Brown was instrumental in nationalising major banks and stabilising the financial system during the global financial crisis.

Just under two years after a Labour landslide national election victory, voters have turned against Starmer.

Labour losses stood at 1,425 seats

UK sending warship to Middle East ahead of Hormuz mission

AFP
London

The UK will send a destroyer to the Middle East ahead of any international mission to help protect shipping in the key Strait of Hormuz, its defence ministry said yesterday.

"The pre-positioning of HMS Dragon is part of prudent planning that will ensure that the UK is ready, as part of a multinational

coalition jointly led by the UK and France, to secure the strait, when conditions allow," a ministry spokesperson told AFP.

Britain and France said last month that military plans to secure the Strait of Hormuz were coming together and would succeed in restoring trade flows through the vital passage.

The MoD said deploying HMS Dragon would strengthen the confidence of commercial shipping and support mine clearance

efforts once hostilities end.

At a two-day meeting in London in April involving more than 44 countries, military planners discussed the practicalities of a multinational mission led by the UK and France to protect navigation in the key waterway.

Some 40 countries are understood to have agreed to participate in plans for the mission to free up navigation in Hormuz.

Before the US-Israel war on Iran started on February 28,

about a fifth of the world's oil was shipped through the strait.

But that has dwindled in past months. Iran largely closed the strait, throwing global markets into turmoil and driving up oil prices. The US later imposed its own blockade of Iranian ports in response.

Yesterday Iran questioned the seriousness of American diplomacy to bring about a ceasefire in the wake of renewed naval clashes in the Gulf region.

US concerned by Taiwan defence delay 'concession' to China

Reuters
Taipei

Further delays to Taiwan military spending are a "concession" to China, the US State Department said, as Taipei's defence ministry detailed the impact of projects excluded from a package passed by the opposition-controlled parliament.

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te had sought \$40bn in supplementary defence spending to better deter China, which views the democratically governed island as its own territory and has stepped up its military pressure.

But after repeated delays by opposition parties, who hold the majority of seats, parliament on Friday approved only two-thirds of the money requested, all for US weapons rather than including other projects like domestically developed drones and missiles.

The opposition said that while it supports defence spending, it would not sign "blank cheques", saying the proposals were vague in places and could open the door to corruption.

A State Department spokesperson said the US supports Taiwan's acquisition of critical defence capabilities "commensurate with the threat it faces"

"While we are encouraged by the passage of this special defence budget after unhelpful stalling, the US notes that further delays in funding the remaining proposed capabilities are a concession to the Chinese Communist Party"

and consistent with the ongoing commitment of multiple US administrations.

"While we are encouraged by the passage of this special defence budget after unhelpful stalling, the US notes that further delays in funding the remaining proposed capabilities are a concession to the Chinese Communist Party," the spokes-

person added.

The US is Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier, despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties, and has strongly supported increased military spending. Beijing has repeatedly demanded an end to weapons sales.

In a statement late on Friday, Taiwan's defence ministry said

the approved spending completely excludes certain commercial purchases, which is highly likely to create "capability gaps".

"Our country faces a severe and continuously escalating threat environment," it said.

One plan not included is the Chiang Kung, or "Strong Bow", anti-ballistic missile which is meant to form the backbone of Taiwan's new "T-Dome" air defence system, the ministry added.

"Following its removal from the special budget, if it cannot be procured in a timely manner, air defence combat effectiveness will be severely impacted," it said.

Lack of approval for drone sys-

tems like sea attack drones will significantly delay asymmetric warfare capabilities and affect projected economic growth and employment opportunities for domestic industry, the ministry said.

Lai said that while he appreciated the approved funding, which allows purchases of such items as the Lockheed Martin-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system to proceed, this was only the first step.

"Any gap will affect the integrity of the overall defence system. Any delay will increase the shared security risks borne by the people of Taiwan," he posted on Facebook.



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GULF TIMES

Surge of pro-independence parties in Britain marks the death knell of the old union

Three of the United Kingdom's four nations are set for the first time to be governed by pro-independence parties after elections on Friday which nationalists said marked the death knell of the centuries-old union.

A breakup of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is by no means imminent, and polling showed voters were motivated by factors other than independence, but the outcome is likely to make Britain harder to govern.

Michelle O'Neill, the Northern Ireland First Minister from Sinn Féin, which wants to end British rule of the province and unite it with Ireland, described the parliamentary votes in Scotland and Wales - held alongside English local elections - as a "moment of seismic change".

"I don't think there can be any clearer sign that Westminster's time is coming to an end for the people here and the people in Scotland and Wales," she told Reuters.

The United Kingdom's four nations have proud separate identities and regularly fought wars before coming together as one political entity over the centuries, with ties often straining since then. In recent decades Irish nationalists and pro-British "loyalists" waged a 30-year war over Northern Ireland's place in the union that ended in 1998. Parties representing both sides now govern together under a power-sharing peace deal, but Sinn Féin nationalists won the most seats in 2022 and chose the first minister for the first time in 2024.

Pro-independence nationalists have run Scotland since 2007, although Scots voted to reject independence in a referendum in 2014. They managed to keep power in Friday's election despite scandals that had weakened their leadership in recent years.

And in Wales, nationalist party Plaid Cymru was on course to be the largest party in the Welsh Senedd assembly for the first time, with voters deserting Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Party and main opposition Conservatives who between them have

Britain's best days are behind it, anti-status quo voices are cutting through

governed the UK from London's Westminster for a century.

The populist Reform UK party of Brexit veteran campaigner Nigel Farage - who rose to prominence on a platform of English nationalism - also performed strongly across England, Scotland and Wales, with voters attracted to its rejection of what it calls "establishment politics".

With the electorate angry over a stagnant economy, a prolonged cost-of-living crisis and a widespread perception that Britain's best days are behind it, anti-status quo voices are cutting through. "There is a real risk that we end up sleepwalking into the end of the United Kingdom," said George Foulkes, a former minister for Scotland under Labour's former Prime Minister Tony Blair. "Once these things get momentum, they are hard to stop."

He said the Westminster government should offer a new constitutional settlement - with a new chamber of parliament made up of the four nations, or risk one leaving in the next decade.

For now the nationalist parties lack a short-term roadmap to leaving. Scottish leader John Swinney was expected to fall short of winning a majority of the 65 seats in the Scottish parliament that, he said, would have provided a mandate for a second referendum.

British prime ministers have refused requests from the Scottish government for a new independence referendum in recent years, insisting that the one in 2014 when voters rejected it by 55% to 45% stands for a generation.

In Wales, where Labour has been the biggest party for a century, Plaid was expected to form a minority government in the 96-seat Senedd to take control for the first time since the parliament was set up in 1999 to give locals more say over their own affairs.

Officials in the pro-independence party said they would not push for a referendum in the first term as it would distract from tackling the nation's many problems. Delyth Jewell, deputy leader of Plaid, told Reuters that independence would be considered if the party won a second term.

In Northern Ireland, the terms of the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement oblige the British government to call a referendum if it appears likely that a majority would back a united Ireland. But polls show any vote would currently be defeated.

While polls show support for independence stands at about 50% in Scotland, about 40% in Northern Ireland, and about 25% in Wales, they also indicate voters were backing these left-wing parties partly for other reasons. Independence was only the sixth most important issue for Scots at these elections, according to a YouGov survey, behind the economy, health, immigration, education and housing. In Wales, independence was the 14th most important issue. - Reuters

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Trump's feuds, tensions with allies likely to outlast Iran war

The US president's words and deeds have revived fears among Washington's long-standing friends - from Europe to the Indo-Pacific - that the United States might be unreliable in a future crisis

By Matt Spetalnick and Andrea Shalal
Reuters

With his decision to pull some US troops from Germany, his threats to draw down forces elsewhere in Europe and his downplaying of Iran's recent attacks on an important Gulf partner, President Donald Trump's latest moves foreshadow what could be the war's enduring legacy: the fraying of ties with key allies.

Even as the US and Iran inch toward a potential off-ramp from their 10-week war, Trump's words and deeds have revived fears among Washington's long-standing friends - from Europe to the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific - that the United States might be unreliable in a future crisis.

In response, some traditional US partners are starting to hedge their bets in ways that may bring long-lasting changes in relations with Washington, while adversaries such as China and Russia are looking to exploit strategic openings.

It is not yet clear whether Trump's war with Iran will mark a permanent turning point in US relations with the world. But most analysts believe his erratic conduct since returning to office, essentially upending the rules-based global order, will further erode US alliances, especially with Nato continuing to feel his ire for largely resisting his wartime demands.

"Trump's recklessness with respect to Iran is resulting in some dramatic shifts," said Brett Bruen, a former adviser in the Obama administration who now heads the Situation Room strategic consultancy. "US credibility is at stake."

Tensions are especially

high between Trump and the Europeans since he joined Israel in striking Iran on February 28, claiming without evidence that Tehran was close to developing a nuclear weapon. Iran's retaliatory closure of the Strait of Hormuz unleashed an unprecedented global energy shock that has made European countries some of the biggest economic losers from a war they never asked for.

Even before that, Trump had rattled allies by imposing sweeping tariffs, pushing to take over Greenland from Denmark and cutting military aid to Ukraine. The rift widened when Trump announced this week he was withdrawing 5,000 of the 36,400 troops the US has stationed in Germany after Chancellor Friedrich Merz angered him by saying publicly that the Iranians were humiliating the US. The Pentagon then scrapped a planned deployment of Tomahawk cruise missiles to Germany.

Trump -- who has long questioned whether the US should remain in the Nato alliance it helped create after World War II -- said he was also considering reducing US forces in Italy and Spain, whose leaders have been at odds with him over the war.

FEUDING WITH ALLIES

The move followed Trump's accusations that allies have not been doing enough to back the US in the war and his suggestions that this meant Washington might no longer need to honor the alliance's Article 5 mutual defense clause.

"President Trump has made his disapproval with Nato and other allies clear," White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said, noting that some requests to use military bases in Europe for the Iran war had been denied by host governments. While insisting that Trump had "restored America's

standing on the world stage and strengthened relationships abroad," she said he "will never allow the United States to be treated unfairly and taken advantage of by so-called 'allies.'"

Trump had earlier taken aim at British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, deriding him in March as "not Winston Churchill" and threatening to impose a "big tariff" on imports from the UK. And Trump's Pentagon has floated the prospect of punishing Nato allies it believes have failed to support US operations against Iran, including suspending Spain as a member and reviewing US recognition of Britain's claim to the Falkland Islands.

European governments have responded by stepping up efforts to increase co-operation among themselves, shoulder more of their own defence burden and jointly develop weapons systems to reduce reliance on the US, while trying to convince Trump of the value of maintaining transatlantic allies.

One European diplomat called Trump's threats a clear signal for Europe to invest more in its own security but said leaders were resigned to having to roll with the punches for now. As "middle powers," the Europeans have limited options, especially given their dependence on their superpower ally for strategic deterrence against any possible attack from Russia, and analysts say the transition to greater self-reliance will take years.

In their efforts to mollify Trump, meanwhile, European officials have quietly stressed that many of their countries are allowing US forces to use bases on their soil and their airspace during the Iran campaign. But European leaders, some of whom had used flattery with Trump to defuse earlier crises, are also becoming wise to his negotiating tactics and more emboldened in standing up

to him, analysts say.

Jeff Rathke, president of the American-German Institute at Johns Hopkins University, said that while Merz had seemed to charm Trump during earlier meetings, now he "is not trying to hide the critical assessment of what the United States has gotten itself into."

But the Europeans are also mindful that Trump, barred by law from running again, could feel unrestrained "to do whatever he thinks" on the world stage before he leaves office in January 2029, the European diplomat said.

NATO'S FUTURE

As some European leaders sound the alarm about Nato's future, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski told a conference in Warsaw there is no need to panic so long as Europe delivers on promised higher military spending, which Trump has long demanded. Even so, the strains on US alliances extend well beyond Europe.

When Iran this week launched a missile and drone attacks against the United Arab Emirates, a close US ally, Trump and his aides seemed to turn a blind eye, causing further unease among Gulf Arab states already hard hit by the war.

Trump was quick to dismiss a strike on Monday as minor, though it set fire to the important Fujairah oil port and prompted the government to close schools, and even after further attacks later in the week he insisted that a month-old ceasefire was still holding. Trump went to war against the advice of some Gulf partners, some now worry he could strike a deal that leaves them facing a still-dangerous neighbour.

The war has also stirred anxiety among Asian partners, many heavily dependent on oil that flowed freely through the strait before the conflict. Countries like Japan and South Korea have already been unsettled by Trump's high tariffs and disparagement of traditional alliances.

Some may now wonder whether the vulnerability he has shown to economic pressure at home, including high gasoline prices, could mean Trump might hesitate when asked to help in a conflict with China, such as an invasion of Taiwan.

"What worries us most is that trust in, respect for, and expectations toward the United States - the core partner in the alliance Japan values most -- have been shrinking," Takeshi Iwaya, who served as Japan's foreign minister at the start of Trump's second term, told Reuters. "It could cast a long shadow over the entire region."

Since the start of the war, Russia and China, long-time allies of Iran, have mostly steered clear, but analysts say they are watching closely.



US President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz meet in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, DC, earlier this year. (Reuters)

Qatar Museums explores Old Palace architectural aesthetics

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Qatar Museums is organising the 'Architecture in the Old Palace' forum today (May 10) at the Darwish al-Far Hall at the National Museum of Qatar. The forum will feature a distinguished group of experts, researchers, and those interested in the history of Qatari architecture and heritage.

The forum is part of the museum's efforts to re-highlight the Old Palace, one of Qatar's most prominent historical landmarks. It will offer an in-depth look at the palace's historical and architectural development, its political

and social role in the country's history, and its transformation into an integral part of the modern National Museum.

The forum will address a range of specialised topics exploring the architectural characteristics of the Old Palace, reflecting traditional Qatari architecture, the building techniques used during that period, and the symbolic value it holds as a witness to significant stages in the country's history and its political and cultural transformations.

Participants will also discuss the role of the Old Palace in Qatari public life, as a historical headquarters associated with the administration of the country's affairs in earlier periods, before it later transformed



The Old Palace.

into a cultural and heritage landmark housed within the National Museum. This transformation aligns with the museum's vision of preserving national memory and promoting awareness of Qatar's history and heritage.

The forum will be conducted in

Arabic with translation provided for attendees, allowing for broader participation from diverse nationalities and cultural backgrounds, and fostering the exchange of knowledge about the palace's history and its architectural and heritage significance.

The forum targets a diverse audience, including those interested in the history of the Old Palace, architecture and Qatari history students, historians, and researchers in architectural heritage. It provides a space for dialogue and the exchange of perspectives on the importance of preserving historical buildings as part of the national identity and cultural memory of the community. Through its themes and discussion sessions, the forum emphasises the importance of documenting the story of the Old Palace and passing it on to future generations, especially given the building's historical and architectural value, which is linked to the development of the country and the cultural landscape of Qatar.

The Old Palace is one of the key elements upon which the idea of the Qatar National Museum was based, as it was incorporated into the modern architectural design of the museum, to remain a living witness to the history of the country, and a bridge linking the past and the present in a cultural experience that reflects the development of Qatari identity over time.

Israeli strike on south Lebanon kills seven people

Lebanon's health ministry said an Israeli strike on the southern town of Saksakiyeh killed at least seven people, including a girl, in the latest attack during a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war. In a statement, the ministry said that "the Israeli enemy raid on the town of Saksakiyeh, in the Sidon district, resulted in an initial toll of seven martyrs, including a girl, and 15 wounded, including three children". (AFP)

Israel agrees to release two Gaza flotilla activists

Israel is planning to release two foreign activists taken off a Gaza-bound flotilla from detention before handing them to immigration authorities ahead of their deportation, the rights group representing them said. The group's statement, further added that the pair "will be handed to Israel's immigration authorities later today (Saturday) and kept in custody pending their deportation". (AFP)

IMF approves disbursement of \$1.22 bn to Pakistan

The International Monetary Fund executive board on Friday reached a staff-level agreement on Pakistan's loan program, unlocking \$1.22 bn in fresh funding, the fund said. The decision allows for an immediate disbursement of around \$1.1 bn under the Extended Fund Facility and around \$220 mn under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility, the IMF said. (Reuters)

Tech, speed and squeeze: CEP market in transition

From Page 1

Drone delivery, autonomous vehicles and digitised supply chains are going to be the future of this vital high-volume low-margin sector, where international shipments are expected to outpace domestic expansion. According to Mordor Intelligence, Qatar's CEP market size is expected to grow from \$145.28mn in 2025 to \$154.98mn in 2026 and is forecast to reach \$213.62mn by 2031, at 6.68% compound annual growth rate over 2026-31. Macro drivers are Qatar National Vision 2030's diversification agenda, the surge in online retail, and the strategic location of Doha's logistics zones. Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics and green logistics are gaining importance in the sector, where express and parcel delivery constitutes the bulk. The market, whose margins are on

the squeeze especially in view of the present disruptions, has become increasingly business-to-consumer (B2C)-driven (58% in 2025), not just traditional B2B logistics. "CEP contracts (especially e-commerce) are often price-locked or highly competitive, limiting cost pass-through," an industry source said, implying margin erosion, especially for the domestic delivery, which accounted for about 64% of the market share. According to StateGlobe, as much as 68% of e-commerce orders are delivered within the same day, with average turnaround of three hours for e-commerce deliveries, boosting customer satisfaction. Highlighting that the main driver is the increasing smartphone penetration and improved logistics infrastructure enabling faster delivery services, it said rapid adoption of technology and increased internet penetration have

made online shopping a convenient choice for Qatar's residents. Investments in Hamad Port, air cargo facilities and road networks have enhanced efficiency and reduced transit times, it said, projecting Qatar's online retail market to reach \$5.2bn this year. Strong fundamentals and trade connectivity help the market achieve steady medium-term growth, although the Iran conflict has slowed the pace of CEP sector growth given its GDP elasticity. Qatar's strategic investments in logistics infrastructure – such as Hamad Port and Hamad International Airport – are strengthening its role as a regional hub linking Asia, Europe and Africa. This is boosting both international courier flows and transit shipments. Qatar Airways Cargo's partnership with Cainiao links Doha to China's fulfillment labs; and Ras Bufontas Free Zone's cross-docking platforms

let integrators recast Doha as a trans-shipment node for the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) and African markets. Smart warehouse technologies are being adopted to handle increasing shipment volumes efficiently, improving speed and reducing operational costs for Qatar, which has seen improved re-exports volumes. Gulf Warehousing Company became the first logistics entity in Qatar to implement vision-picking technology, leading the way toward a more efficient, accurate and safe future for logistics. Qatar's logistics sector underwent transformation with WareOne, the country's "first Airbnb for warehouses", introducing a 'pay as you use' concept, cutting storage costs by as much as 30%, especially for small businesses. The present disruptions caused by the Iran conflict have led to an increased cost-per-parcel, while

heightened competition and the price-elastic nature of e-commerce have put pressure on pricing. The combined force translates as a squeeze in margins in the sector, which already faces complex customs, duties and compliance requirements, thus increasing handling cost and delays, as well as rerouting and longer transit chains, raising cost per shipment. As per the inferred data, the sector's margin is typically less than 10% of earnings before interest and taxes in stable periods. Economic growth, digital consumption and trade integration combine to create a market where every unit of GDP growth generates multiple units of logistics demand, but the future of Qatar's CEP market depends on innovation, sustainability and the ability of providers to meet the rising expectations for speed, reliability and transparency.

Trump plans to fire FDA chief Makary

Reuters
Washington

The White House signed off on a plan to fire US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Marty Makary, according to sources familiar with the matter, in what could be the next leadership change within the federal health department. *The Wall Street Journal* earlier on Friday first reported on the possibilities of Trump firing Makary.

Two of the sources, who are advisers to the White House, said a decision was not final. A third source close to the White House said they were told the FDA commissioner "is done" and that Trump signed off.

The White House did not defend Makary as reports emerged of his imminent ouster, but at least publicly, Trump has not said he would replace him. "No, no," Trump said on Friday evening when a reporter asked whether he would bring in someone new to lead the FDA.

Top officials have been discussing possible replacements for Makary in recent days, according to the three people. But they cautioned the decision always rested with Trump and that the president could change his mind at the last minute, as he has during past staffing crises.

White House spokesman Kush Desai earlier said: "President Trump has assembled the most experienced and talented administration in history, an administration that continues to focus on delivering more historic victories for the American people."

The latest firing would follow a series of controversies that drew criticism from Trump allies, supporters of Health Secretary



FDA Commissioner Marty Makary speaks during a press conference at the Department of Health and Human Service. (Reuters/File Photo)

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., conservative media, pharmaceutical companies and anti-abortion groups. The conservative *Wall Street Journal* editorial board published more than half a dozen pieces criticizing Makary's stewardship of the agency.

Shares of Replimune closed nearly 22% higher on Friday, after news of Makary's likely ouster. BMO analyst Evan Seigerman said firing Makary would be a positive for BioPharma, with expectations that any replacement would focus on stability and predictability for the industry. Makary has also found himself in the middle of the abortion pill battle, facing growing pressure to produce a safety review he promised last year.

Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser renewed her call this week to terminate Makary, saying his indifference was unacceptable to millions of anti-abortion voters. Anti-abortion activists met with White House officials on Friday.

Trump was also angered by

Makary's handling of flavored e-cigarettes, a product he had pledged to protect during his 2024 campaign, with the *Wall Street Journal* reporting that Trump rebuked his FDA chief over the weekend for not approving them more quickly.

The White House is considering naming FDA Deputy Commissioner Kyle Diamantas, who heads the agency's food group, as acting commissioner. Potential names under consideration as the actual nominee to run the agency include former FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn and former Acting Commissioner and Assistant Health Secretary Brett Giroir, according to sources.

Former FDA Chief Scientist Jesse Goodman said a new commissioner would need to rebuild the top leadership, with both of the FDA's divisions that regulate drugs currently headed by acting directors.

"There is a vacuum that has created a lot of gaps in expertise and experience," Goodman said.

Magyar takes over as Hungary's PM, putting an end to 16 years of Orbán era

AFP
Budapest

Peter Magyar, a pro-EU conservative, was sworn in as Hungary's new prime minister yesterday, closing the chapter on the 16-year rule of his nationalist predecessor, Viktor Orbán.

The former government insider turned critic whose Tisza party resoundingly won April 12 legislative elections, vowed he would bring in "regime change".

That was underlined by the speaker of the new parliament ordering the EU flag be reinstalled on the building, after a 12-year absence under Orbán, just ahead of Magyar taking his oath of office in the legislature.

The European Union has been effusive in its welcome of Magyar, seeing his arrival as Hungary's leader as drawing a line under years of hostility and obstructionism from Budapest. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on X said his premiership held "the hope and promise of renewal in these challenging times".

Magyar's inauguration drew tens of thousands of people to giant screens around the parliament, where they waved Hungarian and EU flags to watch the ceremony and then party into the night.

Inside the parliament, Magyar vowed: "I will not rule over Hungary; I will serve my country."

He afterwards addressed his supporters outside, emphasising that the country "belongs to everyone... and that together we will rebuild Hungary". "I'm glad that we could resolve peacefully and didn't have to rise up against the



Prime Minister Peter Magyar delivers a speech outside the Hungarian parliament after his swearing-in ceremony in Budapest yesterday. (AFP)

oppressive power," said one supporter, 25-year-old Zoltan Markus.

"We're looking forward with hope in our hearts to what comes next, as well as to the complete arrest of the former government," he added. Magyar, 45, has pledged that one of his government's first steps would be to create an independent office to investigate corruption over the past 20 years and recover public assets from those who "illegally acquired" them.

He also wants to undo changes introduced under Orbán – who fostered close ties with US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin – that eroded the judiciary, media, universities and other institutions.

His Tisza party won 141 of parliament's 199 seats, a comfortable two-thirds majority with the power to amend the constitution and push through key reforms.

Among Magyar's most urgent priorities is unlocking billions of euros in EU funds frozen by Brussels over rule-of-law concerns.

Hungary faces a stagnating economy and deteriorating public services – problems analysts say require deep structural reform.

"There is a lot of patience and goodwill toward the new government, but the expectations are through the roof and need to be met in the short-term as well," said Andrea Virag, strategy director at the liberal Republikon Institute think tank. In his inaugural speech, Magyar said many state institutions had "squandered" public trust, reiterating an earlier call for President Tamas Sulyok and other Orbán allies to resign by the end of the month.

Orbán said last month that he would not take up his seat in parliament for the first time since Hungary's transition to democracy in 1990. He also skipped Saturday's ceremony, breaking with decades of tradition. The 62-year-old, who openly championed "illiberal democracy" and curtailed rights, said he would instead focus on the "reorganisation of the national camp".

Nigeria army killed 50 militants in northeast

Nigeria's military said it killed at least 50 militants during clashes this week at a base in the country's northeast, the heartland of a long-running insurgency.

Since 2009, the country has been battling Boko Haram and its splinter faction the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), which both seek to establish a caliphate in the region.

The military said the militants were killed Thursday as forces fought off a coordinated ISWAP assault on the headquarters of its 27th brigade in the town of Buni Gari, as well as a nearby checkpoint in Yobe state.

"The assault, launched at approximately 0200 hours under the cover of darkness by a large number of terrorists from multiple axes, was met with devastating firepower, tactical brilliance and resolute determination by troops," the arm said in a Friday statement.

It added that "no fewer than 50 terrorists were neutralised" and a large cache of weapons and ammunition was recovered, though two soldiers were also killed.

Photographs released by the military and seen by AFP showed bodies along with seized weapons and ammunition.

An intelligence source who re-

quested anonymity confirmed the attack and the army's counter-offensive.

However, the source said the military had "grossly underdeclared its casualties and bloated the losses suffered by the terrorists", without giving exact figures.

Another intelligence source said military casualties, both dead and wounded, had been taken to Maiduguri, the capital of neighbouring Borno state, in six ambulances, adding the exact number was unclear.

Boko Haram and ISWAP have stepped up attacks in recent months after a period of relative calm. (AFP)

One killed on Denver runway



A Frontier Airlines flight aborted its takeoff from Denver International Airport late Friday after striking a person on the runway, with at least one passenger injured. (AFP/File Photo)

HEC Paris, Doha highlights academic excellence, leadership at convocation

QNA
Doha

In a celebration of leadership, learning, and global impact, HEC Paris, Doha marked the graduation of 144 participants at the Qatar Foundation Convocation 2026, underscoring its continued role in shaping responsible leaders for Qatar and beyond.

Held as part of Qatar Foundation's annual ceremony, this year's convocation brought together four diverse cohorts of participants from the Executive MBA (EMBA). Reflecting both national pride and international reach, 26 percent of graduates are Qatari nationals, 34 percent are women, representing a global community from across the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and Africa, reinforcing Qatar's growing status

as a global education hub. The event celebrated academic excellence, leadership, and the longstanding partnership between HEC Paris, Doha and Qatar Foundation, aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030 and its ambition to foster sustainable development through education and innovation.

Highlighting the importance of this collaboration, Djelloul Bekka, Chief Operating and Administrative Officer at HEC Paris, Doha, said: "Our partnership with Qatar Foundation is rooted in a shared ambition to unlock human potential and drive impact and excellence. With their continued support, we have expanded our footprint, strengthened our academic capabilities, and aligned our programs with the region's evolving priorities. Together, we are helping position Qatar as a



leading hub for executive education."

Addressing the significance of the occasion, Joshua Kobb, Chief Growth and Impact Officer at HEC Paris, Doha, said: "This year's graduating class reflects the true spirit of HEC Paris, Doha - diverse, global minded, and deeply committed to creat-

ing meaningful impact. As Qatar continues to strengthen its position as a leading destination for executive education, we are proud to develop the human capacity needed to build a diversified economy, equipping leaders with the capabilities to navigate complexity and drive sustainable growth."

Reflecting on the practical impact of the program, Executive MBA Emerging Leaders Track participant Maryam al-Darwish highlighted how the experience translated directly into her professional environment, adding, "I've strengthened brand positioning, refined strategy, and contributed to long-term results. As class social

representative, I built meaningful connections and fostered collaboration. This experience has given me the clarity, confidence, and perspective to lead with purpose and create impact."

The Class of 2026 now joins a dynamic and expanding global HEC Paris alumni network of over 80,000 graduates, strengthening connections across industries worldwide. This growing community remains a cornerstone of the institution's vision to foster lifelong learning, collaboration, and continued engagement among leaders and changemakers, in line with its new signature "Dare the Impossible".

Building on the momentum of previous years, HEC Paris, Doha continues to elevate its position - and that of Qatar - as a leading provider of executive education in the region.

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar celebrates Class of 2026 graduation

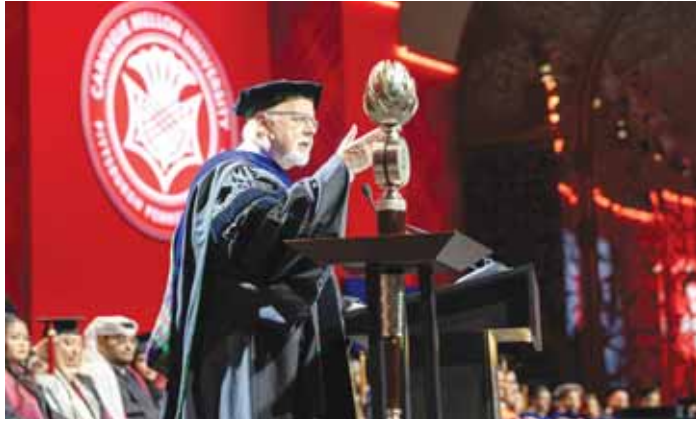
QNA
Doha

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), a partner university of Qatar Foundation, celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2026, marking the academic achievement of 106 graduates across Biological Sciences, Business Administration, Computer Science, Information Systems, and General Studies.

Michael Trick, dean of CMU-Q, opened the ceremony with a message highlighting the resilience, determination, and perseverance shown by the Class of 2026 throughout their academic journey.

He noted that the graduates had navigated significant global disruptions during their years at the university, yet succeeded in maintaining focus and purpose amid challenging circumstances, stressing that their accomplishments were a source of pride for the entire CMU-Q faculty.

Addressing the graduates on behalf of the global Carnegie Mellon community, CMU President Farnam Jahanian commended the Class of 2026 for the resilience and determination they demonstrated throughout periods of uncertainty and geopolitical instability. He noted that despite the challenges and disruptions they faced, the graduates remained committed to their studies and supported one another with courage and empathy, adding that their perseverance reflected the values and leadership potential that would define their future paths.



Speaking on behalf of the Class of 2026, Noora al-Kuwari and Zeina Mahmoud reflected on the graduates' four-year journey and expressed appreciation for the unwavering support of the university and its academic community, which enabled them to overcome challenges and turn them into opportunities for growth and personal development.

The ceremony also paid tribute to faculty and students for outstanding achievements. Outstanding Academic Achievement Awards were presented to Zhansaya Matkenova (Biological Sciences), Omar Hatem Ali Khalaf (Business Administration), Zeina Rami Halawa (Computer Science), and Fatou Sokhna Gueye (Information Systems) for



achieving the highest academic standing in their respective programs.

The four Qatar Campus Scholars for the Class of 2026 were recognized for their academic excellence and leadership: Gana Elnajjar, Phat Hung Diep, Zeina Rami Halawa, and Fatou Sokhna Gueye. Zeina Rami Halawa and Fatou Sokhna Gueye were named Andrew Carn-

egie Society Scholars. Dr Varun Sharma, associate teaching professor of marketing, received the Meritorious Teaching Award.

With the graduation of the Class of 2026, CMU-Q's alumni community is now more than 1,500 strong, a network of young professionals driving knowledge and innovation across Qatar and around the world.



Zeina Mahmoud



Khalid al-Abdulla



Malak Ibrahim



Fatou Gueye

MIE-Qatar marks historic first graduation with 100% success

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education in Qatar celebrated its inaugural graduation ceremony, marking a historic milestone as its first cohort completed their studies with a 100% success rate. The ceremony recognised both undergraduate students, who began their academic journey in 2021, and the institution's first Executive MBA cohort, launched in 2023, reflecting the university's rapid academic growth in Qatar.

Bimalendu B Nath, director of the institution, described the occasion as a defining moment. "Today it is a historical and momentous day... we have conducted the inaugural graduation ceremony. This is the first cohort of MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education," he said.

He noted that the graduating class achieved a 100% success rate. "No one failed, everybody cleared their qualifying exam. This 100% success is definitely a matter of pride," he said, crediting faculty, management, and the wider support system for the achievement.

Reflecting on the journey, he added: "We have seen many dreams in 2021 when we started our academic operation, and today it is the realisation of those collective dreams."

Yasir Nainar, president of the institution, highlighted the breadth of academic programmes represented at the ceremony. "We have 52 graduates from undergraduate programmes... and also our first cohort graduating from the Execu-



tive MBA batch," he said.

He emphasised the university's focus on employability and industry integration. "We are not only giving degrees, but we are also giving them opportunities to work," he said, noting strong partnerships with industry stakeholders in Qatar.

Academic leaders underscored the significance of the milestone. Dr Pranav Raj said the graduates reflect the institution's core values. "They represent the vision, commitment, and academic spirit with which this programme was launched. We are confident they will carry forward the values of critical thinking, creativity, and social responsibility," he said.

Faculty members also reflected on the cohort's resilience. Dr Sabiha described the occasion as a "momentous and proud moment," noting how students evolved into "mature individuals...academically and professionally".

Dr Saidiya pointed to the challenges faced by the cohort. "They started during the Covid pandemic and are now graduating... they have seen unprecedented times,"



Yasir Nainar, president of the MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education in Qatar.

she said, adding that these experiences have prepared them to navigate future challenges.

Faculty member Vikas Kashid from the Science and Technology Department also reflected on witnessing the institution's evolution from its earliest days. "This is certainly a very proud moment. I'm seeing them from the very first batch," he said.

Kashid recalled that the campus began operations during the Covid-19 pandemic, bringing unique academic and cultural challenges.



"We started with a lot of struggle," he said, noting that students came from different nationalities, academic systems and educational backgrounds. "We tried to adapt, and somehow they got adjusted with our curriculum and culture," he said. Despite the early difficulties, he described the journey as deeply rewarding for both students and faculty. "Later on, the journey was really, really amazing. Even if today's ceremony is very important to us, we also enjoyed the journey with them. That was something very memorable for us," he said.

From a student perspective, Fihaz Shiad highlighted the university's



role in bridging theory and practice. "The biggest challenge graduates face is the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-life application. The university gave us both knowledge and opportunities... internships, workshops... to align with real-world demands," she said.

She added that the curriculum aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030, enabling students to approach problems from multiple perspectives.

Meanwhile, Abdul Nihal described the experience of being part of the first cohort as transformative. "Everything was new, so everything was a challenge. But

it helped us become more confident and adaptable," he said.

Now pursuing further studies abroad, he credited the university for building his confidence. "Before, I didn't have much confidence to present...but the training here helped me become stronger," he said.

As the first cohort graduates, the milestone not only marks the culmination of years of effort but also signals the emergence of a new generation of graduates equipped with the skills, resilience and perspective to contribute to Qatar's evolving knowledge economy and beyond.