



Travel connected
with Call+

Enjoy unlimited calls with Call+ on Passport pack to anywhere in the world. Free with Vodafone Passport This Eid.



Activate exclusively via MyVodafone App
T&Cs apply.



ORIXIS
أوريكس بوليدكس
ORYX POLYDEX
Durable waterproofing-performance for roof protection
NATIONAL PAINTS FACTORIES CO., Doha - Qatar
44601602/3

THE PERFECT GIFT?
THE ONE THEY CHOOSE

Family
سافر مع العائلة
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



PICTURE: AR AL-Baker

Sheikha Moza graces QF schools graduation

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

A total of 401 students from seven Qatar Foundation (QF) schools under its Pre-University Education graduated yesterday as Her Highness QF Chairperson Sheikha Moza bint Nasser graced the commencement ceremony.

Held at Qatar National Convention Centre, the QF Schools Commencement Ceremony was also attended by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, Vice-Chairperson of QF; Abeer al-Khalifa, president, QF Pre-University Education; several distinguished dignitaries; special invitees; guests; teachers; faculty members; and

families and friends of the graduates.

The ceremony started with the rendering of the national anthem of Qatar and Qur'an recitation, and was followed by the procession of the graduates. They were presented the diploma by QF Pre-University Education president Abeer al-Khalifa.

Each graduate took to the stage to receive their diplomas, while valedictorians from each school received special recognition. Outstanding students from across QF schools were also honoured for their academic excellence.

Al-Khalifa, said: "Our students have shown that true learning is reflected not only in academic achievement, but also in the ability to remain resilient, creative, and determined in times of uncertainty. **To Page 12**

Cabinet slams Iranian attacks; approves owners, courts bills

By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, yesterday condemned Iran's repeated attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain, declaring full solidarity with both states as it approved a raft of legislative and regulatory measures at its regular session at the Amiri Diwan.

Opening the meeting on a sharply-worded note, the Cabinet denounced what it termed egregious violations of Kuwaiti and Bahraini sovereignty, reaffirming

Qatar's backing for all measures the two states take to safeguard their security. It called for shielding the region from the consequences of unprovoked attacks and stressed the need to restore regional and global stability.

On the legislative front, the Cabinet took note of an Owners' Association bill approved by the Shura Council to regulate real estate management and shared-area maintenance in jointly owned properties. It also approved amendments to the Civil and Commercial Procedure Law — part of a national drive to modernise the judicial framework and keep pace with digital transformation in judicial services supporting business and investment. **To Page 11**

Amir reiterates diplomatic path in call with Trump

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from US President Donald Trump.

The two sides discussed the latest updates in the Middle East in light of ongoing political and security developments as well as regional and international efforts aimed at de-escalation and promoting stability.

His Highness the Amir stressed the importance of prioritising political and diplomatic solutions and dialogue between all parties in order to strengthen regional security and stability and



prevent further escalation. The call also addressed the importance of continuing dialogue to resolve current issues with an emphasis on safeguarding

maritime navigation, ensuring the security of strategic waterways, and maintaining the smooth flow of global supply and energy chains. **(QNA)**

One killed, over 60 hurt after Kuwait airport hit

Reuters
Kuwait City/Washington

Gulf hostilities flared again yesterday as Iranian attacks on Kuwait damaged its airport and injured dozens while the US military carried out strikes near the Strait of Hormuz, with diplomacy to halt the war showing little sign of progress.

The attacks are the latest to test a shaky ceasefire, sending oil prices up nearly 2%, as the strait remains largely closed more than three months after the US and Israel launched strikes on Iran. Flights at Kuwait International Airport were suspended after an Iranian drone and missile attack damaged airport facilities and diplomatic missions, killing one person and injuring more than 60 others, Kuwaiti authorities and state media said.

Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways later resumed flights after taking safety measures, the civil aviation authority said.

Later, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry handed a formal protest note to the Iranian embassy, condemning "continued Iranian attacks". According to Kuwait's statement, delivered by Deputy Foreign Minister ambassador Hamad al-Meshan, the decision also announced measures to reduce the size of Iran's diplomatic mission, including declaring two diplomats persona non grata. **To Page 11**

Qatar slams attacks in Kuwait, Bahrain

Qatar strongly condemned the Iranian attacks on civilian targets in Kuwait and Bahrain, including the attack on Kuwait International Airport, which resulted in significant damage to several of its facilities and injuries. Qatar considered these attacks a grave violation of the sovereignty of both countries and a blatant breach of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols as well as the principles of international humanitarian law, specifically the principle of distinction, the prohibition against targeting civilians and civilian targets in armed conflicts, and the prohibition against indiscriminate attacks. In a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed Qatar's complete rejection of targeting civilian targets and vital infrastructure, emphasising the necessity of shielding the region from the consequences of unprovoked attacks and de-escalating tensions to restore regional and global security and stability. **(QNA)**

Tap, scan, save: how loyalty apps capture wallets

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Customer loyalty apps have become nearly impossible to avoid in Qatar. Whether ordering coffee in Doha, booking flights, shopping in malls, or paying utility bills through telecom providers, consumers are increasingly being rewarded with points, cashback, exclusive discounts, and personalised offers — all through mobile applications.

Filipino expatriate Ferdie D, who regularly uses several loyalty apps, told *Gulf Times* that while points may not always seem substantial, they still provide a form of discount.

He noted that some supermarkets and retail outlets offer better incentives, allowing customers like him to accumulate points more quickly with every purchase. Other establishments, he pointed out, appear too "stingy" to provide meaningful rewards even after customers spend large amounts at the same store.

Loyalty programmes that once relied on simple point collection are now turning into highly digitised systems shaped by AI, customer data, and smartphone use.

Analysts tracking the sector say adoption is growing rapidly across the Gulf. A 2025 regional market report by Businesswire found that the Middle East loyalty market is projected to grow to \$5.49bn by 2029, driven largely



by smartphone adoption, app-based reward systems, and digital payments.

In Qatar specifically, loyalty programmes are expanding across aviation, telecommunications, banking, food delivery, retail, and hospitality sectors.

Traditional loyalty programmes in Qatar once revolved around plastic cards and manual stamps. Today, however, most major

brands are shifting toward app-based systems capable of tracking customer behaviour in real time.

Retail and travel businesses appear to be leading the shift. Across the Gulf, loyalty networks are growing more integrated. Vodafone Qatar customers, for example, can convert telecom reward points into airline miles through the My Vodafone app. **To Page 11**

Fatima al-Kuwari to spearhead 2036 Olympic, Paralympic bids

In a step that reflects Qatar's ambition to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2036, Fatima Sultan al-Kuwari has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Qatar's bid file, as part of the state's efforts to present the first Olympic and Paralympic Games in the Middle East. The appointment comes as preparations continue to develop a comprehensive bid that builds on Qatar's proven record in hosting major international sporting events. It also reflects Qatar's commitment to using sport as a platform for development, bringing people closer together and promoting dialogue and cultural understanding. Al-Kuwari brings more than 20 years of executive leadership experience to the role, having held senior leadership roles at Ooredoo, the global telecommunications company. She has a strong track record across strategy, operations and institutional transformation in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia. She has held a number of senior



leadership positions, including as part of the Group Executive Committee, and has overseen operational activities across nine markets. She also contributed to the establishment of the Ooredoo Doha Marathon in 2013. In her new role, al-Kuwari will lead the strategic, operational and organisational aspects of the bid, co-ordinating with local and international partners to support the development of a comprehensive and competitive proposition that reflects the growth of Qatar's sporting infrastructure and its long-term vision. **(QNA)**



امسح الرمز لمعرفة آخر العروض
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR LATEST
PROMOTION CATALOGUE
VIEW NOW

توصيل من الهايبرماركت في دقائق
**HYPERMARKET
DELIVERED**

في دقائق
in MINUTES



LuLu Hypermarket
Hypermarket in Minutes
Download on the
App Store
GET IT ON
Google Play



Promotion valid from 04.06.2026 to 06.06.2026. Bulk purchase not allowed.



QAR 20.00

فيلادلفيا لثائف
سونتي / 6 قطع
Philadelphia
Maki 6's



QAR 15.00

ريفيللا _ مشروبات
غازية / سويسرية متنوعة
0- / قطعة واحدة
Rivella Swiss Soft Drinks
Asstd 500ml x 1pc

Switzerland



QAR 15.00

فرانسيا _ جبنة بوراتا
طبيب بقري / 120 جم
Francia Cow
Burrata 125gm



Organic

QAR 15.50

راشيل _ زبادي عضوي على طرية
اليونانية منوع ٤٥٠ غرام / ١ حبة
Rachel's Organic Greek
Style Yoghurt Asstd
450gm x 1pc



QAR 15.00

راوز _ عسل نقي
وطبيعي / ٣٤٠ جم
Rowse Pure & Natural
Honey 340gm



QAR 13.00

فرانجوسول دجاج
كامل ١ كيلو
Frangosul Whole
Chicken 1kg



QAR 4.75

إيه أند ديليو روت بير
/ مشروب غازي خالي من الكحول
٣٥٥ / قطعة واحدة
A&W Root Beer Asstd
355ml x 1Pc



QAR 39.50

نسكافيه جولا
قهوة فورية / ١٩٠ جم
Nescafe Gold Coffee
190gm



QAR 8.75

جرينباك بار بروتين
منوع ٥٠ جم / ١ حبة
Greenback Protein Bar
Asstd 50gm x 1pc



QAR 7.50

أوشن سبراي _ مشروب
توت بري لثيف / ١ لتر
Ocean Spray Light
Cranberry Classic
Juice Drink 1Ltr



QAR 15.00

لا بولانجيري _ خبز برروش
مجبول / ٤٠٠ جم
La Boulangere
Plaited Brioche
Loaf 400gm



QAR 22.50

بيكر ستريت _ شرائح
/ خبز أبيض / أسمر متوسط
٥٥٠ جم / حبة واحدة
Baker Street Medium
White/Brown Sliced
Bread 550gm x 1pc



QAR 16.50

كاناديان برايد
زيت كانولا / ١.٥ لتر
Canadian Pride
Canola Oil 1.5Ltr



QAR 31.50

براج _ خل التفاح
العضوي / ٩٤٦ مل
Bragg Organic Apple
Cider Vinegar 946ml



QAR 8.00

ميشن _ تورتيلا دوروم
٦ قطع / ٣٧٨ جم
Mission Durum
Tortillas 6pcs 378gm



QAR 89.75

فيليه سلمون
نرويجي / ١ كجم
Norwegian Salmon
Fillet 1kg



QAR 24.50

دينر بيل (أمريكي)
جبين شيدر خفيف
أبيض / ملون / ٥٠٠ جم
Dinner Bell USA
Mild White/Colored
Cheddar Cheese 500gm



2.25 kg.

QAR 14.00

إريال مسحوق غسيل برائحة
الذماني ٢.٢٥ كيلو
Ariel Washing Powder
Lavander 2.25kg



QAR 34.75

لحم بقري محلي
بالعظم / ١ كجم
Beef Bone In
Local 1kg



QAR 14.00

براني دجاج ٦٥ / ٥٠٠ جم
Chicken 65 Biryani
500gm



QAR 27.50

كيك فانشو أبيض صغير
Vancho Cake
White Small



QAR 8.00

بهر لحم بقري
قطعتان
Beef Burger
2pcs



QAR 11.75

برقوق أسود
جنوب أفريقي / ١ كجم
Plums Black
South Africa 1kg



QAR 18.75

دريسكولز فراولة بريطانية / عبوة
Driscoll's Strawberry
UK 1pkt



QAR 9.75

تفاح بينك ليدي
فرنسي / ١ كجم
Apple Pink Lady
France 1kg



QAR 17.75

فلفل حلو مشكل
هولندي / إسباني / عبوة
Capsicum Mix
Holland/Spain 1pkt

Carrefour كارفور

هذه العروض متوفرة فقط في كارفور هايبر ماركتس قطر (سيتي سنتر، فيلاجيو، لاند مارك، قطر مول و إزدان الوكرة)

4-5-6 of June 2026

Offers are only available in Carrefour Hypermarkets (City Center, Villaggio, Landmark, Mall of Qatar & Ezdan Al Wakrah)

٤-٥-٦ يونيو ٢٠٢٦

SUMMER PACKED WITH ACTION

كارفور Carrefour PRESENTS

Free delivery in **60 mins**
Minimum order of 99 QAR.

Download the Carrefour App now

NOW PLAYING
INSTORE ONLINE



Per KG
مانجو قلب الثور
Mango kaleb-al-thour, Yemen

7.50 QAR

Per KG
دينيس محلي
Seabream, Local

29.75 QAR

Per KG
زيت دوار الشمس زين 1.5 لتر
Zain sunflower oil 1.5L

12.25 QAR

Per KG
أرز بسمتي بنجاب ه كجم
Punjab Basmati Rice 5kg

32.00 QAR

Per KG
صدور دجاج بيرلا طرية 2 كجم
Perla Chicken Tenderized Breast 2kg

26.00 QAR

Per KG
حليب محفف أنكور 2.25 كجم
Anchor milk sachet 2.25kg

54.75 QAR

Per PC
سنارة متنوعة
Window curtain assorted

10.75 QAR

Per PC
أواني طهي تيفال
Tefal dark stone non stick cookware set

149.00 QAR

Per PC
خبز بالشوكولاتة
Chocolate bun xl

2.00 QAR

Per KG
برتقال فالنسيا مصر
Orange valencia, Egypt

3.75 QAR

Per KG
خيار محلي
Cucumber, Local

3.00 QAR

Per KG
لبنة محلية
Labneh, Local

14.75 QAR

Per Pack
سبانخ صغيرة محلية
Baby Spinach 100g, Local

4.75 QAR

Per Pack
حرجير صغير محلي
Baby Rocket 100g, Local

4.75 QAR

Per KG
سمك بلطي مصر
Tilapia, Egypt

10.00 QAR



لا تفوت الفرصة!
احصل على أفضل العروض على هاتفك

Don't miss out!
Get the best deals on your phone

Scan to subscribe



Lebanese PM meets Qatar's envoy



Prime Minister of the Lebanese Republic Dr Nawaf Salam met yesterday with ambassador of the State of Qatar to Lebanon Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and develop them, in addition to the latest developments in Lebanon and the region. The Lebanese Prime Minister expressed appreciation for the State of Qatar's constant support for Lebanon and its people. For his part, the ambassador reiterated Qatar's position in support of Lebanon, and the country's commitment to its stability and security. **(QNA)**

Shura committee reviews new traffic law draft



A Shura Council committee has continued its review of a draft traffic law, as lawmakers examine proposed updates to the country's road regulations. The Internal and External Affairs Committee met yesterday under the chairmanship of HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem to consider responses from relevant authorities to questions and observations previously raised regarding the proposed legislation. The committee decided to continue studying the draft bill at a future meeting before finalising its recommendations. **(QNA)**

Al-Khulaifi meets UAE envoy



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Khulaifi has met Saeed Abdullah al-Qamzi, the United Arab Emirates' ambassador to the State of Qatar, to discuss ways of strengthening co-operation between the two countries. The meeting took place in Doha yesterday and focused on reviewing bilateral relations and exploring opportunities to further enhance collaboration across a range of sectors. The two sides also exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest. During the meeting, HE Dr al-Khulaifi wished al-Qamzi success in his diplomatic duties and reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to supporting efforts aimed at deepening ties between Doha and Abu Dhabi. The discussions come as Qatar and the UAE continue to develop diplomatic and economic relations, with both countries seeking closer co-operation on regional and international matters. **(QNA)**

Qatar extends World Cup legacy through support for FIFA 2026 hosts

Qatar's FIFA World Cup 2022 legacy continues to influence global sport, with the country now supporting preparations for the 2026 tournament in North America through knowledge transfer and international co-operation, officials said at a summit in Washington, DC.

Jassim al-Jassim, CEO of Qatar's Local Organising Committee for Football Events (LOC), highlighted the country's enduring contribution to international sport during the Foreign Policy Sports Diplomacy Summit held at the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Washington. The event marked the 250th anniversary of the US and the countdown to the FIFA World Cup 2026.



Jassim al-Jassim at the Foreign Policy Sports Diplomacy Summit in Washington DC.

The summit brought together leaders from the government, diplomacy, media, and investment sectors to examine sport's growing role in fostering international co-operation, strengthening cultural ties, and driving economic development.

Addressing participants, Qatar's ambassador to the US, Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad al-Thani, said the country's World Cup journey extended well beyond the successful hosting of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

"The expertise and partnerships built through that tournament continue to support the global sporting community, including preparations for the FIFA World Cup 2026 across North America," he said. "We are proud that Qatar's hosting legacy is contributing to the next chapter of World Cup history."

Speaking on a panel titled "Welcoming the World: Leadership Lessons From Mega Event Hosts", al-Jassim reflected on the lasting impact of the first FIFA World Cup held in the Middle East and Arab world, describing it as a catalyst for long-term national development rather than a one-time event.

"For Qatar, hosting FIFA World Cup 2022 was never the finish line. It was the foundation for building long-term national capabilities," he said. "We weren't building for one event; we were building an ecosystem and a generation of expertise."

Al-Jassim noted that Qatar continues to benefit from the infrastructure, partnerships and international relationships strengthened during the tournament, while emphasising the importance of its human legacy.

"Thousands of people developed new skills and capabilities that continue to contribute to Qatar and to international sport," he said.

He also highlighted the cultural significance of hosting major sporting events, saying the World Cup provided an opportunity to showcase Qatar's identity and values while helping visitors gain a deeper understanding of the region.

"Sport is one of the few truly universal languages," al-Jassim said. "The World Cup gave us a platform to showcase who we are as a nation, but also who we aspire to be. The event became a bridge between cultures and a vehicle for mutual understanding."

Since staging the FIFA World Cup 2022, Qatar has continued to expand its profile as a global sports destination, hosting a series of major international events, including the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 and several FIFA tournaments.

Al-Jassim said the successful delivery of such events depends not only on infrastructure but also on a highly skilled workforce operating across a wide range of sectors.

"Hosting at this scale is ultimately


about people," he said. "What delivers those events are thousands of highly trained people working together across security, transport, operations, technology, media, hospitality and healthcare."

Looking ahead to the FIFA World Cup 2026 in the US, Canada and Mexico, al-Jassim underscored Qatar's commitment to sharing its expertise with future host nations.

Under a memorandum of understanding between FIFA and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, a team of Qatari experts who played key roles in delivering major tournaments has been deployed to several host cities in the US and Canada to support preparations for the expanded 48-team World Cup. A second group of officials and stakeholders is also participating in an observation programme focused on the management of cross-border mega-events.

"Every tournament leaves its own unique mark on football and on the world," al-Jassim said. "Qatar 2022 was a historic moment for the Middle East and Arab world. FIFA World Cup 2026 will be historic for different reasons."

Qatar's sporting calendar remains busy, with the country set to host the second of five consecutive editions of the FIFA U-17 World Cup from November 19 to December 13, further reinforcing its position as a leading venue for major international sporting events.


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

Important Notice:
Suppliers and Contractors who are already registered with QatarEnergy via Musharatat Portal can "Buy Tender Online and download Tender Document" from QatarEnergy website (Musharatat Portal).

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

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	LT26MT0037	01.06.2026 10.06.2026	22.06.2026	10,000.00	QAR	N/A	

Title of Tender: PURCHASE OF VHF/UHF RADIOS & ASSOCIATED ACCESSORIES (MFR.: MOTOROLA)

Mid-Tender Meeting Location: **To be advised if required**

Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time: **To be advised if required**

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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


Invites qualified bidders to participate in the following tender:

Effective from 01st July 2023, Bids from Local Suppliers and Contractors (companies established under the Law of State of Qatar) who are not in possession of an ICV score in the ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>) by Tender closing date (or commercial bid submission date if separately mentioned / notified) will not be accepted. Local companies that have been established for less than 2 years are exempted from this requirement. For further details, please visit ICV portal (<https://icv.qa/en-US>).

Sl No.	Tender Reference and Description	(i) Deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding	(ii) Tender fee (non-refundable); Date	(iii) Tender Publication on ARIBA	(iv) Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	Tender No. P01-01-687 Supply of air dryer package Technology - Pressure Swing Adsorption (Heatless Desiccant type) Flow - 1100 NM3/HR.	08 th June 2026	QAR 500. 00 08 th June 2026	10 th June 2026	QAR 35,000.00	28 th June 2026, 12:00 Noon
2	Tender No. P05-14-008 Carry out Complete Re-tubing of Exchanger E13932A1 in Ethylene Plant	08 th June 2026	QAR 500. 00 08 th June 2026	09 th June 2026	QAR 35,000.00	30 th June 2026, 12:00 Noon

i. Interested bidders to communicate their willingness to bid and contact details to QAPCO Procurement (procurement@qapco.com.qa) indicating company name, address, telephone, official E-mail, etc. latest by the deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding indicated above. Reference Number and Description of the tender must be mentioned in the email.

ii. Non-refundable tender fee as indicated above is payable to QAPCO through QNB account # 0013-001688-060 only at any QNB branch by 08th June 2026. (Tender Number, Subject and bidder name are to be stated in the payment receipt)

iii. Tender link will be sent via email notification from ARIBA system to the confirmed bidders. Tender Document will be accessible only after attaching the evidence of the tender fee payment in ARIBA by the bidder followed by Qapco approval. QAPCO shall reply with the access to "ARIBA eSourcing RFP event" along with necessary instructions and guidelines for the bid submission. ARIBA Registration: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the registration process during the tendering period (Details on ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website www.qapco.com)

iv. **Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):** Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to the following address latest by the Bid closing date & time:
Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) Q.P.J.S.C.
QAPCO HEADQUARTERS, P.O. Box 756,
Building; 12, Zone No. 92, Street No. 556, Mualther Leafawayat Street
Mesaieed, Qatar
Tel: 4033 8109
Attention: Procurement Group Manager

Bidder to attach copy of tender bond to the offer in ARIBA. Offer without Tender Bond will not be considered.
Tender Clarifications: Please send your queries with tender reference and description to email procurement@qapco.com.qa

Notes:
1. ARIBA Registration: Bidders who are not registered in QAPCO are requested to complete the registration process during the tendering period (Details on ARIBA registration can be accessed via QAPCO website www.qapco.com)

For more information about QAPCO, please visit our website: www.qapco.com

MoFA spokesperson meets state secretary of German foreign office

HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majid bin Mohammed al-Ansari met in Berlin with State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Geza Andreas von Geyr. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them as well as explored the latest developments in the region, particularly the mediation efforts between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to a number of other issues of common concern. Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Federal Republic of Germany Abdullah bin Ibrahim al-Hamar also attended the meeting. **(QNA)**



Al-Ansari attends dialogue session on current regional challenges

QNA
Berlin

HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majid bin Mohammed al-Ansari participated yesterday in Berlin in a dialogue session on current regional challenges and Qatar's mediation efforts in addressing international crises. The session was

organised by the Arabic Cultural House (Al-Diwan).

In his remarks during the session, Dr al-Ansari addressed a number of regional and international issues, developments in the region and their impact on security and stability as well as Qatar's role in mediation and its diplomatic efforts in addressing international crises.

He focused on intra-Gulf relations and the importance of strengthening co-operation and joint co-ordination, par-

ticularly in security matters, in light of current regional challenges. Dr al-Ansari also touched on energy and water security issues, noting the importance of vital waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz and their impact on regional and global stability.

Dr al-Ansari emphasised the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as essential tools for reducing tensions and enhancing opportunities for peaceful solutions to crises.



Ashghal delivers 3,430km of cycling paths across Qatar

QNA
Doha

Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has completed more than 3,430 kilometres of cycling paths between 2013 and 2025 as part of its efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and sustainable mobility across the country.

Marking World Bicycle Day, Ashghal said, in a statement yesterday, the network includes cycling routes within highway, major road and local road projects, as well as the Olympic Cycling Track along Al Khor Coastal Road.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment, in co-operation with Ministry of Transport, to developing an integrated cycling network that encourages bicycle use as an environmentally friendly mode of transport, supports physical activity and helps reduce carbon emissions.

According to Ashghal, the network has been designed in line



with international standards and features both shared pedestrian-cycling paths and dedicated cycling lanes.

Many routes are equipped with green spaces, shaded areas, rest stops and bicycle parking facilities to enhance user comfort and safety.

The authority also noted that several routes, including the Olympic Cycling Track, have been fitted with smart technologies and monitoring systems to improve cyclist safety and support

efficient operation.

Ashghal added that it is continuing to expand the network and strengthen links with Doha Metro stations to support multimodal transportation, while conducting studies and field surveys to extend coverage to additional residential and commercial areas.

The initiative forms part of Qatar's broader efforts to develop a people-centred, sustainable urban infrastructure aligned with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

QGOSM adopts technical controls to extend sales period of vehicle tyres

QNA
Doha

The Qatar General Organisation for Standards and Metrology (QGOSM) announced the adoption of new technical controls to regulate the extension of the period allowed for the sale of tyres for passenger cars, buses and light trucks, in implementation of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's (MoCI) decision No. 35 of 2026, regarding updating the Qatari standard specification (QS 581) for the requirements for storing car tyres as a binding technical regulation in the State of Qatar.

In this context, Head of the Engineering Specification Section at QGOSM, Engineer Sultan Hassan al-Kuwari, said that expanding the tyre sales period will not be automatic, but rather subject to meeting the approved technical requirements and controls in accordance with the provisions of the technical regulations, in order to ensure maintaining a high level of quality and safety for products traded in the local market.

Al-Kuwari indicated that the technical regulations allow for the possibility of granting an additional six-month period for selling tyres, provided that the agents and points of sale comply with all the approved technical requirements,



with the commitment to grant the consumer an additional warranty for a period of three months, so that the total warranty period becomes one year and three months for the tyres whose sales period is approved to be extended.

He affirmed that the organisation will study the applications of companies that wish to obtain approval for the extension, and verify the extent to which they meet the technical requirements contained in the regulation, provided that approvals are granted only to companies that meet them, while providing the competent regulatory authorities with lists of companies and tyre models whose sale has been approved for extension.

The next phase will witness the continuation of monitoring campaigns and periodic inspections of company warehouses, show-

rooms and tyre sales points, in co-ordination with the competent authorities, foremost among them the Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud Department at MoCI, to verify compliance with the approved storage and inspection requirements, he added.

He also noted that these measures come as part of ongoing efforts to regulate tyre trading in the local market, enhance product quality and safety, protect consumer rights, and reduce unsafe practices that may affect the safety of road users.

Engineer Sultan Hassan al-Kuwari stressed, in his statement, that QGOSM will continue to monitor the implementation of the decision and evaluate its results periodically, by preparing quarterly reports on the results of implementation, and taking the necessary corrective measures when needed, in order to achieve a balance between regulating the market, ensuring consumer safety and compliance with the approved technical regulations in the State of Qatar.

Qatar General Organisation for Standards and Metrology called on all

agents and points of sale to comply with the approved technical requirements and to co-operate with regulatory bodies, in order to enhance compliance and achieve the highest safety standards.

MoFA secretary-general meets Chinese envoy



HE the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ahmed bin Hassan al-Hammadi met yesterday with ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the State of Qatar, Cao Xiaolin. During the meeting, the two sides discussed co-operation relations between the two countries. (QNA)

Court backs QR500,000 payout for visitor injured in road accident

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

The Appellate Circuit of the Investment and Commerce Court upheld a lower court ruling ordering a passenger transport company, one of its drivers, and the vehicle's insurer to jointly pay QR500,000 in compensation to a passenger who sustained serious injuries in a traffic accident while travelling in a company vehicle.

According to court documents, the claimant filed a lawsuit through his legal representative, seeking QR3mn in material and moral damages from the transport company, the driver, and the insurance company. The lawsuit indicated that the claimant was visiting Qatar when he was involved in a road accident in May 2024, while riding in a vehicle operated by the passenger transport company.

The accident was attributed to the driver's negligence, resulting

in severe injuries. Accordingly, the claimant suffered multiple injuries, including spinal fractures, a partial amputation of a finger on his left hand, and partial hearing loss caused by a ruptured eardrum. He also incurred substantial medical expenses both inside and outside Qatar and claimed loss of additional income due to his inability to work during his recovery period.

The court noted that a final criminal judgment had previously convicted the driver responsible for the accident. As the ruling was not appealed, the driver's liability was established, along with the joint responsibility of the transport company and the insurer for compensating the victim's material and moral damages.

In support of the claim, the plaintiff's legal representative submitted documentary evidence, including the accident report and vehicle-related records. The Court of First Instance ultimately ruled that the transport

company, its driver, and the insurer were jointly liable and ordered them to pay QR500,000 in compensation for the damages suffered by the claimant.

Eventually, the defendants appealed the judgment. However, the Court of Appeal accepted the appeal on procedural grounds but rejected it on the merits, affirming the lower court's decision in full.

The appellate court reasoned that the first-instance judgment was legally sound and consistent with applicable law. It found that the lower court had thoroughly examined the facts and evidence of the case and had provided sufficient and well-founded legal reasoning.

The court further held that the appellants failed to present any arguments or evidence capable of undermining the judgment's validity or the legal and factual grounds on which it was based. Consequently, the appeal was dismissed, and the compensation award was upheld.



Loyola International School Earns Glorious Diamond Award, Al Nasr Secures Top Rank Among Indian Schools in Qatar.

Doha - June 2026: Loyola International School has added another feather to its cap, with its Al Nasr and Oasis campuses earning prestigious Diamond Award recognition under the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's "My Values Shape My Identity" project. The school's Al Nasr campus secured a place in the elite Diamond Category with a score in the 90 to 100 percent band, while Oasis campus was awarded Diamond Category recognition with a score in the 80 to 90 percent range, reflecting the Institution's strong values-based educational culture. The recognition was celebrated at the project's closing ceremony on 3 June 2026 at the Ministry's Permanent Headquarters in Doha.

The ceremony, held under the patronage of Her Excellency Mrs. Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater, Minister of Education and Higher Education, brought together private schools and kindergartens from across Qatar to celebrate outstanding contributions to the five core initiatives of the project: Aseel (Identity and Belonging), Safe Sailing (Digital Safety), Yourself is a Trust (Mental and Physical Well-being), Filtrah (Preserving Human Nature) and Ikhaa (Tolerance and Anti-Bullying).

In a major highlight of the ceremony, the Al Nasr campus was presented with a Recognition Shield, while the Oasis campus received the prestigious Diamond Category Recognition Certificate. The awards were presented by Dr. Rania Mohammed, Director of Private Schools and Mr. Omar Al-Naama, Assistant Undersecretary, from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Principal Ms. Bhavna Vijaykumar received the honours on behalf of Loyola International School, accompanied by the school coordinators. The management expressed immense pride in this remarkable achievement, which reflects the school's unwavering commitment to promoting values-based education and student development. The achievement was especially notable, as the project honoured 42 awardees in total, with Al Nasr ranking first among all Indian schools in Qatar and third among all awardees overall. This marked the second consecutive year that Al Nasr received the honour, further underscoring its consistency and excellence.

Among the students recognised for their outstanding contribution were Muznah Amatur Rahman Shamsi of Grade 5, Al Nasr Branch, and Suaad Mohd Barakathullah of Grade 12, Oasis Branch, who were appointed as official Value Ambassadors. They were chosen as champions of values-based leadership, their commitment and contributions celebrated and recognised during the event. The recognition stands as a powerful testament to the collective efforts of the entire Loyola community, including students, staff, and parents. More than a ceremonial honour, the award reflects the school's sustained commitment to excellence, its values-driven ethos, and its growing distinction on a national platform.

www.lisqatar.com

<https://www.facebook.com/loyolainternationalqatar/>

<https://www.instagram.com/lisqatar/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6y8a19322>

Sealed-Bid Auction Announcement

Al Abdulghani Motors Company announce for a sealed bid Auction for selling a bulk quantity of Toyota and Lexus spare Parts

Interested Buyers can find the full list of items by scanning the following QR code:



For inspection and more info please contact Mr. Ernesto Francisco (50242505) Offers should be submitted to procurement department - AlAbdulghani Motors till 10/6/2026



Aspire Zone subsidiary, Qatar Foundation for Social Work sign co-operation agreement

Sports City Advertising Company, a subsidiary of Aspire Zone Foundation, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Qatar Foundation for Social Work to strengthen co-operation in social development initiatives and public awareness campaigns.

The agreement aims to leverage the company's media and advertising platforms to support community-focused programmes and social awareness initiatives, helping expand their reach and impact across Qatar.

The memorandum was signed by CEO of Sports City Advertising Company Ali Abdullah al-Muttawaa and CEO of Qatar Foundation for Social Work Rashid Mohammed al-Nuaimi.

Both organisations said the partnership reflects a shared commitment to promoting social responsibility, raising public awareness and supporting national efforts to build a more informed and cohesive society through strategic collaboration and effective communication platforms. (QNA)

QF schools champion inclusive education, diverse pathways

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Qatar Foundation (QF) schools continue to champion inclusive education and academic excellence, providing students from diverse backgrounds with multiple pathways to graduation, senior officials said at yesterday's graduation event.

Mehdi Benchaabane, vice president, Pre-University Education (PUE), QF told the Gulf Times that QF's educational ecosystem is very diverse and unique and the most remarkable thing is the inclusive cohort of students.

Benchaabane said: "We have students who range from STEM graduates all the way to students with special needs with students from all walks of life. So we are an inclusive ecosystem and we make sure that we give an option to every student who walks into our schools."

According to the official, another special feature of QF PUE is the availability of multiple pathways to graduation. "Some of our schools offer the international baccalaureate diploma. We also have the international baccalaureate career pathway which is a vocational pathway. We have a high school diploma programme - a high school diploma with advanced placement and other programmes as well," he explained.

Benchaabane noted that most graduates are pursuing higher education at various universities in Qatar and abroad.



Vijita Patel PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

"Students are still looking for their confirmation in universities but usually in the previous years, we have about 40% of the students who choose to travel abroad and 60% who stay in Qatar and I think this trend will continue this year too. Since the Covid-19 years, the number of students who stay in Qatar has grown significantly," he continued.

The vice president said that QF encourages students to pursue a broad range of academic specialisations. "Beyond academic achievement, the organisation places strong emphasis on preserving cultural identity, promoting national values, and developing bilingual proficiency both in Arabic and English. We want our students to be academically successful, rooted in their culture, and capable of engaging with both local and global issues," the official said.

According to him, leadership development is another corner-



Mehdi Benchaabane

stone of the Qatar Foundation educational model, as students are introduced to the principles of service leadership from an early age, learning to identify community needs and contribute positively to society.

Meanwhile, Vijita Patel, executive director, Pre-University Education QF, specialising in inclusion, special educational needs and neurodiversity, highlighted that a spirit of inclusion and achievement marked the graduation ceremony as students from mainstream and special needs schools celebrated their accomplishments together in a unified event.

Having spent the previous 25 years working in the United Kingdom, and with her first graduation event at Qatar Foundation, Patel said the event highlighted QF's commitment to developing students academically, socially, and emotionally.

"It's really incredible to feel a unified graduation," she said.

"What is fantastic is that we are able to observe the way the characteristics of our students are developed and celebrate not only their academic achievements but also their social and emotional growth."

"The ceremony brought together graduates from diverse educational backgrounds, reflecting a shared focus on equipping young people with the interpersonal and life skills needed to succeed in a global society," she continued.

Patel explained that students requiring specialised educational support are identified through close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and health partners, including Sidra Medicine and other government healthcare institutions.

She stated: "These partnerships help create personalised learning pathways supported by integrated therapeutic and clinical expertise. As more than 400 students graduating this year, 72 are from the special needs school. Many of them are expected to pursue higher education, vocational training programmes, or foundation courses designed to prepare them for university study."

"It is a very strong unified group of graduates. There is not a label of special needs on any of the graduates. They are holistically developed, and you can feel their self-confidence, their identity, and the way they recognise their culture and heritage alongside their peers from mainstream education," added Patel.

Al Jazeera Institute to launch Public Relations Diploma course on June 6

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Al Jazeera Media Institute in Doha will launch its Public Relations Diploma programme on June 6, bringing together professionals seeking to enhance their skills in corporate communication and modern public relations.

The diploma offers a range of specialised modules combining theoretical and practical aspects, under the supervision of a select group of trainers and experts in the field. The programme begins with a module on planning public relations campaigns, led by trainer Ali al-Ajmi, from June 6 to 8.

This will be followed by a module on image-building and reputation management, led by Ahmed Selim Yildiz, from June 9 to 11. The programme continues with a module on corporate

communication skills, presented by Dr Mustafa al-Qadi from June 13 to 17.

Crisis management will be addressed by Dr Abdullah Jawdat from June 18 to 22, and protocol and etiquette will be presented by Saed al-Aida from June 23 to 27.

The diploma programme concludes with a session on conference and event organisation led by Dr Samir al-Shamila from June 28-30, followed by a session on writing for public relations with Amjad al-Shaltouni from July 1 to 4, and then a session on media presence presented by journalist and media personality Zain al-Abidin Tawfiq from July 5-9.

The diploma, which the institute has been offering for over 14 years, aims to equip participants with specialised practical tools to help them manage corporate communications effectively.



Fire Station artists' building in Doha.

Fire Station to host talk on collective memory of cities

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

In the fast-paced and evolving world of today, several cities have undergone rapid urban transformation. Such has been the pace of transformation that when one looks back at the contrast between the past and the present, it evokes a sense of nostalgia, bringing a myriad of memories.

An event along these lines is being organised in Doha - "Fire Station: Artist in Residence" will bring together artists, educators and cultural leaders for a panel discussion titled "How Do Cities with Modern Urban Environments Preserve Their Memory?" on June 8. The discussion will explore how modern urban centres preserve their collective memory and cultural identity.

The event at the Fire Station Theatre forms part of the institution's ongoing efforts to foster cultural and intellectual dialogue on issues related to cities and identity. It will also explore how collective memory is shaped not only through historical landmarks and monuments, but also through cul-

tural institutions, archives, artistic practices and shared narratives that contribute to a community's sense of identity.

Panelists will also discuss how cities such as Doha are documenting and shaping their cultural histories while creating new forms of collective memory through a range of cultural, artistic and educational initiatives that will influence future generations.

The discussion will feature artist, educator and Gubgub Studios co-founder Hameed M Abu-Futaim; Isabella Rosen, head of programmes for the Rural Exhibition at the National Museum of Qatar; and Dr Thomas Modin, director of Qatar Vocational High School for Creative Industries. The session will be moderated by Tirdad Zolghadr, curator of Academic Engagement Programmes at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art.

The event is part of a broader series of cultural programmes designed to enrich public discourse on the role of cultural and artistic institutions in documenting collective memory, preserving urban heritage and deepening understanding of how cities evolve over time.

QOA pioneers AI training for sports leaders

The Qatar Olympic Academy (QOA) has launched and delivered the country's first Generative AI for Sports Leaders course in partnership with Google Cloud, equipping sports professionals with the skills needed to harness artificial intelligence in an increasingly technology-driven industry.

The pioneering programme marks a significant step in the digital transformation of the country's sports sector, introducing executives, administrators and decision-makers to the growing role of generative AI in shaping the future of sport.

Participants explored how AI can be applied across a range of functions, including strategic planning, fan engagement, marketing and communications, event management, athlete support, organisational innovation and data-driven decision-making.

Through interactive workshops, practical demonstrations and real-world case studies, attendees gained hands-on experience with advanced AI tools and learned how emerging technologies can improve efficiency, creativity and performance within sports organisations.

QOA managing director Khaled al-Jabir described the initiative as an important milestone in preparing sports leaders for the future.

"AI is transforming industries around the world, and sport is no exception," he said. "Through our partnership with Google Cloud, we are proud to be the first institution in Qatar to offer a specialised programme that enables sports leaders to understand,



adopt and utilise generative AI responsibly and effectively."

The course forms part of the Academy's broader efforts to promote innovation, digital transformation and continuous professional development across the sports ecosystem. By integrating emerging technolo-

gies into executive education, QOA aims to strengthen its position as a regional centre for sports education and leadership development.

Google Cloud contributed expertise on the latest advancements in AI, providing participants with insights into practical applications, global best practices and emerging trends expected to influence the future of the sports industry.

The initiative also supports Qatar's wider ambitions to build a knowledge-based economy while

reinforcing its reputation as a global hub for sport and innovation.

Prof Dalia Farrag, academic expert at QOA, said AI is rapidly changing how sports organisations operate and engage with stakeholders.

"AI continues to transform the way sports organisations operate, engage audiences and create value. Initiatives such as the Generative AI for Sports Leaders course will play a crucial role in developing the next generation of digitally empowered sports leaders," she said.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, KAMAL UDDIN AYUB ALI
holder of

BANGLADESH Passport No. A19811896
QID No. 29205021123

hereby change my name

from

KAMAL UDDIN AYUB ALI

to

MD KAMAL UDDIN

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ABU NIAM SABUJ
holder of

BANGLADESH Passport No. A21272558
QID No. 28705012126

hereby change my name

from

ABU NIAM SABUJ

to

ABU NAIM SABUJ

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, KIRILL DENSHCHIKOV
holder of

Russia Passport No. 765808602
QID No. 31064300043

hereby change my name

from

KIRILL DENSHCHIKOV

to

KIRILL DENIZLI

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

Juvenile Police hosts its Omani counterparts



The Juvenile Police Department hosted a delegation from the Juvenile Police Unit of the Royal Oman Police as part of efforts to strengthen security co-operation and exchange expertise among security agencies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The delegation was received by Director of the Juvenile Police Department, Brig. Mohammed Mubarak Al Shafi. The Omani delegation was headed by Assistant Commander of the Juvenile Police Unit Lt. Col. Khalid bin Khamis Al Siyabi. During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the department's operating mechanisms and its approved prevention and awareness programs. (QNA)

In a step that reflects Qatar’s rapid urban development and real estate growth Ariane Real Estate Celebrates the Official Opening and Handover of Residential Units at “La Verde – Lusail”



The inauguration of La Verde reflects our commitment to delivering exceptional projects that keep pace with Qatar’s comprehensive urban renaissance.

In a celebratory atmosphere reflecting a new milestone in Qatar’s urban development and real estate sector, Ariane Real Estate officially inaugurated and handed over the residential units of its “La Verde – Lusail” project. The event was attended by officials, partners, media representatives, and homeowners, marking an important achievement in the company’s ongoing development journey and expanding portfolio of projects.

The event celebrated the completion of one of the company’s modern residential developments in Lusail City, which has become a contemporary urban model combining quality of life, modern design, and a prime location. The project reflects the latest trends in real estate development and aligns with Qatar’s accelerating urban growth.

On this occasion, Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer of SK Real Estate, Ariane Real Estate, and Ariane Assets, stated:

“The inauguration of La Verde – Lusail and the handover of its residential units represent a true embodiment of our commitment to delivering exceptional real estate developments that enhance urban living standards and support Qatar’s comprehensive urban transformation. We are proud to fulfill our promises to our clients and partners and remain dedicated to setting new benchmarks for innovation and sustainability in the real estate sector in line with the country’s future vision.”

The company emphasized during the ceremony that La Verde is not merely a new residential development but rather a comprehensive vision aimed at redefining modern living by combining comfort, elegance, sustainability, and high-quality services within an integrated residential environment that caters to both individuals and families.



Sheikh Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani

The event featured guided tours of the project, allowing guests and media representatives to explore its facilities, interior designs, and technical specifications. Attendees also met with several homeowners who expressed their satisfaction with receiving their units and becoming part of a modern residential community in the heart of Lusail City.

Strategically located opposite Place Vendôme Mall, one of Qatar’s leading retail and entertainment destinations, La Verde offers residents a fully integrated lifestyle that combines upscale living with easy access to essential services and amenities.



The development comprises more than 540 residential units with a variety of contemporary designs, built to the highest standards of quality and modern finishing. It also includes more than 20 retail outlets serving residents and visitors alike. The project covers a total land area of over 6,096 square meters, with a built-up area exceeding 4,069 square meters.

La Verde also features a comprehensive range of lifestyle amenities, including a fully equipped gym, a modern swimming pool, recreational and communal spaces, a landscaped children’s play area, a luxurious lobby and reception area, and thoughtfully designed interiors that provide residents with the highest levels of comfort and sophistication.

The company noted that the project was designed to create a true sense of home, with meticulous attention

given to every architectural and service detail, from space planning to premium views. Some units overlook landscaped gardens and open spaces, while others enjoy direct views of Place Vendôme Mall, offering residents an exceptional living experience in one of Qatar’s most vibrant and rapidly growing destinations.

In this context, Ariane Real Estate explained that La Verde reflects the company’s philosophy of developing projects that combine contemporary design with a forward-looking vision, while maintaining excellence in execution and attention to everyday living needs. The company believes that real estate development extends beyond constructing buildings to creating sustainable and integrated communities.

The company further stated that La Verde forms part of an ongoing expansion strategy through which



it plans to deliver four projects during 2026, reinforcing its presence in Qatar’s real estate market and offering high-quality developments that meet the aspirations of clients and investors while supporting the country’s urban growth.

Ariane affirmed that it will continue its journey toward a more innovative, sustainable, and impactful future under the umbrella of SK Holding and with an executive leadership that balances ambition with capability, further strengthening the company’s position as one of the leading names in Qatar’s real estate sector.

The company also stressed that the inauguration and handover ceremony was not merely a celebratory occasion but a declaration of a new phase of institutional organization and operational development, reflecting its commitment to quality, trust, and sustainability across all current and future projects.

It highlighted that true development goes beyond constructing buildings and residential units; it also involves building trust with clients, strengthening relationships with the market, and creating an urban legacy that reflects Qatar’s ambitions and vision for sustainable urban development.

In conclusion, the company stated that La Verde – Lusail marks the beginning of a new residential community that combines modernity, quality living, and an exceptional location. Ariane expressed its appreciation for the trust of its clients, partners, and all parties involved in the project’s successful completion and reaffirmed its commitment to delivering real estate developments that elevate the standards of living and investment opportunities in Qatar.

The company also called upon media outlets and digital platforms to continue highlighting distinguished national projects that contribute to urban development and enhance quality of life, in line with Qatar’s future vision and the remarkable progress being witnessed across the sector.



MoT launches updated Qatar Bicycle Master Plan

QNA
Doha

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) has announced the launch of the updated version of the Qatar Bicycle Master Plan -- an integrated package of plans, policies, and regulations that will guide the development of cycling and micromobility, aiming at improving safety, enhancing facilities, and creating a sustainable, connected, and integrated transportation system to meet existing and future needs.

The updated QBMP responds to the requirements of accelerating population and urban growth and keeps pace with world developments in modern mobility modes, thereby providing safe, sustainable and efficient mobility options and

improving the quality of life.

The completion of the updated version of the QBMP was the result of a collective effort of government entities, the private sector, and academia and research institutions, who comprehensively examined and assessed more than 1500km of existing bike routes: 937km of standalone routes and 561km of routes connected to pedestrian tracks.

They also conducted more than 5000 interview surveys across Qatar on micromobility devices and how to encourage usability, held more than 120 technical meetings with stakeholders, and reviewed more than 60 national and international documents and best international practices.

Status quo analysis shows that 19% of the population owns bicycles or a micromobility device

and they use it in at least 1% of their daily trips. That said, the QBMP focuses on enhancing the use of bicycles in daily movement or as a device for sports or recreation, safely and sustainably, and regulating the use of other innovative micromobility devices by putting together a master plan to develop the necessary infrastructure, facilities, and routes.

The updated QBMP includes adding more than 3800km of bike routes, constructing more than 110km of grade-separated crossings, and establishing 7 mega amenity hubs to serve and support bike and e-scooter users. It also includes launching 17 policies, 18 schemes, 348 supporting measures, a Qatar Bike Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide (QBIG) that provides guidelines for planning and designing safe,

sustainable, and efficient bicycle and micromobility networks and facilities, and a GIS comprehensive geodata base that will include existing inventory, future schemes and maps along with supporting layers recommended for the GIS Portal.

"The QBMP embodies the MoT's commitment to developing an integrated, safe, resilient, and sustainable transportation system that provides easy access to various vital destinations and supports the transition to more efficient and environmentally friendly modes of transportation," said MoT's Assistant Undersecretary for Land Transport Affairs Eng Abdullah Seif al-Sulaiti.

He added that the QBMP is aligned with the MoT's Strategy and the objectives of the Qatar 3rd National Development Strategy



(2024-2030), and supports the pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030 by contributing to reducing carbon emissions, improving quality of life and public health, supporting sustainable economic development, and enhancing the efficiency of the transport network.

"The Ministry," he said, "is keen to coordinate with partners to activate QBMP's implementation

mechanism by preparing an integrated phased program (short, medium, and long term), with clear project priorities and performance indicators to measure progress and impact, ensuring the effective and sustainable implementation of the plan, with continuous monitoring of performance and updating of plans in accordance with future changes.

9 killed in southern Lebanon as Israel, Hezbollah exchange blows

AFP
Beirut

Lebanon's Hezbollah said it had attacked troops in northern Israel yesterday as Israeli strikes killed at least nine people in southern Lebanon, dampening hopes for an end to the cycle of violence.

US President Donald Trump announced Monday that he had brokered a deal that Lebanon said would halt Israeli attacks on Beirut and Hezbollah attacks on Israeli territory, before expanding in scope. Since then, Israel has said it has Washington's backing to strike Beirut's southern suburbs -- a Hezbollah stronghold -- if the group targets northern Israeli communities.

The Israeli military said yesterday that it intercepted a "hostile aircraft" and two projectiles that crossed into Israeli territory from Lebanon. Hezbollah, for its part, said that "in response to the Israeli enemy army's violation of the ceasefire", its fighters targeted soldiers in northern Israel with a rocket barrage.

A truce to halt the fighting in Lebanon was meant to take hold on April 17, but has never been observed, with both sides justifying their ongoing attacks by the other's alleged violations.

Senior Hezbollah official Mahmud Qomati had told AFP on Tuesday that the group would "not accept a partial ceasefire".

Despite the ongoing fighting, Israeli and Lebanese diplomats were to hold a second day of direct talks in Washington. They are part of a fourth round of talks since the fighting erupted on March 2, when Hezbollah entered the Middle East war on the side of its backer Iran with rocket fire at Israel.

Hezbollah is sharply opposed to the direct negotiations.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he hoped the negotiations would produce "an action plan".

Speaking ahead of the talks, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin



Smoke rising in Marjayoun after an Israeli strike that targeted the village of Kfar Tibnit yesterday. (AFP)

Netanyahu told US broadcaster CNBC that he and Trump shared the goal "to disarm Hezbollah and... to demilitarise Lebanon".

He said the group "puts all the citizens of Lebanon at gunpoint and uses Lebanon as a platform to launch terror missiles into our cities". Among the Israeli strikes yesterday was one targeting a car on the main highway out of the capital, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) said.

The NNA also reported strikes on more than 20 locations in the south, some after Israel's military warned residents of several villages to evacuate.

The health ministry said an Israeli attack on Al-Hawsh near the city of Tyre killed four Syrians and two Palestinians.

But an Israeli military spokesperson told AFP's Jerusalem bureau that "we are not aware of any such attack having occurred in the area". The Lebanese health ministry said an Israeli strike elsewhere in the south targeted an ambu-

lance, killing two paramedics from the Risala Scouts Association, which is affiliated with Hezbollah's ally the Amal movement.

The ministry circulated images of a badly damaged ambulance, with medical masks spilling out of the vehicle and scattered on the road. At least 130 emergency and health workers have been killed since the fighting began.

Lebanon's army said a soldier was also killed in an Israeli strike, while an officer and a soldier were wounded in a separate attack on a military vehicle. The force denounced what it called Israel's "deliberate targeting of army personnel, vehicles and positions".

On Tuesday, Israel's military alleged that Hezbollah members were operating in Tyre's Christian quarter and said it would warn people to leave should the group remain there.

An AFP correspondent said the situation in Tyre was relatively calm yesterday morning, adding that some people who had been

sleeping in cars or tents at the edge of the Christian quarter left for other parts of the city.

A petition calling for Tyre to be declared an "open city" free of any armed presence and urging Lebanon's military to deploy there has garnered more than 180 signatures, including local lawyers and intellectuals.

Hezbollah has a strong presence in Tyre, and some signatories have since been attacked on social media for their stance.

More than 200 people have signed a similar petition concerning Nabatieh, another large south Lebanon city that has come under Israeli attack. Israel has recently escalated its attacks and is staging its deepest ground offensive into Lebanon in two decades.

Tehran has insisted that any deal to end the wider Middle East war include Lebanon, saying earlier this week that Israel's expanding campaign there threatened a separate weeks-long US-Iran ceasefire in the Gulf.

Arab countries condemn attacks on Kuwait, Bahrain

The Iranian attacks on critical civilian facilities in Kuwait and Bahrain drew the opprobrium of Arab organizations and nations, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

The statements from leaders and foreign ministries unequivocally rejected the latest attacks, which compromise the sovereignty of the Gulf nations in an open flouting of international law and the UN Charter.

The Arab entities further reemphasised that such abuses gnaw away at global efforts to restore security and stability in the region. They demanded that the international community and the Security Council pursue a resolute and prompt position to halt these grave violations and prevent their recurrence, in pursuit of maintaining regional and global security and peace.

The Arab League vehemently decried these egregious Iranian attacks using ballistic missiles.

These gratuitous attacks on civilian objects and critical infrastructure like Kuwait International Airport, which claimed human lives and inflicted gross material damage, are a grave escalation, Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit said in a statement yesterday.

He demanded that the Iranian side immediately and unconditionally cease these unprovoked assaults and desist from the policy of provocation and escalation that is haunting regional security and stability.

For his part, GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi stressed that he vehemently condemns the relentless Iranian acts of aggression against these two nations, explaining that these cowardly attacks on civilian objects, infrastructure, and diplomatic premises amount to an unprecedented and perilous escalation. This aggression, Al-Budaiwi insisted, demonstrates the determination of the Iranian regime to pursue unacceptable belligerent policies that target the security of the GCC nations, as well as their stability and sovereignty. These acts, Al-Budaiwi stressed, necessitate a resolute global stance that puts an end to the dangerous bellicose practices of Iran.

The security of Bahrain and Kuwait is part and parcel of GCC security, and the Gulf nations, Al-Budaiwi said, reemphasising that the two nations have the backing of the GCC nations.

President of the Arab Parliament Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Yamahi denounced these reprehensible attacks. Attacking the passenger terminal at Kuwait's airport with UAVs resulted in gross material damage to that building, with some people being wounded, Al Yamahi highlighted. Al Yamahi noted that attacking civilian objects in the Kingdom of Bahrain with missiles and UAVs demonstrates the criminal nature of the Iranian regime and amounts to a dangerous escalation. (QNA)



Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Abdullah al-Sabah (2R) inspecting the damaged airport after an Iranian attack, in Kuwait City yesterday. (KUNA/AFP)

Egyptian poet behind bars for spreading fake news

An Egyptian court sentenced prominent activist and poet Ahmed Douma to a year in prison with labour for "spreading fake news" yesterday, state media Akhbar al-Youm reported.

The sentence comes nearly three years after the former political prisoner was freed by a presidential pardon in August 2023, following nearly a decade spent behind bars.

The charge of "spreading fake news" is regularly levelled against Egyptian dissidents, including activists, journalists and academics, as well as citizens who are everyday social media users.

Douma was most recently arrested in April after publishing an article on prison conditions in Egypt.

Rights group the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights said the article reflected his own experiences in prison, making imprisoning him on fake news charges "unconstitutional". Rights group PEN America called the sentence "disgraceful". (AFP)

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill 3 Palestinians

Reuters
Cairo

Israeli strikes killed three Palestinians in Gaza yesterday, health officials said, and Hamas said ending such attacks was crucial to further talks on safeguarding a US-brokered ceasefire.

Medics said one Palestinian was killed in an airstrike near the Mughraqa area in the central Gaza Strip. The Israeli military said it had struck a person acting suspiciously near forces operating in an Israeli-controlled area to remove the threat.

A separate Israeli airstrike killed two brothers -- Saqer and Moamen Khalil Abu Karim -- in the courtyard of a house in the nearby Maghazi refugee camp, medics said.

Indirect talks on implementing the second phase of the deal, which includes the group's disarmament and Israeli army withdrawals, are deadlocked. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, asked in an interview with CNBC yesterday about Hamas disarmament, said the group must disarm and that actions on that would be made with the US-led Board of Peace. "Hamas has to disarm. That's President Trump's plan," he said.

"We'll have to discuss how we get



Palestinians pour water on a destroyed vehicle at the site of an Israeli strike, in Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip on Tuesday. (Reuters)

them to do that. But one thing we make sure is they don't have arms smuggled in to arm themselves. That's number one. And number two... they're not able to launch the missiles at us," Netanyahu said.

Sources close to the talks said further negotiations had been expected this week in Egypt, but Hamas denied it had sent delegates to Cairo. A Hamas official told Reuters yesterday the group has been in

daily contact with mediators and underlined the need for Israeli attacks in Gaza to stop.

"Israel has so far rejected ending its attacks; it continues to restrict aid and goods coming into Gaza and expand its occupation, in stark violation of the ceasefire agreement," the official said. Israel says its strikes are aimed at thwarting imminent attacks. It also says it allows aid and goods to flow into Gaza.

Israel detains Palestinian national football player

AFP
Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Israeli authorities yesterday extended the detention of a player on the Palestinian women's national football team after she was summoned for questioning in Jerusalem, Palestinian officials reported.

The Palestinian Football Association (PFA) denounced the prolonged detention of 20-year-old Rand Halawani, who was arrested on Tuesday evening.

In a statement, it said Halawani's arrest and that of a former national team player was "not an isolated incident, it is part of a well-documented pattern of systematic targeting of Palestinian athletes, which continues without accountability".

According to the Palestinian governorate for Jerusalem, an Israeli court extended Halawani's detention until Friday. Israel's military also arrested former national football player Natalie Abu Diyeh, a student at Birzeit University, as well as three other young Palestinian women in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday.

The military said in a statement that the four women were suspected of "promoting terrorist activities and additional terrorist-related activities".

Birzeit University denounced the arrests as part of Israel's "systematic policies targeting Palestinian education and students' right to continue their academic journey". Bishop Imad Haddad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, to which Natalie Abu Diyeh belonged, called for her release. "We are deeply shocked and horrified by this news, as well as by the news that her family does not yet know where she has been taken," Haddad said in a statement on Tuesday.

According to the Prisoners Club, the main association for prisoners' rights in the Palestinian territories, 89 Palestinian women are currently in Israeli jails, including three minors and three pregnant women.

The Palestinian Authority-affiliated Prisoners Club announced in late May that more than 9,400 Palestinians were in Israeli jails, including Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Korea ruling party set for local election gains, exit poll shows

Reuters
Seoul

Republic of Korea's ruling Democratic Party is projected to make sweeping gains in local elections yesterday, an exit poll showed, but a close race in the key city of Busan left it unclear whether President Lee Jae-myung's party could claim a landslide victory.

Voting had largely closed in the first nationwide ballot since Lee's snap presidential election victory last year.

Voters were choosing mayors and governors in 16 cities and provinces in a contest widely seen as an assessment of Lee's first year in office, and a test of whether the conservative People Power Party can recover from the fallout of former president Yoon Suk-yeol's failed martial law bid in 2024.

An exit poll by Republic of Korea's three major broadcasters put the Democratic Party ahead in 11 of the 16 major mayoral and gubernatorial races, with the People Power Party leading in one, and four contests too close to call.



A police officer watches election officials counting the ballots for local elections in Seoul, yesterday. (Reuters)

The Democratic Party candidate was projected to win Seoul, the country's capital and biggest political prize, while the party was also ahead in Gyeonggi province and Incheon, the two other major constituencies in the greater Seoul area.

But Busan, Republic of Korea's second-largest city and a conservative stronghold, was rated too close to call, with the Democratic and People Power Party candidates in a tight race, the exit poll showed.

Polls before the election showed Lee had scored high marks for a

pragmatic focus on pocketbook issues, corporate governance reforms and a stock rally that has pushed the benchmark KOSPI to repeated records, while government spending has helped offset high energy prices, analysts say.

Critics, however, say his administration has struggled to contain housing pressures and accuse him of using the courts and parliament to shield himself and allies from criminal cases.

A decisive Democratic Party victory would strengthen Lee's mandate to continue pro-mar-

ket, activist fiscal policies and his conciliatory diplomatic posture towards North Korea, though analysts do not expect big policy changes after the vote.

Parliamentary by-elections were also held alongside the local contests.

In a closely watched race in Pyeongtaek, south of Seoul, Rebuilding Korea Party leader Cho Kuk and the People Power Party and Democratic Party candidates were in a three-way contest, according to the exit poll.

In Busan's Buk-A district, Democratic candidate Ha Jung-woo was projected to have 42.6% of votes against independent Han Dong-hoon, a former People Power Party leader, at 41.6%, putting the race within the margin of error.

Lee's party already controls the presidency and parliament. A strong showing yesterday would give the Democratic Party its greatest concentration of political power since 2020.

The People Power Party currently controls 12 of the 16 local governments.

Official results are likely to be announced early today.

North Korea slams US general's 'dagger' remark

AFP
Seoul

North Korea slammed yesterday remarks by the top American military official in Republic of Korea comparing his host nation to "the dagger in the heart of Asia", saying it reflected Washington's strategy to contain China.

General Xavier Brunson made the comments in an interview as speculation builds that Washington may seek to expand the US Forces Korea (USFK) role in countering China's regional influence.

About 28,500 US troops are stationed in Republic of Korea to help guard against the nuclear-armed North.

The state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) published commentary by analyst Kim Myong-chol who said Brunson's remarks showed the US as "the chieftain of harassing peace and the world's worst war empire".

The comments reflected how Washington intended to use Republic of Korea "as an important geopolitical instrument to realign its regional strategy aimed at containing China," said Kim, who is based in Japan and con-

sidered an unofficial overseas spokesman for North Korea.

China has for decades been Pyongyang's main trading partner and a key source of diplomatic and economic backing.

Seoul's presidential office said at the weekend that it was aware of Brunson's remarks and has been "maintaining communication at various levels regarding all relevant issues".

Local media outlets including News1 and JTBC reported that Seoul has raised concerns with the United States.

USFK commander Brunson said in the interview, "When (the Chinese) look out from the east coast of China, what they see is there's Korea, the dagger in the heart of Asia."

Brunson also compared Japan to a "shield that's sort of a backstop" against China's regional ambitions, according to a transcript posted by the Strategic Studies Institute of the US Army War College.

Beijing's embassy in Seoul last week condemned the remarks as having "truly crossed the line" and "rife with hostility and aggression toward China", asking whether they were authorised by Washington.

New Delhi hotel blaze kills 21, including foreigners

AFP
New Delhi

A fire ripped through a hotel in New Delhi yesterday, killing at least 21 people, many of them foreign nationals, police and local media said.

Building fires are common in India due to a lack of firefighting equipment and routine disregard for safety regulations.

The fire broke out in the morning at Flourish Stay, a bed-and-breakfast in a congested neighbourhood in the south of the city, Delhi Police said in a statement.

"It is with profound sorrow that 21 persons have been declared dead in this tragic incident," police said.

Several of those killed were foreigners, mainly from Central Asia and Africa, the Press Trust of India news agency reported, quoting unnamed officials.

Many of them had come to the city for medical treatment, according to local media reports.

Authorities said more than 40 people were taken to hospitals for treatment.

Eight were in a critical condi-



Forensics team members take photographs of the site following a fire that broke out at a hotel in New Delhi yesterday. (AFP)

tion, according to a statement by a nearby hospital.

Indian television channels showed flames leaping from the building and thick plumes of black smoke rising into the sky.

Some 47 guests were in the hotel when the fire broke out, local lawmaker Satish Upadhyay told reporters.

Locals rushed to the site, as firefighters worked to douse the blaze

and ambulances arrived to transport the injured.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the deaths "tragic".

"My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones," his office said in a statement.

Some reports suggested the hotel had just one door for entry and exit and lacked proper ventilation.

"An inquiry will be conducted, and anyone who has broken norms

and is responsible will be immediately arrested," Upadhyay said.

Some people trapped on the upper floors of the building jumped onto mattresses laid out by the street outside, said eyewitnesses.

"We got mattresses from a nearby bedding shop because people needed to be rescued," Mohammad Anees, a local resident, told AFP.

"Once the mattresses were laid out, five women jumped from the building and landed safely on them."

The blaze was eventually brought under control with the help of eight fire engines, police said.

The cause of the fire, one of the deadliest blazes in the Indian capital in recent years, was not immediately clear.

Electrical short circuits, often caused by poorly maintained wiring, remain the leading cause of fire incidents in India.

In March, a fire at a government-run hospital in eastern India killed 10 critically ill patients.

The last major fire incident in Delhi killed 43 factory workers sleeping in a building in the city's old quarter in 2019.



Indian Youth Congress party workers hold placards of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during a protest against National Testing Agency (NTA) over the alleged exam paper leak and subsequent rescheduling of National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) in Mumbai. (AFP)

India removes exam chief over marking fiasco

AFP
New Delhi

Indian authorities have removed top education bosses from the exam board after marking failures in tests taken by nearly 2mn high school students sparked outrage and calls for protests.

The controversy, after the board acknowledged cybersecurity vulnerabilities in a digital marking system, is the latest to rock India's examination system, sparking mounting criticism of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

The board's chairman Rahul Singh and secretary Himanshu Gupta were transferred to other government departments, according to an order issued late Tuesday.

Anger at the CBSE erupted last month when 19-year-old cybersecurity researcher Nisaraga Adhikary alleged that weaknesses in a new marking system could compromise grading.

Around 1.8mn students took the CBSE 12th grade examination this year, the final test before graduating.

The CBSE said the online marking system, deployed this year, was aimed at increasing "accuracy and efficiency" of results.

But many students said it had assigned incorrect grades or is-

sued results to the wrong students.

The CBSE said it has "contained" vulnerabilities identified and launched a re-evaluation portal for students complaining of incorrect grades.

But anger has mounted. Young Indians are pressing for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Sonam Wangchuk, 59, a prominent activist from India's Ladakh region, who spent six months in detention after being arrested in September following deadly protests demanding autonomy for the Himalayan territory, has said he will join the protests.

The controversy follows a separate examination scandal last month, when authorities scrapped the nationwide medical college entrance exam after investigators uncovered a question paper leak.

Indian media reported suicides of teenagers following the fiasco over the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET), one of the country's most competitive exams and attracting millions of candidates.

The exam has been rescheduled for later this month.

India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested the "kingpin" it alleged was behind the leak, naming him as a chemistry lecturer involved in the examination process on behalf of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Marcos urges Senate to return to work as gridlock deepens

Reuters
Manila

Philippine President Marcos Jr called on the Senate to "get back to work," expressing disbelief yesterday that an impasse in the upper chamber has stalled urgent legislative duties ahead of a congressional break.

The Senate has been paralysed by a widening divide between the majority and minority blocs after the latter called on Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano to resign. No plenary sessions have been held in the past two days after members of the majority skipped attendance.

"It's a very, very sad situation to have to watch. The country needs assistance. People need assistance. How can we provide that assistance without the proper legislation to back it up?" Marcos told reporters, saying the government was considering submitting a supplemental budget to combat rising energy prices.

"These events that we have been witnessing have thrown the Senate and its leadership, the whole Senate, into disarray. It has discredited the leadership, and it has stopped the essential business of legislation in government," said Marcos, in a rare inter-



Philippine Senator Sherwin Gatchalian presides as Senate Pro Tempore during the plenary session at the Senate of the Philippines in Pasay, Metro Manila yesterday. (AFP)

vention into legislative affairs.

Cayetano's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In a video on Facebook, he said the Senate has told the president's office it was ready to take up priority bills, but said the executive branch was not prepared. On calls for his resignation, he said if the minority bloc secured more support they could vote him out. The breakdown began last month when Senator Ronald

"Bato" dela Rosa, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court, reappeared after months out of public view to cast a decisive vote to install Cayetano as president of the chamber just as it was to receive an impeachment complaint against Vice-President Sara Duterte. Dela Rosa then slipped away early on May 14, hours after chaos and gunfire erupted following an appeal for help, claiming that his arrest was imminent.

Record number of climbers scale Everest this season: official

AFP
Kathmandu

More than one thousand climbers reached the summit of Mount Everest this season, officials said yesterday, making it the busiest season on record.

Climbers and officials said that a wide summit window - a period of stable weather that allows safe attempts - contributed to a surge of successful ascents.

"More than a thousand climbers reached the summit this season, but the final number will have to be verified," Nepal's tourism department official Himal Gautam told AFP.

The Himalayan Database says the most ascents of Everest in a

single season was achieved in 2019, when 877 claimed success.

The total number of successful summits will be tallied after the climbs are verified, which require photographs and statements from the climber's expedition company and guides.

At least five people have died this season - two Indians and three Nepali climbers involved in Everest preparations. Another Nepali guide is missing after he vanished during his descent from the summit.

The world's highest peak, which straddles the Nepal-China border, can be scaled from either Nepal or the northern face in Tibet. But China closed its route this year.

Nepal had issued a record 494 Everest permits for foreigners this season, with a city of tents

springing up at the foot of the mountain for climbers and support staff.

On May 21 alone, an estimated 275 climbers reached the summit of the 8,849-metre (29,032-foot) Himalayan peak, marking the busiest single day on the southern side.

On that day, climbers waiting to summit were seen in photographs standing in line on the icy heights.

The season began with fears of delay after a serac - a block of glacial ice - blocked the way, but Nepali climbers established an alternative route.

"It was a challenging start and we were worried what would happen if we couldn't open the route," Lakpa Sherpa of 8K Expeditions, who had 80 clients and

guides on the top of Everest this season, said yesterday.

"But teamwork made it possible and we now have a very successful season with low fatality."

Guides also said that improved logistics and technology - including access to the internet - made climbing safer.

Multiple records were broken this season, including that for the highest number of summits by Nepali guide Kami Rita Sherpa, who celebrated his 32nd summit.

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 10 highest peaks and welcomes hundreds of adventurers each spring.

A climbing boom has made mountaineering a lucrative business since Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa made the first ascent in 1953.



Mountaineers climbing a slope lined up during their ascent from the Hillary Step to summit Mount Everest in Nepal. (AFP)

Ukraine pushed Russia back in May for second month running

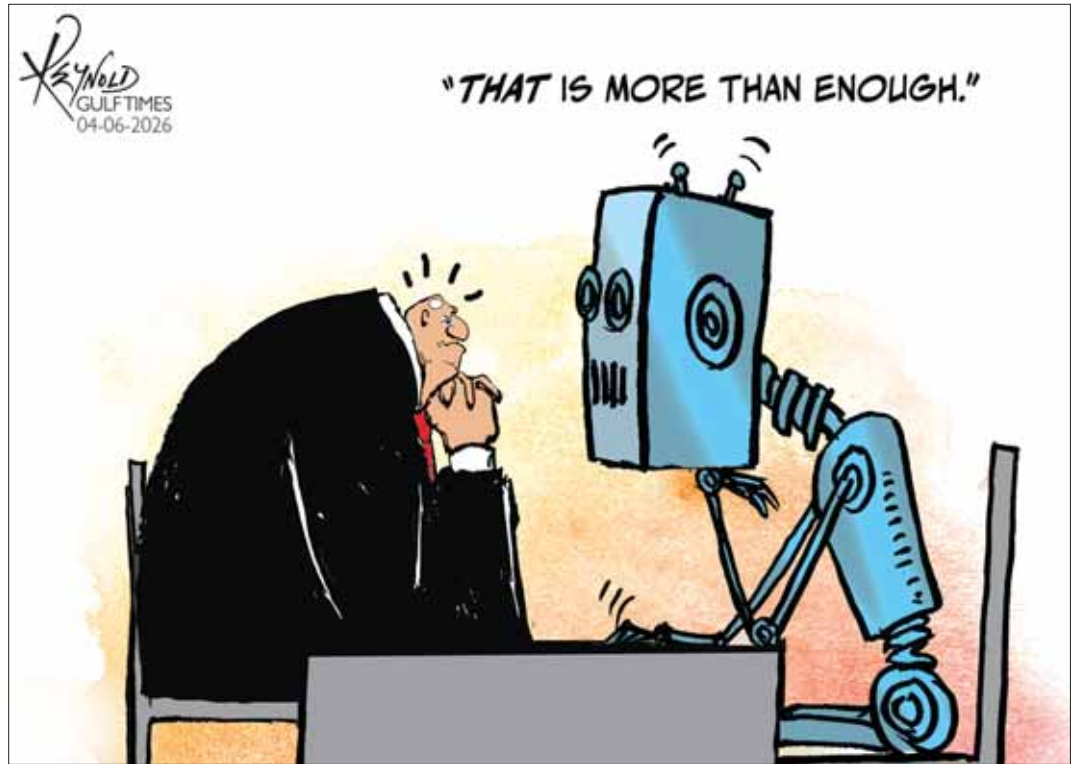
Ukraine recaptured more territory than it lost to Russian forces in May for the second straight month, AFP analysis of data from the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) showed. Ukraine's army gained a net 282 sq km over the month, according to the analysis, as Kyiv hails its improving fortunes on the sprawling battlefield across the south and east of the country.

The pace of Russia's advance has been slowing since late 2025, hobbled by the increasing effectiveness of Ukraine's frontline and mid-range drone strikes, the ISW said. Moscow had lost control of around 120 sq km in April, the first month in which its forces gave up more ground than they captured for two and a half years. However, Russian soldiers are still infiltrated in most of the areas where Ukraine has retaken territory, the ISW said. The Russian army regularly sends small groups of soldiers to take up positions along parts of the front line and hide there — a tactic designed to pave the way for larger groups of troops to advance later.

Ukraine's gains in April and May — around 403 sq km in total — remain marginal, representing around 0.4% of the total territory held by Russia. But they

nevertheless point to a positive trend for Kyiv, which has touted itself as having recently gained the upper hand in the four-year conflict. "Ukraine's successful mid-range and frontline drone strike campaigns are limiting Russia's ability to transport personnel to the frontline and to supply and sustain frontline positions," the ISW reported last week. Most of Ukraine's gains were in the eastern Donetsk region, which Russia claims as its own and is fighting to capture in full, and in the southern Zaporizhzhia region. The estimates exclude advances claimed by Russia but that the ISW has neither confirmed nor denied.

The ISW works with the Critical Threats Project, part of the American Enterprise Institute, another US think tank specialising in conflict analysis. Moscow occupies just over 19% of Ukraine. That includes around seven percent — Crimea and parts of the industrial Donbas region — that was already under Russian or pro-Russian separatist control before the February 2022 invasion. Most of Russia's advances were made during the first weeks of the conflict. Hundreds of thousands have been killed and millions forced from their homes since Russia invaded in February 2022. — AFP



Don't trade away this chance for peace

By Jamil K Mroue



In the summer of 1982, as Israeli shells fell on a besieged Beirut, a seasoned Lebanese statesman named Saeb Salam offered a thought that has outlived him. A chance for peace, he warned, must never be treated as a commodity — something to be hoarded, haggled over or sold to the highest bidder. Opportunities of that kind do not sit on a shelf, waiting to be bought back later. They appear, and then they are gone.

Four decades on, Lebanon and its neighbours are living through an eerie echo of that moment. The cast has changed, and so has the condition of the country, but the test is the same. Once again a window has opened amid the wreckage, and once again the temptation is to trade it away. This time the decision rests in several hands at once: an American president, an Israeli public, the armed movement that calls itself the resistance and its patron in Tehran, and the Lebanese who are angrily demanding a sovereignty their country lost with the Cairo Agreement of 1969. Mr Salam's warning should be lost on none of them.

Consider each in turn, for all are caught in the same crisis — one that deepened the day Binyamin Netanyahu drew the United States into open war with Iran.

Begin with Donald Trump. His decision to go to war was poorly weighed, and it has pushed the world towards the edge of a catastrophe that would spare no one. The poorest states — those with weak governments, fragile economies and swelling populations — would suffer first and worst. But the wealthy democracies, already gnawed by self-doubt and a jittery, inward-looking nationalism, would not escape either. And yet a crisis is also a door. Mr Trump has the chance to vault the whole world into a calmer phase, if he grasps the plain arithmetic of cost and benefit and finally addresses the poisoned wound of the Palestinian tragedy.

The choice before him is stark. On one side lies a genuine peace between the Islamic world — the 57 member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Iran and Saudi Arabia prominent among them — and Israel and America. On the other lies capture by the most extreme faction in Israeli politics: Bezalel Smotrich, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Mr Netanyahu, whose government commands the support of fewer than two Israelis in five, and whose prime minister's personal approval has sunk below 30%. Mr Trump stands at a fork. Down one path lies a Nobel prize on steroids; down the other, the slow draining of a conflict that delivers neither victory nor

peace, and offers no horizon at all.

Turn next to the Israeli public, which has backed this war since the Hamas attack of October 7th. The conduct of the campaign since then — in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon — has revealed an ugly, unrestrained dehumanisation of Palestinians, and it is all on the record. This is hard for any nation to face. Yet a path back exists, if Israelis can absorb a single truth: that pain and humiliation are not a Jewish monopoly. Palestinians and Lebanese have their own stories of monstrous, indiscriminate revenge, and these too are written down. The bitter irony is that Jews everywhere now feel a hostility that scarcely existed before this cycle of cruelty began. Refuse the opening for peace, and violence itself becomes a commodity — bought and sold, traded back and forth — a danger as real to those who inflict it as to those who endure it. The old restraints of a pre-digital age have snapped; technology now permits, and even invites, unfettered violence in the name of revenge. It is a thoroughly unwanted condition, and a thoroughly avoidable one.

Then there is Hizbullah and its sponsor in Iran. Here the war is not without its alibi. The conduct of the Revolutionary Guards' proxies has been far less honourable than the romance of "resistance" pretends. Over the years they slid into coercive dominance — political assassinations, drug-running, smuggling and money-laundering — and traded a claim to the moral high ground for the manners of a protection racket. In Iraq, Syria and Lebanon they came to rule by fear, suspicion and bloodshed. The genuine sympathy of ordinary people, once freely given, was soiled.

And there are the Lebanese themselves, whose simple wish for an ordinary, peaceful life has been bought and sold for half a century. The highest bidder always seized the commanding heights, and the country paid the bill: an economic order broken beyond recognition, a state hollowed out, daily life infested with corruption. The savings of hundreds of thousands were wiped away, leaving those who could not flee to sink into despair, and driving abroad a whole generation of the talented and the brave. The lesson is plain. Reality demolishes the comfortable lie that the end justifies the means, for an end is nothing more than the sum of the means used to reach it.

Which returns us to Mr Salam, and to a thought worth absorbing slowly. The Chinese describe a crisis as the meeting of danger and opportunity. The danger has been the long, destructive course of war. The opportunity that comes with it must not be filed away as one more commodity — least of all at the expense of the young, who make up some 60% of a region under the age of 30. None of us should become prisoners of old people's quarrels, and none of us should bequeath to the societies of the future an inheritance of the wretched.

• The Lebanese writer is former editor of *Al-Hayat* in London and *The Daily Star* in Beirut.



An excavator clears the rubble of a building as rescuers search for victims after an Israeli airstrike that struck near a hospital in Tyre. (AFP)

Arctic rivalry and the new scramble for the north



By Rory Miller

Power transition theory is one of the most compelling concepts in geopolitics.

The international system, it argues, is organised around a dominant state whose power and preferences shape the rules of the system.

Other states have no choice but to accept this reality until they can gain enough economic and military capacity to shrink the power differential between them and the leading state.

If rising powers can achieve this and they are dissatisfied with the status quo, they will look to challenge the dominant actor on key issues.

This theory is currently being played out in the Arctic Circle, the northernmost region of the earth.

Taking advantage of the relative decline of US power, Russia, China and a host of smaller actors, including some EU states, are resisting Washington's preferences over the future of the Frozen North.

On one level, this is a matter of resources.

The Arctic contains an estimated 25-30% of the world's undiscovered natural gas reserves and 10-15% of its undiscovered oil. It is also home to massive deposits of critical minerals and rare earth elements.

Until recently, these valuable resources were often inaccessible under frozen Arctic waters and thick tundra ice.

As global warming has taken its toll, melting ice has made it easier and cheaper to build the airstrips, roads, railroads and power systems required to access, mine, transport and process these resources.

For the first time in history it is now also possible to navigate Arctic waterways all-year round. This makes investment in expensive port infrastructure more economically viable.

Uninterrupted access to Arctic sea routes also significantly reduces the cost and time it takes to ship goods between Europe and Asia.

There are eight recognised Arctic states: Canada, Greenland/Denmark, Russia, the US, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Of these, Russia has the most comprehensive Arctic strategy.

It has operated Arctic oil and gas fields for decades. In recent years, it has launched dozens of mining, transport and port projects.

As far back as 2006, Russia excluded competitors from local opportunities by blocking foreign

ownership in one of the world's largest sources of gas, the Shtokman gas field.

More recently, Moscow unilaterally declared the Northern Sea Route along the Siberian coast as internal Russian waters. To firm up this claim it has moved to introduce permits and fees for foreign vessels using these waters.

Russia has also submitted a claim to the UN to extend its sovereignty over Arctic seabed resources far beyond the standard 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

Unlike the US, which is an Arctic state because of Alaska, China has no geographic claim to the Arctic. Unfazed, Beijing has designated itself as a "Near-Arctic State". This title has no standing in international law but highlights the country's Arctic ambitions.

Like Arctic states, China has pursued a strategy of building "facts on the ground" to establish itself as a key player. This has cost an estimated \$90bn over the last decade and a half.

This has been spent on an ice-breaker fleet, oil and gas wells, mineral mines, ports and scientific research centres. Beijing has also extended the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to the Arctic. This "Polar Silk Road" connects Arctic shipping routes to key resource hubs.

The Arctic is not only an unprecedented commercial opportunity for countries willing to take advantage of climate change and Washington's weakening grip on geopolitics. It is also an increasingly important military priority.

Russia has established an Arctic Command and reopened and modernised Cold War military bases. It has also developed an Arctic warfare doctrine and invested heavily in weapons systems suitable for warfighting in this harsh environment.

China is also developing a range of military capabilities specifically intended to challenge the US and its NATO partners in the Arctic. These include space, cyber, and maritime programmes.

When President Trump told the world, "We have to have it" regarding Greenland, he was not only referring to the rich mineral deposits on the world's largest island. He was also talking about continued US dominance of the Western Hemisphere in the face of the Arctic ambitions of rising powers.

Mike Waltz, Trump's ex-national security advisor and current UN

ambassador, summed up White House thinking on Greenland, "This is about the Arctic. Russia is trying to be king...?"

Located between North America and Europe, Greenland commands the key approaches to newly accessible Arctic maritime corridors.

Greenland is already home to the Pituffik (formerly Thule) US military base. Now the Trump administration wants to expand its military presence to curtail and push back the Arctic advances of its competitors.

Despite Washington's constant criticism of its NATO partners for not pulling their weight, many play an important military role in the Arctic.

Norway has the longest Arctic coastline of any NATO member. It has invested heavily in Arctic military capabilities and lobbied for years for NATO's northern expansion.

The UK has established Camp Viking on Norway's Arctic border. Canada is investing billions on Arctic weapons and reconnaissance systems. Denmark runs the Joint Arctic Command. Finnish and Swedish entry into NATO in 2023 and 2024 respectively has also strengthened NATO's warfighting capabilities in the Arctic.

This growing East-West militarisation undermines the Arctic's long-time status — even at the height of the Cold War — as a role model for multilateral cooperation in non-sovereign territory.

More recently, bodies like the Arctic Council and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council brought together Arctic states and key non-Arctic nations to address environmental and development issues.

Some even pointed to these frameworks as potential models for cooperative governance in another increasingly explored non-sovereign territory — outer space.

But those days are over. Instead, the shrinking power gap between the US and its competitors and the growing distrust of the US amongst its long-time allies have greatly impacted the Arctic.

Above all, it has made it likely that this once remote and peaceful part of the world will become a hotspot in any future global conflict.

• The writer is Professor of International Politics and Director of the Small States and Energy Studies Programs at Georgetown University in Qatar. @RoryDavidMiller



The Arctic, Greenland. (Photo: pixabay.com)

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)

4446 6404 (Sport)

44466636 (Home delivery)

facebook.com/gulftimes

X.com/gulftimes_Qatar

instagram.com/gulftimes

youtube.com/GulftimesVideos

To Advertise: gtadv@gulf-times.com

Display: 4446 6621

Subscription: circulation@gulf-times.com

Classified: 4446 6609

gtcad@gulf-times.com

One killed, over 60 hurt as Iran attack damages Kuwait airport

From Page 1

Earlier, Iranian media reported that Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) had attacked the headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain and a US airbase, as well as a vessel identified as Panaya. US Central Command denied its bases had been hit and said Iranian ballistic missiles failed to strike their targets in the region.

IIGC however, said they did not fire at Kuwait's airport and blamed the destruction on US interceptor missiles that failed to hit their targets, according to Iranian state media. The US military said that was not accurate, and that Iranian drones targeted the airport deliberately.

CENTCOM said it had carried out a new round of "defensive strikes" in southern Iran, targeted missile launch sites and Iranian boats seeking to lay mines, and conducted strikes on Qeshm Island near the Strait of Hormuz after attempted Iranian attacks. Iranian

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi later said in a post on X that his country's armed forces were conducting "self-defence strikes on sites the US is permitted to use to attack civilian shipping and violate the ceasefire." "Any hostile act will be met with an immediate, decisive response," he added.

Since the US and Israeli strikes on Iran began on February 28, Tehran has repeatedly attacked targets in the Gulf region home to US military bases, hitting civilian and military targets.

Hostilities have occasionally flared up in recent weeks despite a ceasefire agreed in early April, as the US has pushed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a route that handled roughly a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments before the war. Last week, Iran and the US signalled progress towards a tentative initial agreement to halt the war and reopen the strait, but the two sides have yet to sign off on the deal, which would leave more complex negotiations for later.

Mohsen Rezaei, military adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, said Iran would not allow the US to "overreach" either in negotiations or ceasefire arrangements.

In a post on X, he warned that any aggression would be met with a barrage of missiles and drones.

Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the United Arab Emirates president, said repeated attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain required a firm and cohesive Gulf response. "The aggression does not target one country alone, but all of us," he wrote on X.

Since mid-March, Trump has repeatedly said he is close to a deal to end the fighting and pave the way for negotiations on thorny issues including the future of Iran's nuclear program.

In a podcast interview released yesterday, Trump said Iran had agreed to not have a nuclear weapon and that Khamenei was involved in negotiations.

Yesterday, Israeli drone strikes killed at least six people in southern

Lebanon and targeted a car just south of Beirut, Lebanese security sources said, while Israel said it intercepted a hostile aircraft likely fired by Hezbollah. There was no immediate response from the Israeli military to Reuters questions about the drone strikes, but the attack on the car appeared to mark the closest attack to Beirut since Trump asked Israel not to hit the Lebanese capital, under a US-mediated partial ceasefire announced on Monday. In his podcast comments, Trump acknowledged having called Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "crazy" during a reportedly expletive-filled phone exchange over the fighting in Lebanon as he sought a deal over the wider war.

"At some point I said, Bibi, we got to stop this. We got to stop it," Trump said, referring to Netanyahu by his nickname.

Netanyahu told CNBC in an interview that he and Trump sometimes had "tactical disagreements" but that they agreed on the main issues concerning Iran.

Tap, scan, save: how loyalty apps capture wallets

From Page 1

Retail chains operating in Qatar are also investing heavily in digital rewards systems that allow customers to earn and redeem points instantly through mobile applications.

Indian expatriate Rahul, who frequently shops at a popular apparel chain in Doha Festival City, recalled redeeming nearly QR85 in rewards, which significantly reduced his total bill.

"We all know it is part of a marketing strategy, but for me, it somehow gives customers a consolation for spending more in a particular brand or shop. Still, I hope businesses will offer more," he said.

For some users — especially those with memberships and subscriptions to food delivery platforms — the savings from frequent orders add up quickly.

An employee at a boutique offering a customer loyalty app observed that consumers no longer want complicated redemption systems and that engagement rises dramatically when rewards are simple to understand and instantly usable.

Asked why customers in Qatar are embracing loyalty apps, many Doha residents said these platforms provide "a sense of financial efficiency" amid rising living costs.

"If one café gives me rewards and another doesn't, I usually return to the one offering points," one resident said. "You feel like you're getting something extra."

That behavioural shift is exactly what companies are targeting.

According to Businesswire market researchers, digital loyalty systems boost customer retention by encouraging repeat purchases and providing businesses with valuable consumer data.

A 2026 study published by ResearchGate examining Qatar's banking sector found that customers who actively redeemed loyalty rewards were significantly more profitable

and engaged than non-users.

The research suggested that customised rewards programmes are becoming more important for banks competing for customers in Qatar.

It is learnt that the loyalty app boom is no longer limited to major corporations. Small cafés, salons, barbershops, and independent retailers across Qatar are steadily adopting affordable digital loyalty platforms.

According to BonusQr.com, industry providers now offer businesses QR-based reward systems, digital stamp cards, and app-free point tracking tailored for small enterprises.

Several small businesses interviewed by local entrepreneurs said loyalty systems also help them compete against larger chains.

A café supervisor in Doha noted that while major brands already have extensive customer databases, loyalty apps also help smaller businesses build stronger customer relationships.

Industry experts see Qatar's loyalty economy is still in its early stages of expansion. Future trends are expected to include AI-generated personalised offers, subscription-based loyalty memberships, gamified rewards systems, cross-brand partnerships, and instant digital redemption through mobile wallets.

The same Businesswire report noted that Gulf consumers are more likely to be attracted to "ecosystem loyalty," where a single app integrates travel, dining, shopping, and entertainment benefits.

For shoppers, the appeal remains straightforward: regular spending leads to perks and savings.

For businesses, however, loyalty apps have become more than just reward systems. They are now important tools for keeping customers coming back and for learning more about customer spending habits and preferences.

Ukraine hits St Petersburg as 'Russian Davos' opens

AFP
Saint Petersburg

Ukrainian drones hit energy and military sites in Saint Petersburg yesterday as officials gathered for a flagship economic forum in the city, Russian and Ukrainian authorities said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described the strikes as "fair" retaliation for Russia's bombardment of Ukraine and threatened to launch more.

Some 20,000 people from 130 countries were to attend the three-day annual Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) — an event once dubbed "Russia's Davos" — which began yesterday.

The Kremlin vowed to respond to the strikes, which came a day after a barrage of Russian missiles and drones killed 23 people across Ukraine.

The attacks on Saint Petersburg damaged "several" infrastructure facilities, the city's governor Alexander Beglov said.

"Several people were injured. There were no fatalities," he said.

Ukraine said it had hit the Saint Petersburg Oil Terminal and the city's Kronstadt military base.

An AFP reporter saw a plume of black smoke rising from behind the Peter and Paul Fortress, among the city's most popular tourist attractions.

The commander of Ukraine's drone forces said a Russian warship was hit at the Kronstadt naval base, posting black-and-white footage from the drone of what he said was the attack.

Saint Petersburg's main airport closed for hours overnight, while several flights from Moscow to the northern capital were delayed.



Black smoke rises in Saint Petersburg yesterday. (AFP)



Flags with the logo of the SPIEF fly on the eve of the forum's opening in Saint Petersburg. (Reuters)

Ukrainian officials said the attack was aimed at disrupting the SPIEF forum, where President Vladimir Putin will make a keynote address on Friday.

"The Petersburg forum is opening with a nice plume of black smoke in the background after Ukrainian strikes," said Sergiy Sternenko, an adviser to the Ukrainian defence minister.

Smoke was visible from the conference venue as delegates gathered for the first sessions.

Valeria, a 32-year-old businesswoman travelling from Moscow to SPIEF told AFP she had got used to the threat of attacks. "We have been living under such attacks for many years now," she said.

During a press conference in Kyiv with Nato chief Mark Rutte,

Zelensky said Ukraine was responding "accordingly" to deadly Russian bombardment.

"It's just a matter of time before we can scale up the intensity of our responses," Zelensky said.

Rutte said Ukraine was showing success taking out "some of the key capabilities and capacities of the Russians".

Russian strikes on frontline regions of Ukraine killed four people earlier in the day, officials said.

Since Russia launched full-scale assault on Ukraine in 2022, SPIEF — previously Moscow's premier economic event for courting Western investment — has been seen as a snapshot of Russia's isolation on the world stage.

French President Emmanuel Macron, the then-German Chan-

cellor Angela Merkel, and the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe were among those who addressed the forum alongside Putin.

Now Russia can only rely on its closest allies to attend. This year, the presidents of Uzbekistan and Tanzania will be present, alongside ministers from Cuba, Belarus, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The Kremlin's economy envoy Kirill Dmitriev said the forum was a gathering of "sovereign countries", slamming "globalist" rivals like the annual Davos gathering in Switzerland.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres — who on Tuesday condemned Russian strikes on Ukraine — will speak at a panel on the environment on Friday.

The US is sending Rodney Mims Cook Jr, head of the US Commission of Fine Arts who is overseeing President Donald Trump's new White House ballroom, to the event. He will speak on a panel titled "Russia-US: A Cultural Dialogue". Several fringe figures from Western countries have also been invited — including right-wing commentator Candace Owens, Putin-backing US actor Steven Seagal and representatives of the far-right Alternative for Germany party.

Andrew Tate, the British-American self-described misogynist charged in Romania with human trafficking and accused of rape, landed in Moscow on Tuesday, triggering speculation he would attend the forum.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov vowed Russia would respond to Ukraine's attack. "Our responses will be systemic in nature," he told reporters, including AFP.

How Cubans keep going despite US pressure and fuel blockade

Reuters
Havana

Felicia de la Caridad Alvarez, a resident of Old Havana, knows a thing or two about survival.

The 64-year-old former hospital custodian, blind in one eye, suffers from hypertension and diabetes. She rarely enjoys running water or electricity. The food in her refrigerator has spoiled. Even her TV is broken, leaving her unable to discern who, exactly, is to blame for her woes.

Millions of Cubans face a similar plight. Cuba's already inefficient state-run economy — long plagued by shortages — has descended in recent months into a full-blown crisis in the wake of hardened sanctions and a fuel blockade by the administration of US President Donald Trump.

But — despite Trump's prediction in early January that Cuba was "ready to fall" and despite severely rationed power, a crumbling health service and the decimation of its crucial tourism industry — Cubans keep on going and the government is still in charge.

In part, that rests on years of practice. Cuba's government has long taught people like Alvarez to "resistir," a central tenet of its nearly seven-decade-old communist revolution. "Resistir" is short-

hand for overcoming hardship in the face of seemingly insurmountable adversity.

"In order to survive, I have to keep fighting," Alvarez said. "What choice do I have?"

So she lugs assorted plastic containers and pots of water every day from several blocks away, she scrounges food from a nearby church soup kitchen and she goes without refrigeration in the 21st century.

But the continued existence of the Cuban model also rests on citizens' worries about the consequences of public dissent.

Protesting, Alvarez said, is out of the question, for fear of government reprisal. That was a view shared by some two dozen Cubans interviewed by Reuters in recent weeks. "They could take revenge on my kids," said Alvarez.

Rights groups and the US have long critiqued Cuba's response to dissent as heavy-handed and repressive, while Cuba justifies its hard line by alleging that rare protests on the island are often fomented or financed by the US. The arguments have changed little over the years.

And years of scraping by mean many Cubans are resourceful. Fresh solutions to growing problems are everywhere.

Farmers have kept agricultural markets well-stocked throughout Havana, scrounging diesel on the



A man fills container with potable water in Havana. (Reuters)

black market or training oxen to replace tractors. The streets are swarming with electric tricycles that double as taxis and have replaced gasoline-powered ones. Solar panels and power banks now light homes and businesses.

Cuba's capacity to "resist" appears to be trying the patience of Washington. That is creating a test of wills, said Bert Hoffmann, a German academic who has studied Cuban politics for 30 years.

"Living conditions have sharply deteriorated but the political impact is far less clear," said Hoffmann, who visited Cuba earlier this year shortly after the Trump administration threatened tariffs on any country that provided oil to the island.

floor of a building near the Malecon in Havana. Since the elevator quit working two years ago, she only goes downstairs once or twice a week, for groceries or other urgent needs.

Wiry with a broad smile, she told Reuters she already lived through the so-called Special Period in the 1990s — years of hardship and international isolation after Cuba's former patron the Soviet Union collapsed — and she knows what it means to resist.

"We are fighters. With the little that we have, we survive," Blanca said. "Everyone is just adapting to the times." Not everyone shares her optimism.

Doctors are fleeing their profession as hospital supplies dry up, leaving wards understaffed. Medicine is scarce and a plunge in the peso has left many struggling to put food on the table. Most of the country — including the capital Havana — has just a few hours of electricity a day. Schools have been forced to cut hours and rations. Trash lingers on street corners, where those lacking working toilets routinely relieve themselves.

The UN said last month that Trump's move to block fuel from reaching Cuba had "dramatically intensified the already severe effects" of a Cold War-era trade embargo, calling the measure "unlawful" and a violation of human rights.

"Energy starvation as a coercive tool is incompatible with international human rights norms," a team of UN experts said.

The Trump administration has argued that Cuba's communist leaders routinely violate human rights by imprisoning dissenters, suppressing free speech and elections, and imposing an economic system that condemns millions to poverty. Despite the government's general intolerance for uprisings, protests have broken out across Havana in recent weeks as blackouts have grown to span as much as 18 hours a day, threatening to spoil frozen food and leading to sleepless nights in the sultry heat.

Havana resident Rodolfo Alonso said he decided to protest after his neighborhood went for more than 40 hours without electricity.

"This isn't a political problem," he said. "We started banging pots (in protest) to see if they'd give us just three hours of electricity. That's all we want."

The government has selectively flipped the "on" switch in certain neighborhoods, occasionally helping to defuse protests, but both blackouts and protests have increased, suggesting "resistance" has limits, said Cuba-based sociologist Luis Emilio Aybar. "It's a resilient society because it hasn't had any other choice," Aybar said.

"But a country without fuel can't survive forever."

Sheikha Moza graces QF schools graduation



prominent name in Qatar's luxury jewellery scene. She told graduates: "True success is not limited to personal achievements, but is reflected in the impact you leave on the lives of others and in your ability to contribute positively to your community."

Reflecting on her education journey at QAD, al-Khalaf explained that, for her, the school was more than just an educational institution; it was an integrated environment that helped shape her character, refine her academic and professional path, and give her the confidence to pursue multiple fields with balance and assurance.

She also lauded QF's role in providing a pioneering educational model that places people at the heart of the learning process and recognises that true investment begins with education. And she encouraged graduates to hold on to their passions and embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, development, and creating positive impact within their communities.

"The knowledge you have gained today is the tool with which you will build your future," al-Khalaf added. "It will empower you to make thoughtful decisions and move forward with confidence on your journey."

From Page 1

"Periods of disruption caused by recent geopolitical events have tested us, but they have also revealed the strength, adaptability, and exceptional potential of this graduating cohort."

Al-Khalifa highlighted that as the education sector continues to evolve, it is essential for young people to embrace innovation while remaining grounded in values, ethics, and a commitment to creating meaningful impact. "This year, I have been

deeply impressed by the quality of student projects and ideas, many of which demonstrated a genuine ability to address real-world challenges and contribute to a better future," she said.

"As we move forward with our new strategy, we see our graduates as key partners in shaping what comes next. We are proud of their excellence, creativity, and ability to rise above challenges, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in the years ahead."

The seven schools under QF

Pre-University Education are: Qatar Academy Doha (QAD), Qatar Academy Al Khor, Qatar Academy Sidra, Qatar Academy for Science and Technology, Qatar Leadership Academy, Qatar Academy Al Wakra, and Awsaj Academy. Over 15,000 students have graduated from QF schools, as well as its Academic Bridge Program and Awsaj Prime programme over the years through the unique academic model followed by QF.

This year's keynote speaker was Mariam Ali al-Khalaf, a graduate of QF school QAD and a



PICTURES: AR Al-Baker

EAA celebrates graduation of 74 Afghan scholars from 27 US host institutions

Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, with the support of its strategic partner, the Qatar Fund for Development (QFD), celebrated the graduation of 74 Afghan students supported by the Qatar Scholarship for Afghans Project at a ceremony on June 2.

The graduates, representing 27 host institutions across the United States, completed or are expected to complete their degree programmes during Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and Summer 2026. The ceremony brought together graduates, partners, academic institutions, and representatives from EAA Foundation, QFFD, the Institute of International Education, and Afghan Future Fund.

The Qatar Scholarship for Af-



ghans Project was established to provide access to higher education for 426 Afghan students whose education was interrupted, enabling them to continue their academic journeys in safe and supportive learning environments at

host universities throughout the United States.

Through comprehensive scholarship support, the project helps students pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees, rebuild their futures, and contribute



meaningfully to their communities. Speaking at the ceremony, Mohammed Saad al-Kubaisi, CEO of EAA Foundation, said: "Today, we celebrate more than an academic achievement. We celebrate the courage, discipline, and deter-

mination of Afghan students who continued their education despite disruption, uncertainty, and difficult personal circumstances.

"At Education Above All Foundation, we believe that education is a pathway to dignity, opportunity,

stability, and long-term development. The Qatar Scholarship for Afghans Project reflects this belief by ensuring that young people affected by crisis are not defined by the challenges they have faced, but by the potential they carry."

"We are proud to stand with these graduates as they enter the next chapter of their lives. Their success is a powerful reminder that when the right pathways are created, young people can rise with confidence, purpose, and hope. I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Qatar Fund for Development, the Institute of International Education, Afghan Future Fund, and the host universities for their commitment and partnership in making this journey possible," al-Kubaisi added.

WEEKEND PRICE

٤-٦-٢٠٢٦ في جميع منافذ سفاري
04-06-2026 at All Safari outlets



45 QR.00

لحم ضاني هندي ١ كجم
Indian Mutton 1 kg



31 QR.00

لحم بقري بالعظم باكستاني ١ كجم
Pakistan Beef with Bone 1 kg



30 QR.00

لحم جمل بالعظم ١ كجم
Camel Meat With Bone 1 kg



28 QR.00

سمك دنيس تونسي ١ كجم
Fresh Sea Bream Tunisia 1 kg



12 QR.75

بيض ابيض ٣٠ حبة
White fresh egg 30s tray



2.7 LTR

نور زيت دوار الشمس ٢.٧ كجم
Noor Sunflower Oil 2.7 Ltr



2 QR.50

ملفوف الاردن ١ كجم
Flat Cabbage Jordan 1 kg



4 QR.75

موز اكوادور ١ كجم
Banana Ecuador 1 kg



2 QR.50

بطيخ الاردن ١ كجم
Watermelon Jordan 1 kg



6 QR.50

كمثرى افريقيا ١ كجم
Pear Sempre Africa 1 kg



5 QR.00

يوسفي مصري ١ كجم
Mandarin Murcott Egypt 1 kg



58 QR.75

انكور حليب مجفف ٢.٢٥ كجم - ١ حبة
Anchor Milk Powder Sachets 2.25 kg x 1 pc



6 QR.75

لونجان فيتنام - ٥٠٠ جم ١ حبة
Longan Vietnam (Approximate 500g) 1 pkt



17 QR.00

رمان افريقيا ١ كجم
Pomegranate Africa 1 kg



9 QR.50

جوافة فيتنام ١ كجم
Guava Vietnam 1 kg



8 QR.75

روزانا ارز بسمتي هندي ٢ كجم - ١ حبة
Rozana Indian Basmati Rice 2 kg x 1 pc



58 QR.75

انكور حليب مجفف ٢.٢٥ كجم - ١ حبة
Anchor Milk Powder Sachets 2.25 kg x 1 pc



16 QR.00

برديكس دجاج شواية ١٣٠٠ جم - ١ حبة
Perdix chicken griller 1300gm x 1Pc



10 QR.00

ساديا نفايح دجاج غير مدخنة ٣٤٠ جم - ٣ حبة
Sadia Chicken Franks Non-Smoked 340gm x 3pcs



14 QR.00

ازبال مسحوق غسيل ٢ كجم
Ariel Ls Detergent Powder 2 kg



30

SHOP & DRIVE WIN 30



WIN 4 CARS

IN EVERY LUCKY DRAW



5th Lucky Draw on: 21-06-2026

at Safari Hypermarket, Birkath Al Awamer (4 Winners)

SAFARI MALL
Abu Hamour
Tel: +974 441 91 441

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Salwa Road
Tel: +974 400 01 004

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Al Khor
Tel: +974 400 01 050

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Barwa Village
Tel: +974 441 18 704

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Industrial Area
Tel: +974 446 89 058

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Birkat Al Awamer
Tel: +974 441 88 699

SAFARI HYPERMARKET
Ezdan Mall, Al Gharaffa
Tel: +974 414 74 844

www.facebook.com/safarimallqatar | www.instagram.com/safarimallqatar