



Built for Qatar. Built for you.  
A network as strong as the community we connect



What connects us, unites us

**ORIX POLYDEX**  
Durable waterproofing-performance for roof protection

44601602/3

**THE PERFECT GIFT?**  
THE ONE THEY CHOOSE

**Travel with Family**  
700+ Products On Offer

**Ready to GUAC AND ROLL?**  
Only on talabat

6THSTREET.COM  
**1200+**  
Top Fashion Brands

DELIVERY IN  
**90**  
MINUTES

SCAN TO SHOP

## Amir, Kagame seek stronger ties

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani discussed with Rwandan President Paul Kagame bilateral relations and ways to enhance them during a meeting held yesterday at the Amiri Diwan.

At the outset of the meeting, His Highness the Amir welcomed the Rwandan president, commending the strong relations between Qatar and Rwanda in various fields that serve the common interests of the two countries.

Kagame extended his thanks and expressed his appreciation to His Highness the Amir for the warm welcome and generous hospitality, stressing his country's keenness to develop and strengthen friendly relations with Qatar in many fields.

His Highness the Amir and the Rwandan president discussed the latest regional and international developments, in addition to ways to enhance international peace and security.



A number of Their Excellencies ministers and senior officials attended the meeting. On the Rwandan side, a number of Their Excellencies members of the official delegation attended the meeting. Earlier Kagame and the accompanying delegation were welcomed upon their arrival at Doha International Airport by HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi and Rwandan ambassador to Qatar Igor Marara Kayinamura. (QNA)

## Amir, world leaders discuss ways for de-escalation

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a joint telephone call with US President Donald Trump, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, Jordan's King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

During the call, they discussed current developments in a number of regional and international issues in light of the escalating security and political challenges facing the region. They also exchanged views on ways to contain tensions and prevent their expansion in a manner that could threaten the security and stability of the region.

Their Majesties, Highnesses and Excellencies also expressed their thanks and appreciation to President Trump for co-ordinating and consulting all concerned parties in order to preserve regional and international peace and security. At the same time, they commended the diplomatic efforts being undertaken by Pakistan.

His Highness the Amir emphasised during the call the importance of intensifying consultation and co-ordination among the relevant countries regarding various developments in a way that contributes to enhancing regional and international stability. His Highness also stressed that reaching diplomatic solutions represents the best way to address crises and spare the region the consequences of escalation and its impact on regional peace and security. (QNA)

## Arab, Muslim states slam Israeli abuse of detainees

The foreign ministers of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt and Turkiye have strongly condemned the appalling, degrading, and unacceptable actions of extremist Israeli Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir against participants in the Gaza-bound flotilla while they were in Israeli detention.

The ministers stressed that Ben-Gvir's "deliberate public humiliation of detainees is a disgraceful assault on human dignity and a clear violation of Israel's obligations under international law, including international

humanitarian law, and international human rights law".

The ministers further deplored and condemned in the strongest terms the illegal and extremist acts of incitement and violence by Ben Gvir and other Israeli officials directed against Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The ministers warned that Ben-Gvir's provocative actions fuel hatred and extremism, and obstruct efforts to advance a just and lasting peace on the basis of the two-state solution.

The ministers demanded accountability for Ben-Gvir's actions and call for concrete measures to end his repeated provocations, incitement, and violations, and to prevent him from further threatening and to ensure that such actions are neither tolerated nor repeated.

They further stressed the imperative of protecting human rights and safeguarding the dignity and humane treatment of all detainees, and ensuring full respect for international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. (QNA)

## Trump: No rush for Iran deal, must get it right

Reuters  
Washington/Islamabad

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he had told his representatives not to rush into any deal with Iran, as his administration played down hopes of an imminent breakthrough in the three-month-old war that had been raised a day earlier.

The US blockade on Iranian ships in the Strait of Hormuz would "remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed", Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Both sides must take their time and get it right," he added.

There was no immediate response from Iran's government. But Tasnim news agency, which is linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, said the US was still obstructing parts of a potential deal, including Tehran's demand for the release of frozen funds.

A day earlier, Trump said Washington and Iran had "largely negotiated" a memorandum of understanding on a peace deal that would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which before the conflict carried one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments.

Trump, whose approval ratings have been hit by the war's impact on US energy prices, has repeatedly played up the prospect of an agreement to end the conflict that the US and Israel started on February 28. A tenuous ceasefire has been in place since early April.

The two sides remain at odds on several difficult issues, such as Iran's nuclear ambitions, Israel's war in Lebanon with Hezbollah militia and Tehran's demands for the lifting of sanctions and the release of tens of billions of dollars of Iranian oil revenues frozen in foreign banks.

A senior Trump administration official told reporters an agreement would not be signed today, saying the Iranian system did not move fast enough.

But he outlined what he said were the latest contours of what was being negotiated.

The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Iran had agreed "in principle" to open the Strait of Hormuz, in exchange for the United States lifting its naval blockade, and to dispose of Tehran's highly enriched uranium.

He said the US understood Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei had endorsed the broad template of the deal.

## RAG Global Business Hub launches AI Voice Consultant in Doha

New platform aims to support 24/7 multilingual business communication and customer engagement across Qatar and international markets



RAG Global Business Hub recently launched its AI Voice Consultant platform at the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel, marking a significant step in the company's efforts to advance AI-powered business communication and intelligent customer engagement solutions in Qatar.

The company stated that the AI Voice Consultant provides 24/7 multilingual engagement across 29 languages. Its applications include customer interaction, lead engagement, corporate structuring support, immigration and regulatory guidance, government liaison services and strategic business advisory.

Sheikh Mubarak bin Khalifa al-Thani and Saud al-Qahtani, directors of RAG Global Business Hub, attended the ceremony, alongside senior members of the company's leadership and management team.

RAG Global Business Hub representatives included Muhammad Aslam, managing director; Murshid; Lijin Rajan; Furqan Saeed; Auwal Abubakar Muhammad; Rafeeh Anwar; Abida; Nasrin; Rabeeh Anwar; Muhammad Rashid; Shakeem; and Muhammad Rijas.

The event was also attended by Thaha Muhammad, president of the Indian Business Professional Council (IBPC), and Abdul Ghafoor, general secretary of the Kerala Business Forum.

The inauguration was highlighted by the launch of the platform's Arabic and English presentations. Sheikh Mubarak, together with RAG Global Business Hub director Muhammad Aslam, inaugurated the Arab

presentation, while al-Qahtani and Aslam unveiled the English presentation.

According to RAG Global Business Hub, the launch reflects its long-term vision to support Qatar's digital transformation ecosystem and contribute to innovation-driven business solutions aligned with international standards.

The company reaffirmed its commitment to empowering businesses with technology-led consulting solutions that support sustainable growth, operational excellence and digital advancement across Qatar and the wider GCC market.

**VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

RAG Global Business Hub said the launch reflects its long-term vision to support Qatar's digital transformation ecosystem and contribute to innovation-driven business solutions aligned with international standards.

The newly launched platform is expected to support organisations through:

- AI-powered customer engagement
- Intelligent voice communication systems
- Automated lead management
- Multilingual business interaction support
- Improved operational efficiency and customer experience

The company reaffirmed its commitment to empowering businesses with technology-led consulting solutions that support sustainable growth, operational excellence and digital advancement across Qatar and the wider GCC market.

**EID AL ADHA**  
MODESTWEAR MOMENTS

Scan here To Read ONLINE

Today's **GULF TIMES** includes a 4-page supplement on **EID AL ADHA**



عيدكم  
Eid مُبَارَك  
Mubarak

عساكم من عواده

We extend our heartiest greetings to

His Highness  
**Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani**  
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness  
**Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani**  
Father Amir

His Highness  
**Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani**  
Deputy Amir

And to all the honorable people of Qatar on the occasion of  
**Eid AL-adha**

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



## Eid Mubarak



Eid Al-Adha  
MUBARAK

We extend our heartiest greetings to

His Highness  
**Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani**  
Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness  
**Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani**  
Father Amir

His Highness  
**Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani**  
Deputy Amir

and to all the honorable people of Qatar  
on the occasion of

## EID AL ADHA

We hope for more returns of this memorable occasion and wish that Qatar always enjoys security, welfare and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness The Amir



شركة قطر للتجارة والنقل  
QATAR TRADING & TRANSPORT COMPANY

P.O. Box 4455

### Minister meets Head of Maronite Patriarchal Mission



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met in Doha yesterday with Head of the Maronite Patriarchal Mission in Washington and Envoy of the Maronite Patriarch to Lebanon, Father Elie Adib Madi. The meeting discussed existing co-operation and prospects for further collaboration, particularly in humanitarian and development fields, in addition to discussing several issues of mutual interest. HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation praised the outcomes of existing co-operation and the efforts of the Maronite Patriarchal Mission in Washington, reaffirming Qatar's commitment to supporting humanitarian and relief initiatives that contribute to the stability and development of communities. For his part, Father Madi expressed his appreciation for Qatar's humanitarian role and ongoing efforts at the regional and international levels, commending the country's continued support for vital development projects. (QNA)

### Peruvian Foreign Minister meets Qatar's ambassador



Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru Carlos Pareja Rios met with ambassador of the State of Qatar to Peru Abdullah bin Jassim al-Ziyara. During the meeting, co-operation relations between the two countries were reviewed. (QNA)

### Crown Prince of Brunei meets Qatar's ambassador

Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah met with ambassador of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam Abdullah Hamad Ali al-Adham al-Marri. During the meeting, they reviewed co-operation relations between the two countries. (QNA)



### 16 Arab Islamic countries, GCC slam opening of purported 'Somaliland' embassy in Jerusalem

QNA  
Doha/Riyadh

The ministers of foreign affairs of the State of Qatar; the Egypt; the Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkiye, Pakistan, Indonesia, Djibouti, Somalia, Palestine, Oman, Sudan, Yemen, Lebanon, Mauritania, and Algeria condemn in the strongest terms the illegal and unacceptable step taken by the so-called "Somaliland" region in opening a purported "embassy" in occupied Jerusalem. This constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and relevant international resolutions, and represents a direct infringement on the legal and historical status of occupied Jerusalem.

The ministers reaffirm their categorical rejection of any unilateral measures aimed at entrenching an illegal reality in occupied Jerusalem or conferring legitimacy on any entities

or arrangements that contravene international law and relevant UN resolutions. They reiterate that East Jerusalem has been occupied Palestinian territory since 1967, and that any measures intended to alter its legal and historical status are null and void and without legal effect.

The ministers further emphasise their full support for the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and their unequivocal rejection of any unilateral sovereignty.

The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) has strongly condemned and denounced the opening by the so-called "Somaliland Region" of an alleged "embassy" in Occupied Jerusalem.

Secretary-General of the GCC, Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi affirmed that this step constitutes a blatant violation of all international and UN norms,

laws and conventions, as well as a clear breach of the relevant international resolutions concerning the status of the occupied city of Jerusalem.

He stressed that the international community must take immediate and serious action to halt these null and rejected measures, which would contribute to undermining security and stability in the region. He also renewed his affirmation of the GCC's support for the Federal Republic of Somalia in all that would support its security, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Albudaiwi further stressed the GCC's firm position in support of the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, foremost among them the establishment of their independent state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

### Alaraby Television Network wins 9 awards at 2026 Telly Awards

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

Alaraby Television Network won nine awards at the 2026 Telly Awards, widely regarded as a prestigious international award recognising excellence in television, digital and video production.

The awards were granted for a diverse range of documentary, investigative, drama, and factual productions created by the network and its various platforms.

This achievement underscores Alaraby TV Network's growing presence on the international media stage, through productions that tackle urgent humanitarian, political, and historical issues. These works are distinguished by strong visual storytelling and a balanced narrative approach that combines journalistic depth, human sensitivity, and professional integrity.

The network received a Gold Award for the documentary *Gaza: Struck off Records* in the Social Impact category. The film presents a powerful account of families wiped out during the Israeli war on Gaza, told through the stories of survivors who have become the last witnesses to their families, transforming loss into a memory that resists erasure.

Alaraby also won five Silver Awards. The investigation *Abu Shabab - A Shadow of Occupation in Gaza* was recognised in the Investigative Journalism and Open Source Intelligence category.

The report examines the emergence of the Abu Shabab militia in Gaza and allegations of looting aid and collaborating with the Israeli occupation, supported by open-source data and exclusive testimonies from within the Strip.



Awards won by Alaraby Television Network at 2026 Telly Awards.

In the Drama Series category, *A Day and Some* an original Alaraby Plus production, was honoured for its multi-perspective narrative about a Syrian family grappling with loss and daily survival, culminating in a pivotal historical moment that reshapes their destinies.

The documentary series *Prison State* won in the Documentary Series category. It documents testimonies of survivors from Sednaya prison and other detention centres of the former Syrian regime following the fall of the Assad family, shedding light on crimes that remained hidden for decades.

The film *Sudan: The Forgotten War - Inside El Fasher* received a Silver Award in the General Series - Online (Programmes & Segments) category. It captures the devastating reality inside the city of El Fasher after it fell to the Rapid Support Forces, highlighting the collapse of the healthcare system, displacement, hunger, and siege through survivor testimonies.

In the Politics and Commentary category, the programme *The Rise of Mamdani: America's Two Faces* won for tracing Mamdani's rise during the 2025 New York City mayoral primaries, linking it to broader shifts in American politics and economics.

The network also earned three Bronze Awards.

The investigation, *The Syrian Coast: Events of Bloody Days*,

won in the General Investigative category, documenting sectarian violence on the Syrian coast in March 2025 through exclusive testimonies and critical questions about responsibility.

The programme *Fi Al Hadara (On Civilisation)*, for its episode *The First Fitna* won in the General Explanation / Knowledge Simplification category, offering an accessible analytical reading of the first Islamic civil strife and its lasting political, military, and intellectual impacts.

In the General Documentary category, *Al-Shifa Hospital: A Story of Resilience* was awarded for documenting the escalating tragedy inside Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza since October 2023, culminating in the reopening of the emergency department in September 2024 as a testament to resilience in the face of destruction.

These awards reflect the diversity of Alaraby TV Network's editorial and creative output, from investigative journalism and field documentaries to original drama and knowledge-based programming.

All the winning works are available on the Alaraby Plus app, an Arabic platform that offers a free viewing experience combining entertainment and knowledge. The app was relaunched in its new version earlier this year and now includes all of Fadaat Media Group's channels.

## MoPH marks World Coeliac Awareness Day

QNA  
Doha

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has organised a workshop on the role of regulatory authorities in supporting coeliac disease patients, at the Itqan Clinical Simulation and Innovation Centre in Hamad Bin Khalifa Medical City, in conjunction with World Coeliac Awareness Day.

The workshop aimed to highlight the regulatory role in ensuring the safety of food intended for coeliac disease patients and to promote compliance with the applicable requirements and standards to gluten-free foods. It also sought to raise awareness among relevant authorities, and the wider community of the challenges coeliac patients face in their daily lives. The event was attended by representatives of several regulatory bodies, Hamad Medical Corp, Sidra Medicine, and the Qatar Coeliac Awareness Association.

In her opening remarks, Director of the Food Safety Department



at MoPH, Wasan Abdulla al-Bakar emphasised the importance of strengthening co-operation among regulatory bodies, health institutions, and the community to support coeliac patients and ensure the safety of the food designated for them.

The workshop was held as part of the Ministry's commitment to promoting public health and supporting awareness initiatives aimed at improving quality of life, through the development of an integrated regulatory system that

contributes to protecting consumers of all categories and enhancing food safety.

Furthermore, the workshop discussed several important topics related to food safety, the accuracy of nutritional information, and the importance of integrating efforts between regulatory and health authorities and the food sector, to provide a safe and healthy food environment for people affected by this disease.

A panel discussion was also held, featuring several specialists and experts who reviewed the most prominent challenges and practices associated with gluten-free foods, as well as the importance of community awareness and its role in supporting coeliac patients and enabling them to follow a safe diet.

During the workshop, emphasis was also placed on the importance of continued co-operation and co-ordination among relevant authorities, contributing to enhancing national efforts supporting coeliac patients and achieving the highest food safety standards in the State of Qatar.

### MoCI announces recall of Lincoln Navigator 2022-2025, Nautilus 2024-2025 models

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in co-operation with Almana Motors Company, Qatar's Lincoln dealership, has announced the recall of Lincoln Navigator 2022-2025 and Nautilus 2024-2025 models. The recall is due to a potential malfunction in the driver assistance system functions, which may cause warnings to appear on the dashboard, such as "Front camera fault" and "Lane keeping system disabled." Blind spot indicators may also illuminate. The Ministry said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure that car dealers follow up on vehicle defects and repairs. The Ministry said that it will co-ordinate with the dealer to follow up on the maintenance and repair works and will communicate with customers to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out. The Ministry urges all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department.

### Ashghal to close roads temporarily for maintenance

By A Staff Reporter  
Doha

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced a series of temporary traffic closures on several roads, bridges, and tunnels, in co-ordination with the General Directorate of Traffic. The closures will allow for maintenance works and infrastructure improvements, with alternative routes provided to keep traffic flowing smoothly. The tunnel leading to Dukhan Road will be closed for eight hours to traffic coming from New Al Rayyan Street via Bani Hajer Interchange on Friday, May 29, from 2am to 10am. Motorists travelling from New Al Rayyan

Street towards Dukhan are advised to use Gharafat Al Rayyan Interchange as an alternative. The U-turn on Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor at Umm Lekhba Interchange will be closed nightly for southbound traffic coming from Hamad International Airport, from Tuesday, June 2, until Friday, June 12, daily from 12.30am to 5am. Road users should take nearby alternative routes. The bridge connecting New Al Hateem Street and Al Gaabiyah Street in Al Gharrafa will be closed nightly for northbound traffic, from Monday, June 1, until Saturday, June 20, daily from 12.30am to 5am. During the closure, motorists coming from Al Gaabiyah Street should turn right onto Al Gharrafa Street, make a U-turn at Al Duhaal

Intersection, continue straight along Al Gharrafa Street, then turn right onto New Al Hateem Street to reach their destinations. A full traffic closure will also be in place at Bani Hajer Interchange for traffic coming from Khalifa Boulevard towards Al Shahama Street. The closures will take place at varying times during the night and morning hours from Sunday, May 31, until Tuesday, June 9. Motorists travelling from Doha via Khalifa Street towards Bani Hajer should use the bridge leading to New Al Rayyan Street, make a U-turn at Al Shafi Interchange, then use Bani Hajer Tunnel to reach their destinations. Ashghal urged all road users to observe speed limits and traffic signs to ensure road safety.

**Liquidation Announcement "1"**

Based on the Extraordinary General Assembly Resolution

To Liquidate  
**PARADISE BEAUTY LOUNGE (The Company)**  
(under Voluntary Liquidation)

The Liquidator  
**Linsar Karupamveetil Shamsudheen**  
**Kreston SVP Chartered Accountants**

Announce the liquidation of

**PARADISE BEAUTY LOUNGE**  
Commercial Registration No. (138264)

Any party who has any claims from this Company should send a registered letter, including all supporting documents, to P.O Box 82297, Doha - Qatar  
7712 9898 or 6668 8575 or info@krestonsvp.com  
Within the remaining legal period of 45 days.

## Awqaf minister meets campaign operators to ensure safe, exceptional pilgrimage season

HE Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs and Head of the Qatari Haj Mission Ghanem bin Shaheen al-Ghanim met yesterday the operators of Qatari Haj campaigns to check on the level of preparedness.

The discussion during the meeting revolved around the operational plans and on-site preparations to ensure the provision of a secure and expedited pilgrimage season for the pilgrims of the State of Qatar.

During the meeting, the minister was briefed on the readiness of these campaigns, along with their fulfillment of all regulatory and utility requirements ahead of the start of Haj yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Haj Mission has equipped all tents and service utilities for pilgrims in the Holy Sites of Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah and delivered them to those operators after confirming their safety and operational efficiency, thereby achieving the highest levels of quality, comfort, and safety for pilgrims.

The State of Qatar, under the guidance of the judicious leadership, gives the comfort and safety of pilgrims overriding priority and is committed to leveraging all logistical, technical, medical, and religious capabilities through the Qatari Mission, the minister underlined.



The ministry, represented by the Qatari Haj Mission, operates within an integrated plan that pursues the highest regulatory and operational criteria in unison with the competent authorities at home and in the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, HE al-Ghanim noted, reemphasising that the objective is to provide a tremendous pilgrimage experience that reflects the honoured image of the State of Qatar in serving its pilgrims.

Overall, these efforts are part of the ministry's strategic plan, especially with regard to the Haj and Umrah sector, with the plan focussing on strengthening Haj services and promoting the quality of services afforded to pilgrims of Qatar.

This comes through reinforcing institutional integration and upgrading operational readiness, in addition to leveraging the

best organisational and service practices to ultimately ensure a secure and facilitated pilgrimage experience that achieves the highest levels of comfort and safety.

Addressing the meeting, HE the minister underscored the critical importance of combined efforts among all the mission's supportive units, alongside the Qatari Haj operators. The success in managing the Haj season, al-Ghanim said, requires operating as one team to help promote services to the highest levels based on the vision of the judicious leadership and its unremitting commitment to providing the nation's pilgrims with top-notch care.

The Head of the mission asserted that the common objective between the mission and those operators lies in providing a quintessential and integrated pilgrimage experience starting from the registration and contracting

phases, through the performance of the rites and commutation between the holy sites, until the final phase of pilgrims returning safely home after completing this fifth pillar of Islam.

As the meeting proceeded, HE the minister listened to the opinions and feedback of those operators on advancing operational mechanisms and the quality of services provided to pilgrims of Qatar. This includes facilitating communication channels with those operators.

In this regard, HE al-Ghanim called for removing any potential hitches that could face those operators to enable them to undertake their functions as required and provide the best levels of service and care. The minister affirmed that he is grateful for the adherence of the Qatari operators to the ministry-approved regulatory and technical

criteria, along with their keenness to comply with the instructions and measures issued by the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, emphasising that this approach helps ensure the safety and smooth flocking of pilgrims in a comfortable manner.

He also strongly applauded the phenomenal efforts and outstanding facilitations offered by the government of the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to serve pilgrims and expedite their affairs.

The minister highlighted that the Saudi government has provided top-notch operational and regulatory capabilities that have largely helped foster the quality of services provided to pilgrims hailing from various countries around the world, including those from the State of Qatar.

In closing his remarks, HE al-Ghanim called on all pilgrimage operators to double down on their efforts throughout the coming days and operate with the highest degrees of readiness and responsibility.

These efforts, HE al-Ghanim emphasised, would ensure a superb model for this season for pilgrims in terms of preparation, organisation, and execution. (QNA)

## Qatari pilgrims arrive in holy city of Makkah to perform Haj rituals

QNA  
Makkah Al Mukarramah

The arrival of Qatari pilgrims in Makkah in preparation for performing this year's Haj completed yesterday. The arrival was made possible through a comprehensive system of organisation, co-ordination, and on-the-ground services overseen by the Qatari Haj Mission in co-operation with the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

These arrangements contribute to a smooth and safe journey for the pilgrims from the moment of departure until their arrival at their accommodations in Makkah.

The reception of the Qatari pilgrims at Hamad International Airport, the facilitation of their departure procedures, and their subsequent arrival at King Abdulaziz International Airport and the Haj Terminal in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were all done through a high level of organisation and efficiency.

A number of Qatari pilgrims praised the warm welcome, swift procedures, and excellent organisation they experienced from the moment they departed until they reached their accommodations.

They commended the efforts made by the Qatari Haj Mission in co-operation with the Saudi authorities to provide the best possible services for the pilgrims.

The pivotal role of Qatari Haj Mission's co-ordination, follow-up, and airport unit was highlighted.

This unit maintained its field operations around the clock at

Saudi airports, monitoring flight arrivals, receiving Qatari pilgrims from various Haj campaigns, facilitating entry procedures, and providing immediate intervention to address any issues that might arise for the pilgrims.

The unit prepared a comprehensive operational plan to organise the pilgrims' journey from their departure through Hamad International Airport until their arrival at their accommodations in Makkah Al Mukarramah.

This was achieved through co-ordination with the authorities in Qatar and Saudi Arabia, as well as direct co-operation with the Qatari Haj campaigns.

The Qatari Haj Mission implemented an advanced system for transporting pilgrims directly from the airport terminals to their hotels in Makkah via dedicated buses.

This was complemented by a partnership with the Saudi company "Makkah," which specialises in baggage handling.

Pilgrims' luggage was delivered directly to their rooms before they even arrived at their accommodations, eliminating the need to wait in the airport terminals.

This service is part of the mission's ongoing efforts to enhance logistical services for Qatari pilgrims and ensure a more comfortable and seamless Haj experience, particularly for senior citizens and those with special needs.

Several Qatari pilgrims expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Qatari Haj Mission and the Qatari Haj operators, confirming that their arrival and transportation were smooth, easy,



and exceptionally well-organised.

Mubarak Salem al-Marri stated that the Qatari Haj Mission exerted significant efforts in receiving the pilgrims and facilitating their movement.

He commended the campaign officials for their diligence and commitment.

Mohammed Jassim affirmed that all procedures were facilitated thanks to the efforts of the Qatari Haj Mission and the co-operation with the various Haj campaigns.

He noted that the swift completion of procedures and the excellent reception contributed to the pilgrims' comfort and peace of mind.

Hussein Zayed al-Khayarin also praised the excellent arrangements implemented by the mission for the pilgrims' departure, reception, and smooth movement.

He emphasised that the pilgrims experienced continuous attention and follow-up until they reached their accommodations in Makkah.

Mohammed Yousef al-Obaidli indicated that the campaign closely monitored the pilgrims' procedures in co-ordination with the Qatari Haj Mission.

He commended the significant co-operation from the relevant authorities in Saudi Arabia and the facilities they provided, which contributed to the speed and ease of entry procedures.

The number of Qatari pilgrims for this season is 4,400, within the approved quota for the 1447 AH Haj season.

Eighteen Qatari Haj campaigns are approved this year.

All of the campaigns operate under the direct supervision of the Qatari Haj Mission to provide the best levels of care and services to Qatari pilgrims in Makkah and the holy sites.

These efforts are part of the vision of the wise leadership of Qatar and its ongoing commitment to providing the best facilities and services for the country's pilgrims.

## Qatari Haj Mission enhances preparedness for response

The medical unit of the Qatari Haj Mission organised a specialised training workshop in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

The workshop targeted mission members from various administrative, technical, service, and logistical departments, aiming to enhance their skills and preparedness for immediate and safe response to emergency health situations during the Haj season.

This initiative is part of the medical unit's efforts to promote the safety of Qatari pilgrims by training mission staff and equipping them with the skills for immediate initial intervention until specialised medical teams arrive.

This ensures a rapid and effective response to emergencies.

The training programme aims to improve participants' ability to handle various health situations that may arise in the holy sites, particularly in Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah.

It empowers them to administer emergency first aid, which helps minimise health complications and safeguard the well-being of Qatari pilgrims.

The workshop, presented by specialised doctors and nurses from the Emergency Department's medical unit and certified CPR instructors, covered theoretical and practical topics.

These included the fundamentals of first aid and how to handle common emergencies such as fainting and choking.

Intensive CPR training was also conducted by a specialist physician from the Hamad International Training Centre, using realistic simulations of emergency situations encountered during Haj rituals.

The training also included practical exercises using specialised

mannequins, providing participants with hands-on experience in rapid intervention skills and familiarising them with the correct procedures for rescuing critical cases.

The medical unit emphasised that these specialised meetings are a crucial part of the mission's pre-training plan.

Members of the mission emphasised the importance of these training programmes in enhancing their confidence and ability to act appropriately in emergency situations.

They affirmed that this level of preparation reflects the great care that the State of Qatar devotes to the safety of its pilgrims and its commitment to providing the highest levels of humanitarian and health care during the Haj journey.

The mission commended the significant efforts exerted by the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in serving the pilgrims, through its advanced health and organisational system and integrated operational capabilities.

These contribute to enhancing the quality of services and health-care provided to the pilgrims, and creating a safe and accessible environment that enables them to perform their rituals with ease and peace of mind.

This reflects the great care and attention that the Kingdom gives to serving the pilgrims.

The Qatari Haj mission, with the support and follow-up of the relevant authorities in the country, continues to implement its operational, organisational, and health plans according to the highest standards of quality and readiness.

This aligns with the ministry's vision for Haj services and providing a safe and accessible spiritual experience that enables pilgrims to perform their rituals with ease and peace of mind. (QNA)

### JOB VACANCY

GULF TIMES

### BUSINESS REPORTER

Full-Time | Doha, Qatar | On-site

#### RESPONSIBILITIES



- Cover economic and financial developments in Qatar & the GCC
- Conduct interviews with industry leaders and officials
- Produce daily news reports and analytical features
- Monitor banking, energy, and corporate sectors

#### EXPERIENCE



Minimum 5 years of professional journalism experience, preferably in business, financial, or economic reporting; familiarity with regional economic affairs is an advantage.

#### LANGUAGE

A

Excellent command of English is a must

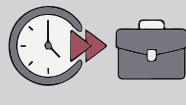
#### APPLICATION PROCESS - HOW TO APPLY



Please Email your CV, cover letter, and three recently published articles or reporting samples relevant to business or economic journalism to [hr@raya.com](mailto:hr@raya.com)



CLOSING DATE:  
6 JUNE 2026



#### JOINING TIMELINE

Preferred candidates should be available to join within one month from the date of offer.

## Awqaf rolls out WhatsApp guide service for pilgrims

The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs (Awqaf) has launched the "Al-Mutawef" pilgrimage guide service via WhatsApp on the number (55592080), as an integrated digital assistant powered by artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

The service represents a paradigm shift in the path of digital services designed to be the unified digital assistant for pilgrims of the State of Qatar via WhatsApp.

It offers interactive services around the clock, starting from the phase of inquiry and registration to tracking requests until reaching onsite support, as well as guidance while pilgrims perform rites. In addition, the application provides a broad synthesis of information and guidance services that help pilgrims access up-to-date information about the approved pilgrimage operators, alongside contact data for each pilgrimage campaign.

The service broadly offers detailed information about the licensed Umrah offices, and the signature sites associated with Hajj, including the Holy Sites, utilities, and guidance points, in addition to instructions related to registration and the performance of Hajj and Umrah rites.

The application literally depends on an advanced smart support system that provides pilgrims with the opportunity to ask questions via WhatsApp both in Arabic and English, as the system unpacks the question and relays a consistent answer interactively and in a timely manner. (QNA)

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

WE WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE THE FOLLOWING CUSTOMERS THAT PAYMENT ORDERS IN THEIR NAME ARE AWAITING FOR COLLECTION.

PLEASE CONTACT STANDARD CHARTERED BANK QATAR BRANCH WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM TODAY.

BY VISITING OUR OFFICE AT BURJ DOHA (DOHA TOWER) IN WEST BAY, AL-CORNICHE STREET, DOHA, QATAR  
OR CALL US ON +974 4424 8108 (FOR CLIENT SERVICE)  
OR +974 4424 8109 (FOR BRANCH MANAGER)  
BETWEEN (7.30 AM & 1.00 PM) .

01. MOHAMMED ABDURAHIMAN E PARANAD
02. OCTOGONE QATAR WLL
03. RIMEH MHD SAID ALBUNI
04. HOSAM MEKDDAD
05. SAADEL DIN ADAM MUSTAFA ELRAJIBA
06. NASR ELDIN DOKA MARGAN IBRAHIM
07. ISMAIL MOHAMED AHMED ADAM
08. AMANI AMEEN FUWAD MAAWAD
09. NASR ELDIN DOKA MARGAN IBRAHIM
10. FUAD ABDULLA EBRAHIM H KAMAL
11. SHADIA ABDEL GHANI MOHAMED AHMED
12. MARCO YABIS CATENZA
13. FRANCONINO CAZAR PEPINO
14. MARIANO FETIZANAN FADRILAN
15. AMR AHMED SELEMAN SHEHTA ALI
16. RADHAKRISHNAN MULLASSERY
17. ANAYIKKIL BEERAN KUTTY KAREEM
18. MAITHA DOHA FOR PROJECTS WLL
19. THE FIRST CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING
20. MEMAR INTERNATIONAL
21. AL RAYYAN PROJECT
22. AL DOHA MAINTENANCE
23. WFC QATAR WLL
24. AL FARDAN GROUP COMPANIES

FOR ADDITIONAL CLIENT NAMES,  
PLEASE VISIT [www.sc.com/qa](http://www.sc.com/qa)  
TELEPHONE: +974 4424 8108

## 'Sa'a Wa Sa'a' programme organises 'Our Joy in Our Eid' event this Eid

The "Sa'a Wa Sa'a" programme is organising a major public event under the slogan "Our Joy in Our Eid" on May 29 at Centro Mall Qatar from 5pm to 10pm, as part of the Eid al-Adha celebrations.

The event will feature a comprehensive programme that brings together traditional arts, cultural performances, and entertainment activities for families, children, senior citizens, and people with special needs, in an atmosphere reflecting the spirit of Eid and the values of community cohesion.

The main stage will open with the national anthem of the State of Qatar, performed by students from the Auditory Education School, followed by a series of heritage and artistic performances celebrating Qatari and Gulf traditions, including the Qatari Ardah, Fijiri art, and the "Al Muradah" performance. The programme will also feature musical and cultural seg-



Tamani al-Yafei

ments presented by students from schools and educational and community centres, including Shafallah Centre and Al Noor Private School for Languages.

The programme will also include a variety of entertainment and interactive performances, such as Siraj characters, live cooking shows, puppet theatre, and a performance of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," in addition to interactive cultural competitions under the slogan "Think and Answer," as well as poetry segments, folk chants, heritage performances linked to special occasions, and traditional Qatari games.

The event aims to provide a comprehensive community experience that strengthens the presence of heritage in national and social occasions while giving children and families the opportunity to engage with folk arts and cultural values in a modern festive setting.

On this occasion, social activist Tamani al-Yafei, CEO of the "Sa'a Wa Sa'a" programme, said the event is being organised as part of the programme's mission to strengthen social bonds and revive Qatari cultural heritage during national and religious occasions.

She noted that Eid al-Adha is a religious, humanitarian, and social occasion that embodies the



values of love, closeness, and joy.

Al-Yafei said: "This year, we were keen to present a diverse programme that combines purposeful entertainment with heritage and cultural content in line with the aspirations of families and children, giving them a space to celebrate Eid in an atmosphere that reflects authentic Qatari identity. We

are also proud of the participation of educational and community institutions in this event because of its impact in reinforcing the values of belonging and co-operation and strengthening the presence of heritage in the hearts of younger generations."

Al-Yafei added that the "Sa'a Wa Sa'a" programme continues to

launch high-quality initiatives and events that energise community and cultural activities while presenting content that reflects the civilised and humanitarian face of Qatari society. She stressed that the event is open to the public and provides a space for the collective celebration of the spirit and authentic values of Eid.

## Increasing demand for subsidised sheep during Eid holidays

Widam Food Company has sold around 7,000 sheep during the first three days of its subsidised sacrificial livestock initiative ahead of Eid al-Adha due to increasing demand during this period, Mousa Ahmed al-Othman, director of Public Relations at Widam Food Company, has pointed out.

He said the company allocated 12,500 subsidised sheep for eligible Qatari citizens aged 18 and above. The livestock includes Awassi, Harri, and local Arabian breeds, offered at QR1,050 per head, including slaughter, skinning, and cutting services. The company has also provided 5,000 non-subsidised Sudanese "Sawakin" sheep at QR1,250 per head to help meet growing market demand during the Eid season.

He further explained that the initiative is being implemented across six locations: Al Wakrah Central Slaughterhouse, the Abu Nakhla sales yard, Al Sheehaniya Slaughterhouse, Al Mazrouah yard in Umm Salal, and livestock yards adjacent to Al Khor and Al Shamal slaughterhouses. Operating hours are currently from 5am to 5pm daily.

He noted that subsidised sheep are being sold at nearly half the prevailing market price. The subsidised package includes QR1,000 for the sheep itself, QR34 for handling services, and QR16 covering slaughtering, skinning, and cutting fees. He added that the company has implemented an electronic verification system using Qatari ID cards and barcodes to prevent duplicate use of the subsidy programme, stressing that buyers must present their national ID cards at the time of purchase.

All sheep offered under the initiative weigh more than 40kgs and



undergo thorough inspection by a specialised committee to ensure compliance with both health and Islamic requirements before distribution to sales outlets.

Accordingly, he pointed out that there was particularly strong demand for Syrian Awassi sheep, noting that this breed is currently unavailable in the local market except through the company, which has significantly increased customer demand.

Widam has also introduced an online booking service through the company's mobile application, enabling customers to select slaughter dates, preferred cutting methods, and delivery services during the days of Tashreeq for nominal fees, particularly through Al Wakrah Central Slaughterhouse.

Al-Othman confirmed that the company has increased slaughterhouse readiness and expanded staffing levels, in coordination with the Ministry of Municipality and health inspection authorities, to ensure efficient slaughter operations, veterinary inspections, and the ability to meet increased demand during Eid.

The company has also secured large quantities of red meat supplies to support markets, restaurants, and hotels during the holiday season. He added that Widam

will prepare sacrificial meat projects for several charitable organisations, which will distribute the sacrifices directly to eligible beneficiaries during the third and fourth days of Eid.

Al-Othman further noted that the company imports chilled sheep meat from Australia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Pakistan through approved slaughterhouses that comply with Qatar's health authorities' requirements. The imported products are accompanied by official documentation and certificates confirming that the slaughtering process complies with Islamic Shariah principles under the supervision of accredited Islamic organisations in those countries.

He also announced that Al Wakrah Slaughterhouse will operate at full production capacity during Eid, with slaughterhouses across Qatar beginning operations immediately after Eid prayers and continuing until the end of each day. However, Al Wakrah Slaughterhouse will additionally operate during the evening of the first day of Eid to build a stock of slaughtered sacrifices for delivery on the second day, helping reduce waiting times and enabling customers to receive their sacrifices earlier through the fourth day of Eid.

## UDC to host Eid al-Adha celebrations at The Pearl, Gewan islands

United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl Island and Gewan Island, is set to welcome Eid al-Adha with a well-curated programme that brings families together in a festive atmosphere across its distinctive waterfront destinations.

The Eid celebrations will take place over five days, starting from the first day of Eid, at 29 La Croisette, Porto Arabia on The Pearl Island and Crystal Walk on Gewan Island. The programme will feature a variety of live entertainment, interactive activities suitable for all family members, and dedicated children's programming, offering an engaging experience for residents and visitors alike.

The islands' scenic waterfront settings add a distinctive dimension to the celebrations, transforming public spaces into vibrant gathering points that seamlessly balance entertainment and relaxation. Families can enjoy indoor Eid activities in Porto Arabia, as well as outdoor experiences within the air-conditioned Crystal Walk, stroll along the promenades, and im-



merge themselves in an atmosphere that reflects the spirit and social values of Eid.

This experience is further enriched by more than 500 retail outlets across The Pearl and Gewan Islands, including a wide range of restaurants, cafés, and retail concepts, offering diverse options that seamlessly combine leisure and shopping.

These celebrations form part of UDC's ongoing efforts to develop

integrated destinations centred around quality of life, fostering community engagement and delivering thoughtfully curated seasonal experiences for a broad audience.

UDC invites residents and visitors to enjoy Eid al-Adha at The Pearl and Gewan Islands, where family-oriented activities, diverse amenities, and a prime waterfront setting combine to make it an ideal destination for the holiday.

## Heyya Beyya returns to Old Doha Port ahead of Eid al-Adha



Old Doha Port is set to celebrate one of Qatar's most cherished traditions today (May 25) at 5:30pm, ahead of Eid al-Adha. Families and children will gather at the Mina District, in front of the Chabrat Al Mina Fish Market, to mark the annual Heyya Beyya tradition.

Rooted in Qatari heritage and passed down through generations, Heyya Beyya is a cherished community tradition associated

with Eid al-Adha. In the weeks leading up to the celebration, children plant and nurture greenery in small palm-leaf baskets known locally as "Al Hayya," caring for them until the event. On the day itself, children gather to sing "Heyya Beyya," a traditional folk song built around a call-and-response between children and the plant, before the baskets are cast into the sea in celebration.

The Mina District's waterfront

will transform as participants arrive in traditional attire, joining in folk songs and celebrations that reflect the richness of Qatar's cultural heritage. The event is organised in collaboration with the Qatar Scouts and Guides Association and reflects Old Doha Port's commitment to preserving and celebrating Qatar's cultural traditions, keeping heritage alive within the community for future generations.

## Katara announces Eid al-Adha entertainment, cultural events

The Cultural Village Foundation – Katara has announced its Eid al-Adha entertainment and heritage events and activities. In an atmosphere filled with joy and culture, Eid celebrations will take place along Katara's beach promenade throughout the three days of holiday. Katara's statement has said.

A Qatari folk band will commence daily events with a performance at 4:00pm, in addition to performing another segment at 9:00pm. The 4:00pm performance will then be followed by the Katara Eid gifts for children event at 5:30pm. Afterwards, a military parade will take place at 5:45pm and 6:45pm along the Katara

promenade, adding a majestic and distinctive atmosphere to the Eid celebrations.

Katara will conclude the evenings with daily fireworks starting at 8:30pm, lighting up the sky with dazzling illuminations that offer visitors exceptional moments and embody the joy of Eid in brilliant colours.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

I, MARWA DEDI SANTOSO  
holder of  
INDONESIA Passport No. C7983356  
QID No. 31236000166  
hereby change my name  
from  
MARWA DEDI SANTOSO  
to  
MARWA AYU PUTRI SANTOSO

Any objection, please contact  
**THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS**  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

I, SAFA DEDI SANTOSO  
holder of  
INDONESIA Passport No. C7983355  
QID No. 31236000165  
hereby change my name  
from  
SAFA DEDI SANTOSO  
to  
SAFA AYU PUTRI SANTOSO

Any objection, please contact  
**THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS**  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

I, GIFT SON  
holder of  
Indian Passport No. V8356442  
QID No. 31135600353  
hereby change my name  
from  
GIFT SON  
to  
GIFTSON SATHEESH

Any objection, please contact  
**THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS**  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

I, ANKUR BOUMIK AMRIT BOUMIK  
holder of  
BANGLADESH Passport No. EJ0508674  
QID No. 29805000792  
hereby change my name  
from  
ANKUR BOUMIK AMRIT BOUMIK  
to  
ANGKUR BHOWMIK AMRIT BHOWMIK

Any objection, please contact  
**THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR NATIONALITY AFFAIRS**  
within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

## FIFA World Cup 2026: Team Iraq joins Aspetar Partners Network

QNA  
Doha

Aspetar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital has announced that the Iraq national football team has joined its global network of partners, which includes leading national teams, federations, and clubs across several continents. The partnership reflects growing international confidence in Aspetar's medical expertise.

Under an agreement signed with the Iraq Football Association (IFA), Aspetar will serve as the official medical partner of the national team throughout its preparations for the FIFA World Cup 2026, as well as during the tournament itself, which will be held in the United States, Canada, and Mexico from 11 June to 19 July.

The Iraqi Team will receive comprehensive medical support, including treatment, rehabilitation, and performance care, along with continuous medical moni-

toring during their pre-tournament training camp in Spain and throughout the competition.

A dedicated medical delegation of seven Aspetar specialists - including two physicians, physiotherapists, and massage therapists - will accompany the team to ensure optimal player fitness and readiness.

This collaboration builds on Aspetar's support for Iraq during the World Cup qualifying campaign, where specialised medical teams accompanied the squad during

matches and training camps, contributing to player preparedness and the team's successful qualification. Several Iraqi players have also previously benefited from Aspetar's advanced treatment and rehabilitation services.

Acting Director General of Aspetar, Khalid Ali al-Mawlawi said: "This partnership reflects Aspetar's ongoing commitment to supporting both regional and international sport. We are proud of the trust placed in us by the Iraq Football Association. Our experience

across multiple FIFA World Cups will add real value to the team, and we look forward to supporting the players in achieving a strong and successful campaign."

For his part, Iraq Football Association President Younis Mahmoud said: "Aspetar has been a key partner throughout our qualification journey and is now an integral part of our World Cup preparations. We are confident that its medical expertise will provide vital support to the team and help present Iraqi football in the best

possible light on the global stage."

Aspetar has an established track record in international sports medicine, having supported several national teams at previous FIFA World Cups, including Algeria and Cote d'Ivoire, in addition to its ongoing role with the Qatar national team. The hospital also served as the official medical provider for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, widely recognised by FIFA as delivering one of the most advanced and comprehensive medical services in the tournament's history.

## LuLu launches 'Mango Mania - The Best of India' festival

LuLu Hypermarket Qatar, in association with the embassy of India - Doha and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), officially launched 'LuLu Mango Mania 2026 - Best of India Mango Festival' at LuLu Hypermarket Al Gharafa.

The grand inauguration ceremony was officiated by Indian ambassador Vipul, along with Sandeep Saha, regional head - Northeast & Ladakh, APEDA; and Dr Mohamed Althaf, director of LuLu Group-Global Operations & CSO. The event was attended by dignitaries, Qatari guests, officials from the Embassy of India, representatives from APEDA, and Indian community leaders.

The much-awaited annual mango festival celebrates India's rich agricultural heritage and showcases the unmatched taste, flavour, and diversity of Indian mangoes, popularly known as the "King of Fruits."

This year, LuLu is presenting more than 40 varieties of premium Indian mangoes sourced from various regions across India, offering customers an authentic seasonal mango experience.

Timed with the peak mango season in India, the promotion aims to showcase India's finest mango varieties to international consumers, especially the large Indian diaspora residing in Qatar, who eagerly look forward to the arrival of fresh Indian mangoes every year.

The festival features a wide range of popular and premium mango varieties, including Alphonso, Kesar, Badami, Langra, Dasher, Mallika, and many more, carefully sourced from leading mango-producing regions of India.

Speaking during the inauguration, Vipul said: "LuLu has been hosting this Mango Festival for many years, and today it has become one of the most popular seasonal celebrations across the Gulf region.

"India is the world's largest producer of mangoes, offering an incredible diversity of varieties, and it is wonderful to see nearly 40 premium Indian mango varieties showcased here in Qatar. Indian mangoes have become a cultural bridge connecting India with Qatar and the wider Gulf community."

"This year's festival is especially significant considering the global logistical challenges involved in



Indian ambassador Vipul leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony, along with Sandeep Saha, regional head - Northeast & Ladakh, APEDA; and Dr Mohamed Althaf, director of LuLu Group-Global Operations & CSO, in the presence of dignitaries, Qatari guests, officials from the embassy of India, representatives from APEDA, and leaders from the Indian community. PICTURES: Thajudheen

transporting fresh produce.

"Despite these difficulties, LuLu has once again made exceptional efforts to bring the finest Indian mangoes to Qatar. I appreciate Dr Althaf and the LuLu team for continuously supporting Indian exporters and strengthening the relationship between India and Qatar through initiatives like Mango Mania.

"Even though mangoes are slightly more expensive this year, they remain one of life's great pleasures to be enjoyed."

Saha said: "We always look forward to the mango season and are delighted to launch this programme in Qatar as part of our ongoing GCC promotion series.

"We are expecting a strong export season this year and are proud to showcase more than 40 varieties of premium Indian mangoes, including the prestigious Miyazaki mango, to consumers in the region."

The inauguration concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony attended by the dignitaries and guests, marking the official opening of LuLu Mango Mania 2026.

The mango promotion is currently running across all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in Qatar, offering customers a unique opportunity to enjoy the finest flavours of India's mango season.



LuLu is presenting more than 40 varieties of premium Indian mangoes sourced from various regions across India.



The festival features a wide range of popular and premium mango varieties, including Alphonso, Kesar, Badami, Langra, Dasher, and Mallika, among others.

## GORD partners with Algeria's University of Oum El Bouaghi

The Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (GORD) and the University of Oum El Bouaghi have officially entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen sustainability education and advance capacity building in green building practices across Algeria. The agreement was formalised during a high-level signing ceremony represented by Dr Yousef Alhorr, GORD's founding chairman, and Prof Fawzi Choug, rector of the University of Oum El Bouaghi.

The collaboration marks a significant milestone in the regional expansion of GORD's flagship Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS), extending its institutional and academic presence beyond the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) into the wider Middle East and North Africa (Mena).

Dr Alhorr said: "At GORD, our core mission is anchored in accelerating scalable climate action and driving systemic sustainability across the Mena region. Following the recent adoption of GSAS by the GCC Standardisation Organisation (GSO) as the unified regional green building standard (GSO 3000:2025), expanding its footprint into North Africa is a natural next step. By embedding this performance-based framework into the academic fabric of the University of Oum El Bouaghi, we are equipping Algeria's future architects and engineers with a globally proven, regionally tailored toolkit."

Prof Choug said: "As a recognised regional leader in environmental assessment and the developer of the GSAS system, GORD provides a robust platform for integrating sustainability into higher education. Through this collaboration, we aim to strengthen academic programs, enhance faculty capacity, and ensure that sustainability principles are fully embedded in the training of future professionals who will shape Algeria's built environment in alignment with national and global climate goals."

The MoU directly underpins Algeria's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, which pledges an unconditional 7% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 utilising domestic resources.

Given that the construction, operations, and broader lifecycle

of buildings and infrastructure constitute a significant share of global energy consumption and carbon output, the MoU between GORD and the University of Oum El Bouaghi serves as a strategic intervention to lower emissions from Algeria's built environment.

Central to the bilateral agreement is the formal integration of GSAS into the university's engineering and architectural curricula, establishing a sustainable foundation for capacity building and professional readiness among Algerian youth.

Through direct interaction with the GSAS framework, students will acquire specialised knowledge in resource conservation, waste minimisation, environmental pollution mitigation, and indoor occupant well-being.

The partnership establishes a robust operational framework where GORD will extend access to specialised GSAS tools to the university for educational and instructional purposes, bridging the gap between theoretical academia and industry-standard technical applications.

To ensure long-term scalability, GORD plans to deliver advanced training and GSAS's professional certification programs tailored for the university's faculty members whose academic specialisations intersect with sustainable engineering.

This professional development pathway will enable university faculty to become licensed trainers equipped with the pedagogical expertise to instruct undergraduate and postgraduate students on the rigorous compliance metrics of the GSAS Design & Build (D&B) Certification.

With the latest MoU, the University of Oum El Bouaghi has joined an expanding pan-regional network of academic institutions - spanning Qatar, Kuwait, and Oman - that have incorporated GSAS knowledge and training into academic and professional development frameworks. As the first performance-based green building rating system native to the Mena region, GSAS has achieved unprecedented market penetration in the Gulf, boasting more than 2,700 certified projects and retaining its status as the fastest-growing sustainability framework in the region. This upcoming expansion into Algeria signifies a pivotal geopolitical shift, pushing GSAS knowledge dissemination across the region.

## QU's Asjad club organises annual forum

QNA  
Doha

The Politics, Society, and International Relations Club, "Asjad," at Qatar University (QU) organised its annual forum for 2026 today, in co-operation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the QatarDebate Center. The forum brought together a select group of academics and those interested in political, intellectual, and youth affairs.

The forum serves as a platform for young intellectuals, aiming to combine knowledge, dialogue, and public awareness, and to develop leadership and analytical skills among youth. This is achieved through a program that includes intellectual sessions, interactive workshops, and youth dialogues on international issues.

The forum represents a national and youth-focused space to highlight the role of university students in understanding political and regional transformations, engaging consciously in public discussions, and interacting with international issues from a responsible national perspective. The collaboration between QU, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the QatarDebate Center reflects an integrated model for supporting a youth environ-



ment based on dialogue, critical thinking, and active participation.

In this context, HE Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library, Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari emphasised during his address at the forum the importance of continuous learning and self-directed learning in building the character of young people and empowering them to shoulder future responsibilities. He stressed that learning should not end with obtaining a university degree.

HE Al-Kuwari stated that knowledge is the foundation upon

which individuals are built, enabling them to develop and innovate. He noted that his own professional and diplomatic career has always been intertwined with learning and acquiring new experiences, and that many of his academic qualifications were earned during his years of service.

HE al-Kuwari urged young people to seize the opportunities available today to access knowledge, given technological advancements and the ease of access to information resources. He affirmed that continuous learning contributes to developing capabilities, enhancing

awareness, and fostering openness to diverse experiences and ideas.

For his part, Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Sports and Youth, Ahmed Mohammed al-Harami noted that QU graduates have demonstrated excellence in various work environments. He expressed his confidence in the ability of the university's students to achieve success and innovation as they transition into the job market.

Al-Harami pointed out that the Ministry of Sports and Youth believes that true investment begins with young people, and with the minds of students capable of critical thinking and dialogue. He emphasised the importance of youth forums that combine dialogue and knowledge, providing a space for expression, reflection, and responsible discussion.

He explained that the importance of these events extends beyond the discussions they host, encompassing the impact they have on raising awareness among young people and developing their capabilities.

For his part, Programs Director at the QatarDebate Center, Abdulrahman al-Subaie highlighted that the forum reflects a bright image of conscious university students capable of combining intellectual engagement, dialogue, and na-



tional responsibility.

Al-Subaie added that what distinguishes this forum is not only the diversity of its themes, but also its role as a genuine youth platform for conscious dialogue that combines knowledge, interaction, and critical thinking, giving young people an opportunity to express their opinions and visions regarding their present and future.

He explained that the QatarDebate Center believes dialogue is a civilised practice that contributes to building societies, enhancing understanding, and establishing a culture of positive disagreement. He emphasised the centre's pride in partnering with initiatives that contribute to preparing a generation capable of conscious thinking, confident dialogue, and positive participation in public affairs.

For his part, President of "Asjad" Club, Mohammed al-Kuwari said that the idea for establish-

ing the club stemmed from questions among young people about how to create a space for dialogue that would allow them to express their ideas and participate in intellectual and political issues. He noted that the idea evolved into an active student platform within Qatar University.

Al-Kuwari mentioned that the club organised a series of seminars, workshops, and dialogue programs throughout the year, in addition to various student and community engagements. He pointed out that the spirit of cooperation and teamwork was the most prominent factor in the club's success and the achievement of its goals.

The President of "Asjad" Club stated that the support of the Ministry of Sports and Youth and the QatarDebate Center contributed to fostering a youth environment based on dialogue, critical thinking, and active participation.



## Al Faisal Foundation honours winners of 'Destination Imagination'

The Al Faisal Without Borders Foundation organised a ceremony to honour the winning school teams of the "Destination Imagination" programme for the 2025/2026 academic season.

The programme is implemented in public and private schools in the State of Qatar in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), and was attended by a distinguished group of educational leaders, educators, and representatives from academic institutions.

The ceremony witnessed the attendance of HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Faisal Without Borders Foundation, alongside HE Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, Undersecretary of MoEHE; Maha Zayed al-Ruwaili, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs, and Engineer Abdullah Ali al-Yafai, general manager of Al Faisal Without Borders Foundation, in addition to several

Ministry representatives, school principals, and stakeholders in the Qatari educational sector.

In his speech, HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Faisal Without Borders Foundation, expressed his appreciation to all the public and private schools that participated in the competitions. He also lauded the continuous support from MoEHE in ensuring the programme's success over the past years, extending his gratitude to Qatar University for hosting the National Tournament, as well as expressing his appreciation to all the public and private schools that participated in the competitions.

Al-Ruwaili stated that the "Destination Imagination" programme represents a pioneering model for creative learning, as it offers students the opportunity to discover their potential and hone their skills in innovation, critical thinking,



The Al Faisal Without Borders Foundation, led by HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, honours winning school teams of the "Destination Imagination" programme for the 2025/2026 academic season.

and teamwork through interactive educational experiences that blend knowledge, technology, and the arts.

She noted that over 11 seasons, the programme has successfully embedded a culture of creativity and excellence among students, attracting more than 25,000 male and female students from public

and private schools in Qatar, reflecting its broad educational and pedagogical impact. She added that the projects and presentations delivered by the participating teams demonstrated an advanced level of awareness and ability to utilise technology, artificial intelligence, engineering, and artistic

skills to innovate qualitative solutions and ideas, stressing that investing in young minds and empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills is the fundamental pillar for building a prosperous and sustainable future.

Al-Yafai confirmed that the Foundation aims, through organising this programme, to contribute to building an educational system that aligns with modern global standards, encourages analytical and critical thinking, nurtures creativity and innovation, develops talents, and enhances teamwork and project management.

He explained that the "Destination Imagination" programme is one of the world's leading initiatives, implemented in more than 30 countries and over 50 US states, and that the Foundation has been implementing it in the State of Qatar for the 11th consecutive year.

School leaders, teachers and students lauded the educational and personal benefits of the recent

school challenges competition. Principals highlighted how the initiatives encouraged creativity, innovation, teamwork, and community awareness while helping students strengthen their scientific, technical, and social skills.

Several schools celebrated major achievements, including first-place finishes in the Technical Challenge and Service Learning Challenge. Educators also credited the competitions with improving students' critical thinking, quick decision-making, communication, and public speaking abilities.

Participants described the experience as rewarding and confidence-building, saying it allowed them to apply ideas in practical ways, compete with peers and develop leadership qualities. Teachers and principals thanked organisers, parents and supervisors for their support, while students expressed pride in representing their schools and contributing positively to society through innovation and service.

## QU organises ceremony for new Early Childhood Centre grads

**QNA**  
Doha

Qatar University's (QU) Early Childhood Centre (ECC), part of QU's College of Education, celebrated the graduation of a new cohort of kindergarten students for the 2026 academic year under the theme "Our Success Story" marking an important milestone as the children prepare to transition to first grade next academic year.

The ceremony celebrated the graduation of 40 children in an occasion that highlighted the importance of early childhood as a foundation for shaping children's personalities and developing their diverse skills. The children presented a variety of performances reflecting the skills and experiences they gained throughout the academic year, demonstrating their growth across different developmental areas.



On this occasion, ECC Director, Prof Dalia Abdul Hadi Hamaidi stated: "At the Early Childhood Center, teachers are committed to implementing best educational practices within a learning environment that upholds the highest standards of safety, security, and educational quality. In building on the Early Childhood Center's position as a hub of expertise, the Center opened its doors this year to a number of guests and educational experts. It welcomed more than 25 visitors from different coun-

tries around the world during the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement to explore the educational practices implemented at the Center. In addition, the Center hosted a delegation of kindergarten directors from Kazakhstan for the exchange of professional expertise and to learn more about the Center's academic and educational experience, which aligns with the mission and vision of Qatar University in supporting human development and nurturing a conscious and creative gen-

eration capable of contributing to the future of the nation."

ECC Assistant Director, Amna al-Megheseeb said: "This special moment reflects the outcomes of dedication, collaboration, and care. It represents a journey filled with learning, discovery, and meaningful moments that contributed to shaping our children's growth and achievements. Our dear children, today marks the beginning of a bright new chapter, and we wish you continued success and confidence as you move forward toward the future."

Through the centre, QU continues its efforts to provide an integrated educational environment that promotes early learning and supports the development of future generations capable of continuing their educational journeys with confidence and competence, in alignment with national development priorities and Qatar National Vision 2030.



The programme forms part of the ongoing co-operation between Al Jazeera Media Institute and Vodafone Qatar, which focuses on supporting employee development and strengthening media and communication capabilities.

## Vodafone Qatar staffers complete media skills training programme

Employees of Vodafone Qatar recently concluded a specialised training course titled 'Media Skills for Public Relations', delivered by Al Jazeera Media Institute as part of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities.

The five-day programme combined practical and theoretical training sessions focused on strengthening participants' understanding of the role of public relations in building institutional image and managing reputation, while enhancing their ability to craft clear media messages aligned with organisational goals and engage effectively with media outlets across different contexts.

It also covered the planning and execution of media campaigns and activities, as well as approaches for evaluating media performance and strengthening communication strategies.

The programme forms part of the ongoing co-operation between Al Jazeera Media Institute and Vodafone Qatar, which focuses on supporting employee development and strengthening media and communication capabilities.

To find out more about Vodafone Qatar and its services, visit [www.vodafone.qa](http://www.vodafone.qa)

## Diabetes Qatar empowers mothers of children living with type 1 diabetes

Diabetes Qatar organised an educational support programme for mothers of children living with type 1 diabetes at Park Hyatt Msheireb on May 23, bringing together 25 mothers for a day focused on education, peer support, and practical diabetes management.

The initiative aimed to equip mothers with the knowledge and practical skills needed to effectively manage their children's condition, while also providing a supportive platform for discussing the emotional and day-to-day challenges families face when caring for children living with type 1 diabetes.

The programme featured two in-



teractive educational sessions, practical workshops, and open discussions, allowing participants to share experiences, raise concerns, and explore practical solutions to common challenges associated with managing type 1 diabetes in children.

Dr Abdullah al-Hamaq, executive director of Diabetes Qatar, said: "At Diabetes Qatar, we believe that effective type 1 diabetes management extends beyond clinical care – it starts at home. Mothers play a vital role in their children's daily care and

emotional well-being, which is why empowering families through education and support remains a key priority for us."

The event forms part of Diabetes Qatar's broader monthly programme supporting people living with type 1 diabetes and their families. Recent initiatives have included a recreational gathering for girls living with diabetes, as well as a sports and recreational programme for boys living with type 1 diabetes, reflecting the organisation's commitment to providing holistic support that combines education, well-being, and community engagement for different age groups.

## WCM-Q biostatistics workshop series attracts participants

The Division of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) has concluded a series of workshops designed to equip healthcare professionals with biostatistical skills.

Titled "Certificate in the Analysis of Medical Data: Applied Biostatistics for Healthcare Professionals," the programme included three workshops (introductory, intermediate and advanced) aimed at helping healthcare professionals better organise, manage and analyse data, and accurately interpret and summarise results. The workshops have an applied focus, allowing participants to learn biostatistical concepts through case studies using statistical software.

Across all three workshops, the programme attracted a total of 117 participants from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Kingdom, the United States, Russia, and the Philippines.



By the end of the three workshops, participants were able to enter and manage data using statistical software; perform univariable and multivariable analyses for both continuous and dichotomous outcomes; and conduct basic survival data analysis.

Workshop speaker Dr Ziyad R Mahfoud, professor of research in population health sciences was supported by two facilitators: Dr Pad-

makumari Sarada, teaching specialist in math and statistics, and Soha Dargham, senior biostatistician.

Dr Mahfoud said: "The certificate programme focuses on equipping healthcare professionals with essential biostatistical knowledge and skills to independently organise, manage, and analyse medical data and properly interpret the results. We are therefore extremely pleased with the strong level of in-

terest we continue to receive from the healthcare community in Qatar and across the world."

To receive the certificate, participants must complete all three workshops (introductory, intermediate and advanced) and successfully pass an assessment at the end of each workshop. Participants who register for individual workshops receive a certificate indicating the workshop level attended and the number of credits earned, based on the number of hours attended.

The certificate programme is aimed at physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, allied health professionals, students, researchers and educators. The workshops were accredited locally by the Ministry of Public Health's Department of Healthcare Professions - Accreditation Section and internationally by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

## Doha Bank launches Al Dana 2026 with biggest grand prize in Qatar



Doha Bank has announced the launch of Al Dana 2026, the latest edition of its flagship savings programme.

Over the course of 22 years, Doha Bank has awarded millions of Qatari riyals to Al Dana customers through multiple draws. The new edition continues the bank's long standing approach of excellence in offering distinctive excellent products and services.

Doha Bank headlines Al Dana 2026 with the biggest grand prize in Qatar: QR2.6mn. Running till December 31, 2026, the programme offers up to QR7.5mn in total prizes, including a Bentley across 156 winners.

New-to-bank salaried customers are eligible to enter the draw for 1mn Avios every month while Doha Bank has dedicated an exclusive Qatar National Day draw for 18 Ajyal account holders, each winning QR18,000.

Doha Bank Group CEO Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani said, "At Doha Bank, we are committed to leading the sector in offering value

added products, with a continuous focus on evolving our offerings in line with our customers' needs and expectations. This approach has enabled us to earn our customers' priceless trust over the long term.

"The launch of this programme for the twenty second consecutive year reflects a long standing legacy of success and trust. Through it, we aim to promote a culture of saving among the widest segment of society by offering the largest prize in Qatar."

The launch of Al Dana 2026 is accompanied by a wide ranging campaign that reflects the legacy of success Doha Bank has diligently woven over more than two decades, supported by meticulous attention to detail.

The campaign draws inspiration from the distinctive heritage of the Qatari Sadu weaving, symbolising precision and patience in achieving outcomes defined by excellence, quality, and long term continuity – values that lie at the heart of Doha Bank's institutional culture.



## Qatar Shell's NXplorers 2025-26 season concludes

Qatar Shell announced the successful conclusion of the NXplorers 2025-26 season, implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE).

The final was held at the MoEHE headquarters, where students showcased their technical and critical thinking skills.

This season's programme engaged 426 students from 18 preparatory schools across the country. Throughout the year, students participated in intensive workshops, employing 'NXthinking' to collaboratively address critical societal issues and propose innovative solutions designed to inspire and empower the next generation of innovators in Qatar.

Maha al-Ruwaili, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs from MoEHE, said: "The NXplorers programme helps to equip young minds with the skills and knowledge necessary to address the complex challenges of the future. We are proud to support initiatives that inspire creativity and problem-solving, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact these young innovators will have on our society."

Rashid Majid al-Sulaiti, deputy general manager of Shell Qatar, highlighted the magnificent achievements of all the students involved, saying: "Congratulations to all students who completed the NXplorers programme. Your ideas, energy and problem-solving have been outstanding, showing what is possible when young people are empowered to think differently." First prize was awarded to the students from Hind Bint Otba Preparatory School for Girls, who clinched the top prize for their project, named Green Loop, which develops an integrated environmental ecosystem featuring a smart waste-sorting container that converts waste into compost.

In addition to the student



awards, the programme also recognised the dedication of teachers and facilitators. The Top Teachers Award was presented to Majdi Keir Alden and Shaima Mountaser for their exceptional guidance and support throughout the programme.

The top facilitators award was presented to Abdulla Khalil and Rahma al-Rabie for their dedication and engaging delivery style, and ability to inspire and guide students throughout the NXplorers programme. As the NXplorers season ends, Qatar Shell remains committed to nurturing the talents of young innovators and fostering a culture of sustainability and innovation. Since inception in Qatar, the programme has upskilled 3200 students and 222 teachers across 77 schools, helping to empower the next generation to create a sustainable future.

Shell's sustainability and social investment initiatives in Qatar align with the Qatar National Vi-

sion 2030, focusing on human, social, economic, and environmental development. Shell collaborates with Qatari institutions to deliver programmes that contribute positively to the nation's legacy. On top of NXplorers, key initiatives include Shell Eco-marathon, which promotes innovation in energy-efficient vehicles, and Shell Intilaaqah, which provides training and support for young entrepreneurs. Shell also supports Qatarisation efforts, aiming to be an employer of choice for Qatari nationals.

Concluding the event, al-Sulaiti added: "Qatar Shell has a proud history and a continued commitment as part of Qatar's social fabric: building capability, empowering youth, embracing its culture and developing its people. We are proud to be a reliable, committed and long-term partner to Qatar, working alongside MoEHE to help empower the next generation of scientists and engineers."

## QNL welcomes 4,773 visitors at DIBF

The Qatar National Library (QNL) brought knowledge, heritage, and innovation to the recently concluded 35th Doha International Book Fair, welcoming 4773 visitors over the past ten days at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre.

As one of the Arab world's leading literary platforms, the fair which concluded on Saturday offered QNL an opportunity to engage the community and introduce its personalised resources to new audiences.

This year marked the public debut of the #Library4You campaign, positioning QNL as a personal partner in every member's learning journey and demonstrating its dynamic role as a modern national institution. The library's interactive booth engaged visitors in immersive experiences that connected them to its diverse collections, services, and cultural initiatives.

Visitor turnout remained strong throughout the event. The "Scan to Play: Qatar's Story" game on the Library's mobile app extended engagement beyond the physical booth: through a QR code-based challenge and prize draw, the interactive game generated 1100 app downloads.

The booth's programming was



Children at DIBF 2026

designed to appeal to a wide audience. Families discovered the "Ready for School" initiative through "Dream Big, The Hero is You," allowing children to create personalised digital stories.

Students and adults engaged with the AI-powered "Literary Twin," an immersive Ibn Battuta heritage journey, and a rare Aerial Photography Collection documenting decades of Doha's transformation. Prospective members explored the "Free Knowledge Shopping Spree," while a 360-degree virtual tour offered many visitors their first glimpse inside the Library's iconic building.

Scheduled appearances by Ramilly, the Library's beloved mascot, added warmth and energy to the atmosphere throughout.

"The Doha International Book Fair is a cornerstone of Qatar's cultural calendar, and this year demonstrated our community's strong appetite for knowledge, heritage, and discovery," said Fatma al-Mannai, event specialist, QNL. "Seeing families, students, and researchers engage with such enthusiasm was deeply encouraging. Every interaction reflected what the Library stands for: a welcoming, inclusive space where knowledge is accessible to all."

## MCIT concludes participation at DIBF

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) concluded its participation in the Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) 2026 through an interactive presence by the Safe Space initiative.

This programme engaged children and families and highlighted the importance of strengthening digital awareness and promoting safe and responsible behaviours when using technology and digital platforms.

MCIT's participation in the fair, held at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre from May 14 to 23, came as part of its ongoing efforts to promote a culture of digital safety across the community. These also support families in addressing the rapid transformations of the digital world, particularly regarding children's use of technology and their daily interaction with digital content and platforms.

During its participation, MCIT launched the first edition of the "Digital Parenting" series titled "A Guide to Protecting Children in the Digital Playground" under the Safe Space initiative through a panel discussion held on the opening day of the fair as part of the Cultural Salon activities.

The series is a valuable addition to awareness content for



families, offering practical, accessible guidance that helps parents better understand the digital challenges children may face so as to ensure that they are able to support their children in using technology safely, in a balanced, informed manner.

The "Digital Parenting" series focuses on strengthening the role of families in building early digital awareness among children. It provides relevant content connected to everyday family experiences, including safe device use, responsible engagement with digital content, awareness of potential risks in the digital environment, and the importance of encouraging open family dialogue around healthy digital habits.

Duha al-Buhendi, director of Digital Society and Digital Competencies at MCIT, said: "MCIT's participation in the Doha Inter-

national Book Fair 2026 reflects the Ministry's commitment to strengthening digital awareness within families as a key foundation for building a safe and responsible digital society."

The launch of the first edition of the "Digital Parenting" series marks an important step towards providing parents with practical and accessible content that helps them keep pace with digital transformations, understand the challenges children face in the digital world, and address them with confidence and awareness."

The Safe Space booth in the Kids' Area featured a variety of educational and entertainment activities designed specifically for children and families, in line with the fair's nature as a cultural and knowledge-based space that brings together reading, learning, and direct engagement.

## Ministry of Environment concludes summer field training programme

The Environmental Monitoring and Inspection Department at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change organised a summer field training programme for students from the University of Doha for Science and Technology from May 10 to 21, aimed at strengthening skills in environmental inspection and monitoring.

The programme targeted Environmental Health students and introduced them to the department's responsibilities through a combination of field training, laboratory work and practical visits. The initiative was carried out in co-operation with several ministry departments, including the Environmental Assessment and Permits Department, the Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Department, and the Radiation Protection Department, providing participants with a comprehensive training experience.

Students received hands-on training in environmental inspection procedures, sample collection and analysis of water, soil, marine sediment and air, as well as technical report preparation. Activities also included visits to the Air Quality Monitoring Station at the Corniche, the Central Environmental Laboratory, and specialised chemical, biological and radiation laboratories. Field visits to beaches enabled students to conduct environmental sampling and analysis under professional supervision.

Participants were also introduced to industrial inspection procedures, environmental safety measures and approved environmental monitoring mechanisms, while contributing to applied environmental studies and projects.

The programme concluded on May 21 with student presentations showcasing the skills and



knowledge gained during the training. Participants submitted final reports and received certificates in the presence of ministry officials and university faculty members.

The ministry said the programme reflects its ongoing com-

mitment to empowering young national talents, strengthening co-operation with educational institutions and preparing a qualified generation capable of supporting environmental protection and sustainable development efforts in Qatar.



## QU, Qatar Shell celebrate achievements of the third cohort of 'Shell Intilaaqah'

Qatar University (QU), in partnership with Qatar Shell, celebrated the achievements of the third cohort of the "Shell Intilaaqah - Qatar" programme in a ceremony that reflects inspiring stories of resilience, growth, and the rediscovery of potential.

The programme welcomed 119 students and focused on developing entrepreneurial skills and fostering innovative thinking through a practical learning environment that empowered participants to turn their ideas into implementable projects.

Throughout the programme, participants experienced the true meaning of commitment and learned how challenges can become opportunities for growth. Amid evolving realities and rapid change, a distinct spirit emerged, one defined by resilience, adaptability, and the ability to create opportunities even in the most challenging circumstances.

In his remarks, Dr Ibrahim al-Kaabi, executive vice president for Academic Affairs at QU, highlighted the deeper significance of the experience, stating: "What we have witnessed in this cohort goes beyond the concept of training or qualification; it represents a genuine shift in mindset that shaped a new level of awareness among students.

"Our students have proved that



Dr Ibrahim al-Kaabi

Rashid al-Sulaiti

challenges do not limit ambition, but rather reshape it in a more mature and meaningful way. Today, we are not just celebrating the graduation of students, but we are witnessing the beginning of journeys that carry real potential for impact."

Rashid al-Sulaiti, deputy general manager of Qatar Shell, emphasised the defining strength that set this cohort apart to transform challenges into opportunities, saying: "At Qatar Shell, we believe true entrepreneurship reveals itself most clearly in times of challenge, and this cohort proved exactly that. What stood out was not only their commitment, but also their ability to think differently, adapt quickly, and act with purpose. These are the qualities that define future leaders, and we are

proud to support their journey."

The ceremony also featured inspiring stories from participants, who reflected on how the programme transformed their self-perception and equipped them with the tools and confidence to begin their entrepreneurial journeys, even before they had all the answers. These reflections represented more than testimonials of a temporary experience; they conveyed a genuine transformation in mindset and perspective toward the future.

"Shell Intilaaqah - Qatar," part of the global Shell LiveWIRE initiative, continues to evolve beyond a programme. It is a platform for transformation, one that shapes mindset, unlocks potential, and empowers individuals who don't wait for opportunities but create them.

## India's job engine strains as Iran war hits remittances, trade

The war in the Middle East is squeezing two pillars of Indian employment, forcing Gulf-based workers home and crushing demand for the country's manufactured exports, from leather goods to glassware.

For decades, work in the Middle East and global demand for labour-intensive manufacturing in sectors such as footwear and garments gave a generation of Indians stable, and in some cases lucrative, incomes.

Now, the foreign conflict has dealt a double blow to the economy, with returning migrant workers stuck in India and unable to find similar pay in their home towns, heightening the risk of social unrest as unemployment grows.

Until January, Mohammad Qureshi worked at a jewellery shop in Saudi Arabia, earning about 30,000 rupees (\$311) a month, saving enough to build a small home and help pay for his sister's wedding.

Now, the 32-year-old earns barely a third of that working at his cousins' tea stall in the Indian city of Kanpur, after the

Iran war disrupted his plans to return to the Middle East.

"Life in Saudi was easy and the money was good," Qureshi said. "Life is difficult here. I pray the war ends soon so we can go back."

India's economy is still growing at nearly 7% and urban unemployment stands at 6.6%, but economists and recruiters warn of weak hiring, slow wage growth and worsening job quality for the 6-7mn young Indians entering the workforce each year.

If unattended, the strain could hurt consumption and fuel unrest like the protests in north India last month, they warn.

The pressures are visible in industrial hubs such as Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

At Kings International, a leather factory supplying saddlery overseas and sports goods to Decathlon, owner Taj Alam said the Middle East conflict has driven up fuel, gas, logistics and shipping costs, squeezing profits just as demand weakens.

Alam said his factory, which can process 200 hides a day, and once employed over 500 workers, is now running at about half capacity and half its workforce, leaving little incentive to expand or hire.

"The outlook will remain bleak until the Strait of Hormuz stabilises," he said. "Why invest when the future looks uncertain?"

Kanpur accounts for roughly a quarter of India's \$6bn annual leather exports and directly or indirectly employs about 500,000 people, according to Mukhtarul Amin, vice-chairman of the Council for Leather Exports.

He said businesses in the sector remain cautious about hiring and investment, even as they try to retain workers and avoid layoffs.

Out of nearly 19mn Indians working overseas, about 9mn are in the Gulf. World Bank estimates show economic growth in the Gulf region slowing to 1.3% in 2026 from 4.4% in 2025, putting jobs at risk.

Recruiters say hiring has become

more uncertain since the US-Israeli strikes on Iran, with employers delaying recruitment and families hesitant to pay migration costs.

At Hayat Placement Services in Kanpur, recruiter Gautam Bhatnagar said opportunities had dried up at home and abroad.

"Earlier, we used to place 5-10 candidates every month," he said. "Now we are lucky if we can place even one or two."

There are no official figures on how many Indian workers have left the Gulf. However, a foreign ministry official told reporters last month that about 1.1mn Indians including passengers, workers and other travellers, had returned from the region between the start of hostilities on February 28 and the end of April.

Uncertainty is also rippling through southern Kerala, where Gulf remittances have long shaped the local economy.

Thomas Cherian, 50, spent 18 years working for a construction firm in Saudi Arabia before returning home on leave in December.

He had been due to return in March, but the company halted its project and laid off about 600 workers, he said.

If he cannot return by end-June, his visa will lapse.

"There has been no mass return so far," said Ajith Kolassery, chief executive of NORKA Roots, an agency of the state's Non-Resident Keralites Affairs Department.

"But if the conflict continues, financial stress in Gulf economies could lead to large-scale repatriation, adding pressure to Kerala's already strained job market."

Remittances from overseas Indians stood at \$102.5bn in April-December 2025, up from \$92.4bn a year earlier.

Data for January-March is yet to be released.

For Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, the risks extend beyond the economy.

India has nearly 400mn people aged 15-29, and generating non-farm jobs for them remains one of its biggest challenges despite rapid growth.

— Reuters

## How America's folly and Khomeini's hubris set the Middle East on fire



By Jasim Al-Azzawi

The Middle East does not convulse in a vacuum. It's wars, its proxy armies, its assassinations, its coup attempts, its sectarian hatreds, none arose spontaneously from desert sand. They descend, with the terrible logic of cause and consequence, from two foundational acts: a decision made in Washington on a May afternoon in 1948, and a declaration thundered from Tehran in February 1979. Together, they form the twin original sins of the modern Middle East.

On May 12, 1948, the Oval Office held a clash of historic proportions. President Harry Truman had assembled his senior advisers to deliberate on the imminent declaration of a Jewish state. General of the Armies George C Marshall, whom Truman himself called "the greatest living American," the architect of Europe's postwar resurrection, rose to object. Marshall believed that recognising Israel the moment it was declared would ignite a war across the entire Middle East. Within twenty-four hours of independence, it did. His memo that evening left no ambiguity: "I said bluntly that if the President were to follow Mr Clifford's advice, and if I were to vote in the next election, I would vote against the President."

For a man who, as a matter of principle, had never cast a ballot in his life, it was the gravest possible rebuke.

Marshall's objections were both strategic and moral. Recognition would alienate the Arab world, threaten American access to oil, and hand Moscow a pretext to penetrate

a region that Washington was trying to seal. His Near East experts agreed almost without exception they were right. They have been proved right every decade since.

And yet Truman overruled his greatest adviser, not solely for humanitarian reasons, but because an old friend walked into the Oval Office. Harry Truman and Eddie Jacobson had opened a haberdashery together in Kansas City after the First World War. It failed. The friendship did not. By 1948, Jacobson, the eighth-grade-educated son of Lithuanian Jewish immigrants, was the only private Jewish citizen an exasperated president would still receive. On March 13, he slipped past the gatekeepers and made a single, devastating appeal: "Your hero is Andrew Jackson. I have a hero too, Chaim Weizmann. He's an old man, very sick, and you're putting him off. This isn't like you, Harry."

Truman agreed to the meeting. Eleven minutes after Israel declared independence on May 14, 1948, the United States became the first nation on earth to recognise it. America's UN ambassador walked out of the building rather than witness the announcement.

What those eleven minutes also produced, unremarked upon in Washington, was the dispossession of 700,000 Palestinian Arabs who had lived on that land for centuries. They were not in the Oval Office. They were not in Eddie Jacobson's prayer. In the calculus of 1948, they were invisible: a people erased by the momentum of Zionist diplomacy and the moral arithmetic of post-Holocaust guilt. The Nakba, the Catastrophe, planted a grievance so deep it has never healed, and never will until it is honestly named.

Thirty-one years later, a different hubris took hold. On February 11, 1979, as the Shah fled and Ayatollah Khomeini descended from the skies like a figure from scripture, a new ideology seized state power. It was not, its architect immediately declared, a domestic affair. In a 1980 speech, Khomeini was unambiguous: "We should try hard to export our revolution to the world."

The target map was drawn in sectarian ink. Iraq, where

Shia constituted 65% of the population but lived under a Sunni Ba'athist boot. Bahrain, 70% Shia, is ruled by a Sunni monarchy. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, and Lebanon, all home to Shia communities that Khomeini considered his constituency, not sovereign citizens of independent nations.

The theory was seductive in its simplicity: demographics would do the work of ideology. What Khomeini fatally miscalculated was that Arab Shia were not Iranians. Their grievances were real; their willingness to serve as instruments of Persian theocratic ambition was another matter. The results were a decade of blood: a coup attempt in Bahrain in 1981, bombings in Kuwait in 1983, assassinations across the Gulf, and the birth of Hezbollah in Lebanon under Iranian Revolutionary Guard tutelage. Above all, there was the war: Saddam Hussein, watching Khomeini's revolutionary export doctrine with the eye of a man who saw both threat and opportunity, invaded Iran in September 1980. Eight years. One million dead.

To understand Khomeini's ferocity, one must travel back to August 1953. Mohammad Mossadegh, Iran's democratically elected prime minister, nationalised the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, ending the arrangement by which British shareholders extracted Iranian wealth while Iranians watched. The CIA and MI6 organised Operation Ajax, bribed military officers, hired street thugs, and on August 19, 1953, arrested Mossadegh in his pajamas and restored the Shah to his throne. Washington then funded the Shah's secret police, SAVAK, for 26 years.

David Nalle, who served as Director of the Bi-National Center in Tehran, later said it plainly: "The removal of Mossadegh was, in my estimation, a tragic mistake. We caused, in effect, the Khomeini revolution by doing that."

The three decisions form a chain. Washington's careless erasure of Palestinian rights in 1948. It's the criminal overthrow of Iranian democracy in 1953. Tehran's delusional attempt to ignite a regional revolution in 1979. Each was made by men who believed they were acting rationally. Each sowed a catastrophe that outlasted them.

The Middle East of today, its rubble Gaza, its hollowed Lebanon, its proxy-war Yemen, is the direct inheritance of these original sins. The wars are not ancient. The hatreds were manufactured in specific rooms by specific men on specific days.

History does not forgive what it does not forget. And the Middle East forgets nothing.

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

## Trump tightens his grip, but the reckoning comes after 2028

By Kristian Coates Ulrichsen



Over the last few weeks, US President Donald Trump has been on a revenge tour of sorts as he has backed candidates who have mounted successful primary campaigns against Republican candidates he perceives to have crossed him.

On May 5, five of the seven state senators in Indiana who had rejected a redistricting plan were defeated by primary challengers supported by the president. Two weeks later, a Trump-endorsed challenger won the Louisiana primary against Bill Cassidy, one of the seven Republicans who had voted to convict Trump on impeachment charges in 2021. Also on May 19, Kentucky Representative Thomas Massie, a vocal critic of the president's handling of the Epstein files, was defeated in his primary election by a Trump-picked challenger with little political experience.

This pattern of results demonstrates Trump's continuing grip over the Republican Party, eleven years after he declared his ambition to run for president as a political outsider and proceeded to mount a hostile takeover of the party from its establishment figures.

The subsequent four electoral cycles – the 2020 and 2024 presidential elections and the 2018 and 2022 primaries – saw a gradual phasing out of the older guard of Republican politicians. The defeat of the few remaining incumbents who have crossed with Trump is a challenge for the party as it moves into a post-Trump era that will begin to take shape after the midterms.

Six and a half months remain in the 119th Congress, which sits until January 2, 2027. Republicans hold majorities of 53-47 in the Senate and 218-212 in the House of Representatives with five seats vacant in the latter. Should the current math hold until the midterm elections on November 3, the Democrats would need a four-seat swing to regain control of each chamber.

In the midterm elections at the comparable point of Trump's first presidency, in 2018, the Democrats made a net gain of 40 seats to win back the House but Republicans were able to increase their majority in the Senate with two additional gains.

Years of redistricting have generated an era of comparatively small Congressional majorities in which mere handfuls of races are genuinely competitive and control hinges on a small number of seats changing hands. As recently as 2008, the election which swept Barack Obama into the White House gave Democrats sweeping majorities in both chambers which would be unthinkable



US President Donald Trump raises a fist as he departs after delivering a speech about the economy at Rockland Community College Fieldhouse in Suffern, New York, on Friday. (AFP)

less than two decades later. Consequently, the loss of just a few votes in the House or Senate, should members vote against their own party or choose to abstain, could make a difference in determining the outcome of votes between now and November.

Already Massie has suggested that he will continue to push back against White House policies in the months he has left in the House. In the Senate, Cassidy and John Cornyn, the four-term incumbent from Texas who faces likely defeat in his primary on May 26 after Trump endorsed his opponent, Ken Paxton, are likely to become more independent in their voting. The pair could be joined by North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis and former Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who have both become more outspoken and critical of the Trump administration since they announced their impending retirement from active politics.

Sharp criticism on May 21 from Tillis and McConnell over Trump's planned 'anti-weaponisation' fund gave Republican leaders in the Senate a sign of the difficulty they may face in maintaining discipline in the months ahead. Their unease, which is reportedly shared by significant numbers of their colleagues who did not go public, caused Senate Majority Leader John Thune to delay votes in the Senate rather than risk defeat.

In the House, too, Republican leadership cancelled a scheduled vote on a War Powers Resolution to end the war in Iran after they assessed they did not have enough support to defeat it. Earlier in the week, four Republican Senators, including Cassidy on the day of his primary defeat, had joined Democrats to vote in favor of the war powers resolution against Trump's wishes.

For years, the threat of being 'primaried', of facing a challenge from a Trump-backed and funded candidate, was enough to instill an internal discipline in the Republican Party, and the events of recent weeks have shown that the threat to incumbents remains potent. As he prepares to leave office, if not necessarily the political stage he has so dominated for a decade, Trump continues to remake the party but this may come at a longer-term cost. This may be the last election in which Trump remains the centre of attention as by 2028 the focus will be on his successor as Republican nominee. Although he has defied the laws of political gravity that would have felled almost any other figure in public life, time horizons will inexorably begin to shift to beyond 2028 and the transition to a new generation of politicians.

The challenge for Republicans is that the defeat of more moderate incumbents by inexperienced and, in some cases, significantly more right-wing challengers in the primaries may weaken the party's chances in the Congressional elections (of course, the same goes for Democrats and the tussle between centrists and progressives in their primary season).

Cornyn had been widely admired and respected by his colleagues in the Senate over his 24 years in the chamber and it is only 18 months since he ran Thune a close second in the bid to succeed McConnell as the party's leader. His seat in Texas had not been considered one of the competitive races that could see a Democrat flip, but Paxton is rather more controversial with a checkered history and he may find it harder than Cornyn to fight off a significant challenge from James Talarico, a moderate Democrat, in November.

The fault-lines between a party base still loyal to Trump and a wider electorate that has other priorities end up defining the midterms and setting the parameters for Trump's final two years in office.

• 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.



An Iranian man walks past an image of former and the current Iranian supreme leaders, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (L), Ali Khamenei, and his son, the current leader Mojtaba Khamenei (R), in Tehran yesterday. (AFP)

**GULF TIMES**

**CHAIRMAN**

Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Attiyah

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Faisal Abdulhameed al-Mudahka

**DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR**

Kamran Rehmat

P.O.Box 2888, Doha, Qatar

editor@gulf-times.com

4435 0478 (News)

To Advertise: gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display: 4446 6621 Classified: 4446 6609

Subscription: circulation@gulf-times.com

4446 6404 (Sport)

44466636 (Home delivery)

facebook.com/gulftimes

X.com/gulftimes\_Qatar

instagram.com/gulftimes

youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

gtcad@gulf-times.com

## Massive bombardment of Kyiv leaves four dead

AFP/Reuters  
Kyiv

Russia pounded Kyiv with a massive bombardment that killed four people, authorities said yesterday, with Moscow unleashing its nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile in one of the largest barrages in the more-than-four-year war.

Multiple rounds of explosions were heard in the Ukrainian capital throughout the early hours of the morning, AFP journalists reported, as residents took shelter in underground stations.

Daylight revealed rescue workers extinguishing fires and sifting through debris of damaged buildings – houses, shopping centres, museums, theatres, schools and universities.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had earlier threatened retaliation for Ukrainian strikes in Russian-occupied eastern

Ukraine that killed 21 people in a vocational school.

The Ukrainian air force said the raid involved 600 drones and 90 missiles, of which 549 drones and 55 missiles were intercepted.

Kyiv has been grappling with an acute air defence missile deficit since the US-Israeli campaign against Iran drove up demand for US-made Patriot rounds.

European leaders reacted by saying the salvo showed Russia's desperation.

Kaja Kallas, the European Union's top diplomat, accused Moscow of resorting to "a political scare-tactic and reckless nuclear-brinkmanship".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged more action from allies.

"I am grateful to everyone now expressing words of support. But concrete steps to bolster air defence are also needed – missile deliveries must not stop for a single day," he said on social media.

## QC distributes Eid clothing to thousands of orphans globally

Thanks to generous donors, Qatar Charity (QC) continues its "Greatest Days" campaign, launched in conjunction with the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, by implementing Eid clothing distribution projects for thousands of sponsored orphans in 22 countries around the world, including Qatar.

The purpose is to bring joy to their hearts and share with them the happiness of the upcoming Eid al-Adha.

In a press release yesterday, the QC stated that this project is part of its ongoing commitment to caring for orphans and supporting their families, as part of the "Rofaqa" initiative and seasonal campaign projects.

It works by providing children's essential needs during Eid seasons, helping to ease the financial burden on beneficiary families and strengthening values of solidarity and compassion.

In Djibouti, 600 sponsored children benefited from the project, where the children expressed great happiness upon receiving their new Eid clothes.

In Sri Lanka, Eid al-Adha clothing was dis-

tributed to 250 sponsored orphans in the eastern region of Ampara.

The children received shopping vouchers that allowed them, accompanied by their guardians, to purchase Eid clothing from a store of their choice.

Muhammad Ayman Nafea said the clothes were beautiful and made him happy for Eid, while Muhammad Irshad Inshika Shazin noted that this was the first time he had received more than one Eid outfit, expressing his gratitude to his sponsors and donors.

In a related effort, 686 Eid clothing cards were distributed to sponsored orphans from Syrian refugees and members of the host community in southern Turkey ahead of Eid al-Adha.

Iman Nasan, social care co-ordinator at the Turkey office, explained that the project aims to involve orphans in the joy of Eid and give them the opportunity to choose their own clothing.

In Mauritania, Eid clothing was distributed to 250 sponsored orphans, boys and girls equally, with the packages including clothes and toys.

Mothers of the orphans expressed their gratitude to the generous donors and the associa-

tion's office in Nouakchott.

Salma Abdullah said that this kind gesture came at the right time, as it brought joy to her children on the occasion of Eid, praying that God continues to bless Qatar with security and prosperity.

In Pakistan, the QC office distributed Eid al-Adha clothing to 350 sponsored orphans in the Kashmir region, including new clothes and shoes.

In Niger and Mali, QC offices distributed Eid clothing to 500 orphans (250 in each country).

The QC's "Greatest Days" campaign for the year 1447 AH includes the implementation of the Eid Clothing Project for orphans in around 21 countries worldwide.

The project targets thousands of orphans sponsored by generous donors through the QC, with a total cost of approximately QR2.5mn, and is expected to benefit around 8,200 children by providing them with essential Eid supplies.

In Qatar, the QC's "Al-Aqraboon Centre" is implementing the "Eidiyah" project, which provides Eid essentials for 1,500 children from orphans and low-income families. – QNA

## Bomb attack on train in southwest Pakistan kills at least 24

AFP/Reuters  
Quetta

A blast targeting a train carrying military personnel killed at least 24 people yesterday in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan, a senior official said.

Army servicemen were among the victims of the attack in the provincial capital Quetta, which wounded more than 50 people, the official told AFP.

The attack, which was claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) group, was branded a "cowardly" act of terrorism by

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Images from the scene showed burnt-out vehicles, damaged residential buildings, twisted metal and debris scattered near the railway track, with smoke rising from the wreckage.

People could be seen carrying blood-soaked victims on stretchers away from a derailed car, while armed security forces stood guard.

The local official told AFP that the train carrying army personnel and their family members was going from Quetta to Peshawar in Pakistan's northwest.

The train was passing a signal at Chaman Pattak in Quetta "when an explosive-laden

car hit one of the carriages that resulted in a big blast", the official said.

Windows were blown out and nearby vehicles were destroyed in the explosion.

Another official told AFP that the army personnel were travelling to celebrate the Eid holiday, which is due to start tomorrow.

Baloch separatists accuse Pakistan's government of exploiting the province's natural gas and abundant mineral resources without benefiting the local population.

A police official told AFP the weight of the improvised explosive device used in the attack was around 35kg.

They said that police and security agencies were investigating the attack.

The BLA, the province's most active militant separatist group, claimed responsibility for the latest attack in a statement sent to AFP.

The group, which the United States has designated a terrorist organisation, said it had targeted military installations as well as police and civil administration officials in gun attacks and suicide bombings.

The BLA has intensified attacks on Pakistanis from other provinces working in the region in recent years, as well as foreign energy firms.

Last year the separatists attacked a train with 450 passengers on board, sparking a deadly two-day siege.

## Heatstroke claims 16 lives in India

At least 16 people have died of heatstroke in southern India so far this summer, officials said yesterday, as a heat-wave grips swathes of the country following official health warnings.

India is no stranger to scorching summers but years of scientific research have found climate change is causing heatwaves to become longer, more frequent and more intense.

Temperatures in several cities across the South Asian country of 1.4bn people have recently hovered well above 45° Celsius.

The deaths were reported in the southern state of Telangana, with revenue minister Ponguleti Srini-vasa Reddy calling for "statewide vigilance" to safeguard public health.

"The intensity of the heat has reached unprecedented levels" and officials in Telangana should issue advance warnings about precautions to be taken during heatwaves, Reddy's office said in a statement.

Health experts say that extreme heat can lead to dehydration that thickens the blood and, in particularly severe cases, causes organs to shut down.

The local government in Telangana advised the elderly, children and pregnant women not to venture out in daytime unless necessary.

Earlier this week, the India Meteorological Department predicted above-normal temperatures and intense heatwave conditions in several parts of the country.

Temperatures in the capital New Delhi and other nearby cities have stayed over 40C throughout this week, sending power usage soaring to record levels.

In addition to the burning mid-day heat, overnight minimum temperatures are also high, giving people little respite.

India's highest officially recorded temperature is 51C, measured at Phalodi in Rajasthan in 2016. – AFP

## Bahrain jails nine over IRGC links

Reuters  
Manama

A Bahraini court sentenced nine defendants to life in prison and two others to three years in jail for collaborating with Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to carry out what it described as "hostile and terrorist acts" against Bahrain, the state news agency reported yesterday.

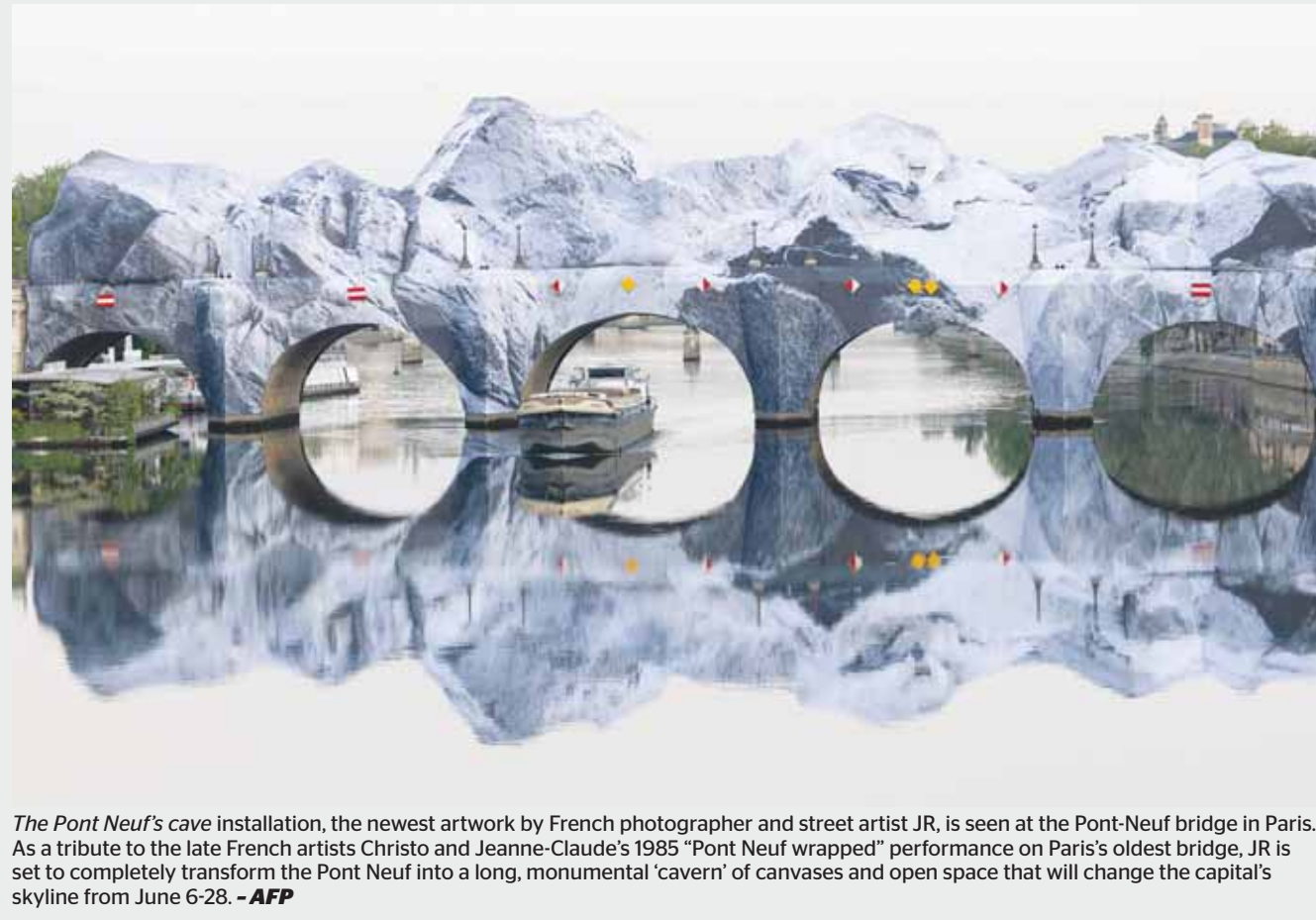
The defendants were involved in gathering information on sensitive sites and facilitating related financial transfers, the statement said.

Bahrain's interior ministry said on May 9 that it had arrested 41 people it said were linked to the IRGC.

The ministry said security authorities had uncovered a group tied to the IRGC while public prosecutor investigations also involved cases related to sympathy with Iranian attacks.

Iran launched attacks on targets in Bahrain and other Gulf Arab states hosting US military bases after the United States and Israel launched a war against Iran on February 28.

## Bridging old and new



The Pont Neuf's cave installation, the newest artwork by French photographer and street artist JR, is seen at the Pont-Neuf bridge in Paris. As a tribute to the late French artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude's 1985 "Pont Neuf wrapped" performance on Paris's oldest bridge, JR is set to completely transform the Pont Neuf into a long, monumental 'cavern' of canvases and open space that will change the capital's skyline from June 6-28. – AFP

## China launches three-crew space flight

AFP  
Beijing

China launched its Shenzhou-23 mission yesterday, which will see a Chinese astronaut spend a full year in orbit for the first time, a crucial step in Beijing's ambition to send humans to the Moon by 2030.

The Long March 2-F rocket blasted off in a cloud of flames and smoke on time at 11.08pm (1508 GMT) from the Jiuquan launch centre in China's northwestern Gobi Desert, video from state broadcaster CCTV showed.

The spacecraft separated from the rocket around 10 minutes later and entered orbit, the Chinese space agency (CMSA) said on social media.

"The astronauts are in good condition, and the launch has been a complete success," it added.

The mission marks the first spaceflight ever undertaken by an astronaut from Hong Kong: 43-year-old Li Jiaying (Lai Ka-ying in Cantonese), who previously worked for the Hong Kong police.

Other crew members include 39-year-old space engineer Zhu Yangzhu and 39-year-old Zhang Zhiyuan, a former air force pilot, who is travelling into space for the first time.

Cheering crowds waved Chinese flags at a farewell ceremony ahead of the launch, while a band played and the three astronauts saluted on stage.

The crew is set to carry out numerous

scientific projects in life sciences, materials science, fluid physics and medicine.

A key experiment of Shenzhou-23 will be the full-year stay in orbit by one of the crew in order to study the effects of a long stay in microgravity.

The experiment is part of China's preparations for future lunar missions, as well as missions to Mars.

The astronaut selected for this one-year mission will be named at a later date, depending on the progress of the Shenzhou-23 mission, a spokesperson for the CMSA said on Saturday.

The main challenges will be long-term effects on humans, including bone density loss, muscle wasting, radiation exposure, sleep disturbances, behavioural and psychological fatigue, said Richard de Grijis, an astrophysicist and professor at Macquarie University in Australia.

He also underlined the importance of reliable water and air recycling systems, as well as the ability to manage potential medical emergencies far from Earth.

China is "steadily" building operational experience for "sustained occupation" of its Tiangong space station, and year-long missions are an important step towards future lunar and potentially deep-space ambitions, de Grijis told AFP.

"A year in orbit pushes both hardware and humans into a different operational regime compared with the shorter Shenzhou missions of the programme's earlier phases," he said.

Crews aboard Tiangong have until now

largely remained in orbit for six months before being replaced.

The Shenzhou-23 mission is part of China's goal to land astronauts on the Moon before 2030, a race in which the United States is also competing with its Artemis programme.

China is testing the equipment required for its goal, with an orbital test flight of its new Mengzhou spacecraft set for 2026.

The Mengzhou craft will replace the ageing Shenzhou line, and will carry China's astronauts to the Moon.

Beijing hopes to have built the first phase of a manned scientific base by 2035, known as the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS).

China also plans to welcome its first foreign astronaut, from Pakistan, aboard the Tiangong station by the end of this year.

The Asian giant has significantly expanded its space programmes over the last 30 years, injecting billions of dollars into the sector in order to catch up with the United States, Russia and Europe.

In 2019, China landed a spacecraft the Chang'e-4 probe on the far side of the Moon – a world first.

Then in 2021, it landed a small rover on Mars.

China has been formally excluded from the International Space Station (ISS) since 2011, when the United States banned the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) from collaborating with Beijing, prompting the Asian giant to develop its own space station project.

## Gunman dies in shootout after opening fire near White House

A gunman opened fire near the White House on Saturday evening, with US Secret Service agents killing the assailant in a shoot-out during which a bystander was also struck, authorities said.

President Donald Trump was in the White House at the time – on a day when he was working to negotiate a deal with Iran – but was not impacted by the incident, Secret Service communications chief Anthony Guglielmi said in a statement.

The confrontation took place just after 6pm (2200 GMT) when a man near the White House security perimeter "pulled a weapon from his bag and began firing".

"Secret Service Police returned fire striking the suspect who was trans-

ported to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased. During the shooting one bystander was also struck by gunfire," Guglielmi said, without details on the bystander's condition.

No Secret Service officers were hurt.

Multiple US media identified the suspect as Nasire Best, 21, of Maryland, reporting that Best had a history of mental health concerns and had multiple prior interactions with Secret Service members.

Trump, 79, has been the target of three alleged assassination attempts, the most recent of which took place on April 25 when an armed man stormed a security checkpoint in a hotel where Trump was attending a media gala. – AFP

## Benin's new president sworn in

The former finance minister of Benin, Romuald Wadagni, officially became the country's president yesterday, taking over from his predecessor – and ex-boss – Patrice Talon.

Wadagni, an economist with a reputation as a technocrat who embodies continuity with Talon's two mandates, was elected April 12 with 94% of the ballots.

His sole token opponent, Paul Houngbe, was easily beaten, and Houngbe's party quickly joined forces with Wadagni's party in the parliament.

The main opposition party, the Democrats, was not able to participate in the elections because insufficient endorsements and internal rifts.

The 49-year-old has a seven-year term before him, after a constitutional reform last year extended the presidential mandate from a previous five years.

A president can serve only a maximum of two terms. – AFP



# QLC celebrates graduation of 'Qiyadat 2026'

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

The Qatar Leadership Centre (QLC), under the patronage of HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Chairperson of the Centre's Board of Directors, celebrated the graduation of the 13th cohort of its National Leadership Programme, "Qiyadat 2026", yesterday.

The event reflected Qatar's steadfast commitment to developing human capital and preparing national leaders to advance innovation and sustainable development.

The event marked the graduation of 166 distinguished national talents representing various government, semi-government, and private-sector entities, reaffirming the QLC's pivotal role in leadership development across the country.

The cohort comprised 122 participants from the National Leadership Programme and 44 graduates from the Executive Master's in Leadership Programme, one of the Centre's flagship academic programmes designed to prepare leaders in line with the highest international standards.

The event was attended by Sheikha Al Mayassa; HE Sheikh Dr Abdullah bin Ali bin Saud al-Thani, vice-chairman and man-

aging director; a number of ministers and senior officials; and the graduates' families, in a celebratory atmosphere marked by pride and recognition of the graduates' achievements throughout their leadership journey.

In her remarks on the occasion, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa highlighted the national vision behind the programmes, stating: "Investing in people is our most enduring strategic choice, and in Qatar we believe that developing leaders is the guarantee for moving steadily toward the future we aspire to."

"In a world swept by the winds of change, modernity, and technology, iden-

tity, language, and authenticity remain the deepest anchor in the journey of sailing forward with an ambitious vision toward the future," she said.

Addressing the graduating cohort directly, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa added: "Leadership is not a position – it is a responsibility. Be role models in integrity and competence. Leave an impact, however small, each from your own position. And let Qatar always be the standard."

QLC general manager Abdulla Mohammed Khalifa Albinali said: "Today, we celebrate the graduation of a new cohort of leaders following a year rich in development and achievement, encompassing ca-

pability building, strategic development, and participation in international learning experiences that enhanced leadership competencies and broadened professional and intellectual horizons."

"These experiences provided valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and exposure to global best practices, further strengthening leaders' readiness for the future," he said. "Today marks the beginning of a new chapter of responsibility and continued growth, where our graduates will serve as role models in giving, pioneers in innovation, and ambassadors of values, contributing to the continued progress and prosperity of the nation."



Snapshots from the ceremony.



Dr Victor Guthrie

Right: In a time-honoured tradition, the Class of 2026 tosses their caps in celebration, marking the end of their K-12 journey and the beginning of new adventures beyond the ASD.



Every banner tells a story, every programme marks a milestone - celebrating the journey of the Class of 2026.

## ASD shapes graduates through holistic K-12 journey

By Shaima Sheriff  
Staff Reporter

The American School of Doha (ASD) is redefining education through a holistic K-12 model, preparing students not only for academic success but for purposeful, globally minded lives beyond graduation.

At the heart of this approach is a philosophy that extends beyond academic achievement, focusing equally on character development, resilience and a sense of purpose.

According to school director Dr Victor Guthrie, the ASD's educational model is built on core values of honesty, respect, responsibility and kindness, combined with a commitment to excellence.

"The student experience is grounded in a world-class, holistic learning journey that balances academic rigour with personal purpose," he said, emphasising that students are supported from early childhood through to high school in ways that encourage both belonging and growth.

This long-term developmental approach is central to the ASD's identity.

Rather than focusing solely on outcomes at the final stage of schooling, the institution highlights how academic stamina and personal agency are built progressively across all levels.

Academic success, Dr Guthrie noted, is

closely tied to student well-being.

"Students achieve at the highest levels when they feel safe, supported, and genuinely connected to their learning community," he said, pointing to a comprehensive K-12 counselling framework that prioritises psychological safety and personal growth.

This environment enables students to take intellectual risks and engage deeply with their studies.

From inquiry-based learning in early years to advanced programmes such as Advanced Placement (AP) and the International Baccalaureate (IB), the ASD's curriculum is designed to promote critical thinking, creativity and real-world application.

Innovation, according to the school, lies not only in what students learn but in how they learn.

"We prioritise student-centred, collaborative learning experiences, grounded in research-informed teaching practices," Dr Guthrie explained, adding that interdisciplinary problem-solving and engagement with global issues are key components of the learning process.

In a diverse international environment such as Doha, the ASD places strong emphasis on cultural understanding alongside individuality.

"Diversity is one of our greatest strengths," he said. "Students are encouraged to value both

their individuality and the perspectives of others."

As the Class of 2026 concluded their journey at the ASD, the outcomes reflected the effectiveness of this approach.

The cohort has secured admissions to universities across over 20 countries, with 95% receiving offers from one of their top three choices.

Beyond academic achievements, the graduating class is recognised for its leadership and commitment to service.

Students have led initiatives focused on sustainability and global outreach, balancing rigorous studies with community engagement.

Reflecting on the milestone, Dr Guthrie expressed a strong sense of pride and optimism.

"It is a powerful reminder that the confidence, resilience, and character developed throughout their journey are cultivated over many years," he said.

His message to graduates was equally clear.

"Being an ASD alumnus is about carrying forward our values and using them to make a meaningful difference in the world... once a Dragon, always a Dragon," he said.

As education continues to adapt to global challenges, the ASD's model highlights a growing shift, one that views success not as a final outcome, but as a continuous journey shaped by purpose, perspective and the ability to thrive in an interconnected world.



Proud smiles, warm embraces, and memories to last a lifetime as families celebrate their graduates.

## DIBF changing perceptions about books

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

Sana Publishing House drew strong public attention at the recently concluded 35th Doha International Book Fair (DIBF) with its diverse range of publications, while writer Khawla Abdullah al-Bahr launched her debut book *Emotional Nourishment* before large crowds of visitors.

The publishing house adopted the slogan "The Journey of Book Discovery Begins in Qatar" for DIBF 2026.



Imed Azali

Al-Bahr told *Gulf Times* that the DIBF brought together a distinguished group of intellectuals and attracted an unprecedented turnout, encouraging readers to explore the world of books and culture further.

"For us at Sana Publishing House, the days were wonderful, with a large turnout. Visitors' perceptions of books began to change," she said, noting that she encouraged many visitors to read more and even trained some in speed-reading and concise reading techniques.

Speaking about *Emotional Nourishment*, al-Bahr said the book focuses on the psychological aspects of health and well-being.

She explained that many illnesses stem from psychological causes and that improving one's mental state can help prevent sickness.

The book also explores the differences between emotional, psychological and physical hunger, offering readers an in-depth discussion of these concepts.



Meanwhile, Mediterranean Publishers general manager Imed Azali said visitor turnout increased steadily throughout the exhibition.

He said that their publications are entirely Tunisian, representing Mediterranean Publishing House, partner publishers and leading Tunisian universities.

The collection includes works on history, literature, linguistics,



Khawla al-Bahr with her new book.

sociology, philosophy and translation, as well as publications from the House of Wisdom and the Tunis Institute of Translation, reflecting Tunisia's cultural identity.

He added that one of the pavilion's most popular titles was the Korean *WHY* series, which attracted strong interest from parents seeking alternatives to children's excessive use of phones and tablets.

According to Azali, the series has sold more than 86mn copies in the Republic of Korea, making it one of the world's best-selling book series, while the Arabic edition is printed in China.

## Three US universities add Doha Historical Dictionary to their digital libraries

Three US universities – the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, and Georgetown University in Qatar – have added the Doha Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language to their digital libraries, reflecting the growing interest in the dictionary within Western academic circles.

In a statement released yesterday, the Doha Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language noted that the University of Michigan is the most prominent of the three universities to have recently added the dictionary to its libraries, given its ranking of 45th globally in the prestigious QS World University Rankings and 23rd in the rigorous THE (Times Higher Education) World University Rankings.

The University of Washington follows, ranking 81st in the QS rankings and 25th in the THE rankings.

Georgetown University in Qatar's parent university is ranked among the top 250 universities worldwide.

Doha Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language executive director Dr Mohammed al-Obaidi affirmed that the growing presence of the Doha Historical Dictionary in international university libraries is recognition of its value and the importance of making it available to researchers in the Arabic language, culture, and civilisation.

The Doha Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language is one of the largest projects of the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies.

It was officially launched on May 25, 2013, and work on its development continued for more than 12 years.

It was announced as completed on December 22 last year. – QNA