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Financial Results (Q1 2026)

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13% ▲

QAR 3.2B

Net Profit

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Investment Income:

10% ▲

QAR 238M

Insurance Service Results:

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QAR 130M

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SCAN TO SHOP

A century of medals for Qatar



Qatar's athletes and Qatar Athletics Federation president Mohammed al-Fadala celebrate the home team's superb performances at the 4th GCC Games - Doha 2026 at Suheim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha yesterday. Qatar ended the athletics campaign with 34 medals including 12 gold, 13 silver and 9 bronze. On the final day, Qatar added nine medals including two gold, five silver, and two bronze to secure top spot in GCC athletics. **PICTURE:** Noushad Thekkayil

By Sports Reporter
Doha

Team Qatar athletics yesterday concluded their participation at the 4th GCC Games Doha 2026 with an impressive medal haul that helped Qatar's overall tally at the Games cross the 100-mark.

Qatar now has 109 medals overall - including 39 gold, 38 silver and 32 bronze medals - to

maintain a commanding lead in the standings. Saudi Arabia is placed second with 61 medals (24 gold, 19 silver and 18 bronze), while Bahrain occupies third spot with 54 medals (22 gold, 20 silver and 12 bronze).

The athletics team alone contributed 34 medals, comprising 12 gold, 13 silver and nine bronze medals, underlining the outstanding performances delivered by Qatari athletes throughout the competition.

Team Qatar added nine medals on the final day of athletics competition, including two gold, five silver and two bronze medals, to secure first place in GCC athletics.

Bahrain finished second in athletics with 22 medals, including 11 gold, eight silver and three bronze, while Oman came third with 11 medals, consisting of seven gold, two silver and two bronze. **Sport Page 1**

PM underpins regional stability

Focus on ceasefire in calls with Pak, Saudi, Portuguese counterparts

He the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held a series of telephone conversations yesterday with the leaders and top diplomats of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Portugal, during which he discussed the ceasefire between the US and Iran, Pakistan's mediation efforts, and ways to consolidate regional security and stability.

In a telephone call with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them. They also discussed the latest developments in the region, as well as Pakistan's mediation efforts aimed at de-escalating ten-

sions in order to enhance security and stability in the region.

The prime minister expressed Qatar's appreciation for the efforts of Pakistan and all parties involved in the mediation and good offices that contributed to reaching a ceasefire between the US and Iran.

He affirmed Qatar's full support for the Pakistani mediation efforts aimed at ending the crisis through peaceful means, stressing the need for all parties to engage with these efforts in order to create the appropriate conditions for progress in the negotiations, leading to a comprehensive agreement that achieves sustainable peace in the region.

Separately, the prime minister held a telephone conversation with Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah al-Saud, during which they reviewed the relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them. They also discussed developments in the

region, particularly those related to the ceasefire between the US and Iran, as well as efforts aimed at de-escalation to contribute to enhancing security and stability in the region.

The prime minister emphasised the importance of all parties responding positively to the ongoing mediation efforts, which would pave the way for addressing the root causes of the crisis through peaceful means and dialogue, leading to a sustainable agreement that prevents renewed escalation.

The prime minister also received a phone call from Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them. They also discussed developments in the region, particularly those related to the ceasefire between the US and Iran, and the efforts aimed at de-escalation to enhance security and stability in the region. **(QNA)**

Drone hit ignites fire near UAE N-power plant

AFF
Abu Dhabi

A drone strike triggered a fire near a nuclear power station in the emirate of Abu Dhabi yesterday, authorities said, reporting no injuries or impact on radiation levels.

The UAE's defence ministry said the drone that targeted the facility was one of three that "entered the country from the western border direction".

The projectile struck "an electrical generator outside the inner perimeter of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in the Al Dhafra area".

"Investigations are ongoing to determine the source of the attacks, and updates will be disclosed upon completion of the investigations," the ministry added.

UAE presidential adviser Anwar Gargash appeared to refer to Iran and its regional proxy groups in his condemnation of the attack.

"The terrorist targeting of the Barakah clean nuclear power plant, whether carried out by the principal perpetrator or through one of its agents, represents a dangerous escalation," he wrote on X.

He called the incident "a dark scene that violates all international laws and norms", accusing the perpetrators of a disregard for the lives of civilians in the UAE.

The UAE "condemned in the strongest terms the unprovoked terrorist attack" and "will not tolerate any threat to its security and sovereignty under any circumstances", a foreign ministry statement said.

"These attacks constitute a dangerous escalation, an unacceptable act of aggression and a direct threat to the country's security," it added.

The Barakah Nuclear Power Plant began operations in 2020 and is 200km west of the UAE's capital Abu Dhabi, near the borders with Saudi Arabia and Qatar. **To Page 3**

Qatar slams attack; PM expresses solidarity

He the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held a telephone conversation yesterday with UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

During the call, the prime minister reiterated Qatar's condemnation of the attack on the UAE with three UAVs, one of which targeted the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in Al Dhafra region.

He stressed Qatar stands in full solidarity with the UAE in all measures it takes to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and the safety of its facilities.

In addition, the PM underscored the importance of all parties engaging positively with the ongoing mediation efforts, which ultimately pave the way for addressing the root causes of the crisis through peaceful means and dialogue, culminating in reaching an enduring accord that prevents re-escalation.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the attacks marked a dangerous escalation through the targeting of vital facilities and civilian infrastructure. The ministry stressed the need to spare the region the consequences of such unjustified attacks and to intensify efforts aimed at de-escalation. **(QNA)**



A file photo obtained from the media office of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant on February 13, 2020 shows a general view of the power plant in the western Al Dhafra Region of Abu Dhabi. **(AFP)**

International Museum Day today



Qatar Museums will mark International Museum Day today with a vibrant sweep of cultural and interactive events staged across its flagship institutions, with this year's celebrations doubling as a tribute under the theme "Museums Uniting a Divided World". From the Museum of Islamic Art seen here to Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art and the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, visitors of every age can dip into workshops, guided tours, storytelling sessions, films and educational programmes - all with free admission across every Qatar Museums venue. **PICTURE:** Thajudheen

Gulf Times refashions Opinion page with new set of analysts

Gulf Times is pleased to unveil a newly designed opinion page in today's edition, marking the launch of a distinguished line-up of international journalists, academics and media professionals whose regular analysis will enrich the newspaper's editorial offering.

The refreshed page, redesigned with a cleaner layout and a sharper visual identity, has been conceived as a dedicated home for authoritative voices on the issues shaping the region and the wider world.

It reflects Gulf Times continued commitment to delivering high-quality, insightful

journalism, while expanding its coverage of regional and global developments across key sectors including geopolitics, energy, media and international affairs.

Leading the launch is **Kristian Coates Ulrichsen**, a leading scholar specialising in Gulf politics and international political economy, and **Jasim al-Azzawi**, an experienced news anchor, programme presenter and media instructor, who will contribute opinion pieces and insights drawing on his extensive career in international broadcasting and journalism.

➔ **Over to Page 10**

OPINION

What's next for UK PM?

B...

Starmer's troubles a sign of fractured times

A...

Fibre-optic drones have exposed Netanyahu's Hezbollah pipe dream

A...

Starmer's troubles a sign of fractured times

A...

Amir sends cable of condolences to Kuwaiti ruler

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of condolences to the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah on the passing of Sheikh Fadhel Khaled Jaber al-Fadhel al-Sabah.

His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent similar cables of condolences to Sheikh Meshal. - **QNA**

Amir, Deputy Amir congratulate Norway's king

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to King Harald V of Norway on the occasion of the country's Constitution Day. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of

congratulations to King Harald V. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani meanwhile sent a cable of congratulations to Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store on the occasion. - **QNA**



Minister meets Egyptian envoy

HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie met yesterday with Egypt's ambassador to Qatar Walid ElFeky. They reviewed ways to enhance co-operation between the two countries, particularly in environmental fields, and discussed matters of mutual interest. - **QNA**

PM sends congratulations to Bahamian counterpart

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Philip Edward Davis, on the occasion of his re-election. - **QNA**

Syrian delegation briefed on Qatar's security and public service experience

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) received a delegation from the Syrian interior ministry to learn about Qatar's experience in security and service sectors and to enhance security co-operation and the exchange of expertise between the two ministries.



The visit included tours to the Criminal Evidence and Information Department, the Criminal Investigation Department, the Airport Security Department, and the Economic and Cyber Crimes Department.

The Syrian delegation was briefed on the operational mechanisms, services provided, and the latest security applications, technologies, and systems adopted by these departments to support and enhance the efficiency of security operations. - **QNA**

GCC chief meets UK deputy PM



Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) secretary-general Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi met yesterday with UK Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy to discuss discussed topics and regional developments. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 1st Euro-Gulf Geopolitical and Investment Summit in Greece. - **QNA**

US energy secretary visits Golden Pass LNG project

QatarEnergy was honoured by a visit by US Secretary of Energy Chris Wright to the Golden Pass LNG project in Sabine Pass, Texas.

Wright's visit, which included a tour of the project, highlighted the growing role played by liquefied natural gas (LNG) in driving global economic growth and development as well as the value this partnership between Qatar and the US brings to global energy security.

Commenting on the visit, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, who is also the president and chief executive of QatarEnergy, said: "We are delighted by Secretary Chris Wright's visit to our largest investment in the US, which is an embodiment of the strong relations between our countries and the decades-long strategic energy partnership we share."

"In partnership with Exxon-Mobil and with the support of the US government, Golden Pass LNG reinforces QatarEnergy's position in the global energy sector, drives economic growth, and contributes to key US energy and economic policy objectives," he said.

"I would like to thank the government of the United States and the legislature of the State of Texas for their valued support of this project, as well as our strategic partner ExxonMobil, and all



Golden Pass LNG will produce up to 18 MTPA of LNG when its three LNG trains are fully operational.

the employees and contractors at Golden Pass LNG for their great efforts on this project," HE al-Kaabi added.

Golden Pass LNG will produce up to 18 MTPA of LNG when its three LNG trains are fully operational.

Train 1 has already started production and has exported its first LNG shipment, which was safely and successfully loaded onboard QatarEnergy's "Al-Qaiyyah" LNG vessel in April 2026.

Golden Pass LNG is a partner-

ship between QatarEnergy (70%) and ExxonMobil (30%).

The two partners had announced their final investment decision for developing the Golden Pass LNG project in February 2019.

Rafeeq and Google Announce Strategic Partnership to Accelerate AI-First Commerce and Operations

Rafeeq, one of Qatar's leading digital commerce and delivery platforms, today announced a strategic AI transformation partnership with Google, marking a major milestone in Rafeeq's journey to become an AI-first company operating at scale.

The partnership goes beyond a standard vendor arrangement. It signals to the market that Rafeeq is placing artificial intelligence at the center of its next phase of growth, with a focus on transforming customer experience, operations, employee capabilities, and platform intelligence.

Through this partnership, Rafeeq and Google will collaborate across four core pillars: AI-powered search, operations optimization, employee business intelligence enablement, and app personalization.

As part of the partnership, Google will support Rafeeq in replacing its current search infrastructure with a more advanced end-to-end AI-powered search capability. This transformation is designed to address one of Rafeeq's most critical customer experience priorities by making search faster, smarter, and more relevant across the platform.

The partnership will also play a central role in Rafeeq's operational transformation. Google will directly support demand planning, item planning, and route assignment, feeding into Rafeeq's ongoing AI initiatives and helping the company make faster, more accurate, and more intelligent operational decisions.

In addition, Google will provide structured business intelligence training and education for Rafeeq teams. This will help accelerate Rafeeq's internal data transformation by equipping employees with the knowledge and tools needed to work in a more data-driven, AI-enabled environment.

A fourth pillar of the partnership will focus on app personalization. Google will support Rafeeq in powering custom ranking and personalization across the app, helping match users with products based on historical behavior, patterns, and preferences. This will allow Rafeeq to deliver a more intuitive, relevant, and personalized customer experience.



The announcement reflects Rafeeq's broader ambition to set a new benchmark for digital commerce innovation in Qatar and the region. By integrating AI across search, operations, workforce enablement, and personalization, Rafeeq is strengthening its position as a technology-driven platform focused on speed, relevance, efficiency, and customer satisfaction.

With this strategic partnership, Rafeeq is taking a decisive step toward building a smarter, more personalized, and more efficient digital commerce ecosystem, powered by AI and designed for the future.

Mr. Abdullah Thamer Albemaidi, CEO of Rafeeq, said:

"Rafeeq's next chapter will be defined by how deeply we embed AI into our operations, our customer experience, and our culture. This partnership with Google is a powerful statement of intent. We are not simply adopting AI tools; we are transforming the way Rafeeq operates at scale. Together with Google, we are building the foundation for smarter search, more intelligent planning, stronger personalization, and a more data-empowered organization."



QNB

Join the race to win a McLaren Artura Spider with your QNB Mastercard debit card.

Spend cumulative QAR 30,000 to enter the draw. Every additional QAR 1,000 adds one more chance. Terms and conditions apply.



QNB and Mastercard launch new campaign

QNB Group has launched a new campaign in partnership with Mastercard, aimed at rewarding customers for using their QNB Mastercard debit cards for everyday purchases, while supporting the continued evolution of Qatar's digital ecosystem.

Running from May 17 until July 2, 2026, the campaign offers eligible QNB Mastercard debit cardholders the opportunity to enter a draw to win the iconic McLaren Artura Spider 2026.

As part of the campaign, customers will automatically qualify for the draw when they make local and international purchases with a minimum cumulative spend of QR30,000 during the campaign period. In addition, every QR1,000 spent above the qualification threshold will provide customers with one additional entry into the draw, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

The initiative reflects QNB's continued focus on enhancing customer experiences through rewarding and seamless banking solutions that align with evolving consumer spending habits and the growing preference for secure, cashless transactions.

The campaign comes amid continued growth in digital payment adoption across Qatar as consumers increasingly favour card-based and contactless transactions for retail, travel, and lifestyle spending.

QNB Mastercard debit cards offer customers secure and convenient payment solutions, supported by a range of benefits and privileges designed to enhance both local and international spending experiences.

Minister sets up Haj Mission

HE the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs (Awqaf) Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanim (pictured) has issued a ministerial decision establishing the Qatari Haj Mission for the 1447 AH (2026 CE) Haj season and defining the support units operating under its umbrella, as part of Qatar's continued commitment to serving its pilgrims and enabling them to perform the Haj rituals in an atmosphere of security, tranquility, and comfort.

Under the decision, the minister will head Qatar's Haj Mission, while Haj and Umrah Affairs Department director Ali bin Sultan al-Musaifri has been appointed deputy head of the mission.

Representatives from several ministries and national institutions have also been included in the mission structure, including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of

Public Health, and the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, ensuring institutional integration and seamless co-ordination among all entities concerned with serving Qatari pilgrims efficiently and effectively.

The ministerial decision also provides for the formation of an advisory committee and a number of specialised administrative and technical units operating within a comprehensive organisational framework designed to deliver services to the highest standards of quality and professionalism.

Accompanying Qatar's Haj Mission is an official media delegation comprising representatives from several national media institutions, including the Qatar News Agency, Qatar TV, Al Rayyan TV, and Qatar Radio.

The delegation will provide extensive coverage of the mission's activities, document the journey



of Qatari pilgrims across the holy sites, and highlight Qatar's efforts in ensuring the care, safety, and wellbeing of its pilgrims throughout the Haj season.

As part of early preparations to guarantee full operational readi-

ness, the support units of Qatar's Haj Mission have already commenced their duties, with successive delegations arriving in Saudi Arabia in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to each unit.

Specialised teams have begun equipping and finalising pilgrims' camps in Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah, while also completing arrangements related to healthcare and medical services.

Co-ordination efforts are likewise underway with Saudi security authorities and airport officials to facilitate the reception, transportation, and movement of Qatari pilgrims throughout the Haj season.

Field teams from the support units are also carrying out intensive inspections to assess the readiness of pilgrim accommodations across all approved Qatari Haj campaigns. - QNA

QNA chief meets chief executive of Media City Qatar



HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met with the CEO of Media City Qatar Hamad Omar al-Mannai. During the meeting, they reviewed aspects of joint co-operation in the media field and ways to enhance and develop them. The CEO of Qatar Media City was briefed on the development of media services provided by QNA, as well as key technologies and systems used in its news services, and training programmes offered to Qatari media professionals. (QNA)

Drone strike starts fire outside UAE N-plant

From Page 1

It provides up to a quarter of the oil-rich country's electricity needs, the state-owned operator Emirates Nuclear Energy Company said in 2024.

"No injuries were reported, and there was no impact on radiological safety levels," the Abu Dhabi Media Office said. "All precautionary measures have been taken, and further updates will be provided as they become available."

"The Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) confirmed that the fire did not affect the safety of the power plant or the readiness of its essential systems, and that all units are operating as normal," it added.

An official from the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), which operates the Barakah plant, said there were no casualties and the plant had not been damaged.

"It does not appear that there was a direct attack on the nuclear plant we manage and operate. It seems a fire broke out at other power facilities on the outskirts," the official said, quoted by the Yonhap news agency.

Rafael Grossi, the head of the UN's nuclear agency, condemned the attack.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in a social media post that Grossi expressed "grave concern about the incident and says military activity that threatens nuclear safety is unacceptable."

QNA launches five-day field reporting course

Qatar News Agency (QNA) launched a five-day training course yesterday titled "The Journalist Correspondent: Field Reporting", as part of the 2026 training plan of the QNA Training Center.

The course, presented by Mohammed al-Hadi Karmous, a media expert and senior editor at QNA, targets media personnel interested in news coverage, including event and conference reporting, interviewing, and crisis management, with a focus on field reporting skills in news agencies.

The programme aims to enhance journalists' on-the-ground reporting skills and develop their ability to secure news scoops while adhering to standards of accuracy and publication speed. It also highlights the use of modern technologies and AI, including smartphone applications, to support journalistic performance and handle crises, emergencies, and the pressures of live coverage.

The course addresses several key topics,



most notably the fundamentals and objectives of news coverage, different forms of media coverage across various platforms, the characteristics of a field reporter, mechanisms for teamwork within news outlets, management of major event coverage, media crisis handling, and the use of modern digital tools to support field journalism performance.

The course comes as part of QNA's effort to

develop national media competencies and keep pace with rapid developments across various media fields, thereby enhancing the quality of media production.

The agency launched the QNA Training Halls in 2023, equipped with the latest technologies, to serve as an integrated platform for building media capabilities and keeping up with global developments in modern media. (QNA)

GCC Games bowling event highlights Qatar's world-class organisation

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Qatar's organisation of the bowling competition at the 4th GCC Games in Doha 2026 has reinforced its reputation as a leading destination for regional and international sporting events, with officials praising both the logistics and the hospitality.

Speaking on the final day of the bowling competition, Salah Aljaeedi, vice-president of the Emirates Bowling Federation, commended the overall experience, describing it as both seamless and welcoming.

"We are here to participate in the Gulf Games, the fourth Doha 2026... and today is the last day of the bowling competition," he said, noting the significance of the event

within the wider regional sporting calendar.

Aljaeedi expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the host nation and organisers. "First of all, I would like to thank the State of Qatar and especially the Qatari Bowling Federation for their hospitality and very warm welcome," he said.

He highlighted the ease with which teams were able to participate in the event, emphasising the attention to detail across all aspects of organisation. "They made everything very easy for all the teams, including players, technical staff and administrators," he said. "We all feel that we are still in our own countries."

According to Aljaeedi, this sense of familiarity and comfort is a defining feature of events hosted in Qatar. "This is because of what we have seen from the very warm

welcome... they facilitate everything, even if it is not available, they make every effort to provide it," he added.

The UAE official also pointed to Qatar's growing global standing in sports organisation. "Qatar has become a landmark for organising sports events in the region and worldwide. They are always at the top of the list," he said.

He noted that athletes and officials approach competitions in Qatar with confidence in the experience they will receive. "Everyone, when they know they will participate in an event in Qatar, they are happy because they know in advance that everything will be facilitated, their journey will be comfortable and enjoyable," he said.

On the sporting front, Aljaeedi highlighted the competitiveness of the tournament's final stages. "Today we are in the

Masters, the UAE team has a chance, our players have qualified for the cutoff," he said, expressing optimism for his team's performance.

The bowling competition, which formed part of the wider GCC Games programme, brought together athletes from across the Gulf, contributing to the event's atmosphere of regional unity and competition.

As the tournament concluded, the focus shifted beyond results, with the event serving as a reflection of Qatar's broader capability to host major sporting competitions.

With continued praise from regional participants, the GCC Games Doha 2026 further underscores Qatar's ability to deliver high-quality events that combine competitive excellence with a strong emphasis on the athlete experience, organisation, and hospitality.

Sidra Medicine expands paediatric sleep services

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Sidra Medicine has expanded its paediatric sleep services, significantly reducing waiting times for sleep laboratory appointments from several months to just a few weeks, Dr Amal al-Nuaimi, senior consultant in Pediatric Pulmonology and director of the Sleep Laboratory at Sidra Medicine, has revealed.

Dr al-Nuaimi said the expansion was introduced to accommodate a growing number of children in Qatar requiring specialised diagnosis and treatment for sleep disorders.

As part of the initiative, the number of weekly sleep clinics has been increased to three, in addition to two specialised clinics each month and a weekly clinic for respiratory support devices.

The expansion brings the to-

tal number of clinics to 18 per month, serving more than 700 patients annually. Additionally, the number of rooms in the sleep laboratory has increased, enabling the facility to accommodate nearly 1,000 patients every year.

Dr al-Nuaimi explained that the Sleep Disorders Centre at Sidra Medicine is the only specialised paediatric sleep centre in Qatar dedicated to diagnosing and treating sleep disorders in children. The centre provides comprehensive assessments and individualised treatment plans tailored to each patient's condition. Children referred to the sleep clinic first undergo a full clinical evaluation, after which specialists determine whether a sleep study is required and prioritise appointments based on case severity.

She stressed that the department is committed to conducting examinations as quickly as possible to meet the patients' medical

needs, noting that management efforts have successfully reduced waiting periods for sleep studies from months to only a few weeks.

Dr al-Nuaimi explained that paediatric sleep disorders vary widely in severity, ranging from simple snoring to severe airway obstruction during sleep.

She also noted several warning signs parents should watch for, including loud, frequent snoring; repeated awakenings due to interrupted breathing; excessive daytime sleepiness; poor concentration; declining academic performance; and increased irritability in children.

In the meantime, Dr al-Nuaimi noted that global rates of paediatric sleep disorders range between 2% and 5%, but rise dramatically to nearly 60% among children with obesity. She added that these rates are rising due to modern lifestyle patterns, a trend also evident in Qatar.

In response, Sidra Medicine has launched a specialised clinic that combines obesity management and sleep disorder treatment to ensure patients receive integrated, science-based care.

Dr al-Nuaimi explained that patients are admitted to a fully equipped sleep laboratory room for the diagnostic procedures, where specialists monitor vital indicators such as blood oxygen levels, carbon dioxide levels, and breathing patterns to accurately diagnose sleep conditions.

Sidra Medicine utilises advanced sleep monitoring technologies, including sophisticated polysomnography systems that record brain activity, sleep stages, eye and muscle movements, oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, heart rate, and limb movements. These technologies help physicians reach precise diagnoses and develop appropriate treatment plans.



She stressed the importance of maintaining a regular sleep schedule, creating a comfortable sleeping environment, following a calming bedtime routine, avoiding stimulants and heavy meals before bedtime, and limiting screen exposure for at least one hour before sleep.

She also outlined Sidra Medicine's future plans to further advance paediatric sleep medicine, including raising public awareness about the importance of healthy sleep and its impact on growth and

academic achievement, as well as educating paediatricians on the importance of early detection of sleep disorders. Further, there is an ongoing collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation and regional specialised centres in both clinical services and research. Sidra Medicine has launched a paediatric sleep medicine training programme attracting physicians from within Qatar and abroad, supporting the centre's development as a leading scientific and medical institution in the region.

QC launches 2026-30 strategy

Qatar Charity (QC) has officially launched its new strategy for the 2026-30 period during a formal ceremony yesterday.

Held under the patronage of HE the Minister of Social Development and Family and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA), Buthaina bint Ali al-Jabr al-Nuaimi, the event brought together representatives from government entities, partners, and humanitarian leaders, as well as QC officials.

In his opening address, Qatar Charity chairman Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Jassim al-Thani affirmed that the 2026-30 strategy represents a continuation of the organisation's humanitarian and development journey, while marking a qualitative shift toward a new phase focused on maximising impact, strengthening sustainability, and keeping pace with the rapidly evolving humanitarian landscape.

Sheikh Hamad noted that the strategy aligns with several national strategies, foremost among them the Third National Development Strategy, the Charitable and Humanitarian Sector Strategy in the State of Qatar, the Strategy of the Ministry of Social Development and Family, and the Strategy of Qatar Fund for Development.

This alignment, he said, reinforces national integration efforts and contributes effectively to achieving the Qatar National Vision 2030, while remaining consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sheikh Hamad further explained that the strategy aims to consolidate the QC's position as a leading, more impactful and sustainable international organisation, delivering greater impact and sustainability in line with its vision of a world where communities enjoy development, dignity, security, and peace.

At the conclusion of his speech, he expressed his gratitude to Qatar's wise leadership and to the



people of Qatar for their continued and generous support of humanitarian and development efforts.

Sheikh Hamad also reaffirmed Qatar Charity's commitment to its humanitarian mission to ensure dignity for all.

At the end of the ceremony, HE al-Nuaimi officially inaugurated Qatar Charity's new strategy.

The Qatar Charity Strategy 2026-30 is built on an ambitious vision to further strengthen the organisation's position as a leading international humanitarian and development actor.

It seeks to enhance localised, culture-focused interventions within Qatar, while expanding global outreach through specialised, high-impact programmes centred on people and beneficiary communities.

It places strong emphasis on fostering a distinguished relationship with donors based on partnership, trust, and transparency, improving the donor experience, and clearly

demonstrating the measurable impact of contributions.

The strategy prioritises strengthening financial sustainability and resource growth through diversified funding streams and innovative financing models.

In addition, it focuses on building advanced institutional and operational capacities grounded in effective governance, digital transformation, innovation, and organisational excellence.

Furthermore, it underscores the importance of effective partnerships with stakeholders at both local and international levels.

The strategy adopts a stakeholder-centred approach, placing all partners at the heart of its strategic directions.

It is built on strong integration with key actors across the humanitarian ecosystem, including relevant government entities, regulatory bodies, financial institutions, banks, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development and Family, the RACA, United Nations agencies, international organisations, host governments, the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), implementing partners, and suppliers.

It also encompasses donors, volunteers, employees, and beneficiaries as core pillars of its work.

The strategy underscores the importance of aligning roles and integrating efforts across all stakeholders to enhance the effective-

ness of interventions, strengthen partnerships, and deliver sustainable humanitarian and development impact grounded in trust, coordination, and shared objectives.

The strategy launch builds on the significant outcomes achieved under the previous 2021-25 strategy, during which Qatar Charity delivered wide-ranging impact.

Its interventions provided safe water to approximately 7.7mn beneficiaries, supported more than 1.4mn people in education, and assisted 3.8mn beneficiaries in food security.

More than 147,000 individuals benefited from livelihoods and income-generating programmes, while over 53,000 people gained access to adequate housing.

Furthermore, Qatar Charity's efforts helped alleviate the suffering of more than 20mn people affected by crises and disasters, while maintaining full compliance with humanitarian standards.

The organisation also sponsored 201,935 orphans, improved the lives of around 3.8mn people through its "Rofaqa" initiative, and ensured that more than 80% of its international projects were aligned with national development plans in beneficiary countries.

In parallel, Qatar Charity achieved a 90% localisation rate in leadership and supervisory roles, while also attracting outstanding Qatari talent from both genders. (QNA)

Qatar to take part in WHA meetings in Geneva

Qatar is taking part in the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA 79), which will take place on May 18-23 in Geneva, Switzerland, alongside a number of meetings and associated events.

Qatar's delegation is headed by HE the Minister of Public Health Mansoor bin Ebrahim al-Mahmoud.

Qatar will organise an event that convenes tomorrow alongside the WHA meetings, on "Healthy Longevity as a Lifelong Investment Strategy: Integrating Determinants, Prevention, Primary Care, and Sustainable Financing", with broad participation of countries and relevant international organisations.

Convened under the theme 'Reshaping Global Health: A Shared Responsibility', the meetings are intended to drill down on an array of consequential matters, foremost of which is follow-up of the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, universal health coverage, and the draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.

In addition, the meetings will debate the health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan.

Participants are set to address preparedness and plans for public health contingencies, as well as boost rehabilitation in



HE the Minister of Public Health Mansoor bin Ebrahim al-Mahmoud

health systems and welfare.

Broadly speaking, the WHA is a decision-making body of the World Health Organisation (WHO), in which delegations from all member states participate.

Its key functions entail the identification of WHO policies, appointing the director-general, overseeing financial policies, in addition to reviewing the proposed programme budget and approving it.

Qatar's delegation had taken part in the meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board of the WHO, which convened on May 13-15.

The delegation is likewise set to participate in the meetings of the 157th session of the Executive Board on May 25-26 in Geneva.

The key purviews of this board lie in enforcing WHA policies and decisions, as well as providing counsel and facilitating its functions. (QNA)

Kahramaa actively using AI to maintain quality of services

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies have been integrated into Qatar's water network management systems for decades, dating back more than 50 years, even before the term "AI" was officially introduced, according to an official of Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa).

Speaking to Qatar TV, Engineer Abdulhadi Masoud al-Merri, head of the Water Control Section at the Water Network Operation and Control Department of Kahramaa, said similar smart technologies had already been used in the energy and industrial sectors more than half a century ago.

With the formal emergence and rapid development of AI in recent years, however, these technologies have become more advanced and are now integrated into nearly all operational processes, particularly in the management and supervision of resources.

He said that the introduction of smart electricity meters has enabled both customers and Kahramaa to closely monitor electricity and water consumption patterns during different periods. Using the collected data, Kahramaa can identify variations in demand among subscribers and take the necessary measures to respond efficiently.

According to al-Merri, the use of smart technologies has strengthened Kahramaa's ability to improve its water and electricity supply networks by leveraging accurate, reliable data. This also supports future planning by helping the corporation develop forecasts and strategies grounded in actual consumption trends.

He noted that most operational

challenges are anticipated during the planning phase of projects. However, additional challenges may arise during implementation, requiring continuous monitoring and a responsive approach. He cited the sharp increase in electricity demand during the summer months and the decline in winter as examples of fluctuations managed using data from smart systems already in operation.

Al-Merri also stressed that Kahramaa maintains strict standards for water quality across the country. He said the corporation adopts rigorous monitoring procedures supported by advanced technologies, sophisticated equipment, and highly qualified national professionals and technicians.

In addition, Kahramaa operates some of the region's leading laboratories, where continuous testing and measurements are carried out to ensure water quality and operational efficiency, he said.

He added that Kahramaa works closely with the National Planning Council to obtain data, technical information, and expert guidance necessary for future planning and preparation to meet expected demand growth.

According to al-Merri, Kahramaa has increasingly shifted toward smarter, data-driven utility operations, with AI playing a central role in improving the efficiency, reliability, and sustainability of water distribution systems across Qatar.

AI is also being used in demand forecasting, where historical records combined with real-time data help predict short-term and long-term water consumption trends. This enables more accurate production planning, optimised pumping schedules, and more efficient allocation of water resources across the network.

QRCS, QC deploy cardiac surgery, catheterisation convoy in Yemen



Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and Qatar Charity (QC) launched a specialised medical convoy for paediatric cardiac surgery and catheterisation in Taiz, Yemen.

Implemented in cooperation with Sidra Medicine and Yemen's Ministry of Public Health and Popula-

tion, the project aims to support the health sector and ensure free medical care for poor children.

The launching ceremony was attended by Abdul-Qawi al-Makhlafi, First Deputy Governor of Taiz; Dr Abu Dhar al-Gendi, director of the Cardiovascular and Kidney Transplant Centre in Taiz; and representatives of QRCS and QC.

Until May 22, six consultants in cardiac catheterisation/surgery, intensive care, and anaesthesia will be working hand in hand with the local medical staff at the Cardiovascular and Kidney Transplant Centre in Taiz.

The Qatari medical delegation comprises a select group of paediatric cardiology consultants and specialists, including Dr Younes Boudjemline, senior consultant cardiologist at Sidra Medicine (head of delegation); Dr Mustafa al-Muhaya, consultant cardiologist; Dr Mohamed al-Ashwal, consultant intensivist; Dr Mohamed al-Humairi, consultant anaesthetist; Dr Nabil al-Bahlouli, consultant cardiac surgeon, and Dr Sami al-Ahdal, consultant cardiac surgeon.

As per the plan, 85 cardiac catheterisation procedures and 10 open-heart surgeries will be performed, as part of a medical and humanitarian programme to save lives and ease the financial burden on poor families in the governorate.

QRCS and QC supported the host centre with a specialised cardiac catheterisation machine, pegged at \$1mn, which helped enhance the centre's medical services. Thanks to that support, more than 500 diagnostic and 100 therapeutic catheterisations were performed free of charge, with all costs of medical care and supplies covered.


Qatar would continue to work hard to bolster the country's health system and alleviate the suffering of patients in need.

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AL-AWALIA/TD/2026/12	Supply, Fabrication, Rectification, and Installation of Belt Conveyor System in Sahara Washed Sand Plant for Qatar Primary Materials Company ("Works")	500 QAR	10,000 QAR	Two Bids (Technical & Commercial)	25 May 2026 01:00 PM

In accordance with the following conditions:

- Tender Documents can be collected online by sending email to tender.doc@qpmc.qa along with requested documents in point No.2
- Tender Documents will be shared only after delivery of Deposit Slip Stamped by Commercial Bank along with Authorization Letter to the delegated person signed by authorized person as per Computer ID. Copy of commercial Registration (CR), Business License and Computer ID.
- Bids are to be submitted in two sealed (in red wax) envelopes (Technical & Commercial) and addressed to: Tender and Auction Committee, Tender reference number and subject are to be clearly written on the envelopes, provided that the last date for submitting bids is one o'clock in the afternoon on the closing day. Any bids submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
- Tenderers shall submit the proposals to our head office located at: Local, Building No. 1038, St. No. 303, Burj Marina Tower, 17th Floor before the closing date. (To get the map of the new building, please scan the QR code below).
- Tender Fees are non-refundable and can be transferred online to Account of Qatar Primary Material Company - Bank A.C. (4050-65111 006) at Commercial Bank of Qatar. **IBAN No. (QA 18 CBQA 0000 0000 4050 65111 006)** Tender reference number and subject are to be written on the deposit slip.
- Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee/ Manager Cheque) must be valid for 120 days after closing date and must be submitted in separate & sealed envelope along with technical bid and a photocopy to be attached with commercial bid. Bids without tender bond will be rejected.
- Bids must be valid for 90 days after the closing date.
- Any queries relating to the Tender Documents must only be raised in writing, preferably by email, to the address specified in the respective Tender Document. Any response issued by Qatar Primary Material Company will be in the form of a question and answer and will be distributed to all Tenderers without revealing the identity of the originator of the query(ies) in the Form of Tender Bulletin. Queries must be received at the address specified in the respective ITI Documentation at least five (5) calendar days prior to the Tender closing date. Any queries received after such a date will be ignored.
- The amount of the Performance Bond to be provided by the awarded bidder is 10% of the contract value and its validity period must remain valid under the contract implementation period and the guarantee period according to the terms of the tender.
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Qatar Charity Launches Strategy 2026–2030 Focused on Empowerment, Sustainability, and Impact



Qatar Charity (QC) has officially launched its new strategy for the period 2026–2030 during a formal ceremony held under the patronage of Her Excellency Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi, Minister of Social Development and Family and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA). The event brought together high-profile dignitaries, including Their Excellencies the Ministers, representatives from government entities, partners, and humanitarian leaders, as well as Qatar Charity officials, marking the beginning of a new era of institutional development and maximized humanitarian impact both within Qatar and internationally.

Address by H.E. the Chairman of the Board of Directors

In his opening address, H.E. Sheikh Hamad bin Nasser bin Jassim Al Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Qatar Charity, affirmed that the 2026–2030 strategy represents a continuation of the organization's humanitarian and development journey, while marking a qualitative shift toward a new phase focused on maximizing impact, strengthening sustainability, and keeping pace with the rapidly evolving humanitarian landscape.

He noted that the strategy aligns with several national strategies, foremost among them the Third National Development Strategy, the Charitable and Humanitarian Sector Strategy in the State of Qatar, the Strategy of the Ministry of Social Development and Family, and the Strategy of Qatar Fund for Development. This alignment reinforces national integration efforts and contributes

effectively to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030, while remaining consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

His Excellency further explained that the strategy aims to consolidate Qatar

At the conclusion of his speech, he expressed his gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, and to the people of Qatar for their continued and generous support of humanitarian and development efforts. He also thanked Her Excellency

Strategy Launch

The ceremony featured a series of documentary videos highlighting Qatar Charity's most notable achievements and impact under its previous strategic plan, as well as the

innovative financing models. In addition, it focuses on building advanced institutional and operational capacities grounded in effective governance, digital transformation, innovation, and organizational excellence. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of effective partnerships with stakeholders at both local and international levels, along with bolstering an influential media and global presence to highlight humanitarian and development issues and reflect its mission and values.

The strategy adopts a stakeholder-centered approach, placing all partners at the heart of its strategic directions. It is built on strong integration with key actors across the humanitarian ecosystem, including relevant government entities, regulatory bodies, financial institutions, banks, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development and Family, RACA, United Nations agencies, international organizations, host governments, the Qatar Fund for Development, implementing partners, and suppliers. It also encompasses donors, volunteers, employees, and beneficiaries as core pillars of its work.

The strategy underscores the importance of aligning roles and integrating efforts across all stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of interventions, strengthen partnerships, and deliver sustainable humanitarian and development impact grounded in trust, coordination, and shared objectives.

Building on Previous Achievements

The strategy launch builds on the significant outcomes achieved under the previous 2021–2025 strategy, during which Qatar Charity delivered wide-ranging impact. Its interventions provided safe water to approximately 7.7 million beneficiaries, supported over 1.4 million people in education, and assisted 3.8 million beneficiaries in food security. More than 147,000 individuals benefited from livelihoods and income-generating programs, while over 53,000 people gained access to adequate housing.

Furthermore, Qatar Charity's efforts helped alleviate the suffering of more than 20 million people affected by crises and disasters, while maintaining full compliance with humanitarian standards. The organization also sponsored 201,935 orphans, improved the lives of around 3.8 million people through its "Rofaqa" initiative, and ensured that more than 80% of its international projects were aligned with national development plans in beneficiary countries. In parallel, Qatar Charity achieved a 90% localization rate in leadership and supervisory roles, while also attracting outstanding Qatari talent from both genders.



Charity's position as a leading, more impactful and sustainable international organization, delivering greater impact and sustainability in line with its vision of a world where communities enjoy development, dignity, security, and peace.

the Minister of Social Development and Family and Chairperson of RACA, along with all partners and supporters, reaffirming Qatar Charity's commitment to its humanitarian mission to ensure dignity for all.

journey of developing the current strategy, including its participatory methodology, analytical processes, and planning stages. A dedicated presentation also introduced the new strategy's key pillars, directions, and priorities.

At the end of the ceremony, Her Excellency Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi, Minister of Social Development and Family and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of RACA, officially inaugurated Qatar Charity's new strategy.

Ambitious Vision

The Qatar Charity Strategy 2026–2030 is built on an ambitious vision to further strengthen the organization's position as a leading international humanitarian and development actor. It seeks to enhance localized, culture-focused interventions within Qatar, while expanding global outreach through specialized, high-impact programs centered on people and beneficiary communities. It places strong emphasis on fostering a distinguished relationship with donors based on partnership, trust, and transparency, improving the donor experience, and clearly demonstrating the measurable impact of contributions.

The strategy also prioritizes strengthening financial sustainability and resource growth through diversified funding streams and



Turkiye 'took proactive measures amidst tensions over Hormuz'

QNA
Ankara

Turkish Minister of Trade Omer Bolat said that Turkiye has taken a series of proactive measures to ensure the continuity of trade and logistics services amidst escalating tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, pointing to the implementation of alternative transport routes and the round-the-clock monitoring of developments on the ground.

He explained that the ongoing conflict between the US, Israel, and Iran, coupled with the current situation in the Strait of Hormuz, has become a genuine test of strength, not only for the region's economies but also for the global economy and trade.

In exclusive statements to Qatar News Agency (QNA), he pointed out that despite a relatively fragile lull in the conflict, the significant disruption to shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz and the continued restrictions on entry and exit still pose a risk and uncertainty to regional and global economic stability.

He added that the Strait of Hormuz is a vital waterway through which approximately one-fifth of the world's oil and LNG trade passes. Therefore, any slowdown or disruption to shipping traffic not only affects regional trade but also directly impacts the security of global energy supplies and prices, which in turn puts pressure on economic growth prospects and international trade. He explained that these repercussions extend to transportation, production, and service costs, including the travel, insurance, and logistics sectors.

He also pointed out that maritime transport is the primary means of international trade, with more than 80% of global trade volume transported by sea. He explained that in the Gulf region, while intra-regional trade relies heavily on land transport, long-distance energy and container trade depends primarily on maritime transport. Therefore, any disruption in the Strait of Hormuz restricts the region's access to global trade routes and negatively impacts the production and export of oil, gas, and petrochemicals.

The Turkish Minister also emphasised that the economies of the region's countries are heavily reliant on energy



and petrochemical revenues. Thus, any decline or disruption in oil and gas exports could place significant pressure on public budgets, economic balances, and financial stability in these countries. Furthermore, potential damage to energy infrastructure and a decline in investor confidence not only threaten short-term economic performance but could also impact medium and long-term investment and trade prospects.

He explained that the degree to which countries in the region are affected by these developments varies depending on their logistical alternatives, alternative export routes, financial capabilities, and foreign exchange reserves that enable them to absorb shocks.

He stressed that the magnitude of the economic and trade repercussions of the war and the current situation in the Strait of Hormuz will remain contingent on the duration of geopolitical tensions and the nature of future developments. Currently, levels of risk and uncertainty remain very high, and a true assessment of the economic impact requires await-

ing official data and statistics in the coming period.

Regarding the potential impact of the Strait of Hormuz crisis on Turkiye's trade balance, he emphasised that the Gulf region accounts for approximately 10% of Turkiye's merchandise exports and service revenues, making it a crucial economic partner for Ankara.

He noted that in 2025, Turkiye's merchandise exports to the Gulf states reached approximately \$31.1bn, compared to imports of \$25.6bn. The Gulf states also hold a significant position in Turkiye's service exports. In 2024, service exports to the region amounted to approximately \$6.1bn, compared to service imports of \$2bn.

He added that the continued geopolitical risks and uncertainty in the region carry potential repercussions for Turkiye's trade, whether through a decline in external demand in nearby markets or through risks threatening the security of trade and transportation routes.

Nonetheless, Turkiye is among the countries that have successfully diver-

sified their export markets and products, giving them a more resilient export structure capable of withstanding geopolitical and financial shocks and trade restrictions. In March, as the effects of the war began to emerge, Turkish exports to the Gulf states declined, but overall Turkish exports rose by 4.25% compared to the previous month, reflecting the Turkish economy's ability to adapt quickly to changes.

He noted that Turkiye quickly activated alternative trade routes to counter the risks posed by the situation in the Strait of Hormuz to trade, which contributed to a 15.6% increase in its exports to the Gulf states in April compared to the same period of the previous year, and a 60.3% increase compared to the previous month, reaching \$2.4bn.

Conversely, Turkiye remains a country with a relatively high reliance on energy imports, particularly oil and natural gas. Therefore, rising energy prices could lead to an increased import bill, putting pressure on the trade balance and current account, in addition to its inflationary repercussions on the Turkish economy.

He noted that his country is monitoring the Strait of Hormuz crisis as a significant risk factor for the regional and global economy. However, he emphasised that Turkiye has taken the necessary measures to mitigate potential risks to foreign trade and inflation resulting from rising energy prices.

To maintain the continuity of trade with countries in the region, the Turkish minister stated that Ankara has activated alternative trade routes to those affected by geopolitical developments. He affirmed that shipping, logistics, and customs procedures are currently proceeding normally without significant problems. Furthermore, Turkish authorities have established a 24/7 crisis centre to intervene rapidly in the event of any potential disruptions related to regional developments.

The Turkish Minister of Trade concluded his statement to QNA by saying that his country is immune to the repercussions of rising energy prices or the risks associated with the Strait of Hormuz, but on the other hand, it is moving proactively to reduce these effects and take the necessary steps in parallel with developments in the regional and international scene.



GCC achieves 100% coverage of basic vaccines during 2024

QNA
Muscat

Data issued by the Statistical Center for the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf revealed that the Council countries achieved a remarkable milestone in the field of immunisation, as the coverage rate for essential vaccines reached 100% during 2024, compared to approximately 84% globally. This reflects the efficiency of national immunisation programmes and the strength of public health systems in the GCC countries.

The data provided in the weekly bulletin issued on the occasion of World Health Day 2026 indicates that the GCC countries continue to bolster their leading role in supporting global health through investment in medical research and development, and by expanding access to affordable medicines and vaccines. This confirms that continuous investment in health infrastructure and the strengthening of international co-operation represent the cornerstone of Gulf health policies to achieve universal health coverage and ensure a sustainable, healthy future for all.

In the context of supporting international health efforts, the volume of the GCC countries' contribution to financing the health sector and medical research within Official Development Assistance (ODA) reached approximately US\$842.7mn during 2023. This represents about 4.6% of the total international development assistance, providing a clear indicator of these countries' commitment to enhancing global health and transferring medical knowledge.

The bulletin emphasises that these efforts come within the framework of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the third goal concerned with ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, with a focus on supporting scientific research as a primary pillar for improving the quality of health services.

Furthermore, the GCC countries highlight their role as active partners in supporting developing nations by contributing to the development of health systems and enhancing their capacities to face health challenges, in addition to ensuring that essential medicines and vaccines reach various population groups.

'Fables in Fashion' reimagines Maqamat al-Hariri through contemporary design at Place Vendome

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Qatar Reads, an initiative under Qatar National Library (QNL) dedicated to promoting a culture of reading through community-driven programmes, announced the launch of Fables in Fashion at Place Vendome Mall from May 17 to June 17.

Located on the Canal floor, Gate 1, the exhibition brings together literature and design in a curated experience inspired by Maqamat al-Hariri.

Fables in Fashion is part of One Book, One Doha, Qatar Reads' annual campaign that unites the community around a selected work of classical Arabic literature. Presented in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and M7, the exhibition serves as the accompanying creative platform for this year's Book of the Year, inviting artists and designers to interpret literary themes through visual mediums that connect art, fashion, and literature in meaningful and accessible ways.

This edition presents a focused showcase of eight fashion pieces created by Qatari designers, each offering a contemporary interpretation of al-Hariri. Known for its rich storytelling, wit, and vivid characters, the work serves as a powerful source of inspira-



Part of the exhibition.

tion, translated here into garments that embody its narrative depth and cultural significance.

Through these creations, the exhibition explores how literature can move beyond the written word to become a living, visual experience. The designers reinterpret key elements of the maqamat, transforming them into modern silhouettes, textures, and forms that resonate with today's audiences.

Highlighting the exhibition, Fatema al-Malki, manager of Qatar Reads, said: "Fables in Fashion reflects our belief that literature is not confined to the page, it can be experienced, interpreted, and brought to life through different creative expressions. By drawing inspiration from al-Hariri, this exhibition invites audiences to engage with classical Arabic literature in a way that feels relevant, accessible, and visually compelling today."

Carole Sabbagha, mall manager at Place Vendome, said: "Hosting Fables in Fashion reflects Place Vendome's commitment to creating meaningful experiences that go beyond shopping. Our mission has always been to bring people together through moments of culture, creativity, and discovery, and this exhibition does exactly that by making classical Arabic literature accessible through contemporary fashion and design. We are proud to collaborate with Qatar Reads on an initiative that celebrates local talent, enriches the visitor experience, and adds a new cultural dimension to Place Vendome."

By situating the exhibition in a dynamic public space such as Place Vendome Mall, Qatar Reads expands access to literature, engaging wider audiences and encouraging new forms of cultural interaction. The exhibition reflects the initiative's ongoing commitment to fostering creativity, dialogue, and a deeper appreciation for Arabic literary heritage.

Fables in Fashion highlights the enduring relevance of classical texts, demonstrating how works like al-Hariri continue to inspire contemporary artistic expression and spark meaningful cultural conversations.

Join the community at Fables in Fashion from 17 May to 17 June at Place Vendome Mall.

District cooling helps reduce electricity usage

District cooling is playing an increasingly important role in improving energy efficiency and reducing environmental impact in Qatar, where air-conditioning accounts for a significant share of electricity consumption due to the country's hot climate, according to Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa).

Kahramaa said district cooling supports Qatar's national sustainability goals by lowering greenhouse gas emissions and optimising the use of key resources such as electricity and water. The corporation noted that the technology aligns with its ongoing efforts to promote efficient energy and water use, reduce consumption, and strengthen the overall efficiency of utility infrastructure. District cooling is a modern air-conditioning solution in which chilled water is produced at a centralised plant and distributed through insulated underground pipelines to multiple buildings. Instead of relying on separate cooling systems for each building, the centralised approach allows entire districts to share a single cooling network, improving energy performance and operational reliability.

The system works by circulating chilled water through heat exchangers inside buildings, where it absorbs heat from air-conditioning systems before returning to the central plant to be cooled again and recirculated. This closed-loop process helps lower overall energy demand, reduce peak electricity loads, and limit the need for multiple independently operated cooling units.

According to Kahramaa, district cooling is particularly suited to large-scale urban developments and is widely used in residential and commercial towers, housing compounds, shopping malls, hotels, hospitals, airports, and mixed-use developments. Its scalability makes it an effective solution for rapidly expanding urban areas with consistently high cooling demand. Kahramaa highlighted that district cooling systems can reduce electricity consumption by 30 to 40% compared with conventional air-conditioning systems. Around 70 district cooling plants are currently operational in Qatar, with a combined installed capacity of about 1.15mn refrigeration tonnes.

The corporation also pointed to the technology's contribution to water conservation. In 2024 alone, district cooling systems in Qatar saved an estimated 18.5mn cubic metres of water, enough to meet the needs of approximately 18,000 villas. Studies conducted in Qatar have shown that centralised cooling systems can cut energy use by up to 40% compared with traditional cooling methods, while also reducing refrigerant leakage and enhancing the stability of the national electricity grid. Kahramaa stressed that expanding the use of district cooling forms part of broader efforts to support sustainable urban development and improve resource efficiency as Qatar continues to grow.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Marking International Museum Day

The world celebrates International Museum Day on May 18 each year, an event that was officially launched in 1977 by a resolution of the General Assembly of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) during its meeting in Moscow.

The day aims to raise global awareness about the role of museums, culture, and heritage in societies and to unify the creative efforts of museum institutions around the world.

This day is an annual occasion to highlight the importance of museums as active cultural platforms that contribute to supporting sustainable development and enhancing quality of life, in addition to their pivotal role in cultural exchange, and in promoting the values of mutual understanding, co-operation, and peace among peoples.

Regarding this year's celebration, which carries the theme *Museums Uniting a Divided World*, Qatar Museums (QM) chief executive and Arab Regional Alliance of the International Council of Museums of Arab countries (ICOM Arab) president Mohammed Saad al-Rumaihi revealed to the Qatar News Agency (QNA) that Qatar Museums has prepared an extensive programme of educational activities, interactive experiences, and cultural events across its network of institutions.

He noted that this year's celebration coincides with the 50th anniversary of the National Museum of Qatar (NMQ), marking a significant milestone that reflects on the country's exceptional cultural journey.

The official explained that these activities are being organised as part of the "Nation of Evolution" campaign, which celebrates Qatar's cultural journey over the past fifty years since the establishment of the NMQ and highlights the major milestones that have shaped the nation's cultural identity.

Al-Rumaihi said that under the umbrella of the Qatar Creates initiative, the campaign honours the cultural past while looking toward the future, making International Museum Day 2026 a moment to celebrate what has been achieved and anticipate what lies ahead.

He also invited the public to follow the QM's platforms for the latest updates and events related to the occasion.

On the role of museums in Qatar in presenting an image of the country's openness to its geographical and human surroundings, al-Rumaihi said that museums in Qatar go beyond the traditional role of preserving and displaying collections, evolving instead into dynamic cultural and intellectual platforms that reflect the nature of Qatari society as one that is open and actively engaged with its regional and international environment.

He said that the narrative presented by Qatar Museums connects the local with the global, showcasing the Qatari experience within a broader context of civilisational and human interactions that shaped the region's history and contributed to its cultural development throughout the ages.

As an example, he pointed to the story presented by the NMQ, which traces the emergence and evolution of Qatari society through the relationship between people and the desert and marine environments, along with the associated lifestyles, trade patterns, and cultural exchanges that reflected a spirit of openness and interaction with other peoples.

In contrast, he said, the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) highlights the vast civilisational legacy of the Islamic world, positioning Qatar within a cultural network that extends from Andalusia to Asia and reflecting the contribution of Islamic civilisation to the development of knowledge, arts, and the humanities.

Al-Rumaihi added that this role extends beyond museums within the country to Qatar Museums' international cultural presence through its overseas participation, exhibitions, and global partnerships that strengthen Qatar's position on the world cultural map.

He cited Qatar's participation in the Venice Biennale, one of the world's most prominent art and architecture events, as a clear example of this approach.

Such participation, al-Rumaihi added, helps present the Qatari and Arab cultural narrative to a

global audience while creating spaces for dialogue on issues related to art, identity, sustainability, and cultural exchange.

He continued by saying that through its international exhibitions, cultural programmes, and initiatives such as the "Years of Culture", Qatar Museums works to build bridges between peoples and foster mutual understanding through culture and the arts.

said that this diversity is a direct reflection of the multiple layers of the nation's cultural identity.

He said that Qatar's heritage wealth is not limited to one aspect, but rather encompasses maritime, desert, architectural, and archaeological elements, in addition to traditional and contemporary arts.

Archaeological sites, such as Al Zubarah Archaeological Site, reflect the depth of the region's eco-

through contemporary approaches.

He also spoke about the museum renaissance in the Gulf region over the past twenty years and the factors behind this development.

The official said that the museum renaissance in the Gulf during the last two decades represents a strategic transformation in the role of culture within national development plans.

Museums, al-Rumaihi said, have evolved from being symbolic projects into integrated institutions that contribute to building the creative economy, strengthening national identity, and supporting cultural tourism.

He explained that this transformation is linked to several factors, most notably the presence of a clear leadership vision that recognises the importance of culture, investment in museum infrastructure, the attraction of global expertise, and the desire to present local narratives that reflect the history of the region from its own perspective.

In Qatar, this comes within the framework of a comprehensive vision that began with the establishment of Qatar Museums and has evolved to encompass an integrated network of museums, cultural centres, and future projects, reflecting a long-term commitment to building a sustainable and influential cultural sector.

Al-Rumaihi also spoke about the contribution that Arab museums can make in bringing Arab peoples closer together and highlighting the diversity of their heritage.

He noted that Arab museums possess significant potential to serve as unifying platforms that reflect the unity of Arab culture within its rich and diverse framework.

He said that this role goes beyond preserving and displaying heritage, extending instead to reintroducing it as a living space for dialogue, interaction and the shaping of the region's cultural future, noting that rather than focusing on separate narratives or narrow geographic boundaries, Arab museums can highlight the shared civilisational ties that connect Arab societies – such as language, history, arts, traditional

crafts, and ways of life – while at the same time preserving the distinctiveness of each society and its unique local experience.

He affirmed that major cultural initiatives in the region are a practical model for this integrated approach, as they are witnessing remarkable growth in events and platforms that enhance the presence of Arab culture at the international level.

He cited the Qatar Creates initiative, which has emerged as a comprehensive national platform that connects various cultural and creative institutions and events under one umbrella, and contributes to presenting Doha as a global centre for arts, culture, and intercultural dialogue.

Design Doha, al-Rumaihi added, also represents an advanced model for supporting designers and creators from the Arab region and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, through building networks of co-operation, production opportunities and knowledge exchange that reflect the development of Arab creative industries.

Major cultural initiatives in the region have become a practical model for this integrated approach.

He said that the participation of Arab cultural institutions in major international events, such as Islamic Arts Biennale in Jeddah, Riyadh Biennale Foundation (DBF), Regional Arts Week, Dubai Design Week, and Art Dubai, reflects an important shift in the way Arab culture is presented to the world.

Al-Rumaihi underlined that Qatar Museums plays a pivotal role in this landscape, through building regional and international cultural partnerships, and organising exhibitions and initiatives that bring together artists, researchers, and institutions from various Arab countries, which enhances the exchange of experiences and the production of a more open and diverse contemporary Arab cultural discourse, as co-operation between Arab museums, through the exchange of exhibitions, collections, research and educational programmes, contributes to consolidating the concept of Arab culture as a shared space of multiple voices and experiences. (QNA)



From this perspective, museums have become an essential instrument of cultural diplomacy, helping to reinforce Qatar's image as a country that invests in culture as a form of soft power and a driver of dialogue and human connection, while also supporting the creative economy and strengthening Doha's status as a global centre for arts and culture.

Regarding the diversity of museums in Qatar and how this reflects the country's rich archaeological and heritage holdings, al-Rumaihi

and commercial history and highlight Qatar's role as a centre of cultural interaction in the Gulf, he said.

At the same time, al-Rumaihi emphasised that this diversity is not presented in isolation, but rather within an integrated vision that connects the past with the present and underscores the continuity and evolution of Qatari culture.

Museums, he said, do not merely preserve heritage, but reinterpret and present it to new generations

MF Husain Museum celebrates diversity through an artistic legacy

Qatar Foundation's (QF) Lawh Wa Qalam: M F Husain Museum, on International Museum Day 2026, celebrates its role as an arts and culture landmark that embodies inclusivity and diversity, staying true to the vision of renowned modern art master Maqbool Fida Husain.

Housed within QF's Education City, the museum is a natural extension of QF's belief that learning unlocks human potential. Education City's diverse community, representing more than 119 nationalities, echoes Husain's own life across cultures. Born in India and later a Qatari citizen, he drew inspiration from South Asia, the Arab world, and the Global South, making the QF-based museum that bears his name the perfect reflection of his legacy.

"MF Husain was a true polymath – a painter, a filmmaker, a photographer, a calligrapher, a designer"



Kholoud al-Ali

says Kholoud al-Ali, executive director, Community Engagement and Programming at QF. "He was endlessly curious, and having a museum dedicated to his work within QF reflects our community development mission – a place where art becomes a pathway to discovery, to critical thinking, and to creative exploration."

From its inception, the museum

was imagined not as a closed institution, but as a living, inspirational environment open to all.

Whether you are a child visiting for the first time, a family spending a weekend together, a tourist passing through Doha, or a scholar with deep knowledge of Husain's practice, there should be a way for you to connect with what is on display, according to al-Ali.

Within Education City, the museum thrives in a landscape defined by learning and exchange: a 12-square-kilometre ecosystem that brings together K-12 schools, QF's homegrown Hamad Bin Khalifa University, international partner universities, research institutes, community facilities and programs, and major cultural institutions.

Besides, Lawh Wa Qalam: M F Husain Museum, Education City also houses Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, which holds the largest collection of modern and



contemporary Arab art in the region and has been part of Education City since 2010, and the Media Majlis at QF partner university Northwestern University in Qatar – the Arab world's first museum dedicated to media, journalism, and communication – sits within the same landscape.

Education City is also home to over 100 public artworks, including the Al Azzm sculpture, designed by Sheikh Hassan bin Mohammed al-Thani; Damien Hirst's *The Miraculous Journey at Sidra Medicine*; and Louise Bourgeois's *Maman* within Qatar National Convention Centre.

It also houses Seeroo fi al ardh, Husain's final and most ambitious artwork, which is now part of Lawh Wa Qalam: M F Husain Museum.

"When you place a museum dedicated to Husain inside this ecosystem, you are saying something important – that art is not separate from science, from research, from education. They all belong to the same landscape of human knowledge," al-Ali says.

Husain's works, from tributes to Nobel laureate Sir C V Raman to the visionary Seeroo fi al ardh, embody the dialogue between art, science, and history.

"Placing his museum here feels entirely right," al-Ali says. "It is a living, inspirational institution, and Education City is the only context in which it could exist in this form."

Accessibility is central to this mission. Entry to Lawh Wa Qalam M F Husain Museum is free, tours are offered in both Arabic and English, and audio guides are being developed for 2026. A dedicated family exhibit is being created to ensure children feel the museum belongs to them, while the immersive *Art in Motion* gallery offers an inviting entry point for those who may feel intimidated by traditional spaces.

Global Superstar Shakira Features Qatari Fine Jewellery brand Noudar in latest "Choka Choka" music video



Qatari fine jewellery brand Noudar continues its rise on the international stage as global music icon Shakira was recently spotted wearing elegant Noudar Henna rings in her latest music video, "Choka Choka."

Appearing throughout the visually captivating production, Shakira adorned the intricate Noudar Half Dia Henna Signature Ring in Gold, showcasing the house's signature balance of femininity, craftsmanship and contemporary elegance. Inspired by the captivating artistry of traditional henna patterns, the ring features delicate diamond detailing and sculptural curves that embody refined sophistication with a modern edge. The elegant piece effortlessly complemented the vibrant styling and cinematic aesthetic of the video, adding a subtle yet statement-making touch to every frame.

Known for its romantic design language and deep-rooted connection to Arabian heritage, Noudar has steadily become a name embraced by international stylists and global tastemakers alike. Each celebrity placement reflects not only the growing presence of the brand on the world stage, but also the evolving influence of Qatari creativity within the global luxury landscape.

From its origins in Qatar to appearances across internationally recognised entertainment and fashion platforms, Noudar continues to redefine modern fine jewellery through creations that feel both timeless and deeply personal. Every piece is thoughtfully designed to celebrate individuality, craftsmanship and enduring beauty.

Shakira's latest appearance in the brand marks another significant milestone for Noudar, further reinforcing its position as a contemporary fine jewellery house with global appeal.





Large-scale Ukrainian drone barrage kills four in Russia

AFP
Kyiv

A wave of almost 600 Ukrainian drones attacked Russia overnight killing four people, authorities said yesterday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called the barrage an "entirely justified" retribution for Moscow's own pummelling of Ukraine.

Air defences shot down 556 drones overnight across the country, Russia's defence ministry said, with another 30 drones intercepted after dawn in one of the largest Ukrainian barrages of the ongoing conflict so far.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv's attack on Russia — days after a massive drone and missile bombardment of the Ukrainian capital killed at least 24 people — was "entirely justified".

"Our responses to Russia's prolongation of the war and its attacks on our cities and communities are entirely justified. This time, Ukrainian long-range sanctions reached the Moscow region, and we are clearly telling the Russians: their state must end its war."

On Saturday night, AFP journalists were granted rare access to an undisclosed location where Ukraine launched its long-range drones from, in what turned out to be one of the largest pummelling of Russia during the conflict.



Residents clear broken windows in a damaged apartment building following a Ukrainian drone attack in Krasnogorsk, Moscow region, yesterday. (Reuters)

Battalion members prepared the plane-like drones before they whooshed towards Russia, leaving trails of sparks and flames behind.

The Ukrainian defence ministry said that Moscow and the surrounding region "have experienced the largest-scale attack since the full-scale invasion began" in February 2022.

Ukraine's priority "remains the consistent build-up in the use of long-range strike capabilities to the fullest extent possible against a wide range of military targets,"

Commander of Ukraine's Unmanned Forces, Robert Brovdi, told AFP in a recent exclusive interview before the strikes.

In Russia's capital region, "a woman was killed as a result of a UAV hitting a private house," governor Andrey Vorobyov posted on Telegram, adding that the early morning attack also claimed the lives of two men.

One of the victims was an Indian citizen working in Russia, the Indian embassy in Moscow said in a statement.

Within the capital, one of the strikes wounded construction workers at a job site near an oil and gas refinery, Mayor Sergei Sobyannin said.

"Refinery production has not been disrupted. Three residential buildings were damaged," he added.

While the capital region is often subjected to drone attacks, the city of Moscow, around 400 kilometres (250 miles) from the Ukrainian border, is less frequently targeted.

"The hit was so powerful that it almost knocked me out (of bed), and I weigh a lot. I opened my window and saw smoke rising," Konstantin, a 39-year-old resident of the area where a high-rise was damaged in the Putilkovo neighbourhood, outside Moscow, told AFP on the site.

In the Belgorod region which borders Ukraine, one man was killed overnight in a drone attack on a lorry, regional authorities said.

The Ukrainian air force said meanwhile it had intercepted 279 Russian drones out of a total of 287 launched.

While the US has pushed for both sides to come to the negotiating table, the talks have noticeably stalled since Washington's attention turned to the US-Israeli war on Iran in late February.

After the expiration of a US-brokered three-day truce on Tuesday to mark the anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in World War II — which both sides accused the other of violating — Moscow and Kyiv have returned to trading attacks.

In response to daily bombardments by the Russian military for more than four years, Ukraine has regularly struck within Russia.

Police detail arrests after far-right rally, counter demo

AFP
London

London police said yesterday officers arrested 20 people the previous day at a march organised by far-right activist Tommy Robinson and 12 people at a counter-demonstration fused with a pro-Palestinian protest.

The city's Metropolitan Police — which had already disclosed making 43 arrests Saturday after tens of thousands people attended the duelling events — added 11 of those detained were either non-affiliated or their links was unconfirmed.

The force had mounted its biggest operation in years to manage Robinson's "Unite the Kingdom" march and the anti-fascism rally organised by the Stand Up to Racism group combined with protests marking Nakba Day.

It commemorates the 1948 displacement of Palestinians during the creation of Israel.

Police had feared clashes after violent confrontations at Robinson's last London event in September, when up to 150,000 people turned out, and various incidents at dozens of pro-Palestine demonstrations since 2023.

In its update yesterday, the Met said there were 11 arrests for hate crime related offences, with nine of those at the Unite the Kingdom event and two at the

Nakba Day march.

"They included offences motivated by race, religion, sexuality and disability," the force said, adding a further seven suspected hate crimes at the pro-Palestinian protest remain under investigation.

The other arrests at Robinson's rally ranged from public order and drunk and disorderly offences to suspects being held for previous grievous bodily harm and telecommunications offences.

There were two arrests for assault on an emergency worker and one for possession of an offensive weapon.

At the Nakba Day demonstration, the arrests included three for failing to remove a face covering, one for assault on an emergency worker and one for supporting a proscribed organisation.

Robinson — a former football hooligan turned anti-Islam activist whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon — had urged his attendees not to wear masks or drink excessive alcohol, and to be "peaceful and courteous".

From a stage in Parliament Square, which featured various far-right and other speakers, he claimed to be spearheading a "cultural revolution" and urged attendees to get politically active ahead of "the battle of Britain" in 2029.

The country's next general election is due that year.

Taiwan won't be sacrificed, US arms sales a commitment, says president

Reuters
Taipei

Taiwan will not be sacrificed or traded and will not give up its free way of life under pressure, President Lai Ching-te wrote on Facebook yesterday, adding that US arms sales to the island were a security commitment based on law.

Lai's comments were his first direct response to the summit last week in Beijing between US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping that raised concerns in democratically governed Taiwan about US backing for the island.

Trump said he was still considering whether to go ahead with new weapons sales to the Chinese-claimed island and that the US was "not looking to have somebody say, 'Let's go independent because the US is backing us'".

Lai said people were "very concerned" about the Taiwan content of that meeting, while also thanking the US government for its continued attention to peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and for its support for Taiwan.

Taiwan would not provoke or escalate conflict, he added.

"But we will also not give up our national sovereignty and dignity, or our democratic and free way of life, under pressure," Lai said, adding that China was the source of regional instability.

There was no immediate response from China to his comments.

China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under



Taiwan President Lai Ching-te arrives at an event to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Progressive Party in Taipei, Taiwan, yesterday. (Reuters)

its control and says it is a Chinese province, not a country.

Ensuring peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait had always been a strong consensus and shared interest of Taiwan, the US, and democratic countries around the world, Lai wrote.

"Taiwan will absolutely not be sacrificed or traded."

Long-term Taiwan-US security co-operation and arms sales were based on the Taiwan Relations Act, he said, referencing the 1979 law that mandates the sale of weapons to the island.

"This is not only a US security commitment to Taiwan, but also the most important deterrent force over the years against actions that undermine regional peace and stability."

While the Trump administration in December approved an \$11bn arms sales package, the larg-

est ever, Reuters has reported that a second one worth some \$14bn still awaits his nod.

Lai also reiterated his stance that the Republic of China, Taiwan's formal name, was a "sovereign, independent, democratic country".

The Republic of China and the People's Republic were not subordinate to each other, Taiwan's future must be decided by its own people and its "sovereignty cannot be violated or annexed", Lai said.

"This is the greatest consensus of all the people of Taiwan, and it is the status quo that we seek to defend. There is no so-called 'Taiwan independence' issue."

The defeated Republic of China government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to Mao Zedong's communists, who founded the People's Republic.

Trump warns 'won't be anything left' of Iran unless it agrees to deal

AFP
Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday warned Iran "there won't be anything left of them" if Tehran does not quickly agree to a peace deal with the US.

Washington, locked in conflict with Tehran since US and Israeli forces launched major strikes on the Islamic republic beginning February 28, has struggled to break an impasse and make any progress toward ending a war that has shaken the Middle East and sent energy prices climbing.

"For Iran, the Clock is Ticking, and they better get moving,

FAST, or there won't be anything left of them," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!"

The war has led to an effective blockade of the critical Strait of Hormuz, through which some 20% of global oil exports pass in peacetime, and has drawn neighbours Israel and Lebanon into a deadly side conflict.

Iran's clerical state, Hezbollah's patron, has demanded a lasting ceasefire in Lebanon before any broader peace agreement with Trump, who has been frustrated by Tehran's refusal to an accord on his terms.

An Israeli military official said yesterday that Hezbollah had fired around 200 projec-

tiles at Israel and its troops over the weekend, despite Israel and Lebanon agreeing to extend a ceasefire.

Washington and Tehran agreed to a truce on April 8, but peace negotiations have stalled and sporadic attacks have continued.

Yesterday, Iranian media said the US had failed to make any concrete concessions in its latest response to Iran's proposed agenda for negotiations to end the war.

The Fars news agency said Washington had presented a five-point list which included a demand for Iran to keep only one nuclear site in operation and transfer its stockpile of highly enriched uranium to the US.

Mahmoud Abbas' son wins role in Fatah party: official

Reuters
Ramallah

The millionaire businessman son of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has won a steering role in his father's political party Fatah, a party official said yesterday, as a succession fight looms for control of the embattled Palestinian Authority (PA).

Yasser Abbas (pictured) won a seat in elections for the Fatah Central Committee, the party's highest decision-making body, at its first general conference in almost a decade. Mahmoud Abbas, 90, will remain chairman, it decided.

The PA was set up as an interim administration under the 1990s Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, an umbrella group still internationally recognised as the representative of the Palestinian people. The powerful Fatah party dominates both the PA and the PLO.

Abbas' son's foray into politics has fuelled speculation that the president may be seeking to position Yasser, 64, to succeed him as head of Fatah.

That has drawn criticism from some Fatah officials, who say Yasser would be unable to unify Palestinians or help them chart a new political future after years without national elections or tangible steps toward statehood.

In the more than two decades since Mahmoud Abbas was elected to succeed Fatah founder Yasser Arafat, Palestinians have come to view the PA as ineffective and corrupt, something denied by Abbas, who has ruled by decree since his mandate expired in 2009.

In 2007, Abbas' Fatah forces in the Gaza Strip were overpowered by Hamas militants who seized



control of the enclave, a year after Hamas swept the Palestinian parliamentary elections. Peace talks with Israel meant to lead to the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem collapsed in 2014, with expanding Israeli settlements since carving up areas slated for Palestinian statehood. The PA is also grappling with a financial crisis.

Yasser Abbas, who has never held an official role within Fatah or the PA, runs tobacco and contracting firms in the parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank where the PA exercises limited self rule. Critics have long alleged that he and his brother Tarek have used public funds to help their businesses, allegations both men reject. Among others to have won seats on the Central Committee are Majed Faraj, head of the General Intelligence Agency, and former militant group leader Zakaria Zubeidi, released in a Hamas-Israel prisoner-hostage exchange as part of a 2025 Gaza ceasefire.

International dive group joins search for missing Italians

AFP
Malé

An international dive safety group sent experts to the Maldives yesterday to join a multinational recovery effort after five Italians and a rescue diver died in the Indian Ocean tourist destination's deadliest diving disaster, an official said.

The five Italians drowned while in a deep underwater cave in remote seas on Thursday, and Maldivian authorities recovered one body later that day.

A rescue diver from the Maldivian National Defence Force also died in hospital on Saturday from decompression-related complications after surfacing during the search, which was later suspended.

Italy, Britain and Australia have already provided assistance in the search for the remaining four Italians in difficult and dangerous con-

ditions, chief government spokesman Mohamed Hussain Shareef told AFP.

"Three Finnish experts from DAN (Divers Alert Network), commissioned by the Italian government, arrived today and will join the search, most probably on Monday," Shareef said.

The US had also offered help, he said. He said foreign assistance in the recovery effort is being co-ordinated by DAN and the Maldivian Coast Guard, which has sent its largest vessel to the area.

The body of the Italian that was recovered on Thursday was found in a cave at a depth of about 60 metres (195 feet). A funeral with full military honours was held for Maldivian diver Staff Sergeant Mohamed Mahudhy on Saturday night, Shareef said.

"We are very sad about the tragic loss of the Italians. We are also very saddened by the loss of our own diver," he said. "We are two

nations united in grief."

The University of Genoa said the victims included a marine biology professor, her daughter, and two young researchers.

The five deaths were confirmed by Italy's foreign ministry.

The Maldives also suspended the operating licence on Saturday of the luxury vessel from which the Italians had been diving.

Tourism is a key source of revenue for the low-lying Maldives, a nation of 1,192 tiny coral islands and atolls scattered some 800 kilometres (500 miles) across the equator in the Indian Ocean.

Its pristine beaches, clear turquoise waters and exotic coral reefs attract divers and snorkellers from around the world who often stay at secluded resorts or on live-aboard dive boats.

Several fatalities have been reported in recent years but diving and water sports-related accidents are still relatively rare.

Train driver charged after deadly crash in Thailand

Thai police have charged a train driver with negligence after a crash on Saturday in central Bangkok in which a freight train collided with a public bus at a rail crossing, killing eight people and injuring 32.

"The train driver has been charged with negligence causing death, as evidence clearly indicates reckless conduct leading to fatalities," Urumporn Koondejsumrit, head of the Makkasan Police Station,

told Reuters. He said the bus driver would also be charged, but remained under medical treatment and could not be questioned, so charges had not yet been filed.

Investigators are examining whether additional charges may be brought, he said. On Saturday, the freight train struck a bus that had been stopped on the tracks at a red light, sparking a fire that engulfed

the vehicle and dragging several nearby vehicles along the tracks. The site has been cleared and services restored, while authorities will tighten safety measures and oversight to prevent a repeat, Deputy Transport Minister Siripong Angkasakulkiat said in a statement.

Commuters said they had long feared a collision, as vehicles kept passing through the crossing despite stop signals. (Reuters)

Day 4 at DIBF draws crowds with book launches, AI talks

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The fourth day of the 35th Doha International Book Fair offered visitors a wide range of programmes yesterday, from book launches to panel discussions.

Among the highlights, Haya al-Shammari launched her new book, "Transformational Leadership for Educational Leaders", at the fair. The cultural and educational event focused on modern leadership concepts and their role in the development of educational institutions.

The launch ceremony was held at 9.30 am at the Arab Family Library booth (H2-116) and was attended by academics and individuals interested in education and culture.

The book presents a scientific and practical approach to transformational leadership, drawing on experience and a vision to create qualitative change in educational work environments while strengthening leaders' role in inspiring their teams and achieving institutional excellence.

Al-Shammari said the publica-



Mariam al-Hammadi during the session.

tion stemmed from a belief that every idea has a journey and every ambition has a story to tell, adding that the launch represented an opportunity to share experiences and a vision intended to create a positive impact in the education sector.

Meanwhile, Noura al-Sada addressed the challenges of electronic signatures during a signing session at the Al-Watad Publishing House booth. Al-Sada signed copies of her new book, "Electronic Signatures: Between Text and Technological Development", in the presence of legal and tech-

nical experts as well as fair visitors, reflecting growing interest in publications tackling digital transformation.

Al-Sada said the book represents a knowledge journey that combines law and technology, highlighting one of the most significant developments in the digital world – electronic signatures and their rapidly evolving legal and technical dimensions.

She explained that the publication examines the regulation of electronic signatures under the Qatari law, particularly within the

Electronic Transactions and Commerce Law. The book also discusses the legal validity of electronic signatures in Qatar and the challenges they face amid rapid technological advancements.

Visitors also attended a panel discussion exploring ways to build knowledge through culture. Mariam Yassin al-Hammadi presented a session titled "Building Knowledge Through Culture and Media," which attracted visitors interested in culture and digital media. The discussion focused on how people have shifted from being consumers of knowledge to becoming commodities shaped by algorithms.

Al-Hammadi opened the session with a central question on how the digital citizen became a commodity in a market they did not choose. She said global shifts in the post-globalisation era, the rise of the digital economy, and the AI revolution have reshaped control over narratives.

She warned about the risks posed by algorithms that increasingly influence the daily flow of knowledge, saying that while "algorithms do not lie, they choose – and within that choice lies the danger." She added that the growing dominance of technology com-



Noura al-Sada signing her book.



Cover page of Transformational Leadership for Educational Leaders.

panies over media places a major responsibility on societies to build awareness across all segments of the community.

Looking ahead to the future of knowledge in the age of AI, al-Hammadi said that current AI

models build knowledge on past data rather than the future and carry the biases of their creators. She noted that this places Arabic content in a vulnerable position amid the dominance of Western material in AI training data.

Symposium on translation's role in bridging cultures

QNA
Doha

A seminar was held as part of the cultural events of the 35th Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) on translation as a bridge between cultures.

Convening a phalanx of specialists and experts, the seminar featured writer and translator Mohammed Ayat Hanna, Dr Ali Almanna, Associate Professor of Translation Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Ahmed Abdel Fattah, Director of Madarat for Research and Publishing, and was moderated by journalist and writer Alaa Karaja.

The seminar deliberated on the intellectual and cultural transformations related to the translation movement and its role in imparting knowledge among nations, as well as the challenges facing the translation and publishing industries in the Arab world, whether at the linguistic, economic, or professional level.

Writer Hanna highlighted that the Arabic language possesses rich lexical diversity, but this is not always reflected in daily usage and circulation.

He pointed out that this issue is clearly encountered during the arduous process of translation from one culture into another as it has nothing to do with merely



conveying words, but the essence lies in rather transferring the cultural and intellectual load associated with them.

Regarding the selection of subjects for translation, Hanna noted that choosing books for translation is done through understanding and partnership between the translator and the publisher. He suggested that the translator-publisher relationship remains a critical component in bringing translated works closer to Arab readers in a balanced and effective way.

At the end of the day, translation is a cultural project that requires

thoughtful harmony and a shared vision among all participating parties, he pointed out.

For his part, Dr Ali Almanna opined that translation is not merely transferring words from one language to another, but fundamentally the process is all about conveying the cognitive image formed in the imagination of readers and translators during their interaction with texts.

He also stressed that when translators recreate imagery within another language, they may move to varying degrees away from the original text – either slightly or

substantially – depending on the nature of the images formed during the processes of reading and interpretation.

Ahmed Abdel Fattah recalled that the translation movement is facing tremendous economic challenges in the Arab world, highlighting that the translation industry remains limited and weak commercially compared to the scale of global cultural production, something that is directly reflected in the proliferation of translated books and their presence in markets and libraries.

Translation markets are grappling with issues related to distribution and weak consumer turnout, alongside the limited spread of libraries in some Arab countries, something that undermines the flow of publications to readers, Abdel Fattah suggested.

He added that both publishing and translation require greater support, while noting that translation itself does not always face formidable challenges, particularly when the translator is a skilled professional who is adroit at comprehending the nature of the text being translated.

Abdel Fattah emphasised that successful translation depends on clear understanding and co-ordination among all parties involved, as well as a strong grasp of the character and context of the text.

Saudi literary scene takes the stage at DIBF

Saudi Arabia's participation at the in the 35th Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) reflects the integration of national efforts across the cultural and knowledge sectors. Led by the Literature, Publishing and Translation Commission (one of 11 sector-specific commissions under the Ministry of Culture), the pavilion brings together several leading Saudi cultural and academic entities.

The pavilion features a curated programme of dialogue sessions and poetry evenings led by leading Saudi writers, poets, and translators. It presents a curated selection of literary, academic, and cultural titles that reflect the Kingdom's literary heritage, along with notable works from the Tarjim Initiative – the commission's flagship translation programme that has carried Saudi literature into multiple international languages. Its design, programming, and the presence of national cultural entities offer visitors a glimpse into the voices and institutions that shape the Saudi literary scene.

The free-wheeling sessions will discuss the questions shaping contemporary Arabic literature, from the evolving publishing landscape to the role of transla-

tion in carrying Arabic writing to international readers.

"The Commission's participation at DIBF opens valuable space for Saudi publishers and authors to engage with their counterparts across the world, exchange expertise, and showcase Saudi content among new audiences of readers and industry professionals," Dr Abdullatif bin Abdulaziz al-Waseel, CEO of the Literature, Publishing and Translation Commission said.

"Through the Saudi pavilion, we spotlight Saudi Arabia's evolving literary scene, introduce Saudi writers and publishers to wider audiences, and highlight the role of literature, publishing, and translation in shaping our shared cultural future," he added.

The participation reflects the commission's wider efforts to advance the literature, publishing, and translation sectors, support the next generation of Saudi writers, publishers, and translators, and create meaningful and professional partnerships with leading figures across the publishing community – opening new avenues for co-operation, exchange, and the continued enrichment of the Kingdom's literary and intellectual life.

Lowdown on sessions: On the role of media, culture, AI and reading

QNA
Doha

A symposium was convened as part of the cultural salon activities at the 35th Doha International Book Fair (DIBF). The event plainly called for the establishment of specialised national councils tasked with monitoring knowledge flows and addressing challenges related to digital media and artificial intelligence. Coming under the theme of building knowledge through culture and media, the symposium featured the remarks of Qatari writer Mar- yam Yassin al-Hammadi, who highlighted the importance of building societal awareness capable of dealing with the rapid transformations in the era of technology and algorithms.

It is very significant to formulate upper echelon of consultative commissions comprising experts in media, culture, AI, and national security. This can help identify knowledge gaps before they turn into real threats, al-Hammadi suggested, noting that building media sovereignty has become an imperative amid global digital transformations.

The panel tackled global realignments in the post-globalisation era and the ascen-

sion of the digital economy, highlighting that humans have shifted from being consumers of knowledge to being a commodity handled by algorithms that direct their options.

The session warned of the menace of algorithms' control over the daily knowledge flow, emphasising that "the algorithm does not lie, but it chooses, and in this choice lies the danger."

Furthermore, the panel drilled down on the knowledge future in the era of AI, indicating that current models are based on past data and wield the biases of the entities that developed them, making Arabic content in a vulnerable position in the face of the dominance of Western content in training data.

As such, al-Hammadi advocated launching major cultural and educational projects to be trained on AI, foremost of which is the Arab and Islamic digital memory with the objective of building an enduring Arab database that supports the development of domestic AI models and enhances the presence of Arab content globally.

What matters the most here is to launch the Critical Citizen Project in pursuit of deepening critical thinking skills among students and society, she un-

derlined. She emphasised that this project would teach individuals how to consciously handle AI outputs and not solely rely on already produced information.

Saudi academic and critic Dr Manal al-Qathami speaking at the session titled "A symposium on knowledge and the making of renaissance: the role of reading in shaping nations" at the cultural salon, that reading represents a core pillar in building individuals and driving development, noting that reading societies are more capable of confronting intellectual and media misinformation.

Reading not only generates knowledge but also helps build a critical mindset and fosters individual and collective awareness, al-Qathami noted, cautioning the gathering against the growing superficiality of knowledge arising from the reliance on fast and short content, and the resulting decline in deep thinking and analysis.

Al-Qathami further stressed upon the criticality of reading in safeguarding cultural identity and the Arabic language. She explained how thriving reading contributes to building a common cultural reference that fosters dialogue and understanding in society, whose decline leads to the frailty of thought and cultural belonging.

Qatar Platform Speaks: Imperatives and challenges of occupational development

QNA
Doha

The main stage at the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) hosted a panel discussion on Qatar Platform Speaks as part of the program held alongside the fair. Featuring the attendance of specialists and visitors, the panel discussed the importance of professional development, the future of in-demand skills, and the impact of artificial intelligence and digital transformation on the workplace environment.

"Continuous occupational development has not been an additional option but rather an imperative imposed by the nature of consecutive transformations in the labour market amid the increasing need for leadership and digital skills as well as the ability to adapt and engage in continuous learning," CEO of Qatar Finance and Business Academy (QFBA), Dr Khalifa al-Salahi al-Yafei said.

Al-Yafei underlined that today's labour market not only looks for academically qualified talent, but for individuals who are capable of combining theoretical knowledge with practical experience.

He suggested that what matters the most is field training, volunteerism, and occupational courses to build students' character, to be ultimately prepared for deployment in the labour market.



As such, al-Yafei recalled that there is an obvious gap between academic content and market needs, stressing the importance of developing curricula and connecting them with rapid global changes, particularly amid easy access to knowledge and the growing impact of technology and artificial intelligence.

He further highlighted that adaptation is one of the most consequential skills required in modern workplaces, clarifying that the accelerated development in AI-powered tools requires individuals and enterprises to cope with these realignments and learn how to capitalise on these tools to streamline

output and optimise performance. Responding to a point on the impact of AI on humans, al-Yafei outlined that these technologies are auxiliary tools that can boost productivity and provide time and cost efficiency, but people can't be oblivious to human thinking, expertise, and knowledge. He re-emphasised the need to consciously handle these tools and never depend on them entirely.

Al-Yafei concluded that the true challenge ahead does not lie in obtaining a job, but in the ability to persistently innovate and maintain occupational value in a labour market that is undergoing a rapid-change.

What's next for UK PM?

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's position is under serious threat after senior minister Wes Streeting quit and dozens of Labour lawmakers called for him to set out a timetable for his departure, or resign, in the wake of heavy losses in local elections.

Starmer has insisted that he is getting on with the job and won't resign, and Labour has strict rules governing the removal of a party leader and the system requires lawmakers to coalesce around specific candidates rather than just express "no confidence" in their current leader.

At the moment most of those against Starmer have called for him to set out a timetable for his own departure – effectively asking him to resign without needing to be forced out.

If Starmer does not resign, any candidate wishing to make a challenge would need to secure the support of 20% of Labour members of parliament.

With Labour currently holding 403 seats, that equates to 81 lawmakers, including the challenger.

A source close to Streeting said that he had the numbers to trigger a challenge, but had not done so as he favoured an orderly timetable with a broader field of candidates, though Starmer's allies said Streeting didn't have the numbers.

Once a candidate submits their list of backers to Labour Party officials, the party's National Executive Committee will meet to finalise the rules of the leadership race.

Other candidates will then be able to seek nominations from lawmakers to run for leader once the contest is underway, at which point candidates also must hit thresholds for support from grassroots Labour Party organisations, and from affiliated organisations such as trade unions.

Any challenger has to be a lawmaker. The mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham, who polls favourably with Labour members among the candidates to replace Starmer, would need to find a parliamentary seat to contest and win before he could stand to be leader.

Starmer would have an automatic right to be on the ballot paper if he chose to fight the contest.

If only one candidate meets the threshold for support, there is no vote: the candidate is elected unopposed as Labour leader and becomes prime minister.

If more than one candidate qualifies, the winner is decided by a ballot of all Labour Party members and affiliates.

The winner becomes prime minister. – Reuters



Starmer's troubles a sign of fractured times



By Kristian Coates Ulrichsen

A week where everything and nothing seemed to happen in British politics left Sir Keir Starmer hanging on as prime minister, in office but not in power, as one of his predecessors at 10 Downing Street, John Major, was famously taunted back in 1993.

While a threatened leadership challenge from Wes Streeting, the ambitious former Health Secretary, never materialised, Starmer remains under intense pressure to set a date for his departure. Less than two years into a premiership that began with a landslide election victory in July 2024, Starmer's travails illustrate the difficulty of governing in an intensely populist age.

From almost the moment he entered No. 10 as the first Labour Prime Minister in 14 years, Starmer has faced one political crisis after another. Many of them have been self-inflicted, such as the appointment of Peter Mandelson as ambassador to the US, while others reflect the challenging economic legacy that Starmer inherited from the Conservative Party.

There is also the paradox of the 2024 election in which Labour won a 174-seat majority in the House of Commons, almost as large as Tony Blair's record-breaking 179 majority in 1997, yet did so on the back of just 33.7% of the vote, 10 points lower than the previous general election in 2019 which delivered Boris Johnson's Conservatives a majority of 80 seats.

Starmer's ponderous style of decision-making and wooden manner of speaking have not helped him connect with a public that is increasingly tired of the two-party system – Labour and the Conservatives – that has dominated politics for 100 years. This shone through in the disastrous results of the local elections in England on May 7 which saw Labour lose control of 38 councils and shed 1,498 councillors.

Labour also performed badly in the elections to the Scottish Assembly, held the same day, and finished in a distant third place in the Senedd (Welsh Assembly) vote after having been the largest party in Wales for decades. Across the board, voters made it clear they had tired of Labour as well as the Conservatives.

The results of the May 7 elections

also suggest that the political landscape in Great Britain has fragmented in ways that make further volatility very likely. Politics in England has moved beyond the traditional two (or three, if you include the Liberal Democrats) party system to become a five-party affair as Reform and the Greens enter the mix. Nigel Farage's Reform UK were the biggest winners of the local elections even if they finished 4% down on their vote share in the 2025 elections. Reform and the Green Party showed they can outflank Labour and the Conservatives from both the left and the right.

Meanwhile, the fact that nationalist parties – Reform in England, the Scottish National Party, and Plaid Cymru – topped the vote in England, Scotland, and Wales, respectively, suggests that the union is fraying as voters in the constituent nations go their own ways.

And yet, the Labour inquest into what went wrong and what should be done about it has descended into farce and looks set to dominate headlines for months and leave the UK effectively leaderless over the summer. Starmer's unpopularity, with the public as well as his own MPs, generated an expectation that he would face a leadership challenge, likely from Streeting, who duly resigned from the Cabinet on May 14. However, Streeting failed to challenge Starmer, likely because he could not get the support of the 81 members of parliament needed to trigger a leadership contest under Labour Party regulations. Andy Burnham, the relatively popular Mayor of Manchester, duly declared his intent to re-enter the House of Commons as Josh Simons, hitherto a Starmer loyalist, resigned his seat to trigger a by-election in the Makerfield constituency that will likely take place in June or July.

What happens next is anyone's guess. While Makerfield has returned a Labour MP ever since the seat was created in 1983, Reform came a strong second in the 2024 election and won every local council seat in the constituency on May 7, finishing 28 points ahead of Labour. It

is therefore not a shoo-in for Burnham and previous efforts to parachute figures into parliament have not always gone well. A cautionary tale is that of Patrick Gordon Walker, Foreign Secretary in Harold Wilson's government who had surprisingly lost his seat in the 1964 general election, whereupon a Labour MP was elevated to the House of Lords to create a vacancy only for the Conservatives to defeat Gordon Walker in what had been a safe seat.

Should Burnham win the seat, he would demonstrate that he is capable of taking on and defeating Reform in precisely the northern industrial heartland that Labour will need to retain if they are to have any chance of staying in office after the next general election. The fact that the by-election is essentially a vote on a potential prime minister makes it unique in recent political history. If Burnham does return to the House of Commons, where he sat from 2001 to 2017 and served in Gordon Brown's cabinet, Starmer will face a choice of contesting a leadership election, which could take months, or stepping down to allow a swift coronation.

The two Conservative Party leadership elections of 2022 provide a template for the choices Starmer must make. Nearly two months elapsed between Boris Johnson announcing he would resign as prime minister, on July 7, and Liz Truss winning the leadership election, on September 5. Following Truss's ignominious exit after 49 days in office, however, the party decided not to hold a protracted second election in a matter of months and coalesced around Rishi Sunak who was elected unopposed just four days after Truss stood down. For Starmer, the tragedy is that there has rarely been a more highly qualified prime minister who was so unsuited to the style of retail politics all successful leaders must practice.

• The writer is a leading scholar specialising in Gulf politics and international political economy, and a fellow at the Baker Institute and co-director of the Middle East Energy Roundtable.



Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, left, and Health Secretary, Wes Streeting, in this file photo taken in 2024. (Reuters)

Fibre-optic drones have exposed Netanyahu's Hezbollah pipe dream

By Jasim al-Azzawi



In the ruined townships of southern Lebanon, a new kind of war has emerged – one that no Iron Dome can intercept and no electronic warfare suite can blind. A small quadcopter, guided not by radio waves but by a hair-thin fibre-optic cable unreeled silently behind it, skirts rooftops before slamming into an Israeli Merkava tank with the precision of a surgeon's scalpel. Israel's multibillion-dollar defence architecture is, in this moment, rendered irrelevant by a spool of cable and a repurposed commercial drone.

This is the battlefield arithmetic that confounds Benjamin Netanyahu's proclaimed ambition to disarm Hezbollah – what his critics call his greatest pipe dream. Battered by a year of Israeli bombardment, stripped of key commanders, its Syrian supply corridor severed by Assad's fall, the Party used fifteen months of fragile ceasefire not to disarm, as Beirut and Washington demanded, but to rearm – and to innovate. Israeli officials acknowledge that Hezbollah's drone unit has launched over 160 FPV sorties since early March, 90 guided by fibre-optic cables that defeat every electronic countermeasure in Israel's inventory.

When a medevac helicopter raced to evacuate the wounded at Taybeh, Hezbollah launched a second drone at the aircraft. Soldiers pointed their rifles at the sky. On May 7 and 8, FPV drones struck Iron Dome launchers, footage showing maintenance crews fleeing moments before impact. Netanyahu's answer? A solution "will take time." In the interim, front-line troops hang nets over their positions, hoping a drone snags on fabric before it finds flesh.

Against this backdrop, the demand for disarmament assumes the quality of a theatre of the absurd. Behind closed doors, Lebanese officials have quietly conceded to American envoys that disarmament within any near-term horizon is not feasible.

The Lebanese Armed Forces, underfunded and structurally compromised by decades of Hezbollah influence, have neither the firepower nor the political will to confront an organisation that has threatened civil war should anyone try. Secretary General Naim Qassem has warned that seizing the Party's weapons will mean "no life in Lebanon." In the vocabulary of Lebanese politics, that is not a threat – it is a constitutional fact.

The Party's negotiating position is a masterpiece of circular logic that happens to be tactically airtight: it will consider disarmament when Israel withdraws from all Lebanese territory – an outcome no Israeli leader, least of all Netanyahu, will accept before Hezbollah disarms. Israel retains forces at five strategic points along the border; Prime Minister Salam has noted that Israel effectively controls sixty-eight Lebanese villages in the south. The 1949 Armistice line, Lebanon demands as a baseline, remains a distant aspiration. The land Israel has seized by force shows no sign of returning for free.

Washington pushes Aoun and Salam toward peace and mutual recognition with Israel – a proposition the Party categorically rejects, and that much of the Lebanese political class regards as surrender dressed in diplomatic language. The 1949 Armistice border is not merely a cartographic line; it is the architecture of national dignity.

The Lebanese question cannot be understood

apart from the larger battle between the US-Israel Axis and the Axis of Resistance. When American and Israeli strikes killed Khamenei on February 28, they did not merely decapitate a theocracy – they pulled the trip wire that brought Hezbollah back into combat after fifteen months of enforced restraint.

Tehran, even in the convulsive aftermath, has not relinquished the Hezbollah card. It never will. The Party is the crown jewel of the IRGC's four-decade investment in the Levant – trained, financed, and strategically directed by the Quds Force from its inception. To imagine Tehran surrendering that asset for diplomatic pleasantries is to misunderstand the Islamic Republic's strategic grammar entirely.

Now, with Trump dangling olive branches and threatening "massive maximum pressure" in the same breath, the most consequential variable hangs unresolved: what emerges from the Trump-Xi summit in Beijing? Regional sources have told CNN that progress in the Iran nuclear talks "will depend on the results of President Trump's visit to Beijing." Iran has already warned of ninety-percent uranium enrichment should a second round of US-Israeli strikes materialize. Should diplomacy collapse, and the bombs fall again, Hezbollah will unleash its remaining arsenal against northern Israel – where more than a million Israelis have already abandoned their homes, a demographic hostage to an impasse that no one in Washington, Jerusalem, or Beirut dares to resolve.

Lebanon is, as it has always been, the theater in which larger powers rehearse their conflicts without suffering their consequences. The scorched villages, the families in schools north of the Litani, the iron-nerved drone operators threading quadcopters through bombed-out alleyways – all of this is the bill Lebanon pays for a geopolitical argument it did not author and cannot conclude. Disarming Hezbollah is not a policy question. It is a civilisational reckoning – with Iran's ambitions, Israel's appetite for security-through-dominance, America's capacity to translate pressure into outcomes, and Lebanon's chronic inability to imagine itself as a sovereign state rather than a corridor for other people's wars.

Netanyahu's pipe dream of a disarmed Hezbollah will remain precisely that – a dream – as long as Iranian strategic interests, Lebanese political paralysis, and fibre-optic quadcopters make the alternative unenforceable. The Party has used every ceasefire to rearm, every setback to innovate, and every ultimatum to consolidate its base. The question no one in the triumvirate of Washington, Jerusalem, and Beirut dares answer aloud: if sixteen years of UN resolutions, three major wars, and the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader have not disarmed the Party – what, exactly, will?

• The writer is a news anchor, programme presenter and media instructor.



A FPV (first-person view) drone fitted with a PG-7 warhead in this image on social media.

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Putting the 'cultural' foot forward

Here's how DIBF is acting as a cultural window to convey Qatar's message to the world

QNA
Doha

The head of cultural committee at the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), Dalal al-Dosari, affirmed that the 35th edition of the fair was curated and presented with a renewed vision encompassing cultural, national, and intellectual dimensions. This reflects the fair's mission as a platform for dialogue, knowledge, and cultural documentation with national identity and openness to diverse intellectual and human experiences at the heart of everything.

Asked to elaborate on this, al-Dosari says that the cultural program for this edition was distinguished by several high-quality initiatives. Among the most prominent was the hosting of the "This is Qatar" project as the fair's guest of honour, in addition to the launch of the "Qatar Speaks" platform. This platform hosts a select group of national leaders in various vital and developmental fields with the aim of documenting their experiences and highlighting their role in building the nation.

The "Qatar Speaks" platform stemmed from the belief that

achievements have a voice that must be heard by future generations, and that successful national experiences represent a lasting legacy that can be learned from and emulated, she added.

The cultural program was not limited to traditional intellectual seminars, but rather included daily events that combined thought, literature, arts, heritage, and contemporary issues, with dedicated space for discussion on the role of intellectuals amidst the crises and transformations witnessed by the region and the world, she pointed.

Al-Dosari noted that the event featured a distinguished lineup of thinkers, writers, and specialists, alongside a focus on interactive activities aimed at children and various age groups, ensuring broader public participation and enhancing engagement with cultural activities.

She further emphasised that the cultural program was developed from the outset based on a comprehensive vision reflecting the richness of society and the diversity of its interests. She stressed the exhibition's commitment to hosting experiences from diverse intellectual and cultural schools, embodying the spirit of dialogue and openness upon which the exhibition is founded.

Regarding the balance between its popular appeal and its elite focus, al-Dosari stated that the cultural program successfully presented content accessible to the public without compromising its



intellectual depth.

She said that the seminars addressed intellectual topics in a simplified and engaging manner, while maintaining their scholarly value. This paved the way for a common space for intellectuals and the general public to meet within a singular cultural experience. The committee's vision is based on the principle that "culture is for everyone," and that it only bears fruit when presented in

a language that is understandable and accessible to the public. This, she said, was reflected in the large public attendance at the seminars and events.

Regarding naming the "This is Qatar" project as the guest of honour for this session, al-Dosari described this step as a "unique experience," given that the guest of honour is not a country or a traditional institution, but rather a comprehensive cultural, national,

and intellectual project. She emphasised that the project represents a documentary cultural encyclopedia that tells the story of Qatar to the world through a blend of knowledge, documentation, and visual creativity. It carries significant national significance due to its documentation of Qatar's history, memory, and identity.

She noted that the project is not limited to printed books, but also includes audiobooks and more

than 300 documentaries, in addition to a wealth of visual materials such as photographs, maps, and documents that chronicle the character of Qatar's places and people. She explained that hosting the "This is Qatar" project directly influenced the nature of the seminars and sessions accompanying the exhibition, with events dedicated to addressing issues of national identity, historical documentation, and collective memory.

The "Qatar Speaks" platform contributed to highlighting inspiring Qatari experiences in the intellectual, economic, medical, and legal fields through direct encounters with experts, giving young people the opportunity to learn from these role models and benefit from their experiences, she added.

Al-Dosari emphasised that the "This is Qatar" project presents a contemporary model for cultural and intellectual documentation, combining cultural narrative with visual and intellectual documentation, while utilising modern media to convey the cultural message.

She explained that the project reflects a global trend in engaging with diverse cultures, as its content has been translated into five languages, with documentaries dubbed into those same languages.

She added that there are future plans for expansion, making it a cultural window that conveys Qatar's message to the world, and described it as "a nation's memory and a bridge connecting the past with the present."

BilAraby initiative discusses ongoing shifts in Arabic knowledge industry

Qatar Foundation's (QF) BilAraby initiative participated in the 35th Doha International Book Fair (DIBF), organised by the Ministry of Culture - Qatar Cultural and Heritage Events Centre, with a panel discussion titled "Arabic Between Publishing and Content: How Do We Expand the Impact of an Idea?"

The session was hosted at the exhibition's Cultural Salon, organised under the supervision of the Qatari Forum for Authors, at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC) yesterday.

This participation highlights BilAraby's active role in the cultural landscape and its commitment to fostering dialogue between readers, publishers, and content creators. The session addressed a central question: how can ideas formulated in Arabic find broader pathways to reach more diverse audiences, both within and beyond the Arabic-speaking world?

The discussion examined the ongoing shifts in the Arabic knowledge industry, tracing the transition from traditional print publishing to digital media. Speakers emphasised that Arabic is not merely a language that preserves meaning, but one fully capable of driving knowledge production, amplifying the reach of ideas, and providing a platform for new, di-



verse voices.

Panelists also explored the role of Arabic in promoting epistemic justice and enriching digital content. Participants discussed how publishers and content creators can transform inspiring ideas into interactive knowledge experiences that resonate across multiple platforms and media formats.

Moderated by Souhila Abada, content supervisor and lead trainer at the BilAraby initiative, the session featured Jaber al-Harami, writer and editor-in-chief of *Al Sharq* newspaper, and Fatima al-Malki, director of the Qatar Reads initiative at Qatar National Library (QNL).

Hisham Nourin, executive director of Strategic Initiatives and

Programmes at QF, stated: "The participation of the BilAraby initiative in the Doha International Book Fair stems from our firm belief that Arabic is a language of knowledge production and innovation, not just a means of expression. While a book is a vital starting point, the impact of an idea truly expands when it moves through podcasts, visual content, and digital platforms to reach a global audience."

In addition to the panel, BilAraby's participation included interactive activities that invited the public to brainstorm new forms of Arabic content creation and explore ways to transform ideas into impactful digital experiences and shared knowledge.

Arab Publishers Association applauds DIBF for being a global cultural hub

QNA
Cairo

The broad global participation at the 35th Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) demonstrates its standing as one of the pre-eminent cultural exhibitions in the region and the world, the Arab Publishers Association said in a statement yesterday.

The statement noted that the fair features outstanding participation of 520-plus publishing houses from 37 nations worldwide, including hundreds of thousands of themes in the literary, scientific, cultural, and educational domains, alongside children's books, a new testament to the position of this fair as a global cultural hub that gathers thought and innovation.

The inauguration of "This is Qatar" as the guest of honour of this iteration underscores a practical step that manifests the cultural and civilisational identity of the State of Qatar, the statement continued, affirming that this move highlights the prolific cultural scene and the diversity the nation embraces.

Recalling the record turnout from the broad public, officially, culturally, and in terms of me-

dia, the association applauded the cultural program being held alongside the fair, which largely intends to boost the culture of reading and elevate the notion of dialogue, innovation, and cultural exchange to new heights.

The statement added that this cultural demonstration featured a series of events in terms

Syria's participation in this fair through 175 diverse titles suggests the cultural presence of the country and its contribution to enriching the intellectual and knowledge scene through showcasing a variety of releases that demonstrate Syrian cultural and literary production, the statement recalled.

of thoughtful and cultural panel discussions, as well as interviews with writers and thought leaders, along with book signings, literary and poetry evenings. This is in addition to children and youth workshops, as well as artistic and cultural shows, alongside sessions on publishing and the book industry.

The statement highlighted a number of events and initiatives offered by the fair to its visitors and audience, including the Reading

Guide service and its associated offerings, including reading consultations and one-on-one knowledge sessions aimed at overcoming reading difficulties across different age groups.

This initiative strives to deepen the reading value in society, and ultimately draw reading amateurs from children, young people, and adults, the statement read, emphasising that this initiative is presented throughout all days of this event to facilitate visitors' access to a plethora of booths.

It further noted that the initiative helps new readers take their first steps toward the world of books according to their proclivities, based on the wide diversity of scientific, social, religious, and historical genres.

Syria's participation in this fair through 175 diverse titles suggests the cultural presence of the country and its contribution to enriching the intellectual and knowledge scene through showcasing a variety of releases that demonstrate Syrian cultural and literary production, the statement recalled.

Noteworthy, this is the fair be-hemoth in its history, containing almost 910 booths that showcase over 1.85 mn books, alongside over 231,000 titles in a range of knowledge fields.

DIBF cultural salon showcases new literary and scientific releases

QNA
Doha

The cultural salon at the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) showcased on Saturday a selection of new literary and scientific works, whose launch alongside the fair reflected the dynamism and diversity of the cultural and knowledge landscape.

The texts covered a wide range of themes, including fiction, human reflection, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and contemporary legal and social issues.

In the literary section, the novel "The Secret of the Crescent" by Qatari author Faisal al-Ansari, published by Arab Scientific Publishers, was launched.

Framed in a historical narrative style, it traces the life and intellectual legacy of the scholar Muhammad ibn Jabir al-Battani, one of the most renowned astronomers and mathematicians of the Abbasid era, while also depicting the ideological conflicts and accusations he faced due to his scientific inquiries, particularly his studies of celestial bodies, eclipses, and other astronomical phenomena.

The narrative also revisits the figure of Sheikh Abdullah bin Ibrahim al-Ansari, known as 'Hamil Al Hilal', recognised among Qatar's leading scholars, founder of a reli-

gious institute, and author of the nation's earliest calendrical system.

In an epic literary context, Qatari novelist Shamma Shaheen al-Kuwari unveiled her trilogy "The Bronze Statue Trilogy" published by Qantra Publishing and Distribution.

Spanning more than a thousand pages, the trilogy reconstructs the atmosphere of ancient civilisations and primordial mythologies, where questions of good and evil, immortality, love, and power intersect.

It blends epic narrative with philosophical reflection, reimagining the emergence of human civilisation, language, and early consciousness through a fictional world inspired by Sumerian heritage and ancient epics.

Writer Mashaal Mohammed Ali also launched her book "The Trace... Indeed, Man Is a Trace", published by Al-Wattad Publishing and Printing.

The work presents a reflective collection of essays exploring the imprint individuals leave on others, emphasising the value of kind words and sincere emotions in an age of accelerating relationships and fading human detail.

It guides readers through reflections on relationships, disappointment, generosity, contentment, and hope, advancing the idea that a



person endures through the lasting impact of their actions rather than their transient presence.

The salon also witnessed the launch of "Technology of Skills: Transferring and Embedding Digital Skills" by Abdullah al-Sahout, a business and technology development expert, and engineer Abdulrahman Khamis, inventor and entrepreneur, published by the Qatar Scientific Club.

The book delves deep into the profound digital transformations reshaping the world and calls for a redefinition of the concept of

"skills" in the age of artificial intelligence and smart technologies.

It primarily focuses on transforming digital competencies from theoretical knowledge into practical, practice-based capabilities embedded within professional environments, while addressing education, training, and digital transformation across Qatar and the wider Gulf, alongside applied models linking skills to institutional realities and labour market needs.

Another publication, "Digital Impact: Sustainable Community

Digital Leadership" by Abdullah al-Sahout and Ali al-Suwaidi, explores community-based digital leadership and the role of technology in generating sustainable social and developmental impact. It emphasizes digital equity, community empowerment, and the narrowing of technological and knowledge gaps.

The genre showcases a vision that combines theory with practice through applied frameworks covering smart cities, education, healthcare, environmental development, and economic empow-

erment, while underscoring the importance of ethical, human-centered digital solutions that safeguard privacy and uphold justice.

In the legal domain, Dr. Mabhkhouf al-Bufurayh al-Marri launched two works: "A Concise Guide to the Remote Employment Contract" and "Artificial Intelligence in Labour Law" both addressing recent transformations in the workplace and the legal challenges arising from smart technologies and remote work systems.

The latter examines the influence of AI on hiring patterns, professional decision-making, and performance evaluation, alongside issues of algorithmic bias, legal liability, and workers' rights in the context of automated decision-making systems. The former compiles legal articles addressing key legislative developments and contemporary challenges in labour relations, combining accessibility with analytical depth.

The latest publications reflect the breadth of intellectual, literary, and scientific engagement at the fair - from questions of identity, memory, and the human condition to digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and modern legal frameworks - affirming the fair's continued role as a platform for cultural dialogue and for anticipating future transformations.

QUPress participates in Doha book fair

Qatar University (QU), represented by Qatar University Press, is participating in the 35th Doha International Book Fair, organised by the Ministry of Culture from May 14-23. This participation reflects QU's ongoing commitment to advancing knowledge dissemination and strengthening its cultural and academic presence at both national and international levels.

During its participation, QUPress showcased a selection of its recent academic and scientific publications across a range of dis-

ciplines, including legal studies, social sciences and humanities, education, and cultural and heritage studies, in addition to scientific translation works.

QUPress also organised a series of panel discussions and book launch events, contributing to enriching the cultural landscape and fostering engagement between researchers and the wider community.

Shaikha Ahmad al-Thani, director of QUPress, stated: "Our participation reflects our commitment to strengthening our

presence in the cultural landscape and supporting knowledge and scientific research.

"We also commend the Ministry of Culture and the organisers for their efforts and look forward to contributing meaningful academic and cultural content that reflects the university's mission and societal role."

QUPress is also highlighting its publishing achievements, having published 103 books since its establishment. During the 2025-2026 academic year, the production department oversaw the publication of 20 books and 14 scientific journal issues, along with six reprinted titles. These publications span diverse fields, including legal studies, social sciences and humanities, education, cultural and heritage studies, and scientific translation.

Through this participation, QU reaffirms its commitment to supporting sustainable development and enhancing the role of academic publishing, contributing to the development of a knowledge-based economy in line with the human, social, and economic pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030.



A Qur'an in gold ink worth over QR1mn at Doha International Book Fair 2026

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

Dr Engineer Muslim Amini, owner of Globe Art Qatar, revealed the display of a rare Ottoman Sultanic Qur'an, over 600 years old and priced at more than QR1mn, as part of the company's participation in the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) 2026.

He confirmed that the Qur'an is written in gold ink and is among the rarest pieces on display this year, alongside hundreds of manuscripts, rare books, and artefacts that document various stages of Islamic and world history.

Speaking to the press, Dr Amini said: "The stories don't end at the shelves of modern books or book signings. Within the halls of the exhibition and in the Globe Art pavilion, there are gateways to the memory of ancient civilisations, kingdoms, and journeys."



Copy of Ottoman Sultanic Qur'an

He pointed out that among these treasures are a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and ancient artefacts, creating a scene reminiscent of a mobile historical museum.

Dr Amini noted that the pavilion also includes rare artefacts and antiquities, such as swords, daggers, historical carpets, and other heritage items, some of which are being displayed to the public in Qatar for the first time.

He pointed out that the prices of

the pieces vary according to their historical value and rarity, ranging from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of riyals, with some exceeding one million riyals.

Dr Amini emphasised that this Qur'an represents a rare example of Islamic calligraphy and ornamentation from the Ottoman era. It was meticulously handwritten and decorated with intricate designs using gold, making it a piece that combines religious, artistic, and historical value.

Beyond books: DIBF stalls offer visitors a canvas for creativity

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

The 35th edition of the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) is proving to be more than a celebration of literature.

For many visitors, the annual event, running until May 23 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), has become an unexpected gateway to new hobbies, from the meditative strokes of Arabic calligraphy to the structured creativity of paint-by-numbers kits.

Among the fair's more distinctive participants is Nagi Alsaygh, who owns Resha and Hebr for Arabic Calligraphy at Al Wakrah Old Souq.

The Alsaygh name carries weight in Doha, he told Gulf Times on the sidelines of the book fair, explaining that it means goldsmith in Arabic. His father, Omar, ran a decades-old goldsmithing business in Doha. However, Alsaygh has chosen a different medium to preserve Qatari heritage.

According to Alsaygh, he first fell in love with calligraphy as a secondary school student in Qatar, a passion he set aside during his university years in the US and a subsequent corporate career. It was his daughter who encouraged him to take up a hobby during re-



Ornate quills are among the popular items in Alsaygh's stall.

tirement, prompting his return to calligraphy. He has since opened his shop and has been participating in the book fair for the past six years.

"Calligraphy is deeply embedded in Qatari heritage and culture, and I feel a responsibility to help keep that tradition alive. This art form is also part of Qatar's identity. And if I can help ensure it is not forgotten, then my shop has served its purpose," Alsaygh emphasised.

At his DIBF stall, visitors can commission personalised bookmarks and small calligraphic items, while also browsing an array of supplies, including nibs, pen holders, inks, gouaches, and paper.



The Harpers Books & Creativity stall draws a wide range of customers with kits featuring characters from popular Japanese manga and anime alongside classical paintings.

A wide collection of ornate feather dip pens has proven particularly popular, drawing customers who purchase them as decorative gifts rather than strictly as writing instruments. Alsaygh added that he has observed a resurgence of interest in calligraphy, especially among the youth.

The creative offerings at this year's fair extend to paint by numbers kits, a hobby long associated with children but now drawing a broader following.

Soumia el-Meknassi, the general manager of the Cezanne Publishing stall from Morocco, said her customers span in age from children as young as six to seniors, with many young adults among the regulars. Her stall offers a va-

riety of kits that recreate iconic works by masters, such as Van Gogh and Monet.

"Paint by numbers has evolved well beyond a children's pastime. Today, it is for everyone, and that is what makes it so exciting. People of all ages have embraced them enthusiastically, and that tells you something about their appeal. With more and more paint by numbers kits appearing on the market, anyone can be an artist," el-Meknassi explained.

She noted that many customers return regularly for different kits, describing the activity as a form of "therapy through art."

Houda, who also hails from Morocco, manages the Harpers Books & Creativity stall. She said the kits



Nagi Alsaygh, who owns Resha and Hebr for Arabic Calligraphy, has been participating in the book fair for the past six years. PICTURES: Peter Alagos.

offer children and young adults a productive alternative to screens, giving them space to explore their creativity.

"Painting by numbers keeps children and young adults away from video games and electronic gadgets, and gives them a chance to create something with their own hands," Houda said.

Her stall draws a wide range of customers with kits featuring characters from popular Japanese manga and anime alongside classical paintings. She noted that the process is accessible to beginners.

"The process is far simpler than it looks: colours are pre-matched and ready to use, removing any barrier for first-time painters. It is a creative outlet that does not demand any prior skill; you simply follow the numbers, and the painting takes shape," she pointed out.

Also on display inside another



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stall at the book fair are paint by diamond kits - a variation on the paint by numbers concept that uses small resin gems in place of paint to fill in numbered canvases, adding a tactile, mosaic-like dimension to the hobby.

Ministry of Environment receives Audio Education Complex students

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)'s Environmental Monitoring and Inspection Department - Air Quality Section, hosted a number of students from Audio Education Complex to present their research project titled "The Smart Green Box for Air Purification in Indoor Spaces", in the presence of the project supervisors.

The students delivered a detailed presentation on their research project, explaining the concept of the "Smart Green Box" and its operating mechanism, which aims to improve indoor air quality through innovative and sustainable environmental solutions.

During the visit, the students learned about the Ministry's efforts to monitor air quality and protect the environment, as well as the role of the National Air Quality Monitoring Network and the modern technologies used to track environmen-



tal pollutants. Accordingly, the Air Quality Section stressed the Ministry's commitment to supporting student initiatives and

high-quality research projects, and to strengthening partnerships with educational institutions in line with the country's

direction toward environmental sustainability, contributing to fostering a culture of innovation among young people.



MoECC boosts wildlife protection after illegal seagull hunting bust

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has intensified wildlife preservation measures after authorities caught a traditional vessel illegally hunting seagulls in local waters.

The violation was detected by the ministry's Marine Protection Department during ongoing environmental inspection and monitoring campaigns aimed at safeguarding the country's marine ecosystem and wildlife habitats.

Specialised teams immediately intervened and safely released the confiscated birds back into their natural environment to preserve ecological balance and ensure the species' continued survival in its native habitat. Further, the necessary legal proceedings against the violator were initiated in accordance with Qatar's environmental protection laws and regulations.



Accordingly, officials stressed that such enforcement measures are essential to protecting local biodiversity and curbing harmful practices that threaten wildlife, particularly species considered vulnerable or at risk of extinction.