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Book-laden Doha set for its biggest chapter

35th edition of DIBF opens today at DECC

The 35th edition of the Doha International Book Fair is set to open today at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, with organisers describing it as the largest in the event's history.

The fair, organised by Qatar's Ministry of Culture, will run until May 23 and feature broad participation from embassies, ministries and cultural institutions from across the Arab world and beyond, reflecting the exhibition's growing regional and international standing.

This year's edition will include 910 exhibition booths and more than 1.85mn books covering around 231,000 titles. Organisers said 143 new books would be launched during the event, alongside 46 panel discussions, 69 workshops and 46 seminars on the fair's main stage.

In comments to Qatar News Agency, Jassim Ahmed al-Buainain, Director of the Libraries Department at the Ministry of Culture and Director of the Doha International Book Fair, said the event would host 520 publishing houses from 37 Arab and foreign countries.

He added that the programme would include a wide range of cultural activities, including lectures, literary discussions and workshops across various fields. The fair will also announce the winners of the second Doha International Book Fair Award, which includes six categories aimed at supporting Qatari and international authors and publishers.

A cultural programme on the fair's main stage will bring together writers, intellectuals and academics from Qatar and abroad for discussions on literature and thought, while the cultural salon will host book signings and dialogue sessions with authors.

Al-Buainain said the event would also feature "Reading Guide" sessions to help visitors choose books, as well as a dedicated "Doha Children's Zone" with interactive activities and performances for young audiences.

The Qatari Authors Forum, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture, will organise a series of cultural, educational and intellectual events involving writers, researchers and academics from inside and outside Qatar.

More than 100 new publications by Qatari authors and residents will be launched during the fair, alongside over 25 intellectual seminars, 15 specialist lectures and 12 discussion sessions focusing on cultural and social issues.

The exhibition will open daily from 9am to 10pm local time, except on Fridays when visitors

will be admitted from 3pm until 10pm.

Organisers said special attention had been given to children and young readers ahead of this year's edition, including the launch of a mobile library bus that visited around 12 schools to encourage reading and learning among students.

The Doha International Book Fair is regarded as one of the oldest and largest book fairs in the region. First launched in 1972 under the supervision of Qatar's national library authority, it was initially held every two years before becoming an annual event in 2002.

Since 2010, the fair has hosted a guest country each year, including the United States, Turkey, Iran, Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, France, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Palestine. (QNA)

A Landmark Literary Celebration

520 PUBLISHING HOUSES Representing 37 Arab and foreign countries.	1.85 MILLION BOOKS Over 231,000 titles displayed across 910 exhibition booths.	143 NEW BOOK LAUNCHES Including over 100 new publications specifically by Qatari authors and residents.
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Visiting Hours:
Saturday - Thursday | 09:00 - 22:00 | Friday | 15:00 - 22:00

GCC meeting reviews joint security co-op

Qatar participated in the extraordinary meeting of Their Highnesses and Excellencies the Ministers of Interior of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) member states, held at the GCC General Secretariat headquarters in Riyadh.

On behalf of HE the Minister of Interior and Commander

of the Internal Security Force "Lekhwiya" Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohammed al-Thani led Qatar's delegation at the meeting.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance joint Gulf security co-

operation and co-ordinate efforts in addressing security challenges, in a manner that supports regional security and stability. Qatar emphasised the importance of continuing security co-ordination and integration among GCC member states to address emerging developments and shared challenges. (QNA)

Amir, UAE president for joint co-ordination



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a phone call yesterday with President of the sisterly UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan. During the call, they discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them in a manner that serves the common interests of the two countries and peoples. They also addressed

developments on the regional and international fronts, particularly the current developments in the region and efforts aimed at enhancing security and stability. Both sides stressed the importance of continuing co-ordination and consultation regarding various issues of common interest in a way that contributes to supporting security and peace at the regional and international levels. (QNA)

Draft law to overhaul private schools regulation approved

By Staff Reporter
Doha

The Cabinet yesterday approved a draft law regulating private schools, paving the way for a sweeping modernisation of the legal framework that governs private education across the country.

Drawn up by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the proposed legislation seeks to tighten governance standards and lift the quality of education at every level, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the national education strategy. The Cabinet decided that the draft will be published on the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau's "Sharek" platform to gather public feedback before being referred for legislative review under the approved procedures.

The decision came as HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting at the Amiri Diwan in Doha. Speaking after the session, HE

the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi said the prime minister briefed ministers on a series of meetings and contacts conducted in recent days at the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. The discussions, he said, formed part of Qatar's wider efforts to support regional and international initiatives aimed at reducing tensions, reinforcing security and stability, and securing lasting peace in the region.

The Cabinet reiterated Doha's support for the mediation efforts led by Pakistan, welcoming what it described as Islamabad's constructive role in bringing parties closer together, and called on the international community to back efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Ministers also condemned Sunday's drone strike on a commercial cargo vessel in Qatar's territorial waters, branding it a "flagrant violation" of freedom of navigation and international law. They further rejected any attempt to use the Strait of Hormuz as leverage in regional conflicts or to alter its status as an international waterway. To Page 10

Qatar Rail rolls out hidden disability programme

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

Travelling across Doha Metro and Lusail Tram just became more inclusive. Qatar Railways Company (Qatar Rail) has launched the globally recognised Sunflower programme across both networks, offering passengers with non-visible disabilities a discreet way to signal that they may need a little extra support on their journey. The Sunflower programme allows passengers to wear a sunflower symbol — a quiet, voluntary cue that they may have a hidden disability and could benefit from additional assistance, more time,



or clearer communication while travelling. Reinforcing its commitment to delivering an inclusive and accessible travel experience for every passenger, Qatar Rail said in

a press release yesterday that the initiative forms part of its wider drive to elevate customer experience across its networks, building on the successful rollout of the Best Buddies programme last year. As a sunflower-enabled transport network, Qatar Rail has woven the programme into key passenger touchpoints, from stations to onboard services, ensuring a consistent and supportive experience throughout the journey. Its customer service teams have undergone specialised training to recognise the Sunflower symbol and are well equipped to assist passengers with hidden disabilities with empathy, professionalism, and care.

Qatar surge to top of medals table

By A Sports Reporter
Doha

Qatar won seven gold medals on the second day of the 4th GCC Games Doha 2026, strengthening their position at the top of the medals table with a total of 29. Swimmers delivered five of the gold medals, while the men's 3x3 basketball team and the showjumping squad also emerged triumphant. Fencer Ali Owaid added another gold in the foil event. Swimmers Saadeddin, Mohamed Mahmoud, Ali Tamer Hassan and Abdalla Elghamry each secured individual gold before combining to win the 4x100m freestyle relay at the Hamad Aquatic Centre. In 3x3 basketball, Qatar's men produced a dominant display in the final, defeating Bahrain 20-11 to claim gold at Al Gharafa Sports Hall. The women's team also made history, winning their first-ever bronze medal after beating the UAE 13-9 in the regional multi-sport event. Qatar's showjumping quartet of Faleh Suwaid al-Ajmi, Salman Mohammed al-Emadi, Khalid Mohammed al-Emadi and Bassem Mohammed produced a strong performance to win the 145cm team event. Sport Page 1



Turkish ambassador underlines significance of FM's visit to Doha

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The recent visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan to Doha carries exceptional significance, as it comes at a highly sensitive regional time characterised by increasing challenges and critical developments, according to Turkish ambassador Dr Mustafa Goksu.

The envoy said the visit witnessed high-level diplomatic engagement, as Fidan was received by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. He also held an official, expanded round of talks with HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,

as well as an important meeting with HE Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs.

Dr Goksu noted that the significance of the visit lies in conveying a firm message warning against the risks of an expanding conflict and reaffirming the mutual support for constructive mediation efforts aimed at de-escalation.

He stressed the commitment of both Ankara and Doha to safeguarding regional stability and preventing the resumption of military operations, given their catastrophic repercussions for international peace and security and the global economy.

The envoy also pointed to the full convergence of views between the two coun-

tries, emphasising that the statements made by Fidan – in which he underlined that Israeli expansionism represents “the primary problem” and the main threat to regional stability and security – reflect a deeply rooted and shared strategic position between Ankara and Doha.

He added that the expansionist and aggressive policies pursued in Gaza, Lebanon, the West Bank, and Syria have claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people and triggered waves of forced displacement that have turned millions of rightful inhabitants into refugees facing severe humanitarian conditions.

Accordingly, Dr Goksu reiterated Turkiye's full support for Qatar's tireless efforts to defuse and resolve crises through diplomacy and effective me-

diation, noting that the two brotherly countries constitute an integrated pillar of stability and consistently support one another's initiatives across international platforms.

The envoy concluded his statement by affirming that these discussions reflect the strong political will of the leaderships of both countries to play an active and influential role in resolving regional crises, while embodying their mutual commitment to coordinating positions and enhancing joint co-operation.

He stressed the steadfast position of both countries in supporting the resilience of the brotherly Palestinian people and adhering to the two-state solution as the sole strategic path toward achieving a just and lasting peace in the region.



Turkish ambassador to Doha Dr Mustafa Goksu.

Lekhwiya signs agreement with QFFD

Qatar's Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) aimed at strengthening co-operation in search and rescue operations and humanitarian assistance.

The agreement was co-signed by Lekhwiya Assistant Commander for Administration and Supply, Staff Brigadier Mubarak Sherida al-Kaabi and QFFD Director-General Fahad Hamad al-Sulaiti.

The signing ceremony was attended by HE Lekhwiya Dep-



uty Commander Staff Major General Mohammed Misfer al-Shahwani. The memorandum is intended to enhance co-operation by drawing on the expertise of Lekhwiya-affiliated Qatari International Search and Rescue Group in the field of rescue operations. It also covers the provision of consultancy services and technical specifications for equipment used in field operations and practical training exercises. (QNA)

Lekhwiya wraps up volunteer training initiative

Qatar's Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) has concluded a training program aimed at qualifying volunteers in urban search and rescue, in co-operation with the Qatar Volunteer Center under the Ministry of Culture.

The program was implemented as part of a memorandum of understanding between the two sides and was attended by HE Lekhwiya Deputy Commander, Staff Major General Mohammed Misfer al-Shahwani.

Officials said the initiative is designed to support national efforts in rescue operations and disaster management, while enhancing the readiness of national personnel to respond to emergencies. It also aims to develop volunteers' skills and prepare them for field participation through training in public safety, first aid and operational procedures, alongside involvement in national initiatives requiring coordination between security agencies and civil society institutions.

The training was held at Lekhwiya's camp in Al Duha'il under the supervision of the Lekhwiya-linked Qatari International Search and Rescue Group. It included theoretical lectures and practical exercises in first aid, firefighting, and urban search and rescue, as well as training on the standards of the United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG).

The four-week program covered



a range of specialised modules. The first week focused on first aid, including CPR, cardiac emergencies, the use of defibrillators, and managing choking incidents across different age groups.

The second week was dedicated to firefighting, introducing types of extinguishers and hoses, as well as practical scenarios involving vehicle and residential fires and the use of oxygen cylinders.

The third week concentrated on urban search and rescue techniques, including stabilisation methods, cutting and securing timber structures, door and window reinforcement, rope-based descent systems, and concrete breaching to reach victims. The final week covered INSARAG methodologies, including disaster response procedures and victim management, as well as training in search operations using specially trained K9 units. (QNA)

Gulf Security committee holds meeting

The Supreme Committee overseeing the Joint Tactical Exercise of the GCC Security Agencies (Arabian Gulf Security 4) has held its fourth meeting. The session was chaired remotely by HE Staff Major General Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Sowaidi, Assistant Undersecretary of Qatar's Ministry of Interior for Technical and Specialized Affairs and head of the exercise's supreme committee. During the meeting, participants reviewed items on the agenda and issued recommendations aimed at strengthening joint security co-ordination and integration among GCC member states. The discussions also focused on improving operational readiness, enhancing field efficiency and developing joint response mechanisms among Gulf security agencies. (QNA)



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02.01.15	402000010166772	QOMASHA F ABDULRAHMAN	03.05.15	4009700010115934	ALI IBRAHIM GUMA	31.10.15	4008800010015359	JEROME DE LOS REYES GODELOSAAO
28.08.15	3004100010009251	ABDULLA ABDULRAHMAN E M AL-SAYED	12.07.15	402000010408247	ABDULLA MOHAMED IBRAHIM RADWIN	29.06.15	4010400010012248	AJAB MISFER A A AL MARRI
29.01.15	402000010305714	QOMASHA F ABDULRAHMAN	25.11.15	402000010476249	SHAUKAT ALI ANSARI	23.04.15	4003300010180882	LEO SOTO BUE
03.03.15	402000010325621	AHMED ABDELMONIEM AHMED ELSAYED	23.05.15	402000010374658	MOHAMMAD MORRIE EBUS	02.01.15	402000010133421	MARIYAMMA MADDA
01.01.15	402000010078794	KAMILA ABDULLATIF M A ALMOHANNADI	01.03.15	402000010324257	SYED S HASAN	22.07.15	4753500010023292	ABDUL GANI MEHMOOD ULDAY
01.03.15	3004100010008430	MANAL RASHID G A ALKUBAISI	19.04.15	402000010354480	ASLAM BALAMIYA DABIR	02.01.15	402000010104934	BABUDDIN ANSARI J M ANSARI
26.08.15	402000010431539	MOHAMMAD MAHTAB MOHAMMAD KAMIL	30.04.15	402000010359571	HAMAD EISA F A AL MOHANNADI	11.07.15	402000010407815	MOHD HANIF
14.09.15	402000010441710	SHAHIRA ABDELDAEIM IBRAHIM SALEH	18.05.15	402000010371868	HESHAM GALAL WLDIN ZAKY	22.09.15	402000010446184	NAWAZ AHMED RAFIQUE SHIKH
27.06.15	4007300010022629	CHATURA DANANJAYA WANIGASURIYA ARACHCHIG	15.08.15	3015300010019677	EDITHA BERNARDOO	10.06.15	402000010386393	RAJEEV CHANDRAN C CHANDRANGATHAN
03.07.15	4002700010108776	SHAHID IQBAL KHAN	01.01.15	402000010049938	AYMAN SHABAN AWWAD	01.01.15	402000010056104	YASER KHALIL KHALIL NASER
25.06.15	4000200010123807	MOHAMMAD IMRAN ABUBAKKAR	29.04.15	402000010359187	MOHAMMED JOYNAL ABEIN M RAMJANALI	02.01.15	402000010212508	MAVIDUKKARASI SIVANANTHAM
02.01.15	402000010259960	SWAPAN KANTINATH MAHENDRA	26.01.15	3007600010027188	JAHANGIR ABDUL RASHED	28.02.15	402000010323027	LAXMAN GANDHAM
17.01.15	402000010300480	BYAS PRASAD	10.01.15	4000200010114960	ABDULRAHMAN ALI SAAD	04.06.15	402000010382013	SALWA HELMY AHMED MOHAMED
22.08.15	402000010430203	FADY MOHAMED ELSAYED HUSSEINI	04.01.15	402000010292236	MESAAD MUBARAK AL MEREKHI	02.01.15	402000010187573	MOHAMED ALSHAER
11.02.15	4007500010281428	SAIDUL ISLAM ABDUR RAHMAN	07.01.15	402000010294690	ABDULRAHMAN ALSHAHOUD	02.01.15	402000010280628	PRECIOUS GAUZA
01.08.15	402000010420455	JELLY DIXIANA AVILA SOLORZANO	01.01.15	402000010064518	TAREK JUMAH O I ALTAMIMI	11.04.15	4002000010249174	MOHAMED WAREED ABOOBUKER
14.09.15	402000010441800	MOHAMMED BUNYAD KHAN	31.01.15	402000010306958	HASHIM RIYANKULAM	02.01.15	402000010279034	MARYAM HAMAD F A DOSARI
08.07.15	402000010405487	NOUSHAD KIZHAKKUM PARAMBAN	02.01.15	402000010232674	ASHRAF KUNNAKADEN	02.01.15	402000010176475	ABDULLAH TAJUDDIN HALDE MOHIDDIN
07.02.15	4000200010116391	MALIK GHULAM MUSTAFA	15.01.15	402000010299420	NAVEED JILANI	20.08.15	402000010429185	AZIZ QURESHI
08.03.15	402000010330081	LAYLA ALI A M SHARIF	02.03.15	402000010325390	MUHAMMED T T IBRAHIM	01.01.15	402000010040825	WILLIAM YUMUL REYES
02.01.15	402000010196797	HAIDER ALI CHUGHTAI	26.03.15	402000010339372	MUHAMMED THANDIYACKAL I T IBRAHIM	23.02.15	402000010320731	AHMED MOHD A H AL BAKER
25.01.15	4000200010115703	SHEKH TABREJ	19.05.15	402000010372914	JUMAH ISMAIL AL BOENAIN	02.09.15	402000010434931	ABDELHADI HANAFY ELSAYED SAID
29.07.15	4000200010125498	ASHRAF AHMED ELTARABISHY	21.07.15	402000010415429	YUSEF MAHMOUD ELSAYED	11.07.15	402000010407447	YADAB KUMAR ADHIKARI
02.01.15	402000010204316	SHAWKY SADAWY	09.07.15	3015300010019225	AHMED SALEM AHMED ALBENALI AL MOHANNADI	27.09.15	402000010447995	MOHAMMED ABDULSALAM MOHD ABDULJABBAR
04.11.15	4005100010022755	MOZA ALI M AL-SOWAIDI	16.07.15	402000010412360	SYED IMRAN SHARAF	02.01.15	402000010270254	MOUSTAFA MAHMOUD SAAD MOAWD
02.01.15	402000010099628	AYSHA RIAZ BURNAY	02.01.15	402000010243507	SAHUL HAMEED USANAR	22.06.15	402000010393287	ALI NASAH KINDEG
08.09.15	3015300010019947	AMAL ABDULLAH S A AL HAJRI	02.04.15	402000010344274	SUBAIR MULLAKKATU	01.01.15	402000010024472	ABDUL MAJEED ABDULRAHMAN AL YAHRI
22.09.15	4000200010128297	NAZAR ABDUL MANOOF VAITULLAH	01.01.15	402000010290642	FAWAZ MAHMOUD M RZAIQAT	01.01.15	402000010038957	MOHAMMED ABDUL H F AHMED
19.02.15	4009700010112501	AHMED SALAH ELSABAEI ABDUL KADER BAYOUMI	02.01.15	402000010154182	ALAA IBRAHIM M HUSSAN	31.07.15	4002700010108064	HAIDER ALI R S MUHAMMAD
02.01.15	402000010196275	YASSER AHMED SADAQ	15.05.15	402000010370816	RAM SINGAR GUPTA	01.01.15	402000010027999	AUGUSTO TIGLAO CRUZ
15.09.15	402000010441985	SUAD JABR M B ALNAEMI	01.01.15	402000010015220	ROMEO PADILLA GUTAY	02.01.15	402000010158197	MADHU BABU SIRINGULA
04.01.15	402000010292323	FERABANDIYAN BIGHAYAKNO	29.05.15	402000010377476	MOHAMED JAKKI	01.01.15	402000010032849	FATIMA ALI H A AL JABER
03.07.15	402000010400617	NASRA SALEM AL HENZAB	11.07.15	4000200010124707	LAXMAN THAPA	02.01.15	402000010194930	MOHAMMED MOHD M NOUR SULIMAN
30.04.15	4002200010121176	MANIT PHANNEJ	01.01.15	402000010049886	ALI HASSAN A M ALDAHRI	02.01.15	402000010229869	WATI BT TIRWAN DARTIM
03.07.15	402000010400788	DEV PRAYAG SINGH	13.07.15	402000010409758	MARIAM SULAIMAN KHALFAN SAIF ALMAZROUEI	30.08.15	402000010432980	ABDOUL NASSIROU CONGO
09.07.15	402000010405642	MOHAMED ISSA M S ALKUWARI	02.01.15	402000010260834	SAMEER ABDUL JAFFAR	03.03.15	402000010325578	SOMAYA AHMED A A AHMED
02.01.15	402000010265985	SULTAN WESAM S A AL HAJRI	21.06.15	402000010393103	HABIBA MOHAMED AHMED EMARA	15.06.15	402000010389641	AHMED HUSSEIN SALIM KHAMIS
02.01.15	402000010231758	KHALIFA SAID ALI ALGHAFIRI	01.01.15	402000010016354	MOHAMED EID ABDEL AZIZ SOLIMAN	17.08.15	402000010427978	LUCIA FABIANA DA SILVA AGUTULI
24.05.15	402000010375067	ABDULLA YOUSUF A M AL OBAIDLI	21.09.15	402000010445070	MOHAMED ALI LAHDAN J ALMOHANNADI	02.01.15	402000010099589	FERAS ABDULALIM HUSSINI
01.01.15	402000010015371	SAEED THAMER S A ALAHMARI	10.03.15	3009900010141777	AIDA AHMED ABDEL FATTAH ALI	07.09.15	402	

Date	Ref No	Remitter's Name	Date	Ref No	Remitter's Name	Date	Ref No	Remitter's Name
26.11.15	4020000010476571	MOHAMMED NIYAS CHERIYA P MANATHIL	01.06.15	4012500010070582	MOHAMED MAHMOUD	01.01.15	4020000010071226	RANJITH WIMALAWEERA GAMA RALALAGE
01.05.15	4020000010360466	KHALED FATHI RAGAB ELSAYED	04.08.15	4020000010422122	WAHEED AKHTAR MUHAMMAD AKHTAR	02.01.15	4020000010209120	ALAUDDIN ANSARI
28.05.15	4020000010376547	YASSER FADL MAHMOUD REFAEI	02.01.15	4020000010246031	RAMESH EJARLA	02.01.15	4020000010135174	MOHAMED NIHAS HASSIM
20.06.15	4020000010392473	ABDELHAMID ELSAYED IBRAHIM SAKR	02.01.15	4020000010197743	ABBOU WLANE	14.07.15	4020000010410007	OJABU JOSEPH MACAULAY
02.01.15	4020000010108363	MOHAMMED SAAD AE AL MOHANNADI	02.01.15	4020000010096550	ABDALLAH ALI Q A ALI	01.01.15	4020000010084987	SOHAN SINGH G SINGH
29.04.15	4020000010358983	THAMER SALEM SH AL HEMAJDI	11.07.15	1032000010014174	RAJMAL MAJHI SALKHU CHARAN MAJHI	01.01.15	4020000010038264	ASHOK BAJBHAR
02.01.15	4020000010148938	SHAMEEM JAMALUDEEN KUNJU	06.07.15	4020000010403554	M ABDULLA M A ALMARRI	02.01.15	4020000010249043	TAREK EL HAJJ MOUSSA
04.07.15	4020000010401617	MOHAMED IMTIAZ PATHARUDDEN	02.01.15	4020000010184711	GANGULI MOHAMMED IRSHAD	02.01.15	4020000010249040	TAREK EL HAJJ MOUSSA
01.01.15	4020000010050151	FATIMA MAHANNA S M AL SULAITI	10.06.15	1032000010014084	RAJMAL MAJHI SALKHU CHARAN MAJHI	02.01.15	4020000010149665	ABDUL CADIR XEC
03.12.15	4007300010024879	MOHAMAD FARHAN MOHAMAD MOOSEEN	25.03.15	4020000010339041	THOMAS SAIBU	01.01.15	4020000010049387	MONALISA VIJAY JOSEPH
01.01.15	4020000010069880	ATIQUUR RAHMAN MOHAMMAD T HASSAN	27.06.15	3015300010018842	MOHAMMED ARMN HOSSAIN ABUL KASHIM	02.01.15	4020000010149665	ERICA ANTHONY
01.01.15	4020000010047910	SHERIF MOHAMED MAHMOUD	02.01.15	4020000010091355	MOHAMMED IBRAHIM	22.09.15	4009700010122545	MOHAMMED ABD ELAAL ABULLAH MOHAMMED
02.01.15	4020000010199548	ALI ABDELRAHMAN JASIM ALMOFTAH	10.10.15	4003100010011079	KAREEM MYDHEEN	14.02.15	4753500010034434	BHARAT LAL
01.01.15	4020000010046253	SHAUKAT ALI MOHAMMAD	08.03.15	4020000010330085	LAYLA ALI A M SHARIF	30.05.15	1003200010014043	ABDULGAFOOR KADAVATH
13.12.15	4003200010668213	UDAYBHAN CHAUHAN	11.03.15	4020000010331845	BAKHT SHAH ZEB JAN ZADA	02.01.15	4020000010281870	VIJAYAKANTH BALASUBRAMANIAM
17.08.15	4020000010427866	RASHID WAHEED	01.01.15	4020000010006020	FATIMA NASEEB M H AL MOHANNADI	02.01.15	4020000010171919	SOBYH SAYED ALY ELISSAWY
17.03.15	4005100010022090	NUHAILA NEMR SLEEM SHATAT	01.01.15	4020000010085768	MOHAMMED ZULFIKAR JIFFRY	02.01.15	4020000010206682	MAJID MOHD ALMALKI
10.10.15	4020000010455031	YAMAN DIN	01.01.15	4020000010011007	KELECHIAMBROSE AJOKU	02.01.15	4020000010221885	MUKESH KUMAR BHEERA RAM
21.05.15	4020000010373606	RAJA RAM PESKAR	02.01.15	4020000010237548	LEO LOYOLA HANOPOLO	02.01.15	4020000010251136	MARIACECILIA MAGLAQUE
14.02.15	4020000010318686	NAZEM AHMAD ISKANDAR	11.05.15	4020000010367791	LINA BAKDONESS	02.01.15	4020000010193550	LATIFA MOHAMED ALI ALALI
01.01.15	4020000010009465	RAFFY QUIMBO TULOGANAN JOSE CUAN JR	02.01.15	4020000010250515	FAHAD MANSOUR M A KHAYAREEN	02.01.15	4020000010208393	ROHNATH BT M GONJUN
09.10.15	4020000010454270	MOHAMMED HOSSAIN M YOUSUF	02.01.15	4020000010143692	MUSLIMA ABDULLAH MUKA	05.10.15	4020000010451675	IRENE AGLIDAY CABEZA
02.01.15	4020000010114161	KHAOULA MEJRI	03.12.15	4019000010221849	AHMED ADEL ABD ELHALIM ABDALAL ALASHRAM	07.08.15	4020000010423630	AYNIKKAL SURENDRAN
02.01.15	4020000010208486	MUHAMMAD SHAH KHAN B KHAN	02.01.15	4020000010250106	SADIN BHUIYA HABIUR RAHMAN BHUIYA	13.12.15	4020000010487965	JUSTIN NNAMDI ENEH
01.01.15	4020000010011341	PARAKET KUNHAMOD ABOOBACKER	23.09.15	4009700010122593	MAHMOUD MOHAMD MAHMOUD ELSAYAD	01.01.15	4020000010073187	MIN RAJ ADHIKARI
01.01.15	4020000010063088	MAKSSIM SABEK ABOU ASSI	01.01.15	4020000010006622	AICHA HALAOUA	02.01.15	4020000010204080	HALEEMDEEN SEYNUDEEN MOHAMMADHU
01.01.15	4020000010015734	SYED SIBGHATULLA	03.05.15	4020000010362321	SAKHI GUL GUL RAHIM	07.05.15	4020000010365732	VINOBU MARAPPAN
01.01.15	4020000010015738	SYED SIBGHATULLA	31.12.15	3007100010035900	SANJAYA KAUSALYA P J ARACHCHIGE	08.04.15	4002000010119688	ABDULLAH AHMED KUALI ALBUTAIN
16.07.15	4020000010412656	AMREENA ASLAM PARVEZ MOHAMAD	18.03.15	4020000010035940	HESHAM MAHMOUD MOHAMED ABOU	24.08.15	4019000010225653	SAMUEL FOUD SALAMA
02.01.15	4020000010161527	MOZA ABDULLA R H AL KUWARI	25.06.15	4020000010394557	JOY KOTTIKATTU JOYEPH K CHACKO	02.01.15	4020000010251312	CHRISTOPHER NAVARRO CRUZ
07.11.15	4019000010244462	KHALED MOHAMED HASSAN HASSAN	26.03.15	4020000010339471	MOHAMMED HOUSAM MOHAMMED ALI	23.03.15	4008800010011182	ISTANA E BURGOS
02.01.15	4020000010225135	NAWAL ABDELGHAFOR ALBULOUSHI	22.02.15	4002000010117117	SAJON CHAKRABORTY R	22.06.15	4012500010072351	RAM KUMAR BUDHATHOKI
08.02.15	4002000010116451	RAJEEVAN MUTHULINGAM KANNAN	07.10.15	4003300010019499	LAJBARKHAN AKBARKHAN	12.04.15	4101200010266640	MOHAMMED PAISAR RAJAGOPALA
15.06.15	4019000010212876	ELBAIOWMY ALMOHAMDI AHMED YAHIA	12.04.15	4007300010021486	SASANKA SANJAYAKUMARA K P HEWAGE	06.06.15	4020000010383860	SOMPONG LONLUA
02.01.15	4020000010233999	DESINGURAJAN SELVAM	02.01.15	4020000010205280	ABLA ABDALLA ELGHARIB MAGZOUB	01.01.15	4020000010044618	FAAROQ NASSER USMAN
12.04.15	4020000010351132	ANASTASIYA KUZINA	02.01.15	4020000010213411	ABDULLA MOHD S AL MANNAN	01.12.15	4007200010076690	KAJAN SINARASA
18.06.15	4020000010391735	DINESH KUMAR SAH	02.05.15	4005100010022203	SALMA RASHID JABER AL ASWAD AL-MARRI	04.07.15	4019000010154740	POYIL BHASKRAN POYIL
02.01.15	4020000010275592	SHREEDHARAN KANARAN	27.02.15	4007300010014296	SAMEERA DILEEP WIJESURENDRA R D	29.08.15	3007100010036221	DASANTHA THOTA GAMUWAGE
02.01.15	4020000010158320	KRISHNA PRASAD GHIMIRE	02.01.15	4020000010206910	NAWAL ABDELGHAFOR ALBULOUSHI	24.10.15	4020000010460591	CHOLAIPANDI KANNIAH KANNIAH
08.05.15	4020000010366224	ABDELRAHMAN MOUSTAFA	04.03.15	4003200010053972	SOLOMAN MAQLINE AUGUSTEEN	02.01.15	4020000010116692	NIMAL INDRAWANSHA KARUNARATNE
02.01.15	4020000010233234	RAJAN KUNJU PILLA	09.11.15	4020000010469008	SAMEH MOHAMED ABDALAZIZ ABDALMOEYI	20.08.15	4020000010429265	MOHAMMED RAMJAN ALI
19.05.15	4020000010372451	KULWINDER KUMAR RAM LAL	07.01.15	4003200010515654	ABDUL RAHMAN K	28.05.15	4002000010122221	SAHEM AHMED ZAHIR AHAMED
13.06.15	4020000010388515	AHMED HASAN YAHYA SUBAI ALAMRI	02.02.15	4003200010052585	RAJIA MOMARIAH CHETTE	01.01.15	4020000010077110	ARLAINE J SILLA
22.12.15	4020000010492178	HISHAM MOHAMED ALBASHER	10.08.15	4003200010616473	HAYDOR ALI	20.02.15	4753500010034715	MANOJ KUMAR VERMA
10.10.15	4020000010454982	MOHAMMED FEROUZ KHAN	05.03.15	4002000010117848	HLMI ABDULLAWOOD YOUZBACHI	13.09.15	4020000010440996	BASHER ROFFIN BABU
30.05.15	4012500010070397	RAMESHWAR MAHATO NUNIYA	05.04.15	4002000010119523	RAHIM KANDI	04.07.15	4101100010194579	MAKS LENIN G SILVA
02.01.15	4020000010271159	ROMEO ALCORIZA CARASIG	02.01.15	4020000010126096	SAEED HASSAN MOUSA	02.01.15	4020000010245971	ELENA FERRAN
02.01.15	4020000010122901	ROMEO ALCORIZA CARASIG	23.07.15	4020000010416127	ABDELAZIZ MOHAMMED DARWISH	01.06.15	1003200010014144	PULICKAL ABRAHAM THOMAS
22.01.15	4020000010302893	ABDULJAVID MOHAMMAD	02.01.15	4020000010149190	SALEEM ABDUL KABUR	05.07.15	1003200010014155	SIRAJ VADAKUMPURATH ABOOBACKER
21.07.15	4020000010415501	MANSOUR ALI HAJI ABDULLAH	02.01.15	4020000010220483	MOHAMMED ABDUL KHADIR ANSARI	02.01.15	4020000010249231	SLIIN KAIPARAMBIL GEORGE
01.01.15	4020000010043606	MOHAMED HASSAN HAMED	02.01.15	4020000010179041	KASHI NATH YADAV	02.01.15	4020000010139908	AHMED ELSAYED AHMED RAGHEB
02.12.15	4020000010480062	ABRAHIM SERRAR	02.01.15	4020000010272959	ABDUL RAHMAN MOHAMED M ALI AL EMADI	17.03.15	4020000010335532	JOHNATHAN BRITZ
02.01.15	4020000010164984	AHMED HUSSAIN FAWAZ	02.01.15	4020000010100332	EYLACHEWE LALCHILEW ANTENEH	12.07.15	4019000010216867	MOHAMED AHMED IBRAHIM MOHAMED
30.06.15	4020000010397404	JOY KOTTIKATTU JOYEPH K CHACKO	02.01.15	4020000010216305	SIRAJ ANAKATTKOYILOTH	06.07.15	4019000010176613	AHMED ELSAYED ELAWADI ABOUAJIZA
02.01.15	4020000010282569	AZIZA MANAL	02.01.15	4020000010286111	CHINEDUM HENRY DARA	05.08.15	4019000010183221	ABDELSATAR HALME METWALY
02.01.15	4020000010198383	AZIZ QURESHI	07.12.15	4020000010482920	MAYNARD GUINTU CONTRERAS	04.01.15	3009900010130238	JABR AHMED RASHWAN
21.03.15	4020000010337431	AHMED RAMY ALLAHOUM	02.01.15	4020000010172012	HISHAM MOHAMED KAMAL HASSAN GHONIEM	12.01.15	3009900010132283	MUSTAFA HASHIM YUSUF
21.01.15	4020000010302606	EMMANUEL APPIAH	02.01.15	4020000010156240	AHMED ABDULLA ALI	01.09.15	4753500010042856	SATYAVATHI MANDAPATI
04.07.15	4020000010401339	JEAN ABOUD	02.01.15	4020000010090695	NOORA MOHD A S AL QAHTANI	11.01.15	4008400010025428	HARJIT KUMAR
06.04.15	4020000010347239	MOHAMED OMAR ASHTAR	04.07.15	4007300010022786	MOHAMED ASMEER ANWAR	19.02.15	4020000010319068	HAJID KHALID KHALID RASHID
01.01.15	4020000010032453	HEBA ADEL HASSAN EID	02.01.15	4020000010164775	NORAH ABDULLA H ALDOSSARY	19.05.15	4020000010372521	SUMESH KALLELIPARAMBIL KESAVAN
31.05.15	4020000010378670	THAMER SALEM SH AL HEMAJDI	02.06.15	4005100010022302	MARYAM JASSIM MOHAMMED ASHAR	22.06.15	4002700010107720	ZAIYNAB MOHAMMED RIZY
22.09.15	4020000010445686	AHMED HUSSAIN A A AL MALKI	15.02.15	4007500010281697	OMAR FARUK M RAHMAN	02.01.15	4007300010173818	YEASIN ARAFAT AHMED
24.05.15	4020000010375076	HANY MOHAMED NADY ELSAYED NIGM	30.06.15	4020000010397648	FATEMA ABDULLATEF	09.02.15	4003300010175584	RICHELLE GALZOTE MIYANO
02.01.15	4020000010154822	PAUL KAKONO MUCHATUTA	06.07.15	4019000010177856	SAMIR MOAHMED IBRAHEM BEHIRI	22.06.15	4002700010107719	ZAIYNAB MOHAMMED RIZY
01.01.15	4020000010013951	MOUSTAFA ISMAIL K A ELYARKANY	02.01.15	4020000010250005	TONY MATHEW	26.03.15	1003200010013926	VISHNU GEETHA SREKANTAN
13.09.15	4020000010440982	MAHMOUD ELBANA	02.01.15	4020000010132386	QAMAR ABBAS AWAN DOST MOHAAD	02.01.15	4020000010169212	KAMALUDDIN KHAN
01.01.15	4020000010029134	EMADALDIN MOHAMMED SAAD ADEM	08.06.15	4020000010385449	MARTINS NWOKEDI ONUKAFOR	13.04.15	1003200010013964	THOTTINGAL MAMMUTTY
27.02.15	4020000010322665	WALID ALI NABOSHAMA MOHAMED	24.10.15	4020000010468034	PABALLO N LETSHABO	04.08.15	4002100010324678	MOHAMED IRSHAN JEMALDEEN
02.01.15	4020000010094689	MOHAMED MOHAMED	09.11.15	4020000010468934	MOHAMMED JUBER EMAMUDDIN	10.05.15	4003200010573656	UMAR KHAN HAJI SALEH KHAN
03.06.15	4002700010106049	USMAL SHAH SARWAR	05.02.15	4020000010311299	ERNESTO LIM CADER	10.01.15	4753500010032895	DHANURJAYA DAS LOKANATH DAS
13.07.15	4002100010213928	PRASAK MURUGESU	02.01.15	4020000010198398	ABDALLA S IABULAIL	26.06.15	1003200010014132	LENIN BABU VUKKEM SUBBANAGANNA
01.01.15	4020000010032353	MANI THAKUR	09.04.15	4020000010034941	SIRAJUL ISLAM NAZRUL	11.06.15	4007300010022443	THARAKA DARSHANA H M
01.01.15	4020000010015288	MARYAM ABDULLA N A AL SULAITI	23.02.15	4020000010320633	MAHMOUD ABDEL RAHMAN MAHIM OUD	15.04.15	4007300010021518	SUMINDA PATHIRANA DEVINDA PATHIRANALAGE
28.03.15	4005100010022118	NODI NASSER HAMAD SALEM ALMARRI	01.01.15	4020000010005406	AVATAR LAL	05.12.15	4020000010482229	HUSSAIN AR PARIYARATH
19.07.15	4000200010124939	MD MUHIBUR RAHMAN	28.06.15	4002700010108063	HAIDER ALI R S MUHAMMAD	26.03.15	4020000010339695	

Sultan of Brunei Darussalam receives credentials of Qatar's ambassador



Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam received the credentials of the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam Abdullah Hamad Ali al-Adham al-Marri. The ambassador conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam and his wishes of good health and happiness to him, as well as further progress and prosperity to the government and people of Brunei Darussalam. For his part, the Sultan entrusted the ambassador to convey his greetings to the Amir, wishing His Highness continued health and happiness, and further progress and prosperity to the State of Qatar. (QNA)

Amir sends cables of congratulations to UAE president

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to the President of the sisterly United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan on the anniversary of assuming the reins of power. (QNA)

Qatar condemns Israeli occupation government minister's storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque

The State of Qatar condemned the storming of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque by a minister in the Israeli occupation government, alongside settlers, considering it a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and a provocation of the feelings of Muslim people around the globe. In a statement yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed the State of Qatar's categorical rejection of the continuation of provocative incursions and attempts to undermine the religious and historical status of Al-Aqsa Mosque, stressing – in this context, the need for the

international community to uphold its moral and legal responsibilities towards the occupied Jerusalem (Al-Quds) and its holy sites and to firmly confront the repeated Israeli occupation's violations. The ministry reiterated the State of Qatar's unwavering position on the just Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, including their full right to practice their religious rites without restrictions and to establish their independent state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. (QNA)

NCSA concludes specialised workshop

The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) concluded a specialised workshop on International Critical National Infrastructure Dependencies, in cooperation with the UK Government. The workshop focused on fostering a practical understanding of cyber risks associated with global supply chains. The workshop was organised as an extension of the strategic partnership between the two sides, with the Agency aligning its outcomes with national priorities, and broadening the scope of benefit through the participation of eight government entities, thereby reinforcing institutional integration in addressing cross-sector cyber challenges. The workshop featured advanced methodologies for analysing international dependencies, including risk assessment mechanisms and strategies to strengthen capabilities to address complex challenges within the operational environments of critical infrastructure. The Agency also honoured the trainers for their efforts in transferring specialised knowledge and enriching the training content, thereby contributing to the development of national capabilities in this field.



'Work under way to boost judicial efficiency, digital transformation'

HE the Head of the Judicial Inspection Authority at the Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC) Judge Ahmed al-Mansoori said that the Judicial Inspection Authority's work programme for the 2026-2030 period focuses on enhancing the efficiency of the judicial system and improving the quality of judicial work, in line with the SJC's vision, along with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Judge al-Mansoori said that the programme includes developing mechanisms for inspection and performance oversight, enhancing the quality of judicial rulings, reinforcing the principles of transparency and institutional governance, improving the efficiency and qualification of judicial personnel, and supporting digital transformation. The Judicial Inspection Authority has witnessed significant development following the issuance of Law No 8 of 2023 and the subsequent regulatory decisions, which strengthened the Authority's role in combining continuous monitoring with improving the quality of judicial performance, Judge al-Mansoori noted.

Keeping pace with technological developments, particularly in the field of electronic systems, is one of the most prominent current challenges, he pointed out.

He stressed that the Authority plays a pivotal role in supporting the judicial work's quality and efficiency through monitoring and analysing performance indicators, examining challenges, and presenting development proposals, im-

proving institutional efficiency and judicial outcomes.

Regarding litigant confidence, Judge al-Mansoori said that judicial inspection is one of the fundamental pillars in strengthening society's trust in the justice system by reinforcing integrity, impartiality, and transparency, in addition to receiving and reviewing complaints within an organised legal framework.

The new work program features improving the evaluation indicators of judicial performance by adopting more comprehensive and accurate standards and linking them to institutional governance, while benefiting from statistics and developing a continuous qualification system, Judge al-Mansoori said.

Training and qualifying judges continuously is a key pillar in improving judicial performance, Judge al-Mansoori said, noting that the Authority identifies training needs through inspections and follow-up activities.

The Judicial Inspection Authority is increasingly moving towards digital transformation, using advanced systems for performance monitoring, data analysis, and report writing, which enhance efficiency and accuracy compared to traditional methods.

In line with the digital justice project, there is a leaning towards expanding the use of electronic systems, modern technologies, and artificial intelligence, contributing to supporting judicial and supervisory work, he added.

In response to a question about speeding up litigation processing time and its relation to the quality of rulings, Judge al-Mansoori said that achiev-




ing prompt justice requires balancing speed with the quality of judgments, something that the Authority seeks to reinforce by developing performance indicators and continuous monitoring.

On institutional coordination, he reiterated the authority's commitment to strengthening cooperation with various judicial bodies locally and internationally, enabling the exchange of expertise and best practices in inspection, governance, and institutional development.

The future of judicial work in the Qatar is promising, given the strong support for the judicial sector and the move toward building an advanced digital system that keeps pace with legislative and technological developments, thereby enhancing the quality and efficiency of judicial performance, Judge al-Mansoori said.

Concluding his remarks to QNA, Judge al-Mansoori said that several initiatives will be launched over the coming period, most notably issuing a judicial governance document, updating performance indicators, strengthening judicial training programs, and projects related to judicial publications and studies that support institutional work.


The General, Limited Tenders Committees and Supply Chain Department announces the following Tenders:

Important Notice:
Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via Mushtaryat Portal can "Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document" from QatarEnergy website (Mushtaryat Portal). Effective from 1st July 2023, bids submitted by a Local company (companies incorporated in Qatar) acting as Tenderer in accordance with this Invitation to Tender, will not be accepted by QatarEnergy without any further notification, if such companies are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by the specified Original Tender Closing Date or Original due date for submission of COMMERCIAL Package in case of two stage Tendering as per ITT. However, any Local company that has been established within last two (2) years is exempt from this mandatory ICV certification requirement.

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	GT26MT0007	14.05.2026 - 20.05.2026	14.06.2026	20,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender:		STOCKING & SUPPLY OF VARIOUS REFINERY PROCESS CHEMICALS ON LONG TERM AGREEMENT BASIS.					
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required					
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required					
2	LT26MT0032	14.05.2026 - 20.05.2026	08.06.2026	40,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender:		SUPPLY OF COMPUTER PERIPHERALS AND BUYBACK OF USED ON LONG AGREEMENT BASIS.					
Mid-Tender Meeting Location :		To be advised if required					
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time :		To be advised if required					

* Tender documents can be purchased and downloaded from QatarEnergy Website-> Supply Management -> Tenders page during the Tender Sale Period mentioned above against each Tender. Request for issuance of Tender after the specified Tender Sale Period will not be entertained.

* Always refer to QatarEnergy Website (www.qatarenergy.qa) -> Supply Management -> Tenders page for up to date information on QatarEnergy Tenders. Subscribe to Tender Alert to receive notification in your email on new Tenders

* Changes to Tender Sale Period and Bid Closing Date will be updated in QatarEnergy website/Mushtaryat Portal only.

* Brief Scopes of Work for the above tenders are posted on the QatarEnergy website/Mushtaryat Portal.

* Suppliers and Contractors who are in possession of a valid SAP ID issued by QatarEnergy are instructed to maintain their Company Registration and Communication details upto date and valid via QatarEnergy Mushtaryat Portal on urgent basis.

* No queries will be entertained, or bids received, from entities who have not purchased tender documents in compliance with the above provisions.

* QatarEnergy invites all prospective Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in QatarEnergy Tenders to register online and obtain a QatarEnergy SAP Vendor Code, a mandatory requirement for the issue of Tender Documents by QatarEnergy.

* Prospective Qatar based Suppliers and Contractors interested to participate in future QatarEnergy Tenders shall obtain an ICV score. Relevant information pertaining to ICV, ICV Scorecard, ICV Certification, and ICV Guidelines are available on the ICV Digital Portal - <https://icv.qa/en-US>


MSDF starts bazaar to empower local families



Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF) launched the "Old Market Bazaar" at Tawar Mall as part of the "Home Grown" initiative aimed at supporting productive families and strengthening the presence of local products in the domestic market.

Running through the end of June, the event features 10 family-run projects showcasing handmade crafts, perfumes, gifts, clothing, and food products, reflecting Qatar's growing push to empower homegrown entrepreneurship and sustainable economic participation.

Director of Family Empowerment at the ministry Buthaina al-Obaidly said the initiative forms part of broader efforts to build a stronger support system for productive families, enhance economic and social empowerment, and deepen partnerships with the private sector and civil society in line with Qatar's 2025-2030 development strategy. (QNA)


QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY LIMITED
QAFAC


TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

No.	Tender No.	Description	Collection Fees	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	QTC/044/26	Two (2) Year Call off Contract for Offsite Storage, Preservation of Materials (Spare Parts, Equipment and Hazardous Materials), Supply of Material Handling Manpower and related Equipment.	Qrs. 300/-	Qrs. 250,000/-	8 th June 2026
2	QTC/045/26	Four (4) Year Call off Contract for Sale of Metal Scrap from QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed.	Qrs. 300/-	Qrs. 100,000/-	8 th June 2026

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

- Collection Date** : From Thursday, 14th May 2026 (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time** : 08:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m
- Location** : The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13th Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Tender Fees** : As shown above, (non-refundable) can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- Validity** : Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond** : Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 Days from closing date.
- Authorization** : Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
 - Official authorization on Company Letter Head.
 - Proper Identification.
 - Copy of valid Company's Commercial Registration.
 - Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	SUP/C/EDU/7677/26 PROVISION OF RECRUITMENT SERVICE FOR AL-KHOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (AKIS) ON CALL-OFF BASIS	13/05/2026 to 24/05/2026	0	0	02/06/2026

Scope of Work:
Al Khor International School (AKIS) is a co-educational and non-selective international school and caters primarily for the children of QatarEnergy LNG employees. AKIS is licensed by the State of Qatar's Ministry of Education and Higher Education to run a British Curriculum School and Indian CBSE Curriculum School. Objective of this Contract is to avail the services of a competent recruitment agency to recruit both teaching and non-teaching staff in a cost effective and timely manner on call-off basis for Al Khor International School (AKIS). The details of the requirement are defined in the SCOPE OF WORK / SERVICES.

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

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:
ITT document for this tender will be available in QatarEnergy LNG website under Suppliers tab >Current Open Tenders. The bids shall be submitted through the QatarEnergy LNG online platform (SMART by GEP).

Note: Local Companies (established under the Laws of State of Qatar with local Commercial Registration) are advised to refer to the tender documentation and In-Country Value (ICV) Digital Portal: - <https://icv.qa/en-US/> for details of ICV compliance that may be applicable.

Ashghal continues Package 1 of roads, infrastructure works in Al Shamal

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) continues to implement Package 1 of the Remaining Roads and Infrastructure Works in Al Shamal, as part of its efforts to develop the road network and improve infrastructure services across the country.

In a press statement, Engineer Ali Mostafawi, a project engineer in the Drainage Networks Projects Department at Ashghal, explained that the project aims to meet the needs of the growing population in Al Shamal by providing services to around 3,807 residential plots. He added that the area will witness improved traffic flow, enhanced connectivity to public facilities, and improved road safety for residents and visitors.

Regarding the scope of works, Mostafawi said they include con-

Project aims to meet the needs of the growing population in Al Shamal by providing services to around 3,807 residential plots

structing and developing 87km of roads, with the aim of facilitating the movement of residents and linking the internal streets of the area with the main roads adjacent to it, such as Abu Dhalouf Street and Al Areesh Street, as well as Al Shamal and Al Ghariyah Roads.

This is in addition to improving several vital streets leading to public and commercial facilities, most notably Al Ruwais Health Centre, Al Shamal Secondary School for Boys, and the commercial buildings adjacent to Abu Dhalouf Street.

The project will activate 2,812 streetlights to enhance road

safety throughout the area, along with 66km of sewage network upgrades to meet current and future needs. Maintenance work will also be carried out on the sewage pumping station to improve its efficiency and ensure continuous operation.

Regarding the current works on site, excavation work is underway to lay lighting pole cables and activate the electricity substations that feed the main distribution panel. Ground levelling is also being carried out in preparation for asphalt paving to construct a new road connecting the area's internal streets to Abu Dhalouf Street.

QRDI Council honours FameLab Academy winners

Qatar Research, Development and Innovation (QRDI) Council, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, has successfully concluded the FameLab Academy 2025/26 season.

The event provides students with a platform not only to showcase groundbreaking research across a wide range of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines, but also to develop their scientific communication, public speaking, and presentation skills, enabling them to present complex scientific concepts in a clear, engaging, and impactful manner.

Three students were recognised for their outstanding presentations during the competition finals, held as part of the National Scientific Research and Innovation Exhibition at the Qatar National Convention Center. The winners are as follows: first place, Abdelrahman al-Jaber from Khalifa Secondary School for Boys; second place, Nour Khalid Mohammed Saeed from Next Generation School, Al Wakra; and third place, Abdallah Bisty from Tariq Bin Ziad School for boys.

Launched at the Cheltenham Science Festival in

the UK, FameLab has grown into the world's leading science communication competition. In Qatar, FameLab Academy reflects the country's commitment to advancing science through creative and accessible communication.

Delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and QRDI Council, the program is now in its ninth year and third cycle under a new format. To date, it has trained around 10,000 students.

This cycle saw strong participation from both public and private school students, with 400 reaching the semi-final stage. Sixteen finalists competed for the top three positions yesterday.

By increasing participation in science and research and encouraging a culture that recognises the positive impact of science on both economic and social development, the competition creates new opportunities and helps develop a generation of confident researchers ready to shape a future where science plays a key role in driving progress. In doing so, program like FameLab Academy continues to support the Third National Development Strategy (NDS3) by strengthening the foundations of a thriving, innovation-driven society. (QNA)

QIIB names winner of QR100,000 monthly prize for 'Joud' account

QIIB has announced the winner of the QR100,000 April 2026 prize for the 'Joud' savings account.

QIIB head of Products Talal al-Jaidah presented Amer Ali al-Hebshi with a cheque representing the prize amount during a ceremony held at the bank's headquarters.

It is worth noting that the 'Joud' savings account is a highly competitive offering that delivers a wide range of benefits to customers, foremost among them substantial cash prizes.

The account offers customers the opportunity to win two grand annual prizes of QR1mn each, in addition to a monthly prize of QR100,000, significantly enhancing their chances of winning and deriving tangible value from their savings.

Beyond the prize offerings,



QIIB head of Products Talal al-Jaidah presenting Amer Ali al-Hebshi with the ceremonial cheque.

the 'Joud' savings account provides customers with quarterly profit distributions, together with the flexibility to deposit and withdraw funds at any time.

All customers holding a 'Joud' savings account are automatical-

ly eligible to enter the draws and compete for the available prizes.

In addition, every balance of QR10,000 maintained in the account entitles the customer to one entry into the various draws conducted throughout the year.

MoECC, A2LA organise training course

Represented by its Monitoring and Inspection Department, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), organised, in co-operation with the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), a specialised training course on auditing laboratories in accordance with the requirements of "ISO/IEC 17025:2017", which was held virtually with the aim of enhancing institutional efficiency and developing technical capabilities. The four-day course included 22 employees from the

ministry's technical staff, representing the Monitoring and Inspection Department and the Radiation Protection Department, in addition to a representative from the office of the Assistant Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs. The course focused on enhancing participants' skills in auditing environmental laboratories according to the latest international quality standards, highlighting their applications in the areas of air quality, radiation monitoring and environmental inspection, ensuring the accuracy and

reliability of the results. This initiative falls within the framework of the ministry's ongoing commitment to qualifying national cadres and developing the quality and calibration system, in support of the goals of sustainable development and in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. The ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard is considered the most important for calibration and testing laboratories worldwide, and it is used in developing a management system capable of achieving accurate and reliable results. (QNA)

Safari Hypermarket marks 21st anniversary



The celebration was held at Safari Hypermarket, Salwa Road branch, in the presence of other management representatives and officials of the group.

Safari Hypermarket, which has been scripting a success story in Qatar for the past two decades, has begun celebrating its 21st anniversary.

Safari Group, which opened its first Safari Hypermarket on Salwa Road on May 5, 2005, is a business group born and nurtured in Qatar. Unlike many large business groups that entered Qatar only after becoming established in other countries, Safari adopted a unique business model from the outset, without imitating anyone else. Through innovative promotions, attractive activities, and rewarding prize schemes, while maintaining only minimal profit margins, Safari succeeded in earning a special place in the

hearts of customers through its own style of retail marketing.

Safari Group deputy chairman and managing director Zainul Abideen expressed gratitude to customers for their continued support of Safari over the years.

Starting with Safari Hypermarket Salwa Road, the group has expanded into numerous companies and establishments under the umbrella of Safari Group of Companies, including Safari Mall - Abu Hamour, Safari Hypermarket - Al Khor, Safari Hypermarket-Barwa Village, Safari Hypermarket - Industrial Area, Safari Hypermarket - Birkat Al Awamer, Safari Hypermarket - Ezdan Mall Al Gharafa, Safari Mobile Shop, Safari Opticals, Safari

Trading Est, Hi-Power Engineering, Simple Logic IT, Power Waste Contracting & Engineering Services WLL, Hi-Power Transport & Rent A Car, and Europe Travels.

The inauguration ceremony marking the celebration of Safari Hypermarket's 21st anniversary was jointly officiated by Safari Group chairman Hamad Dhafar al-Ahbab, Safari Group deputy chairman and managing director Zainul Abideen, general manager Surendra Nath, and assistant general manager - Public Relations Thamer al-Sayed.

The event was held at Safari Hypermarket, Salwa Road branch, in the presence of other management representatives and officials of the group.

Ooredoo announces launch of Strategic Digital & AI Transformation Programme

Ooredoo has launched its Strategic Digital & AI Transformation Programme, designed to accelerate Ooredoo's evolution into an AI-powered company, supported by Microsoft.

Building on previous projects and collaborations, the agreement will pave the way for digital, AI-enabled transformation at scale, benefiting Ooredoo and its customers.

The Strategic Digital & AI Transformation Programme represents an important step towards building a more agile and future-ready organisation. The programme is centred on sovereign and hybrid cloud capabilities, AI enablement, and the development of a scalable digital foundation to support advanced digital solutions, enhance customer experiences, empower businesses, and contribute to building a resilient digital ecosystem aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030.

The agreement was signed by Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammad al-Thani, CEO of Ooredoo Qatar, and Ahmad el-Dandachi, general manager of Microsoft Qatar, in the presence of senior executives and representatives from both organisations.

Sheikh Ali said: "This programme aims to deliver more personalised and proactive customer experiences, empower enterprises with advanced digital capabilities that strengthen competitiveness, and contrib-



Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammad al-Thani, CEO of Ooredoo Qatar, and Ahmad el-Dandachi, general manager of Microsoft Qatar, during the signing ceremony.

ute to the development of a resilient digital ecosystem that supports Qatar National Vision 2030 and helps redefine the future of telecommunications in the AI-driven digital era."

El-Dandachi added: "Through this collaboration, we are bringing together cloud, data, and AI to help accelerate innovation at scale, while supporting the development of a more resilient and dynamic digital ecosystem in Qatar."

NHRC concludes training programme for QU students

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) concluded a training programme for Qatar University (QU) students, organised as part of its annual educational campaign targeting students of universities, schools and civil and military state institutions, under the theme 'toward a society aware of its rights'.

In this context, NHRC's Director of Programs and Education Hamad al-Hajri emphasised the NHRC's commitment to openness and communication with various public bodies, institutions, and stakeholders, especially students and youth, through training them, building their capacities, and providing platforms that enable them to express their ideas and views, thus contributing to preparing them for active participation in shaping future visions and programmes.

Al-Hajri urged the course participants to be ambassadors for human rights, through active participation in human rights activities and programmes, and to contribute to consolidating the leading position that the State of Qatar enjoys regionally and internationally, through engaging in community, human rights, humanitarian and development initiatives, and providing views and proposals in various fields of human rights.

He pointed out that the dialogues and discussions that took place during the

training programme over four months reflected an advanced human rights awareness among the students. He stressed his confidence in their ability to understand the human rights system, its standards and national, regional and international protection mechanisms, and to interpret this knowledge into real practices in their personal lives and professional careers.

The training programme included a series of theoretical lectures, practical activities and field training within the various departments of the committee, with the aim of introducing participants to the principles and foundations of human rights, their historical origins and development, developing practical skills in the fields of human rights work, in addition to applying theoretical knowledge within the institutional work environment, and enhancing awareness of the role of the NHRC, its competencies and its working mechanisms at the national and international levels.

The programme also focused on raising awareness of the international human rights protection system, monitoring mechanisms and international reports, and enabling female students to practice professionally in a realistic work environment that is appropriate to their academic specialisations.

It addressed the concept of human rights and its intellectual and historical



origins, as a system with multiple intellectual, religious, political and social tributaries, in addition to reviewing the development of the concept of human rights after the First and Second World Wars, and what resulted from it in the establishment of the international system for the protection of human dignity.

The programme also addressed the International Bill of Human Rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued in 1948, its background, formulation, legal nature and the extent of its binding nature, as well as the two International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and their importance in transforming human rights principles into international legal obligations. (QNA)

CONDOLENCES



The Chairman, President,
Principal, Staff and Students of
IDEAL INDIAN SCHOOL
DOHA-QATAR

express profound grief at the untimely demise of



Ahmad Afzal Bade



Aamir Mahamed
Shahid Qureshi

Class 5 Students of Ideal Indian School

The Ideal Family extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families on their irreparable loss and prays to the Almighty to bless the departed souls with eternal peace and paradise.

Qatar takes part in Arab-Chinese Media and Think Tank Forum in Cairo

The State of Qatar has participated in the Global South Media and Think Tank Forum Chinese-Arab Partnership Conference, held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

The Qatari delegation was led by ambassador Abdullah bin Ahmed al-Sada, Secretary-General of Qatar's Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations.

The forum aimed to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise between media organisations and think-tanks in Arab countries and China. Organisers said the gathering sought to create new areas of coordination and long-term partnerships in development and cultural communication among countries of the Global South.

Discussions focused on the role of media and research institutions in anticipating future challenges and proposing solutions at a time of growing international and regional uncertainty.

Participants stressed that countries of the Global South face mounting crises that require closer cooperation between media outlets and research centres to develop shared perspectives and stronger



ties between their peoples. The event included panel discussions on opportunities and challenges facing Arab-Chinese media cooperation, as well as the impact of digital transformation and emerging technologies on the media sector. Officials, academics, journalists and experts from Arab states and China also examined ways to modernise media collaboration in response to rapid technological change.

Sessions additionally explored the role of media and think tanks in promoting peace and development through innovation, cultural exchange and greater understanding between nations. An accompanying exhibition titled "Art Integration: Across Millennia, the Silk Road

Culture Endures" was also opened on the sidelines of the forum.

In his opening remarks, Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit described the forum as "a vital artery" through which peoples communicate and share experiences. He said the gathering represented another opportunity to renew Arab-Chinese co-operation in media and intellectual exchange.

Aboul Gheit said the meeting comes at a time of serious international and regional challenges, with countries of the Global South facing crises that require stronger cooperation to build a more balanced and just international order based on sovereign equality, international law and the rejection of double standards.

Arab League chief meets Qatari delegation

Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Ahmed Aboul Gheit has met a delegation from Qatar's Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, led by ambassador Abdullah bin Ahmed al-Sada, in Cairo. During the meeting, the Qatari delegation reviewed initiatives and projects launched by the State of Qatar in the field of the Alliance of Civilizations. These included the Qatar Global Award for Dialogue Among Civilizations, the Alliance of Civilizations Magazine, and the Encyclopedia of Occidentalism.



The delegation said the encyclopedia is the first project of its kind in the Arab and Islamic world aimed at understanding Western societies from an Islamic perspective. At the end of the meeting, the delegation presented Aboul Gheit with a copy of the four-volume Encyclopedia of Occidentalism. (QNA)

He also praised China's Global Governance Initiative, launched by President Xi Jinping, saying it offered "a promising horizon" for strengthening democracy in international relations, narrowing the gap between the Global North and South, and resolving global crises through peaceful means.

The Arab League chief added that strategic co-operation between Arab countries and China had produced common political positions on a number of international issues. He renewed appreciation for what he described as China's support for Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian issue.

Aboul Gheit called on the international community to pressure Israel to end what he described as violations against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, and reiterated support for a two-state solution as the only path towards a lasting and just peace in the Middle East. (QNA)

Qatar Boat Show wins four awards at Eventex 2026

Qatar Boat Show 2025 won four awards at Eventex 2026, one of the most recognisable accolades in the global events industry, headquartered in Barcelona, Spain.

The show received Silver in the 'Middle Eastern Event' category, alongside Bronze in three additional categories: 'Trade Show', 'Consumer Show', and 'Outdoor Event'.

The recognition follows the success of the second edition of Qatar Boat Show, held at Old Doha Port from November 5-8, 2025 under the strategic platform 'Beyond the First Horizon'. Its latest win across four distinct categories reflects the event's performance on multiple fronts.

The Silver in the Middle Eastern Event category acknowledges the show's expression of regional hospitality, its connection to Qatar's maritime heritage and the wider boat and yacht manufacturing sector, and the high standard of execution and event organisation.

Engineer Mohammed Abdullah al-Mulla, CEO of Old Doha Port and chairman of the Qatar Boat



Show Organising Committee, said: "These four awards reflect the work that goes into Qatar Boat Show across every layer of the experience since its launch in 2024, from the marine showcase and the trade platform to the outdoor programming and the regional hospitality that defined the 2025 edition.

"To be recognised internationally after only two editions confirms what we have set out to do: position Qatar as a credible

marine destination on the global stage, and Old Doha Port as a waterfront capable of hosting events of international standing"

"As we look to the third edition this November under our 'Crafting Wonderful' campaign, the same standard of craft and intention will define every part of the show, in line with Qatar's wider ambitions under Qatar National Vision 2030, particularly across tourism and economic diversifi-

cation," al-Mulla said.

The Bronze in Trade Show recognises the event's role as a working B2B platform and as a venue for the exchange of expertise between local and international companies.

The second edition welcomed more than 505 brands and 65 boats and marine vessels from 105 countries, with a combined value of QR880mn, and attracted over 27,000 visitors across its four days.

The Bronze in Consumer Show acknowledges the 25% increase in exhibitors between the first and second editions, alongside the breadth of the show floor, which featured global and local yacht-building companies, specialist industry experts, and diving and fishing equipment.

The Bronze in Outdoor Event reflects the design of the show as a fully open-air waterfront experience, with a marina-centric layout that made optimal use of the existing infrastructure, on-water and on-land yacht choreography, and a day-to-night programming structure.

Global Carbon Council achieves ICVCM CCP eligibility approval

The Global Carbon Council, the Global South's first internationally accredited carbon standard, has achieved a major milestone with the approval of its Standard on ICVCM Eligibility of Projects and Issuances v1.1 as CCP-Eligible by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM).

The approval of the Global Carbon Council on ICVCM Eligibility of Projects and Issuances v1.1 confirms the Standard's robust governance and registry systems.

Dr Yousef Alhorr, founding chairman, Global Carbon Council, said: "This approval reflects the strength and rigor of the Global Carbon Council Programme's regulatory framework, which is robust, dynamic, and fully aligned with the most demanding global standards, including the ICVCM's Core Carbon Principles and CORSIA.

"The Global Carbon Council Programme stands ready to deliver high-integrity carbon credits that are recognised and traded across international carbon markets, driving meaningful progress toward global climate goals. For project owners and stakeholders, this approval provides access to a broader pool of high-quality buyers, stronger demand, and enduring market value for the credits they generate."

With this recognition, the council has become the only carbon crediting program based in the Global South to be accredited under ICAO's CORSIA framework and to receive CCP-Eligibility approval from the ICVCM, further strengthening buyer confidence and market trust in Global Carbon Council-issued credits and frameworks.

The approval also reflects the broader evolution of voluntary carbon markets toward stronger integrity, transparency, and internationally aligned governance frameworks.

For Project Owners and stakeholders engaging with the Global Carbon Council Programme, this



Dr Yousef Alhorr

"The Global Carbon Council Programme stands ready to deliver high-integrity carbon credits that are recognised and traded across international carbon markets, driving meaningful progress toward global climate goals"

recognition is a clear and authoritative signal that credits issued under the Programme meet the highest benchmarks of environmental integrity, transparency, and international credibility.

Established in Qatar in 2016 by the Gulf Organisation for Research & Development, Global Carbon Council operates under its GCC 2.0 Programme Framework, which governs its regulatory, governance, and registry systems, while project-level requirements are defined under the Global Carbon Council 2.0 Project Standard.

Kishor Rajhansa, COO of Global Carbon Council (GCC), said: "This achievement represents an important step in the Council's continued efforts to build a transparent, scalable, and digitally enabled carbon market ecosystem that responds to the evolving integrity expectations of global markets.

"With CCP-Eligibility approval, GCC is further strengthening its ability to support project developers, governments, and market participants through robust standards, interoperable registry infrastructure, and credible frameworks designed to deliver high-integrity carbon credits at scale."

Qatar attends Geoeconomics Summit 2026 in Tokyo

Qatar participated in the Geoeconomics Summit 2026, held yesterday in the Japanese capital Tokyo, with the participation of a number of international officials and experts specialising in international economy and geoeconomics.

Qatar was represented at the summit by Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) Saleh Abdullah al-Mana, who participated in a panel

discussion titled: 'Asia and the Global Order: Navigating the New Era of Energy and Supply Chains'.

The session discussed the major transformations taking place in the global economy, the future of supply chains, opportunities to enhance trade and investment co-operation among countries, and the importance of building sustainable economic partnerships that support growth and economic prosperity.

During his participation, the

assistant undersecretary for commercial affairs stressed the importance of strengthening long-term economic and trade partnerships, supporting the business and investment environment, and expanding areas of international co-operation in a way that contributes to achieving sustainable economic growth.

He also pointed to Qatar's keenness to strengthen economic and trade co-operation with its international partners and sup-

port initiatives aimed at developing trade, investment, and supply chains, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The summit witnessed the participation of a number of international figures and experts specialising in economics and international trade, and its sessions addressed several issues related to geoeconomics and the rapid transformations taking place in the global economy. (QNA)

Doha Forum participates in summit

Doha Forum hosted a session titled Asia and the Global Order: Navigating the New Era of Energy and Supply Chains, examining how rising geopolitical tensions and the rapid reconfiguration of supply chains are reshaping Asia's role in the international order and the global economy.

The discussion featured Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Saleh Abdullah al-Mana; CEO of Tanaka Global

Inc, Nobuo Tanaka; and Senior Fellow, Energy Security and Climate Change at CSIS Jane Nakano. The session was moderated by Special Adviser, International House of Japan ambassador Cheol Hee Park.

Speaking on the panel, al-Mana said: "Asia's growing role in global trade presents an important opportunity to strengthen economic co-operation and deepen partnerships across the region. Continued engagement will be key to supporting a more resilient and inter-

connected global economy."

Speaking on the sidelines of the summit, Executive Director of Doha Forum Mubarak al-Kuwari said: "Asia is at the centre of many of today's most consequential economic and geopolitical shifts. Engaging in dialogue across regions and perspectives is essential to redefining global trust and strengthening international co-operation."

The forum's 24th edition will take place on Dec 5-6, 2026 in Doha, Qatar, under the theme "Redefining Global Trust". (QNA)

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, HANA SHARMIN PALENGAL
holder of
INDIA Passport No. W6058614
QID No. 31235608442
hereby change my name
from
HANA SHARMIN PALENGAL
to
HANA SHARMIN MUHAMMED SHIBILI

Any objection, please contact
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EZAAN RIFAI
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EZAAN RIFAI MUHAMMED SHIBILI

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INDIA Passport No. V4274469
QID No. 32035609155
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AMAAL NOURIN SHIBILI
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AMAAL NOURIN MUHAMMED SHIBILI

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Qatari-Saudi Co-ordination Council holds fourth meeting

The heads of the working groups of the Economy, Trade and Industry Committee stemming from the Qatari-Saudi Co-ordination Council held their fourth meeting yesterday via videoconference. The meeting was chaired on the Qatari side by HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mohammed bin Hassan al-Malki. On the Saudi side, it was chaired by Deputy Minister for International Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Economy and Planning in Saudi Arabia, Rakan Tarabzoni, with several officials from both sides in attendance.

They discussed items on the agenda, including mechanisms to enhance trade exchange and facilitate import and export operations. They also reviewed developments related to joint initiatives, the main challenges and obstacles and ways to address them, as well as the committee's next steps and the recommendations required in that regard. (QNA)

Qatar Charity Distributes Food Baskets to Syrian Refugees in Jordan



Qatar Charity (QC) has distributed food baskets to Syrian refugees in Jordan's Azraq and Zaatari camps. Executed in close coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the initiative forms part of Qatar Charity's continued global interventions aimed at supporting refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and mitigating protracted humanitarian crises.

The distribution operations spanned four consecutive days, with field teams dedicating two operational days to each camp. During this period, 2,000 food baskets were distributed, benefiting approximately 16,000 people from the target groups.

Each food basket included a selection of basic food items that meet the daily needs



of beneficiary families for an entire month. This initiative contributes to enhancing food security and easing living burdens, in accordance with standards that ensure food safety and quality.

The project embodies Qatar Charity's mission to ensure a dignified life for all and reinforce the resilience of vulnerable families in Syrian refugee camps within the Kingdom.

Qatar Charity's Jordan Branch has been operating since 2021 in partnership with the Jordanian government and civil society organizations. It provides a range of services, including social care through sponsorships for orphans and vulnerable families, relief services for those affected by humanitarian crises, and economic empowerment programs to assist those in need across the Kingdom.

Qatar Charity Drives Malaria Prevention in Senegal with 16,500 Insecticide-Treated Nets

As part of its ongoing humanitarian and health interventions to combat malaria in Senegal, and with the support of donors in Qatar, Qatar Charity (QC) distributed 16,500 insecticide-treated mosquito nets across three regions: Dakar, Kaolack, and Kaffrine. The initiative is expected to benefit approximately 33,000 people.

This project directly supports the efforts of the Minister of Health and Public Hygiene of Senegal to reduce the spread of malaria, while strengthening preventive health measures among the most vulnerable groups, particularly children, women, and low-income families.

Cooperation Agreement

The distribution took place in close coordination with the Ministry, regional health authorities, and representatives of the National Malaria Control Programme, alongside local and educational stakeholders, as well as supervisors and teachers at Quran memorization centers.

An official launch ceremony was held in Dakar, during which H.E. Mr. Yousuf bin Shaaban Al-Sada, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Senegal, symbolically handed over 1,500 mosquito nets to H.E. Ibrahima Sy, Minister of Health and Public Hygiene of Senegal. This event coincided with the signing of a framework cooperation agreement between Qatar Charity's Senegal Branch and the Ministry, aimed at strengthening cooperation in the areas of health and public hygiene, supporting vulnerable groups, and enhancing healthcare services in both urban and rural areas.

Beneficiaries

Qatar Charity implemented a carefully planned



field distribution strategy, under which 15,000 mosquito nets were allocated to Kaolack and Kaffrine, with 7,500 nets distributed in each area. The initiative focused heavily on supporting health centers as well as Quranic schools, ensuring a safe and healthy environment for students while protecting them from diseases that could disrupt their education and Quran memorization.

The project aims to enhance the capacity of households to prevent malaria, provide health and educational institutions with effective protective tools,

reduce infection rates, raise community awareness about the importance of using insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), and alleviate the economic burden associated with treatment costs and recurrent illness.

Strategic Partner

The initiative received wide appreciation from local authorities and representatives of the National Malaria Control Programme, who praised the role of Qatar Charity in easing the financial burden on vulnerable families. Participating officials also expressed their hope to expand the project to the southern regions of

the country in the future, highlighting the effectiveness of such preventive measures in improving public health indicators and supporting community development.

This project reaffirms Qatar Charity's position as an active strategic partner of the Senegalese government in advancing sustainable health development, reflecting the organization's commitment to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities in the face of environmental and health challenges, in line with its vision of delivering long-term preventive solutions that safeguard human dignity.



EAA advances hands-on learning for students in India

Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, a global foundation for education and development, with the support of its strategic partner, the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), has successfully concluded a large-scale project-based learning initiative in India.

Implemented with Mantra4Change, which integrated hands-on, curriculum-aligned learning into government schools across Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, and Nagaland, the project aims to improve academic performance, strengthen real-world skills, and make learning more engaging for students in resource-constrained environments.

Through the initiative, EAA Foundation's Internet-Free Education Resource Bank (IFERB) has supported integrating project-



based learning into classrooms, enabling students to learn by doing, solve real-world problems, collaborate with peers, and connect lessons to their daily lives. The model is designed to work in low-resource settings, where ac-

cess to digital tools, laboratories, and learning materials may be limited.

The project has reached 3.8m learners, supported 13,393 teachers in 18,605 schools across four states in India. Its implementation was

strengthened through government ownership, curriculum alignment, teacher training and mentorship, classroom observations, feedback loops, external evaluations and the use of online and offline monitoring tools to track progress at scale.

The initiative has demonstrated measurable improvements in both academic outcomes and skills. Students showed stronger performance in core subjects, alongside progress in critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration, reflecting the value of hands-on learning in helping children connect classroom lessons to real-world challenges.

Teachers reported greater confidence in using project-based learning methods, while students responded positively to the more interactive and hands-on approach. This reflects the value of



practical learning not only in improving student engagement but also in strengthening educators' ability to deliver more dynamic and effective lessons.

Janhvi M Kanoria, executive director of Innovation at EAA Foundation, said: "This initiative reflects EAA Foundation's commitment to developing practical, scalable solutions that improve learning for children in some of the most resource-constrained settings. By bringing project-based learning

into government classrooms, we are helping students move beyond memorisation and developing the confidence, creativity, and problem-solving skills they need for the future."

Through this work, EAA Foundation continues to demonstrate how innovation, partnership, and locally adapted education solutions can transform classrooms, improve learning outcomes, and equip children with the skills they need to thrive in a changing world.

Ambition, unity and rising talent shine at GCC Games basketball competition

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Strong competition, rising women's participation and growing regional ambition are defining the basketball competitions at GCC Games Doha 2026 as Gulf teams battle for places in the finals.

From Kuwait and Bahrain to Oman and host Qatar, players and coaches described the tournament as more than just a sporting contest, highlighting the shared ambition, experience and regional pride driving this year's competition.

Kuwaiti national team player Neera Rubabah said the intensity of the tournament reflects the rapid development of basketball across the GCC.

"The matches are very strong, and the experience here in Qatar is great," she said.

She added that the team hopes to deliver strong performances not only for themselves but for the wider sporting community across the Gulf.

Bahrain national team player Bayan Salman echoed similar sentiments after her side faced challenging opening matches against the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Looking ahead to Bahrain's semi-final clash against Kuwait, she described the fixture as one of the toughest challenges of the tournament.

For Oman's women's team, the tournament has also represented an opportunity for growth and exposure at regional level.

Omani player Fatima described the experience in Doha as both rewarding and educational.



Branimir Berbakov



Bayan Salma



Omani player Fatima



Neera Rubabah

"It was a very beautiful opportunity and a truly wonderful experience," she said. "We gained a lot of experience from it and competed against strong teams."

She added that the competition would motivate the team to continue improving in future tournaments.

"God willing, in the coming times we will deliver an even better performance and achieve higher positions," she said.

While the women's competition showcased rising participation and competitiveness, Qatar's men's 3x3 basketball team entered the knockout stages carrying strong momentum after remaining unbeaten in the tournament.

Head coach Branimir Berbakov said the team had been satisfied with its performances so far but remained fully focused on the challenges ahead.

"So far in this tournament we were able to win all the games," Berbakov said. "We are preparing right now for the semi-final games against Saudi."

The coach stressed that the squad aimed to prove itself as one of the tournament's strongest contenders.

Beyond results and standings, the basketball competition also reflected broader changes within Gulf sport, particularly the increasing visibility of women athletes and the strengthening of regional sporting standards.

Precision, pressure, Gulf unity define GCC Games shooting tournament

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

As the GCC Games Doha 2026 shooting competitions begin at Lusail International Shooting Range, officials say rising standards, stronger regional participation and growing women's involvement are redefining Gulf sport.

The competition brings together athletes from all GCC countries in shotgun, rifle and pistol events, including trap, skeet, mixed categories and team competitions for both men and women, reflecting the growing scale and competitiveness of regional sport.

Qatar's Abdullah Ali al-Mutawa al-Hammadi, Executive Office and Competition manager for the shooting events, described this year's edition as one of the most technically demanding yet, particularly with the implementation of updated international formats and expanded participation across categories.

"This competition is very tough and not easy," al-Hammadi said during a media briefing. "It is a really good challenge for us as administration and as technical teams."

He explained that shotgun competitions would follow a demanding two-stage qualification process before finalists are selected. "The first



Abdullah Ali al-Mutawa al-Hammadi

day will be 75 targets, then 50 targets on the following day. The total is 125, and the best eight athletes qualify for the final," he said.

The competitions are being held at the Lusail International Shooting Range, one of the region's most advanced facilities, highlighting Qatar's continued investment in world-class sporting infrastructure ahead of major international events.

"As you see here, we have 60 ranges combined," al-Hammadi said. "For rifle and pistol, we have 80 firing points for the airgun competition."

The venue also includes dedicated ranges for 10m, 25m and 50m disciplines, along with facilities designed to meet international championship standards.

Beyond the competition itself,

organisers emphasised the broader significance of the GCC Games as a platform for Gulf unity and sporting development.

"All GCC countries are participating, and we are very happy that everybody is here," al-Hammadi said. "We are one country. We are brothers."

The event also reflects the growing role of women in Gulf sport, with increased participation in women's and mixed shooting categories across disciplines.

"Always, we support women as athletes and as officials," he said. "Day by day, you will see the encouragement of our athletes."

Behind the scenes, extensive technical preparations are underway to ensure international-level standards. The competition includes pre-event training sessions, technical meetings and the presence of licensed international referees and juries from Asia, India and GCC countries.

"Everything is under control," al-Hammadi said, noting that all Qatari referees involved hold international licences.

While medals remain the immediate focus, the competition also reflects a broader evolution within Gulf sport, one that is becoming more advanced, inclusive and internationally aligned.

QSTP launches \$30mn Tech Venture Fund

From Page 1

The fund targets founders building at the frontier of AI, machine learning, robotics, biotechnology, advanced materials, and clean technology, with Qatar serving as a launchpad for regional and global expansion. Sectors of interest include EdTech, HealthTech, CleanTech, AgriTech, PropTech, smart infrastructure, aviation technology, and mobility, among others.

Portfolio companies must be headquartered in Qatar, with a core leadership team and operation based locally. The fund invests in founders

developing technologies with strong commercial potential and the ability to address major global and regional challenges.

The fund co-invests alongside leading local, regional, and global venture capital firms, enabling Qatar-based startups to access broader pools of capital, global expertise, and international markets. This is further strengthened by QSTP's unique positioning within Qatar's startup, research, innovation, and venture ecosystems. The first set of co-investment partner funds includes Global Ventures, Golden Gate Ventures, White Star Capital, Venture-

Souq, and Builders VC. Together, the firms bring deep sector expertise and networks spanning the WANA region, Southeast Asia, North America, Europe, and Asia. Additional co-investment partners will be announced in the coming weeks.

VentureSouq focuses on supporting high-growth technology founders in the WANA region across FinTech and Climate. Builders VC, part of the Qatar Investment Authority's Fund of Funds programme, invests from Qatar in founders using technology to modernise essential industries including healthcare, agriculture, industrials, and real estate.

Draft law to overhaul private schools regulation approved

From Page 1

Separately, the Cabinet praised the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs' 2025-2030 strategy, launched on Tuesday by the prime minister. The strategy aims to consolidate the message of Islam in thought, worship and behaviour, and to help build modern, cohesive and sustainable societies. Ministers also approved a draft memorandum of

understanding on legal co-operation between Qatar's Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Cabinet reviewed the 2025 annual report of the Permanent Committee for Search, Rescue and Humanitarian Aid in the affected areas in sisterly and friendly countries, along with a report on Qatar's participation in the COP30 United Nations climate conference, scheduled to take place in Brazil in November 2025.

Qatar Airways resumes operations to Abu Dhabi

Qatar Airways announced the resumption of operating flights to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with double-daily passenger flights, as part of restoring its network across West Asia.

The airline said in a statement yesterday that the reintroduction of Abu Dhabi services, now in operation, expands Qatar Airways' operations in the UAE to three destinations, alongside Dubai (DXB) and Sharjah (SHJ).

The service follows Qatar Airways' recent regional announcement of flights to Bagh-



dad (BGW), Basra (BSR), and Erbil (EBL) in Iraq.

Qatar Airways has also resumed daily services to Bahrain (BAH), Damascus (DAM), and Kozhikode (CCJ), offering pas-

sengers greater flexibility and enhanced connectivity across the region and beyond.

Building on this momentum, Qatar Airways is steadily advancing the phased restoration of its global network across six continents, as it advised passengers to regularly check its official website or app, and ensure their contact details are correct, and updated.

The airline stressed that the flight schedules are subject to change or cancellation due to operational, regulatory, safety, or other circumstances beyond its control. (QNA)

Qatar Olympic Committee signs MoU with Mall of Qatar

The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) yesterday with Mall of Qatar to strengthen co-operation in sports, community events, championships, and initiatives.

The MoU was signed by Hamad bin Lahdan al-Mohannadi, director of the Support Services Sector at QOC, and Rony Mourani, CEO of Mall of Qatar.

The agreement aims to enhance co-operation in organising and implementing sports and community events, championships, and initiatives of mutual interest, while supporting local and international sporting events organised by the QOC and its affiliated federations

and sports committees.

Among the first initiatives included under this collaboration are the organisation of Olympic Day 2026, a major Boxing Championship, and the hosting of the eFIBA Finals 2026 and 2027, organised in collaboration with the Qatar Basketball Federation.

The MoU also aims to launch and implement joint community programmes and initiatives designed to promote healthy lifestyles, encourage sports participation, and enhance community engagement across different age groups.

In addition, the agreement includes co-operation in media, marketing, and promotional activities related to joint events and projects,



as well as the designation of hotels and facilities affiliated with or managed by Mall of Qatar as preferred accommodation and hosting options for sports delegations attending events and championships.

On this occasion, al-Mohannadi said that the signing of this memorandum falls within the framework of the Committee's commitment to strengthening partnerships with various entities to support

the development of the sports sector in Qatar. He explained that the agreement reflects the Committee's commitment to expanding strategic partnerships and creating an integrated environment for hosting and organising sporting events in accordance with the highest international standards.

He also stressed the importance of co-operation with public and private sector institutions, given their pivotal role in supporting the sports movement, promoting a culture of sports participation, and broadening community engagement.

"This MoU represents a clear commitment from Mall of Qatar towards one of our core pillars: the promotion of a healthy and active

lifestyle within the community. Through this partnership, we aim to further leverage Mall of Qatar as a dynamic platform for engaging the community through positive, meaningful, and constructive events, fully aligned with the vision and ambitions of Qatar," Mourani said.

"At Mall of Qatar, our ambition has always gone beyond being a shopping destination. We aim to be a true community hub where entertainment, culture, sports, and social engagement come together. Strengthening our collaboration with key national institutions is central to this vision and to our continued efforts to elevate the destination's role and impact," he added.

Stage set for Lebanon-Israel talks

AFP
Beirut

Lebanon's Simon Karam and Israel's Yechiel Leiter, both political veterans with entrenched views, will come face to face in Washington for talks today after decades in a state of war.

Lebanon and Israel have no formal ties, but US President Donald Trump is hoping for a historic breakthrough even as Israeli forces remain deployed in south Lebanon to fight Iran-backed Hezbollah.

While Lebanon is seeking to consolidate a ceasefire in the latest war and to obtain the withdrawal of Israeli troops, Israel wants to ensure Hezbollah is disarmed.

The envoys leading their countries' third round of negotiations can pave the way for the much sought after peace deal.

Simon Karam, a lawyer known for his decades in politics and fierce defence of Lebanon's sovereignty, was appointed by President Joseph Aoun last month for the thorny task of helming the direct talks with Israel.

Beirut insists Israel must end its attacks before starting negotiations, while Hezbollah rejects outright any direct engagement between the two countries.

A former ambassador to Washington and independent politician, 76-year-old Karam is known for his defence of Lebanese unity in a country riven by sectarian divisions. He is also known for his support for extending state sovereignty across all of Lebanon, where Hezbollah has long kept a huge arsenal and thrown the country into war after war.

Late last year, Karam was appointed as Lebanon's civilian representative to a committee comprising Lebanon, Israel, the US, France and UN peacekeepers that was tasked with monitoring a 2024 ceasefire.

Karam is known for his calm demeanour and makes few media appearances, but those who know him say he has remained



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun with veteran diplomat Simon Karam at the Baabda Presidential Palace earlier this month. (AFP)



Israel's ambassador to the US Yechiel Leiter speaking to the media. (AFP/File Photo)

uncompromising in his convictions on a sovereign, stable Lebanon.

During his participation in two previous ceasefire monitoring committee meetings, Karam "was a decisive and rational negotiator", a source familiar with the talks told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"He was particularly insistent on the demand that southern residents return to their towns, and spoke at length about the emotional ties linking villagers to their lands," the source added.

Political analyst Ali al-Amin, who has known Karam for decades, praised his upstanding character.

"He doesn't make deals under the table," Amin said, noting Karam had not sought high office despite his connections.

Karam entered public life in 1990, first being appointed governor of east Lebanon's Bekaa region and then Beirut.

He was named ambassador to Washington in 1992 but stepped down the following year, in a move observers said was linked to his diverging views from authorities who at the time were under the influence of Syria, whose occupation Karam opposed.

Karam, who is fluent in Arabic, French and English, hails from

Israeli strikes on highway south of Beirut kill eight

Israeli's latest strikes targeting cars on a highway south of Beirut yesterday killed eight people, including two children, Lebanon's health ministry said. The ministry said there were three strikes on the coastal highway leading south out of Beirut, all around 20 to 30 kilometres (12-19 miles) from the Lebanese capital, which "resulted in eight martyrs, including two children".

An AFP photographer saw a burnt-out car in the middle of the road and rescuers carrying

a body at one of the sites, near Jiyeh. On Saturday, similar strikes targeted two other cars in the same area.

Lebanon's National News Agency reported several strikes on villages and cars in the Tyre region.

An AFP correspondent saw thick smoke from Burj al-Shehali in the same province.

Israel has kept up its airstrikes against the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah despite a truce in place since April 17 aimed at halting the fighting. (AFP)

south Lebanon's Jezzine district and is married with three children.

Israel's ambassador to the US, Yechiel Leiter, is a longtime ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Well versed in Israeli settler politics, conservative activism and hard-edged diplomacy, Leiter, 67, took up his post as Israel's top envoy to Washington in January 2025.

Born in the US, he emigrated to Israel at 18 and went on to build close ties with the US Republican Party. According to Israeli media reports, he served as a combat medic in the military in 1982,

when Israel invaded Lebanon.

Leiter, who is also a historian and ordained rabbi, first gained prominence in the 1990s as a leading figure in the Yesha Council, the umbrella organisation representing Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank.

During some of the most divisive years of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Leiter became a forceful advocate for the settlement movement and a prominent nationalist. His influence later extended into government.

Leiter served as chief of staff to Netanyahu when the latter served

as finance minister in the early 2000s, helping cement a long-standing political alliance.

A member of Netanyahu's Likud party, he also worked as a strategist and adviser to several right-wing Israeli think tanks.

The war in Gaza struck him personally. In November 2023, his son, Moshe Leiter, was killed in combat in the Gaza Strip, a month after Hamas's storming of Israel. Leiter was also an outspoken critic of President Joe Biden, before Trump returned to the White House.

In a 2024 interview with Israel's Channel 10, he denounced what he described as "American pressure" on Israel under Biden during the war in Gaza.

After being appointed ambassador, Leiter renounced his US citizenship. In May 2025, he was called back to Israel for a disciplinary hearing after accusing Netanyahu's opponents of spreading "blood libels" against the prime minister — breaching norms against Israeli diplomats making political statements.

Leiter has positioned himself as an advocate for a broader regional realignment, and following talks in Washington with his Lebanese counterpart in April, he praised what he called a "wonderful exchange".

UN rights chief calls on Israel to abolish military tribunal

The United Nations rights chief yesterday called on Israel to repeal a newly established special military tribunal. According to Israeli media, around 400 suspects are expected to stand trial before the court.

"This law must be overturned," Volker Turk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in a statement. "This law will inevitably institutionalise one-sided justice and discrimination against Palestinians, which cannot be in anyone's interest and runs counter to international human rights law," he said. (AFP)

10,000 homes hit in Lebanon since Israel truce

More than 10,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed in Lebanon since a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hezbollah, the head of the country's National Council for Scientific Research said yesterday. "Since the current ceasefire... we have witnessed 5,386 housing units that were completely destroyed, and 5,246 housing units damaged," CRNS chief Chadi Abdallah told through a news conference. Israel has kept up heavy airstrikes despite the April 17 ceasefire, and Israeli soldiers are operating inside an Israeli-declared "yellow line". (AFP)

Tehran demands release of Iranians detained in Kuwait

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said yesterday that Kuwait had "unlawfully" attacked an Iranian boat and detained four Iranian citizens in the Gulf, adding that Tehran demands their release and reserves the right to respond.

On Tuesday, Kuwait said it had arrested four people affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guards who attempted to infiltrate the Gulf state by sea. (Reuters)

Gaza board envoy says ceasefire holding but 'far from perfect'

AFP
Jerusalem

The high representative for Gaza in US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace yesterday said the fragile ceasefire in the Palestinian territory was holding despite daily violations.

"We have a ceasefire. It is holding... It is far from perfect. There are violations every day, and some of them are very serious," said Nickolay Mladenov during a meeting with the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem.

The ceasefire officially came into force on October 10.

Gaza remains gripped by violence, as Israeli strikes continue and both sides trade blame over ceasefire violations.

The first phase of the truce saw the release of the last hostages seized in October 2023, in ex-

change for Palestinians detained by Israel.

The transition to the second phase — involving Hamas's disarmament and a gradual withdrawal of the Israeli army, which still controls more than 50% of the Gaza Strip — has been stalled for weeks, while international attention has been focused on Iran and the Strait of Hormuz.

Mladenov urged Hamas yesterday to relinquish power over the parts of the Gaza Strip it controls and lay down its weapons.

"We are asking the political leadership of those who govern Gaza now to step aside. This is required by the Security Council resolution in the 20-point plan," said the envoy, referring to the peace plan for the territory sponsored by the US president.

"We are not asking Hamas to disappear as a political movement. A political party that dis-

vows armed activity can compete in national Palestinian elections," he said.

"What is not negotiable, however, is that armed factions or militias... can exist alongside a transitional Palestinian authority," he continued.

For those who refuse disarmament, the plan offers the option of "safe passage to third countries," he added.

Mladenov meanwhile pointed to the scale of destruction in the Palestinian territory, noting that it would take a long time to rebuild.

"If we look at the tens of millions of tons of rubble that needs to be removed, at the number of people, over a million people, who need some sort of permanent shelter and basic water and sanitation — this is, by any scale, a generation of work for Gaza," said Mladenov.

50% cuts to emergency aid in Syria: UN

The UN said yesterday it was cutting emergency food assistance to Syria by 50% and halting a bread subsidy programme that had supported millions because of funding shortfalls. The World Food Programme, the UN's Rome-based food aid agency, said in a statement it was reducing the number of people covered by emergency aid from 1.3 mn to 650,000.

The agency said Syria has stabilised since the end of the civil war but there are still 7.2 mn people suffering acute food insecurity. As part of its operations, WFP said it had supported more than 300 bakeries with fortified wheat flour. "The bread subsidy programme has been a vital lifeline, keeping this staple food affordable," the organisation said.

"The reduction in WFP's assistance is driven solely by funding constraints, not by a decrease in needs," said Marianne Ward, WFP director in Syria. (AFP)

Teen killed in occupied West Bank by Israeli fire

Palestinian health officials said a teenager was killed by Israeli fire in a village in the West Bank yesterday, the latest in a series of violent incidents shaking the Israeli-occupied territory.

The health ministry in Ramallah identified the victim as 16-year-old Yusef Ali Kaabnah, saying he was "killed by occupation bullets" near the town of Jiljilya, north of Ramallah.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said he had been shot in the chest during a raid by Israeli settlers who were accompanied by Israeli troops.

Four others were injured in the incident, it added.

The Israeli military told AFP that security forces were dispatched to the area "following reports of several Israeli civilians who entered Jiljilya after livestock had been stolen from an illegal outpost".

Troops "operated to prevent confrontation in the area and extract the livestock" and "escort all Israeli civilians out", and as they were leaving, "a violent riot developed, which included stone-throwing," the military said.

"The soldiers responded with riot dispersal means and live fire toward the primary instigators," it added.

It has been widely reported that violence has increased in the West Bank since the start of the war in Gaza.

According to an AFP tally based on Palestinian health ministry figures, Israeli troops or settlers have killed at least 1,071 Palestinians in the West Bank since the war began.

Official Israeli figures show at least 46 Israelis have been killed in Palestinian attacks or during Israeli military operations in the same period. (AFP)

Saudi warplanes struck militias in Iraq during war, sources say

Reuters
Riyadh/Baghdad/Washington

Saudi fighter jets bombed targets linked to powerful Tehran-backed militias in Iraq during the Iran war, while retaliatory strikes were also launched from Kuwait into Iraq, multiple sources familiar with the matter said.

The strikes are part of a broader pattern of military responses around the Gulf that remained largely hidden during a conflict that has drawn in the wider Middle East since joint Israeli-US strikes on Iran on February 28. Those attacks triggered Iranian strikes on Gulf states and Israel that have rattled the global economy and shut the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flows.

The sources for the strikes from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait include three Iraqi security and military officials, a Western official, and two people briefed on the matter, one of them in the US.

The Saudi strikes were carried out by Saudi air force fighter jets on Iran-linked militia targets near the

kingdom's northern border with Iraq, one Western official and the person briefed on the matter said. The Western official said some strikes took place around the time of the April 7 US-Iran ceasefire.

They targeted sites from which drone and missile attacks were launched at Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, the sources said.

Citing military assessments, the Iraqi sources said rocket attacks were launched on at least two occasions from Kuwaiti territory on Iraq. One set of strikes hit militia positions in southern Iraq in April, killing several fighters and destroying a facility used by Iran-backed militia Kataib Hezbollah for communications and drone operations, they said.

Reuters could not determine whether the rockets from Kuwait were fired by the Kuwaiti armed forces or the US military, which has a large presence there. The US military declined to comment. The Kuwaiti information ministry and the Iraqi government did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A Saudi foreign ministry official said Saudi Arabia sought



A satellite view of smoke billowing at a Saudi Aramco oil facility after a reported attack in Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia in April. (Reuters)

de-escalation, self-restraint and the "reduction of tensions in pursuit of the stability, security and prosperity of the region," but did not address the issue of strikes on Iraq. A spokesperson for Iraq's Kataib Hezbollah also did not immediately respond to a request for comment. On Tuesday, Reuters reported that Saudi Arabia launched strikes directly on Iran during the war in retaliation for attacks on the kingdom, the first time Riyadh is

known to have hit Iranian soil. The UAE also carried out similar strikes on Iraq, three people familiar with the matter said.

But hundreds of the drones that targeted the Gulf emanated from Iraq, all the sources said.

Militia-linked Telegram channels repeatedly posted statements during the war claiming attacks on targets in Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Reuters could not independently confirm

their authenticity.

Sustained attacks from a second front in Iraq prompted Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to lose patience with the militias, which collectively command tens of thousands of fighters and arsenals including missiles and drones. Kuwait summoned Iraq's representative in the country three times during the war to protest cross-border attacks, as well as the storming of the Kuwaiti consulate in the city of Basra on April 7. Saudi Arabia also summoned Iraq's ambassador on April 12 to protest attacks.

Gulf Arab relations with Iraq have long been defined by suspicion. Ties were severely damaged in 1990 when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait and fired Scud missiles at Saudi Arabia, and they remained strained for decades.

The 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq deepened Gulf concerns by empowering Shi'ite political factions and armed groups closely tied to Tehran, turning Iraq into a key node in Iran's regional network of proxies.

Gulf states have repeatedly accused Baghdad of failing to rein in

those groups, which operate with significant autonomy and have launched attacks across borders.

A China-brokered détente between Iran and Saudi Arabia in 2023 had offered hope for broader regional stabilisation. But the outbreak of war has severely tested those gains, drawing Gulf states into a conflict they had sought to avoid and exposing the limits of diplomatic progress made in recent years.

In March, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had warned Baghdad via diplomatic channels to curb rocket and drone attacks by pro-Iranian groups against Gulf states, according to two Iraqi security officials and a government security adviser. Iraqi forces say they intercepted some attempted attacks, including the seizure of a rocket launcher west of Basra intended to strike Saudi energy facilities.

But Iran-backed militias continue to fly surveillance drones along Iraq's borders with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, conducting reconnaissance and feeding intelligence to Iran, according to four Iraqi security sources and a person briefed on the matter.



Sheinbaum rejects allegations of CIA assassination outside Mexico City

AFP
Mexico City

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum yesterday fiercely rejected accusations from a CNN investigation alleging CIA operatives carried out a "targeted assassination" outside Mexico City in March.

Sheinbaum slammed the story as "false" and "truly sensationalist." Mexico's top security official and the CIA also dismissed the article as a fabrication.

"Imagine how big the lie is if the CIA itself needs to come out and dismiss" the story, the left-leaning leader said at her daily press conference.

The investigation published Tuesday cited "multiple sources" who said the fiery March 28 explosion of a car carrying a mid-level operative with the Sinaloa Cartel on a highway outside Mexico City was a car bomb planted in a secretive CIA operation.

Both the operative, Francisco Beltran, known as "El Payin," and his driver died.

The official CIA spokesperson, Liz Lyons, dismissed the investigation as "false and salacious." The story "serves as nothing more than a PR campaign for the cartels and puts American lives at risk," she wrote on X.

Mexican Security Secretary Omar Garcia Harfuch rejected the



Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum speaks during her daily press conference at the Palacio Nacional in Mexico City. (AFP/File Photo)

story on X, saying "any version that seeks to normalise, justify, or suggest the existence of lethal, undercover, or unilateral operations of foreign agencies on national territory."

CNN cited the Mexico State attorney general as saying the car contained a hidden "explosive device." But the prosecutor's office denied the accusations on Tuesday, saying in a post on X that the cause of death for the two men remains unknown.

The allegations come a month after the death of two CIA operatives as they returned from an anti-narcotics operation in the mountainous border state of Chihuahua, unleashing scandal in

Mexico and diplomatic tension with the Trump administration.

Sheinbaum said the federal government wasn't informed of the operatives' activity.

The scandal led to the resignation of Chihuahua state's attorney general, and the federal government said it is investigating whether national security laws were violated.

The Trump administration has placed increasing pressure on Sheinbaum to crack down on organised crime gangs.

She has rejected explicit US actions to target criminal leaders while opting to use US intelligence and leaving security tasks to Mexican military and police forces.

No need for China's help on Iran: Trump

Reuters
Washington/Dubai

US President Donald Trump has said he does not expect to need China's help to end the war in Iran and ease Tehran's firm grip over the Strait of Hormuz, in remarks made before he arrived in Beijing yesterday for a summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The war is expected to feature in talks between Trump and Xi over the next two days, but Trump downplayed Beijing's potential role in ending the conflict, which has choked off traffic through a key waterway that typically carries about one-fifth of the world's oil supply.

"I don't think we need any help with Iran. We'll win it one way or the other, peacefully or otherwise," he told reporters in Washington before departing for China. Iran has appeared to firm up its control over the Strait of Hormuz in recent days, cutting deals with Iraq and Pakistan to ship oil and liquefied natural gas from the region, according to sources with knowledge of the matter.

Iranian officials have signalled they see that control as a long-term strategic goal. An army spokesperson said supervision of the waterway could generate revenue amounting to twice Iran's oil income, while strengthening its foreign policy leverage.

"After this war ends, there will be no place for retreat," the spokesperson said, according to comments carried by ISNA news agency.

More than one month after a tenuous ceasefire took effect, US and Iranian demands to end the war remain far apart. Washington has called for Tehran to scrap its nuclear programme and lift its hold on the strait, while Iran has demanded compensation



President Donald Trump gestures prior to boarding Air Force One for his 3-day state visit to China. (AFP)

for war damage, an end to the US blockade and a halt to fighting on all fronts, including in Lebanon, where Israel is battling Iran-backed Hezbollah. Trump has dismissed those positions as "garbage."

The Trump administration said on Tuesday that senior US and Chinese officials had agreed last month that no country should be able to charge tolls on traffic through the region, in an effort to project consensus on the issue ahead of the summit.

China, a major buyer of Iranian oil that maintains close ties with Tehran, did not dispute that account.

On Wednesday, a Chinese supertanker carrying 2 mn barrels of Iraqi crude sailed through the Strait of Hormuz, ship-tracking data showed, marking the third known passage by a Chinese oil tanker through the channel since the US and Israel launched strikes on Iran on February 28.

Other countries are exploring

shipping arrangements similar to Tehran's deals with Iraq and Pakistan, sources said, potentially entrenching Tehran's control of the waterway through which fertilisers, petrochemicals and other bulk commodities vital to global supply chains normally flow.

As the costs of the conflict mount, Trump said Americans' financial struggles were not a factor in his decision-making on the war. Data released on Tuesday showed that US consumer inflation accelerated in April, with the annual rate posting its largest gain in three years as food, rent and airfares rose.

Asked to what extent the economic strain on Americans was motivating him to strike a deal, Trump replied: "Not even a little bit."

"I don't think about Americans' financial situation..." Trump said before leaving for China. "I think about one thing: We cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon."

The remarks are likely to draw scrutiny as cost-of-living concerns remain a top issue for voters ahead of November's midterm elections.

The conflict is weighing heavily on global energy markets. Global oil supply will fall by around 3.9 mn barrels per day across 2026 and undershoot demand due to disruptions caused by the Iran war, the International Energy Agency said on Wednesday, with more than 1 bn barrels of Middle East supply already lost. Brent crude futures were steady at around \$108 per barrel, after a three-day rally driven by the Hormuz deadlock.

Surveys show the war is unpopular with US voters less than six months before nationwide elections. Two out of three Americans, including one in three Republicans and almost all Democrats, think Trump has not clearly explained why the country has gone to war, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll.

UN urges independent probes into deadly Nigeria, Chad airstrikes



Nigerian soldiers walk past military tanks. (Reuters/File Photo)

The UN rights chief yesterday demanded independent investigations into reports that separate airstrikes by the Nigerian and Chadian armies in northern Nigeria killed dozens of civilians.

The Nigerian military and the "bandit" gangs it is fighting killed around 100 civilians on Sunday in one of the bloodiest single days of the country's conflict against armed groups, sources across the country told AFP.

Amnesty International's Nigeria chapter said that Nigerian military airstrikes on a crowded market in the northwestern Zamfara state, reportedly controlled by criminal gangs, had killed "at least 100 civilians".

A resident of a nearby village put the toll at 117.

"I am shocked by reports that Nigerian army airstrikes on a market in... Zamfara state killed at least 100 civilians on 10 May and injured many more," UN high commissioner for human rights Volker Turk said in a statement.

The Nigerian military said it targeted a "confirmed terrorist structure, occupied exclusively by armed non-state actors who posed a direct... threat to civilian lives".

It disputed the civilian tolls being cited by the media as "unverified", adding "any incidents

of civilian casualties will be communicated to the public appropriately".

"No credible, substantiated evidence of civilian casualties has been established through any official assessment or independent verification," the military said in a statement dated Tuesday but released yesterday.

Volker also said he was "alarmed and saddened" by the reports of high civilian casualties in attacks since Friday by Chadian fighter jets against Boko Haram camps on remote islands in the vast marshland shared by Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

The bombardment has reportedly killed dozens of Nigerian fishermen working on islands under Boko Haram control, where civilians are forced to pay taxes to the militant group.

"It is crucial that both Nigerian and Chadian authorities conduct prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into these disturbing incidents," Turk said. The authorities in the two countries must also "ensure that those responsible for any violations are held to account, in accordance with international standards", he insisted.

The UN rights chief said he "urgently (called) on both militaries to take all feasible precautions to avoid harm to civilians" (AFP)

Four Colombian soldiers killed in minefield

Four soldiers were killed in rural Colombia yesterday after stepping on a minefield laid by guerrillas who until recently had been negotiating peace with the government. The South American nation is experiencing its worst violence in a decade just weeks before the start of presidential elections on May 31.

Three more soldiers were wounded in the minefield in south-eastern Guaviare department, which was attributed to a dissident faction of the defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Led by man whose alias is Calarca, the faction known as "EMBF" had refused a 2016 peace accord in which FARC agreed to lay down arms. Left-wing President Gustavo Petro halted peace negotiations with the EMBF in April.

A Colombian army statement said the explosives detonated early Wednesday morning following an offensive operation against the guerrillas. An army spokesperson told AFP that the anti-personnel mines had been planted in the rural San Jose del Guaviare region.

It hosts vast coca leaf plantations and is also considered the cradle of the first dissident guerrillas to break ranks with FARC a decade ago. Last year, anti-personnel landmines in Colombia killed or injured 198 people, 75 of whom were civilians, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. (AFP)

Chilean town living with world's most polluting dump

AFP
Tiltit, Chile

From afar, Chile's Tiltit landfill almost resembles just another mountain, but the growing rubbish pile has created a daily nightmare of odors, flies and health concerns for residents nearby.

The site, located around 35 miles (60 kilometers) north of Santiago, is the world's largest source of human-generated methane emissions, according to the UN.

About 60 % of the Chilean capital's waste this century — around 18,000 tons per day — has ended up in Tiltit.

As hungry birds of prey circle above, hundreds of garbage trucks trundle through the town below, leaving trails of rubbish in their wake.

The decomposing waste generates methane, which scientists say is responsible for at least a quarter of global warming.

In April, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) placed the landfill at the top of a list of 50 human-made sites that emit the most methane in the world.

Thirty-five space satellites helped to detect that it generates some 100,000 metric tons of methane annually.

Methane gas may be imperceptible, but the garbage that produces it is not — Tiltit's 17,000



This aerial view shows heavy machinery removing waste at the Los Colorados landfill in Tiltit. (AFP)

inhabitants have grown increasingly concerned about the health impact of such drastic pollution.

The smell is "like excrement," said 68-year-old Patricio Velasquez, who shuts himself inside every summer due to the odor emanating from the dump.

The retired teacher lives less than two miles (around three kilometers) away from the 120-hectare landfill, which is roughly the size of 100 soccer fields.

"We're in the countryside. We should be breathing fresh air," Velasquez said.

"In the summer we used to take the table outside for lunch, but it got to a point where we couldn't eat because we had flies in our mouths and on our plates."

Methane is not considered toxic, but experts warn of the risks that emissions and air pollution pose to people in the surrounding area.

High concentrations of methane can cause "episodes of suffocation or headaches," Yuri Carvajal, president of the environmental department at the Medical College of Chile, told AFP. "It's not that easy" to measure the effects on the population, said Carvajal, who recommended keeping people away from such sites.

The company KDM has been operating the landfill for 20 years.

A further 50 industrial sites are located in the area, including cement factories, animal farms and

mining storage sites.

"There are numerous facilities that generate environmental impacts in a vulnerable area," Caroline Stamm, an associate professor at the Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies at the Catholic University of Santiago, told AFP.

"It's a case of environmental injustice," she said.

Tiltit authorities concede that they have little wiggle room.

"As a municipality, we do not have the legal authority to arbitrarily prohibit the establishment of new businesses, since in Chile there is freedom to engage in economic activities," councilor Nelda Gil told AFP.

AFP contacted KDM and the Chilean government for comment but did not receive a response from either.

"Cities don't have a proper waste separation system. Organic trash should be separated and shouldn't end up in a place like this," said Carvajal.

Chile generates an average of 1.1 kilograms of garbage per person per day and recycles just 0.8 %, according to the environment ministry. This figure is lower than the regional average of four %, according to official figures.

Painter and Tiltit resident Raquel Carcamo has watched her town become "Santiago's garbage dump" over the years.

"They don't see us as a town. To them we're just another garbage can," she said.

200 illegal gold mining firms uncovered in Cameroon

Nearly 200 illegal artisanal gold mining companies, most of them foreign-owned, have been uncovered in central and eastern Cameroon, the mines ministry said yesterday. An investigation into the gold sector was launched in January after a large gap emerged between Cameroon's official gold exports and the much higher import figures reported by other countries, particularly the UAE.

"About 200 illegal companies have been identified in the east and Adamawa regions, more than 95 % of them foreign firms," the ministry said in a statement, adding, many of the companies are run by Chinese nationals.

A 2023 report published last December by the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) showed major discrepancies in official figures. Cameroon reported producing 953 kilograms of gold that year, with just 22.3kg officially exported. But importing countries reported receiving 15.2 tonnes (15,200kg) — nearly 680 times more.

"This suggests a large share of gold, especially artisanal mining, bypasses official channels and is diverted into informal networks or smuggled," said researcher Aicha Pemboura in a March report on organised crime in central Africa. (AFP)

Trump, team accorded warm reception, Xi meeting today

AFP
Beijing

President Donald Trump landed in Beijing yesterday for a high-stakes summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping aimed at easing deep tensions between the rival superpowers.

Giving a fist pump, Trump descended the steps of Air Force One after touching down at Beijing Capital International Airport, kicking off the first visit to China by a US president in nearly a decade.

Right behind him were Tesla boss Elon Musk and Nvidia chief Jensen Huang — potent symbols of the business deals that Trump hopes to sign between the world's biggest economies.

Trump was greeted with a bunch of flowers and then walked along the red carpet, which was lined with 300 Chinese youth in white uniforms chanting "welcome" and waving small Chinese and US flags in unison.

While en route to Beijing, Trump said on social media he would "be asking President Xi, a Leader of extraordinary distinction, to 'open up' China so that these brilliant people can work their magic".

Nvidia's Huang was a surprise late addition to the trip, joining the plane at a stopover in Alaska. China is currently banned under US national security rules from buying the cutting-edge AI chips that the company produces.

But Iran, trade and Taiwan loom



US President Donald Trump walks with Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng during an arrival ceremony at Beijing Capital International Airport, in Beijing, yesterday. (Reuters)

over the highly anticipated meeting, which Trump had already delayed from March because of the war the US and Israel started in the Middle East.

Visiting China for the first time since 2017 during his previous term, Trump is expected to receive a lavish welcome from Chinese authorities.

Trump and Xi will hold talks at 10:00am (0200 GMT) today in Beijing's opulent Great Hall of the People.

The US president will also visit the historic Temple of Heaven, a world heritage site where China's emperors once prayed for good harvest.

The leaders will then enjoy a state banquet in the evening.

On Friday, they are set to have

tea and a working lunch before Trump heads home.

As he departed the White House, Trump said he expected a "long talk" with Xi about the joint US-Israeli war with Iran, which sells most of its US-sanctioned oil to China.

But he also downplayed disagreements, telling reporters that "I don't think we need any help with Iran" from China and that Xi had been "relatively good" on the topic.

The Chinese foreign ministry said Wednesday it "welcomes" Trump's visit and that "China stands ready to work with the US... to expand cooperation and manage differences".

Yet Beijing is growing impatient for peace, with Foreign Minister Wang Yi urging his Pakistani

counterpart on Tuesday to step up mediation efforts between Iran and the US.

The long-simmering trade war between the two countries will also be top of the agenda, after Trump's sweeping tariffs last year triggered tit-for-tat levies that exceeded 100%.

Trump and Xi are set to discuss extending a one-year tariff truce, which the two leaders reached during their last meeting in South Korea in October, although a deal is far from certain.

China's controls on rare earth and agriculture exports are also expected to be on the menu.

The tense buildup to the summit was already visible on the streets of Beijing, with police monitoring major intersections and checking the ID cards of passengers on the metro, AFP journalists saw.

"It's definitely a big deal," said Wen Wen, a 24-year-old woman travelling from the eastern city of Nanjing, when asked by AFP about Trump's visit.

Trump has repeatedly touted a strong personal relationship with Xi, which he insisted on Monday would prevent a Chinese invasion of Taiwan, the self-ruled democracy claimed by Beijing.

While Trump said on Monday he would speak to Xi about US arms sales to Taiwan, the move marks a departure from historic US insistence that it will not consult Beijing on its support to the island.

His trip will be closely scrutinised by Taiwan and Asian allies for any sign of weakening US support.

Financier sought in corruption scandal seeks Trump's pardon

AFP
Washington

A fugitive financier accused of involvement in a massive corruption scandal in Malaysia in which top officials looted billions from state fund IMDB has sought a pardon from US President Donald Trump.

Businessman Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, is formally seeking a "pardon after completion of sentence," according to the US Department of Justice website.

Whistleblowers allege that Jho Low, a well-connected Malaysian financier with no official role, helped set up the IMDB state investment fund and made key financial decisions before disappearing about a decade ago.

Low, who has been indicted in the US, has denied wrongdoing but remains at large.

Malaysia's Trade Minister Johari Abdul Ghani, who chairs a task force seeking to recover assets linked to IMDB worldwide, said the plea should be rejected and Low returned for trial.

Granting a pardon to the businessman is "the right of the US, but personally I think (the) US should help to bring back Jho Low to Malaysia," he told AFP via text message.

The IMDB fund was launched by former prime minister Najib Razak in 2009, shortly after he

became prime minister.

It is alleged that more than \$4.5bn was diverted from IMDB between 2009 and 2015 by fund officials and associates, including Low.

Najib, who has been convicted in multiple cases, has been jailed and fined \$2.8bn for his role in the plunder.

Najib's defence lawyers blamed Low and dubbed him the mastermind of the scheme.

Malaysia unsuccessfully sought the return of Low through extradition, and it was widely speculated in media that he was hiding in China.

The scandal shook Malaysian politics, contributing to the 2018 downfall of the ruling coalition that had governed since independence in 1957, and led to the convictions of two former Goldman Sachs bankers.

Investigators said top officials used their ill-gotten gains to splurge on assets worldwide, including a luxury yacht, high-end real estate, Monet as well as Van Gogh paintings and even to fund the Hollywood blockbuster *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio testified in court about Low's wild spending sprees and lavish parties.

The globe-spanning scandal also ensnared Pras Michel, a rapper in rap trio the Fugees, who was found guilty of helping Low funnel money from IMDB into US politics.

Modi cuts size of his motorcade to save fuel

Reuters
New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "significantly" cut the size of his motorcade to save fuel, a government source said yesterday, days after he urged citizens to tighten their belts amid a surge in energy prices triggered by the Iran war. Modi appealed to people on Sunday to adopt austerity measures, including avoiding unnecessary foreign travel, using public transport, reducing gold purchases and cutting their use of cooking oil, as soaring global energy prices put pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Following the appeal, some critics on social media questioned the large motorcades of senior Indian politicians, Modi's domestic flights and his upcoming Europe visit on his official aircraft. The number of vehicles in Modi's motorcade was reduced while ensuring essential security components, in line with the protocol of the Special Protection Group that guards the prime minister, the source said, without specifying the motor-

cade's actual size. Modi gets the highest level of personal security in the country and his motorcade was known to have about a dozen vehicles before the reduction. Modi scaled down motorcades for visits this week to his home state of Gujarat and the northeastern state of Assam, the source said, adding that the prime minister had also asked for electric vehicles to be included in his motorcade where feasible but without making any new purchases.

The source declined to be named because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

The Prime Minister's Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, relies heavily on the Strait of Hormuz, closed by the US-Israeli war with Iran, for supplies of crude, liquefied natural gas and cooking gas. Higher oil prices threaten to widen the country's current account deficit, hurt growth, and stoke inflation while Washington and Tehran struggle to reach a deal to end hostilities, more than a month after a tenuous ceasefire paused fighting.

Starmers leadership woes overshadow parliament's reopening

Reuters
London

Britain's grand State Opening of Parliament ceremony does not normally feature an elephant. But yesterday, there was a large figurative elephant in the room: an imminent leadership challenge that could put Prime Minister Keir Starmer out of a job before the summer and consign his freshly minted plan for government to the scrapheap. Starmer has weathered days of growing calls to quit after his Labour Party suffered heavy losses in local and regional elections, and was looking to a ceremonial address from King Charles as a way to reassert his authority and "get on with the job of changing our country for the better".

But what had already promised to be a difficult day — in which he would be forced to mingle in front of television cameras with opponents who have delighted in his woes — took a turn for the worse



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks during a debate on the King's Speech in parliament yesterday. (AFP)

at around 1000 GMT. The Times newspaper reported that Wes Streeting, Starmer's health minister and arguably best-positioned rival to challenge his position, was poised to resign and fire the starting gun on a leadership contest.

When the news broke, King Charles, dressed in full ceremonial military dress and accompanied by his wife Queen Camilla, was

still approaching parliament in his royal carriage.

Streeting's team had no immediate comment. Earlier they said he didn't want to distract from the King's Speech.

Minutes later, Starmer led a procession of lawmakers from one chamber of parliament, the House of Commons, to another, the House of Lords, part of the com-

plex, centuries-old ritual of reopening the legislature that takes place roughly every year.

As the king's representative knocked loudly on the heavy door, one lawmaker joked "Not now, Andy", in reference to Andy Burnham, another possible challenger, who is currently mayor of Greater Manchester and thus not entitled to take part in the ceremony.

Television footage showed the prime minister making stiff small talk with Kemi Badenoch, leader of the main opposition Conservative Party who on Tuesday had posted on social media that Starmer would be lucky to survive two weeks in his job, let alone two years.

The lawmakers in his own party — almost a quarter of whom want him to quit — followed behind.

The king then read out a speech written by Starmer's government, setting out their plans for the next 12 months.

He closed his speech with the line: "I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels."

Bangladesh approves \$2.8bn river project

Bangladesh approved yesterday a mega river project worth \$2.8bn that authorities hope would help the country address its persistent water crisis, often blamed on neighbouring India. The project highlights Dhaka's efforts to secure water supplies for its agriculture-dependent economy, with river sharing a source of friction with New Delhi for decades. The scheme, which centres on building a 2.1-kilometre (1.3-mile) barrage on Bangladesh's Padma river, is designed to store up to 2.9bn cubic metres of water. "At least 70mn people across one-third of the country will

benefit from this project," water resources minister Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anee told reporters after a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. He said the project would help dry-season shortages in areas affected by reduced flows linked to India's Farakka Barrage. Built in 1970, the Farakka Barrage, diverts a large volume of water during the dry season from the Ganges, known as the Padma when it flows into Bangladesh. India has long defended the Farakka Barrage, arguing Dhaka had not made efficient use of its own water resources. (AFP)

Indonesia to review visa waivers after foreign scammers' arrests

Indonesia will review its visa-free entry policy for nationals of southeast Asian countries after a string of arrests of foreigners accused of running illegal gambling and scam operations, a top immigration official said yesterday. Authorities last week detained more than 500 people in two separate raids on an online gambling ring in the capital Jakarta and a scamming syndicate in Batam, in eastern Riau Islands province. Those arrested were nationals of Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Laos and Myanmar, which all enjoy 30-day visa-free stays in Indonesia, as well as China, which is not included in the waiver scheme. Indonesian immigration boss

Hendarsam Marantoko said the illicit activities were cause for "serious concern". "Cases of foreigners involved in illegal activities, including those coming from countries granted visa-free entry facilities, give rise to (a need for) evaluation" of policies, he said in a statement. Investigators have found that many of those allegedly involved in the illegal gambling centre in Jakarta had entered Indonesia using visa waivers or applied for permits on arrival. In recent weeks, immigration authorities have carried out more than 6,700 "administrative actions" including more than 2,000 deportations and cancellations of stay permits, Hendarsam said. (AFP)

Gunshots fired in standoff at Philippine Senate over ICC suspect

AFP
Manila

Multiple gunshots sent Philippine senators into hiding in their offices late Wednesday, AFP journalists said, as a legislator wanted by the International Criminal Court has sought refuge in the building.

There were no casualties and the search for the gunmen was ongoing, Interior Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla told reporters, adding that fugitive Senator Ronald Dela Rosa remained inside the building.

AFP journalists in the Senate said they heard at least five gunshots.

A television journalist was seen crying as she reported live from inside the building, while one senator, Robin Padilla, urged reporters to evacuate.

The dramatic scene unfolded as Dela Rosa — former president Rodrigo Duterte's top enforcer during his bloody drug war — holed up in the Senate complex to dodge arrest and transfer to the Netherlands over alleged crimes against humanity.

Remulla said Dela Rosa "is safe. He is with security personnel. He has been informed of our activities. We have assured him that there is no warrant of arrest to be served."

President Ferdinand Marcos said government forces inside and around the Senate complex did not fire their guns.

He said agents trying to arrest Dela Rosa had been instructed to stand down after the Supreme Court ordered the government earlier yesterday to explain its actions.

"The thing to do now is to tell all our people to calm down and we will get to the bottom of this. We will determine who is behind this trouble," Marcos said in an address on state television.

Dela Rosa had earlier asked the Supreme Court to stop the authorities from arresting and handing him over to the ICC.

Dela Rosa, known as "Bato", served as na-



Troops arrive after the exchange of gunshots inside the Senate of the Philippines in Pasay, Metro Manila yesterday. (AFP)

tional police chief from 2016 to 2018 during the early phase of Duterte's anti-drug campaign.

The crackdown left thousands dead, many of them drug users and low-level narcotics peddlers, according to human rights monitors.

His boss Duterte was arrested in March last year, flown to the Netherlands on the same day, and is detained in The Hague awaiting trial.

Dela Rosa had not been seen publicly since November before emerging on Monday to take part in an unexpected vote that helped Duterte loyalists capture control of the Senate.

Minutes before the gunfire, Senator Vicente Sotto said in a statement that protesters threw water bottles at his car as he drove alone out of the Senate complex.

Earlier yesterday, Dela Rosa had appealed to the military to oppose attempts to detain him, urging former colleagues to resist any move by President Marcos's government to hand him over to the ICC.

"My fellow men in uniform" should "express their sentiment" that the government "should not hand me over to foreigners", he said.

Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, who had stopped government agents from arresting his ally, said on his official Facebook page he did not know who had fired the shots.

"We heard gunshots and we don't know what is happening. Everyone's locked in their rooms now. We cannot go out, we cannot secure our other staff," he added.

"Why are we under attack here?"

Melvin Matibag, director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) whose agents had attempted to arrest Dela Rosa at the Senate on Monday, denied that his officers had fired their guns.

"We were on a stand down," he told ABS-CBN network in an interview, adding there were no NBI agents inside the Senate when the shooting occurred.

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GULF TIMES

US CEOs seek China business gains from Trump-Xi summit

From Meta to Tesla and BlackRock, the US business delegation for President Donald Trump's summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping this week consists mainly of companies seeking to resolve business issues with the world's second-largest economy.

More than a dozen CEOs and top executives from companies such as Tesla, BlackRock, Illumina, Mastercard and Visa are accompanying Trump on his visit on May 14 and 15. Unlike Trump's 2017 visit, which was heavy on pomp and trade deals, the scaled-back delegation this time includes companies seeking to advance long-standing business priorities in China, said two people familiar with the preparations who sought anonymity.

"Besides Boeing and Cargill being linked to purchase agreements, the others are mainly there to deliver demands on critical input supply," said Reva Goujon, a geopolitical strategist at Rhodium Group. "This could help the US administration's messaging that to even be able to discuss a board of investment, China needs to be a reliable investment partner and not weaponise supply."

The US business delegation hopes the summit will generate enough political goodwill to unlock regulatory approvals, market access and investment opportunities, the sources said, as they face broader operational challenges in China beyond commercial dealmaking.

More than a dozen CEOs and top executives from companies such as Tesla, BlackRock, Illumina, Mastercard and Visa are accompanying Trump on his visit

during or after the summit, one of the sources said. Another source cautioned that US firms viewed the summit less as a venue for formal announcements and more as a political opening that could help accelerate regulatory discussions already underway in China.

For example, Meta needs to tackle an order last month from China's powerful state planner to unwind its \$2-bn-plus acquisition of artificial intelligence startup Manus, as Beijing tightens scrutiny of US investment in domestic startups developing frontier technologies.

China is also weighing curbs on exports of solar manufacturing equipment to the United States, which could threaten plans by US firms such as Tesla to build new factories or expand existing ones to boost local production. In March, Reuters reported that Tesla was looking to buy \$2.9bn of equipment for making solar panels from Chinese suppliers such as Suzhou Maxwell Technologies, which was seeking export approval from the commerce ministry.

Tesla is also seeking Chinese regulatory clearance to expand the adoption of its Full Self-Driving assistance system in the world's largest auto market. Its CEO, Elon Musk, has previously acknowledged the difficulties stemming from tech curbs imposed by both US and Chinese authorities, but voiced optimism about receiving such an approval in China this year.

BlackRock CEO Larry Fink also arrives in Beijing as a consortium led by the US asset manager faces scrutiny over a planned \$23-bn acquisition of ports, including two near the Panama Canal, from Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison.

Payment giants Mastercard and Visa are hoping to use the summit to improve their positions in China's tightly regulated payments market, according to the two sources. One source familiar with the matter said Mastercard was hoping the US government would advocate for a higher stake in its joint venture in China.

Citigroup CEO Jane Fraser and Goldman Sachs CEO David Solomon are also joining the trip as Wall Street firms keep up efforts to deepen access to China's capital markets.

China and the United States may reach a farm deal at the summit to expand Beijing's purchases of grains and meat, but market watchers do not expect major new soybean purchases beyond those agreed in a deal last October. — Reuters



Political turmoil and inflation threat vie to push up UK borrowing costs

UK 10-year government bond yields hit highest since 2008; Starmer's future in doubt, investors fear more borrowing; Iran war inflation worries add to UK yield premium

By David Milliken and Yoruk Bahceli
Reuters

Intense pressure on Prime Minister Keir Starmer is driving up British government borrowing costs — but the political uncertainty is by no means the only factor making Britain's bond yields the highest among major advanced economies.

Yields on 10-year government bonds — which determine how much the government will pay for future borrowing — on Tuesday hit their highest since 2008 at 5.13%.

"There's a lot of fear in the price with gilts," said Gordon Shannon, a partner at investment firm TwentyFour, which manages £23.5bn (\$32bn) of fixed income assets. Most of the potential contenders to succeed Starmer — who came to power in July 2024 with a large parliamentary majority — are likely to want to borrow more, with the possible exception of health minister Wes Streeting, Shannon said.

Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham — who would first need to be re-elected to parliament to succeed Starmer — might borrow an extra £50bn over five years — around a 12% increase on current borrowing plans — if, as he has suggested, defence spending was exempted from existing finance constraints, Shannon said.

MEMORIES OF LIZ TRUSS

Still weighing on British bonds' international appeal is Liz Truss' brief tenure as prime minister. Her attempt to slash taxes caused long-dated gilt prices to tumble and forced the Bank of England to step in to halt a firesale by pension funds as 'bond vigilantes' circled.

Kevin Thozet, an investment committee member at the French investment manager Carmignac,



Britain's Health Secretary Wes Streeting. (AFP)

said investors had charged Britain some "so-called moron premium" in the aftermath of the market crisis that Truss' mini-budget unleashed, "and that could well be the kind of environment we're heading into."

But TwentyFour's Shannon saw no chance of a repeat of such a sharp selloff, saying British politicians who wanted to borrow more now knew they needed to trail those plans in advance and pull back if there was an adverse market reaction.

Britain's 10-year gilt yields of 5.12% compare with 4.45% in the United States — where growth is more robust — and 3.10% in Germany — perceived as more fiscally disciplined. Since the start of the year, they have risen by 0.64 percentage points, more than double the increase in 10-year bond yields in the US and Germany.

Rising gilt yields only affect the cost of newly issued debt, so the impact on government budget plans is not immediate. But Britain's budget watchdog estimates that every percentage point rise in yields will cost the government an extra £15bn a year in debt interest by 2030. To meet



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer. (AFP)

its goal of a balanced current budget by 2029/30, it only has £24bn of leeway.

UK SEEN AS MORE INFLATION-PRONE

Britain's higher borrowing costs cannot be put solely at the door of politics, said Alexandra Ivanova, a fund manager at Invesco, which holds around \$500bn in bonds. "I need to remind investors of 'Finance 101,'" she said. "You need to think what you're getting paid for: liquidity risk premium, political risk premium, the term premium, inflation risk premium ... and in the case of gilts, I think each one of those elements tends to be higher than anywhere else."

Given all these factors, UK gilts did not appear a bargain, even with their higher yield, she said. Inflation risk is the easiest to grasp. The US-Israeli war with Iran has pushed up oil and natural gas prices by around 50% since the end of February.

Britain relies on natural gas imports and the Bank of England forecasts that inflation — which erodes the value of bonds — could exceed 6% early next year if energy prices rise and are slow to fall. Before the conflict, it was

forecasting that inflation would return to its 2% target.

Inflation in the euro zone had been back to target before the conflict but it had been stickier in Britain, reflecting rises in regulated utility prices last year and higher wage growth since the Covid-19 pandemic. Financial markets now price in a rise in the benchmark BoE lending rate to 4.5% by February 2027 from 3.75% now, compared to forecasts of one or two cuts before the conflict. Many economists are more sceptical, however, given that the weak outlook for British growth will also curb inflation.

UK GILTS MORE VOLATILE THAN OTHER SOVEREIGN BONDS

A more subtle reason for higher gilt yields is the fact that British government bonds are more volatile in price than US or German debt. For much of the past 20 years, British pension funds and life insurers bought 30-year gilts to match their long-term liabilities.

But companies' shift away from defined-benefit pension schemes has ended that process. Gilt buyers are now more often foreign hedge funds, said Nicolas Trindade, senior portfolio manager at BNP Paribas Asset Management, and these are more price-sensitive and investing on much shorter time horizons.

The risk of big day-to-day lurches in turn makes some investors demand a bigger yield.

Some investors also blame the Bank of England's programme of bond sales — currently running at £70bn a year — for pushing up gilt yields. Shannon thought that, over the medium term, the political risk premium would narrow, but said it was harder to judge the other elements. But for now, political uncertainty looms large. "You need various foreign investors to be interested. And turning over prime ministers isn't what people want to see."



British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper prepares to speak during a virtual summit at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London. The US-Israeli war with Iran has pushed up oil and natural gas prices by around 50% since the end of February. (Reuters)

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France locks down cruise ship after 92-year-old dies

AFP
Bordeaux

French authorities yesterday confined more than 1,700 passengers and crew on a British cruise ship after an elderly passenger died and dozens suffered upset stomachs, health officials said.

They insisted there was no connection with the hantavirus outbreak, suspected of killing three passengers on the Dutch MV Hondius cruise ship that set sail from Argentina, which has sparked international alarm.

Dozens suffered from upset stomachs aboard the Ambition — most of whose 1,233 passengers are from Britain or Ireland — which arrived in the western port of Bordeaux on Tuesday, with 514 crew members also on board.

One 92-year-old British passenger on the Ambition, run by the UK-based Ambassador Cruise Line company, had died of a heart attack, health authorities said.

“At this stage, no link has been established with the gastroenteritis episode,” they added yesterday afternoon.

Initial tests ruled out an out-



Cruise ship Ambition, operated by the Ambassador Cruise Line, is docked at the Port of Bordeaux after local authorities said passengers could not disembark following an outbreak of possible gastroenteritis reported on board, in Bordeaux, yesterday. (Reuters)

break of norovirus, a highly contagious form of gastroenteritis which causes vomiting and diarrhoea, but secondary tests were still underway, they added.

Food poisoning had not been excluded.

Seos Guilidhe, a 52-year-old from the Northern Irish capital

Belfast, sent AFP a message via Facebook as he was “playing bingo”.

“We are onboard with extra sanitation guidelines in place. It is not as bad as it was during Covid. People just going about as normal,” he wrote in the message, referring to lockdowns dur-

ing the coronavirus pandemic.

“We are just waiting on test results coming back from the French government to see what the elder gentleman died from,” he added.

Passengers on board the Ambition showed peak symptoms on Monday when the ship was docked in Brest, the officials said. The man in his nineties died before they arrived at the port in France’s northwestern Brittany region.

The ship, which left the Shetland Islands north of Scotland on May 6, stopped in Belfast and Liverpool in England before reaching Bordeaux, from where it was scheduled to depart for Spain.

It was initially supposed to dock back in Liverpool on May 22.

The cruise line company on its Facebook page said its figures showed an increase in cases after embarking guests in Liverpool.

No security measures were in place around the ship as it was docked in Bordeaux yesterday, an AFP reporter said. Passengers were taking pictures of the French city from the deck.

Those on board would be allowed to disembark “once clearance is granted”, the cruise line said.

Latvian govt risks collapse after drone incursions

AFP
Vilnius

Latvian Prime Minister Evika Silina yesterday lost the backing of a key party in her ruling coalition after firing her defence minister in the wake of recent incursions by Ukrainian drones into Latvia’s territory.

The Progressive party’s departure from the centre-right government, in power since 2023, has deepened a political crisis in the Baltic nation, a European Union and Nato member that has been a staunch ally of Ukraine.

The coalition had been hanging by a thread since Silina called on Sunday for the resignation of Progressive defence minister Andris Spruds, saying Latvia’s anti-drone systems had not been deployed quickly enough to counter the incursions.

On May 7, two Ukrainian strike drones crossed the Russian border and crashed into Latvian territory.

Ukraine accused Russia of using “electronic warfare” to divert the drones from their targets.

One hit a disused fuel storage site in the eastern region of Latgale, causing a fire that was

quickly brought under control.

Without the Progressives’ nine seats in the 100-member parliament, Silina’s coalition currently has 41 seats, to 47 for the opposition.

Opposition lawmakers said they would introduce a vote of no-confidence in Silina’s government.

“I will initiate consultations with my party’s board and faction deputies, as well as our (remaining) coalition partner, regarding further action,” Silina posted on X.

Earlier, the Progressives asked Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics to begin talks on a future coalition.

The president said he would meet party leaders on Friday.

After forcing the defence minister’s resignation, Silina had nominated an army colonel to replace him, but the Progressives rejected the move, she said.

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, multiple drones from both countries have crashed in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday his country would send experts to Latvia to help it protect its airspace, after meeting his counterpart Rinkevics at a summit in Romania.

Airspace breaches show need to boost Nato air defence

Reuters
Bucharest

Russia’s repeated airspace violations of countries on the eastern flank of Nato underline the urgent need to consolidate the alliance’s air defences against missiles and drones, the leaders of 14 allies said yesterday.

They also called for greater co-operation in building up defence industry capacity in a joint statement, issued after a meeting of eastern flank allies in Bucharest hosted by Romania’s President Nicusor Dan and Polish President Karol Nawrocki.

“We condemn Russia’s highly confrontational actions against Allies and partners, including sabotage, cyberattacks, and a wide range of hybrid attacks and destabilising activities,” the leaders’ joint statement said.

“Repeated airspace violations on the Eastern Flank underscore the urgent need to continue strengthening Nato’s air and missile defence, including against unmanned aerial vehicle threats.”

Romania, Poland and Baltic states have had their airspace repeatedly breached by Russian drones. Russia has denied targeting Nato states. Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky, Nato Secretary-General Mark Rutte and US Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Thomas DiNanno were among those attending yesterday’s one-day gathering.

The meeting, which comes ahead of a Nato summit in Ankara in July, aims to find ways to



Nato Secretary-General Mark Rutte, Polish President Karol Nawrocki, Romanian President Nicusor Dan and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky pose with other European leaders for a picture at the B9 summit in Bucharest, yesterday. (AFP)

mend a widening rift between US President Donald Trump and Europe over the Iran crisis.

“Further scaling up the transatlantic defence industrial base, including through increased production capacity, more resilient supply chains, effective multinational procurement... is essential to meeting today’s security challenges,” the joint statement said. It was signed by the so-called “B9” grouping, comprising nine central and eastern European Nato allies, launched in Bucharest after Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. They are Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Yesterday’s statement was also signed by the five Nordic

members of Nato — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Zelensky told the gathering it was difficult to say what results the Nato summit in Ankara might bring but that it should send positive signals to the whole Euro-Atlantic community.

“At the same time, we should not be afraid to discuss more united and, in some areas, more self-reliant European military capabilities,” said Zelensky.

Ukraine is not a Nato member but it has received substantial military and financial support from the 32-nation alliance as it seeks to rebuff a full-scale Russian invasion that began in February 2022.

Putin replaces governors of regions bordering Ukraine

AFP
Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin replaced the governors of two regions bordering Ukraine hit by Kyiv’s retaliatory attacks — Bryansk and Belgorod — yesterday, the Kremlin said.

The two governors — Alexander Bogomaz and Vyacheslav Gladkov — had led the regions throughout Moscow’s Ukraine offensive.

The Russian leader replaced them with an army general who has fought in Ukraine and an official who previously worked for Russia’s occupational authorities in east Ukraine.

Gladkov — who had led the Belgorod region, the worst hit by Ukrainian counter-strikes, since 2021 — had documented the attacks daily, with Russian media reporting on his

popularity in the region.

Putin appointed Alexander Shuvayev, a Russian army general who has fought in Ukraine since 2022, as interim head of Belgorod.

According to Russian media, he also fought in Russia’s campaigns in the North Caucasus, Georgia and Syria.

Shuvayev was born in the Belgorod region.

He completed the Kremlin’s “Time of Heroes” programme, which seeks to promote veterans of Moscow’s Ukraine campaign into high-profile positions.

Putin appointed Yegor Kovalchuk — who briefly led Russian occupation authorities in Lugansk — as interim leader of Bryansk.

Both Bryansk and Belgorod have been hit by cross-border attacks by Ukraine during Moscow’s offensive, even suffering incursions earlier in the four-year war.

Sunk Russian ship held nuclear reactor components: Spanish govt

AFP
Madrid

A US-sanctioned Russian cargo ship that sank in the Mediterranean Sea in 2024 was carrying “nuclear reactor components” similar to those used in nuclear submarines, according to a Spanish government letter, shedding some light on the mystery.

The Urso Major, owned by a company that belongs to the Russian defence ministry, sank in international waters off southern Spain in December 2024 with 16 people on board — two of whom were never found.

The captain finally “confessed” that the ship was transporting “components of two

nuclear reactors similar to those used by submarines”, reads a government letter to parliament dated February 23 and seen by AFP yesterday.

The captain said the reactors “were not carrying nuclear fuel”, but this information could not be verified, added the letter, cited in a CNN article published on Tuesday.

According to the US outlet and regional Spanish daily *La Verdad de Murcia*, the ship may have been sunk in a Western operation because it was taking nuclear reactors to North Korea.

Its owner denounced at the time “a targeted terrorist attack”, without providing evidence.

The vessel’s official route was from Saint Petersburg to Vladivostok in Russia’s Far East.

Questioned by AFP in January, Spanish official Oscar Villar, in charge of investigations at the time, declined to confirm the CNN and *La Verdad de Murcia* articles, which said they consulted a Spanish investigative report.

Spain’s seismology institute had told AFP it had recorded “four seismic signals” near the southeastern coastal city of Cartagena on the day of the sinking.

These were similar to explosions “in quarries to extract construction material, or those carried out by military divers in their anti-mine drills”.

The US in 2022 imposed sanctions on the Urso Major for providing “transportation services... for the delivery of cargo to Russian-occupied Crimea”.

Families of Pakistani hostages held by Somali pirates call for their rescue

Reuters
Karachi

Ambreen Fatima protested in Karachi with her children yesterday for the release of her husband, one of ten Pakistani crew aboard an oil tanker seized by Somali pirates 23 days ago, and who is now drinking dirty tank water to survive, she said.

The MT Honour 25, a Palau-flagged product tanker, was seized on April 21 approximately 30 nautical miles off Somalia’s Puntland region with 17 crew members aboard, 10 of them Pakistani.

Fatima said her daughter had been hospitalised for two days due to the stress and her 16-year-old son, sitting his annual exams, could barely concentrate.

“He says his brain isn’t functioning. He’s worried about his dad and that’s all that’s on his mind,” said Fatima. Her husband, Syed Hussain Yousuf, serves as second engineer on the vessel. The last time their captors allowed a video call six days ago, “he did not look well,” she said.

Under the hot sun, five families of the hostages gathered on the Karachi Port Trust Native Jetty Bridge, an overpass near Karachi’s main port, holding signs demanding the government bring their relatives home, while children, some barely able to hold their placards upright, stood beside them. Hijackings of vessels by Somali pirate gangs were once commonplace around the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean, a major shipping lane used to transport



Families of Pakistan’s crew members of an oil tanker seized by pirates in Somalia demonstrate during a protest near Karachi Port Trust (KPT) in Karachi yesterday, urging the government to ensure the safe return of their loved ones. (AFP)

critical energy and goods to global markets. They eased through much of 2025 but incidents are rising again. The waterway is particularly important given the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz due to the Iran war.

Families said their children had suffered panic and anxiety attacks since their fathers went missing. Crew members, when briefly allowed by pirates to call home, reported the ship had run out of clean water, with sailors drinking dirty tank water and surviving on boiled rice once a day.

Pakistan’s foreign ministry spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said the pirates had not contacted Islamabad and had shown no desire to negotiate with the government. “The ship owner is negotiating with the pirates and is in touch with the Somali government, which is keeping Pakistan informed of updates,” he said.

A team from Pakistan’s embassy in Djibouti visited Somalia from May 7 to May 10 and was told the captives were safe, but that Somali authorities could not storm the vessel as it carried flammable cargo, he said.

“We are doing our best. We understand that Pakistan’s Ministry of Maritime Affairs is co-ordinating with the families.”

At least three vessels were hijacked off Puntland in April 2026, prompting a “substantial” threat-level warning from the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations.

Mehwish Yasir said she had spoken to her husband of 15 years, Yasir Khan, an oiler aboard the vessel, only twice since he departed in January and had no idea whether any steps were being taken to free him. Her younger son still did not understand what had happened. “He still thinks his dad is going to come soon,” she said.

Turkiye and Armenia to restart direct trade

Turkiye and Armenia will formally resume trade relations after a 33-year freeze as part of a rapprochement between the two countries, a Turkish foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Turkiye shut its border with Armenia in 1993 in support of its ally Azerbaijan, which was at war with Armenia over Karabakh. Turkiye and Armenia have been cautiously moving towards rapprochement since late 2021, a year after Armenia was defeated by Azerbaijan in a fresh conflict over that disputed territory. “Within the framework of our normalisation process with Armenia that has been ongoing since 2022... the bureaucratic preparations regarding the initiation of direct trade between

our country and Armenia have been completed as of May 11,” foreign ministry spokesman Oncu Keceli said on X.

Trade had already been passing between Turkiye and Armenia via Georgia, with taxes imposed in the transit country. But under the new regulation, goods can be formally designated as direct exports from Turkiye to Armenia, with the origin and final destination listed as being in those countries.

Trade will continue to transit through an unspecified third country due to the lack of a functional border crossing. “The necessary technical and bureaucratic work toward opening the common border between the two countries is still ongoing,” the spokesman said.

Turkiye and Armenia also share a border with Iran. Armenia welcomed Turkiye’s decision “to lift the bans on bilateral trade with Armenia”, its foreign ministry spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson described it as an “important step towards the development of full-fledged and normal relations between the two countries”.

Ankara’s latest announcement marks a new step toward normalisation between Ankara and Yerevan after Azerbaijan’s seizure of Karabakh, which saw most of the Armenian population leave. Last month, Armenia and Turkiye decided to put the Kars-Gyumri railway line back into service on both sides of their border. (AFP)

Embassy of Japan at Doha book fair



This year, the booth of Embassy of Japan at the 35th Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) will showcase a diverse selection of books across various fields, catering to readers of all ages. Visitors can also expect a range of cultural activities at the booth, including Japanese calligraphy and origami demonstrations between 11am and 12pm; and from 3pm to 4pm daily. Embassy staff will be present at the booth (booth number H2-14) to answer any questions about the Japanese culture, tourism, language, and educational and scholarship opportunities in Japan.

The Embassy of Japan has been a dedicated participant in this annual event for many years, recognising it as a valuable platform to foster cultural understanding between Japan and Qatar. We warmly welcome all visitors to explore Japan at our booth during the book fair.

QPC participates in DIBF with a slew of Qatari titles

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Qatar Press Centre (QPC) is participating in the 35th Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) with a collection of intellectual, journalistic, and cultural publications documenting the history of Qatari media and commemorating prominent figures in journalism, literature, and heritage. The publications also address issues of society, thought, identity, and human consciousness.

Underscoring the vital role of the fair as a comprehensive cultural platform that contributes to stimulating intellectual discourse, supporting the publishing industry, and promoting the book as a means for enlightenment and raising awareness.

The fair is being held from today to May 23 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). A selection from the list of participating publications includes: *Nasser Mohammed al-Othman: The Dean of Qatari Journalism* by Zuhair Radwan Ghazal, *Abdullah bin Yousef al-Husseini: A Pioneer of Magazine Publishing in Qatari*



The World Cup Legacy: Images from the Heart of the Event.

Journalism by Ahmed Abdul-latif.

Specters of a Pen by Dr Abdul-lah al-Emadi, *A Lover of Words* by Dr Ahmed Abdulmalik, *Sunday Morning* by media personality Mubarak Jaham al-Kuwari, in addition to "On the Edge of the East" by Sultan al-Jassim, and the books *The World Cup Legacy: Images from the Heart of the Event* and *The World Cup Pen*.

The book "Nasser Mohammed al-Othman: Dean of Qatari Journalism" celebrates the life of one of the most prominent pioneers of media and culture in Qatar, showcasing his contributions to

establishing and developing the journalistic landscape, his career as editor-in-chief of the newspapers *Al-Raya* and *Al-Sharq*, his role in founding the Grand Mosque Radio in 1965, organising the first international book fair in Qatar in 1970, and his election as Secretary-General of the Gulf Press Union in 2005. It also highlights his receipt of numerous awards and honours in recognition of his contributions to media and culture.

Specters of a Pen by Dr Abdul-lah al-Emadi, published in November 2025, documents social, economic, and political issues

that Qatar, the region, and the world have witnessed over thirty years. Through journalistic articles, it presents intellectual, political, and cultural disagreements with a profound analytical perspective, ranging from critiques of Islamophobia to discussions of political tyranny, media excesses, and contemporary intellectual transformations.

Hadeel Saber's book, *Tarweeda*, addresses the Palestinian cause, particularly since October 7, 2023, through political and humanitarian articles that draw inspiration from the Palestinian *Tarweeda* as a symbol of resistance and the coded messages used by Palestinians during periods of occupation and imprisonment.

The book *Abdullah bin Yousef Al-Husseini: A Pioneer of Magazine Production in Qatari Journalism* documents the experiences of one of the pioneers of independent journalism and the founding of the magazine *Al-Ahd*.

Detailing efforts to attract Qatari writers, poets, and media professionals, the book supported by rare photographs and documents chronicles a pivotal period in Qatari journalism.

US embassy to focus on American lit



The Embassy of the United States of America in Doha announced its participation at this year's the Doha International Book Fair at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). Returning to this year's fair, the US embassy will host an engaging booth featuring a curated selection of books for readers of all ages. The collection highlights the power of curiosity, discovery, and learning, inviting visitors to explore ideas that shape our world and inspire innovation.

Under the theme "Mission to the Moon: 250 Years of American Ingenuity," the embassy's booth will commemorate Freedom 250, the national initiative marking 250 years of American independence. The booth will spotlight US achievements in science and technology, with a focus on space exploration and innovation. Visitors will have the opportunity to discover resources that reflect the US' commitment to education, innovation, and scientific exploration.

"The Doha International Book Fair is a powerful reminder of how ideas, stories, and knowledge connect people across cultures," said Chargé d'Affaires Mo Barghouty.

"We are proud to participate once again and to share a collection of books that inspire curiosity and learning for all ages. Through our focus on innovation and space exploration, and as we commemorate 250 years of American excellence, we also hope to spark interest in the possibilities of science and discovery, and to strengthen the enduring ties between the US and Qatar."

The US embassy invites students, families, educators, and book lovers to visit its booth throughout the fair to explore the collection and engage with embassy representatives.

Justice Ministry, General Secretariat joint pavilion at Doha book fair

The Ministry of Justice and the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers will participate in the Doha International Book Fair with a joint pavilion.

In a reflection of both entities' commitment to supporting legal culture and enhancing public awareness, the pavilion will present a range of legal initiatives, interactive activities, and knowledge-based publications.

Among them will be the Qatari Legal Authors Initiative, which

brings together the works of several Qatari writers and researchers affiliated with the Ministry of Justice.

That, as well as a dedicated section for the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers' authors, in an effort to support national academic output and strengthen Qatari legal identity.

Demonstrating the Ministry of Justice and the General Secretariat's orientation toward employing artificial intelligence in legal fields, the joint pavilion will

have an AI-powered photography corner that allows visitors to take souvenir photos using AI while dressed in attire associated with legal professions.

Seeking to instill legal awareness among young people and enhance thinking skills and familiarity with useful educational programs, the pavilion dedicated an interactive children's corner that will feature educational electronic games, competitions, and instant prizes.

Visitors will explore a collec-

tion of booklets and publications focused on legal awareness, alongside a dedicated section for the State of Qatar's permanent constitution and samples of the Official Gazette, in addition to highlights of a number of laws and regulations related to public interests. The pavilion will also display the book titled *Domestic Achievements Book 2025*, which documents the most notable projects and initiatives implemented by ministries and state institutions within the framework of national

development strategies and the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Through their participation in the Doha International Book Fair, the Ministry of Justice and the General Secretariat are embodying their institutional vision of supporting legal culture and strengthening its role in community development, while also promoting social responsibility, encouraging creativity, and contributing to the achievement of national development goals. (QNA)

WEEKEND PRICE

١٤-٥-٢٠٢٦ في جميع منافذ سفاري
14-05-2026 at All Safari outlets



١٤ QR.00
لحم بقري بالعظم باكستاني ٥٠٠ جم
Pakistan Beef with Bone 500 gm



١٧ QR.75
لحم ضاني تنزاني ٥٠٠ جم
Tanzanian Mutton 500 gm



١٢ QR.00
سمك سلطان باسي عمان ١ كجم
Fresh Sultan Basi Oman 1 kg



٢٣ QR.00
جمبري (٤٠-٥٠) اماراتي ١ كجم
Fresh Prawns (40-50) UAE 1 kg



٨ QR.75
سمك ماكريل صغير سعودي ١ كجم
Fresh Mackerel Small KSA 1 kg



١٣ QR.00
بيض ابيض ٣٠ حبة
Fresh White Eggs 30s Tray



١ QR.75
بطاطس سعودية ١ كجم
Potato KSA 1 kg



٤ QR.50
يقطين زبدة افريقي ١ كجم
Butter Pumpkin Africa 1 kg



٢ QR.75
برتقال فالنسيا مصري ١ كجم
Orange Valencia Egypt 1 kg



٤ QR.75
موز اكوادور ١ كجم
Banana Ecuador 1 kg



٤ QR.50
كمثرى خضراء ويليام افريقيا ١ كجم
Pear Green William Africa 1 kg



٨ QR.00
اناناس ذهبي كينيا ١ كجم
Pineapple Gold Kenya 1 kg



٦ QR.50
تفاح رويال جالا بولندا ١ كجم
Apple Royal Gala Poland 1 kg



١٠ QR.50
عنب احمر غلوب افريقيا ١ كجم
Grape Red Globe Africa 1 kg



٢٣ QR.75
البادية طليب كامل الدسم ١ لتر ٤ حبة
Al Badia Full Cream Milk 1 Ltr x 4 pcs



١٥ QR.00
ساديا سترس دجاج / فليت ٧٥٠ جم - ١ حبة
Sadia Brosted Chicken Strips / Fillet 750gm x 1 pc



٢٠ QR.75
كراون ديلوكس ارز بسمتي ٥ كجم - ١ حبة
Crown Deluxe Basmati Rice 5 kg x 1 pc



٧ QR.00
اربال مسحوق غسيل ١ كجم - ١ حبة
Ariel Detergent Powder LS 1 kg x 1 pc



٥th Lucky Draw on: 21-06-2026
at Safari Hypermarket, Birkat al Awamer (4 Winners)