



# GULF TIMES



FRIDAY Vol. XXXXVI No. 13762

June 5, 2026  
Dhul-Hijjah 19, 1447 AH

www.gulf-times.com 2 Riyals

Published in QATAR since 1978

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A father cradles his child at Mina Port as seagulls wheel overhead in the gathering dusk – a moment of quiet wonder amid the bustle of the port. **PICTURE:** Alexandre Mounayer

## Qatar engages with partners for de-escalation

**PM holds talks with Lebanese president, Kuwaiti, French, Egyptian, Turkish, Dutch, Greek FM's**



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun held a telephone conversation yesterday with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, during which the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments in Lebanon.

At the start of the call, Aoun conveyed his greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, wishing him good health and continued prosperity for Qatar. The prime minister relayed His Highness the Amir's greetings to the Lebanese president and expressed wishes for Lebanon's continued progress and stability.

The discussions focused on co-operation between Qatar and Lebanon and explored ways to strengthen ties between the two countries. The two sides also reviewed recent developments in Lebanon.

The prime minister reiterated Qatar's condemnation of ongoing Israeli attacks on Lebanon, describing them as a dangerous escalation, a violation of Lebanese sovereignty and a breach of international humanitarian law.

He also reaffirmed Qatar's support for regional and international efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region.

The prime minister further underscored Doha's longstanding support for Lebanon, reiterating Qatar's commitment to the country's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The prime minister held separate phone calls yesterday with his Kuwaiti and French counterparts, focusing on regional mediation efforts and ways to reduce escalating tensions in the Middle East.

He spoke with Kuwaiti Foreign

Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, with discussions covering bilateral co-operation and ongoing mediation between the US and Iran. The two sides agreed on the need to co-ordinate efforts to support mediation aimed at reducing escalation and strengthening regional security and stability.

He also spoke with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, reviewing Doha-Paris relations and exploring ways to deepen bilateral co-operation. The call touched on the mediation process involving Washington and Tehran as well as developments in Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, and the occupied Palestinian territories amid continued regional instability.

He emphasised that sustainable progress required addressing the root causes of crises through dialogue and peaceful means, and reiterated Qatar's support for diplomatic efforts that could lead to a lasting agreement and prevent renewed escalation.

The prime minister also received a phone call from Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Egyptian Badr Abdelatty.

They discussed co-operation between the two countries, along with ways to support and strengthen it. It also discussed mediation efforts between the US and Iran.

The call also addressed co-ordinating efforts to support mediation aimed at reducing escalation, which contributes to strengthening security and stability in the region. **To Page 11**

## Mada offers QR600k for accessibility innovations

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

Mada, the Assistive Technology Centre, has announced a global call for its Innovation Award 2026, worth QR600,000, to develop innovative Arabic-language solutions in assistive technology and digital accessibility. The last date for submitting the application for the award is June 20.

The announcement was made at a press conference yesterday at the Mada headquarters by Amani al-Tamimi, vice-chairperson of Mada, along with Hassan Yousef al-Obaidli, director of programmes at The Social and Sport Contribution Fund (Daam Fund), the sponsor of the award. Speaking at the media briefing, al-Tamimi said that the Mada Innovation Award is a first-of-its-kind award aimed at rewarding innovative solutions that promote accessibility and enhance the lives of users with disabilities.

"The award is in three categories, and they are: Grand Impact Award, Scaling Innovation Grant and Emerging Innovation Grant. The award has established itself as a global platform bringing together innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and developers, helping transform promising ideas into practical and scalable solutions," she explained.

According to the official, the 2026 edition places particular emphasis on Arabic-language innovations, recognising the importance of Arabic in ensuring equitable access to knowledge, services, and opportunities.

"This is the third edition of the Innovations Award, with the previous ones taking place in 2022 and 2023. Development of Arabic and localised accessibility solutions is a strategic priority that addresses a significant gap in regional markets," she highlighted. **To Page 11**

## How the social media is reshaping food business landscape

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

As food lovers in Qatar increasingly turn to digital channels for dining recommendations and new culinary experiences, businesses are investing more in branding, presentation and customer engagement to stand out in a competitive market.

For Michelle Alcazar, social media has been instrumental in transforming a home-based venture into a thriving business. What began as homemade doughnuts shared with friends and family has grown into All About Doughnuts, an online bakery she co-founded with Qatari partner Aisha al-Ali in 2021.

Their success reflects a broader shift in consumer behaviour, with social media playing a key role in influencing purchasing decisions and helping businesses connect with customers.

"People now spend more time on social media and are heavily influenced by online content creators when deciding what to buy or try," Alcazar told *Gulf Times*.

Since launching the business, she has seen firsthand how digital platforms have changed the way consumers discover products and interact with brands. Her experience mirrors trends highlighted in Qatar's National E-Commerce Roadmap, which underscores the growing role of digital channels in connecting businesses and consumers.

DataReportal's latest findings on Qatar also point to widespread social media use across the country. **To Page 11**

## Qatar elected rapporteur of UNGA's 6th committee



The Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, which deals with legal matters and is responsible for the codification and progressive development of international law, elected Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the UN in New York Abdulaziz Fadhlah al-Sulaiti as its rapporteur for its eighty-first session, which will commence in October 2026. Qatar's election reflects international recognition of its distinguished standing and active role in the work of UN committees. It also reflects international appreciation for Qatar's national expertise and its active and constructive role in international forums. **(QNA)**

## QCB accepts HIMYAN card in Bahrain

In line with the Third Financial Sector Strategy and as part of Qatar Central Bank's ongoing efforts to develop digital payment systems and services, and to strengthen co-operation among the GCC countries, Qatar Central Bank has announced the acceptance of the national payment card HIMYAN in the Kingdom of Bahrain. With this expansion, HIMYAN cardholders can now conduct purchase and cash withdrawal transactions through various points of sale and ATMs in Bahrain, in accordance with the highest standards of security and protection. In addition, HIMYAN cardholders can also use the card in Kuwait, following Qatar Central Bank's announcement on December 2025 regarding the acceptance of the national payment card HIMYAN in Kuwait. **(QNA)**

**COMMUNITY**  
See Pages 5 & 6

## Israeli strikes kill 10 Palestinians

Reuters  
Gaza

Israeli strikes killed at least 10 Palestinians, including five members of the same family, in separate attacks in the Gaza Strip yesterday, health officials said.

Medics in Gaza said Israeli aircraft struck four apartments before dawn, including the family's home, killing nine people and wounding at least 15.

Later, a separate air strike killed one person and wounded others near Wehda Street in Gaza City, medics said, taking the day's death toll to at least 10.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment.

Reuters footage after the first strike showed a blown-out building with charred and damaged furniture, with debris strewn across the road.

A video circulating on Palestinian social media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed people entering an apartment with blankets



Palestinians mourn outside the morgue of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City yesterday during the funeral of people killed in Israeli air strikes on residential buildings. **(AFP)**

to recover bodies.

"We were woken up by the strike at 2:30am. We found pieces of flesh and people were sleeping. They say the war is over but the war is not over,"

Khalil Batran, a neighbour of the family who were killed, told Reuters.

A girl was the only survivor of the strike on the family home, medics said.

## Barzak to direct Ooredoo Group's Al Abraj operations

Ooredoo has announced the launch of Al Abraj, a standalone company that will independently operate and manage Ooredoo Qatar's passive tower infrastructure assets in the country.

The launch follows the receipt of the necessary regulatory approvals in Qatar, including approval from the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), and marks the first operational carve-out under Ooredoo's TowerCo initiative, a key part of Ooredoo's broader portfolio optimisation strategy.

The company also appointed Khalid Barzak (pictured) as General Director. With more than 20 years of leadership experience, including 16 in telecommunications, Barzak has held senior roles across telecoms, digital services, investments and partnerships at Ooredoo. He will lead Al Abraj's next phase, focusing on operational excellence, value creation and long-term growth. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Ooredoo extended its sincere thanks to the various regulatory authorities in Qatar for their support throughout the approval process. **(QNA)**



## Qatar participates in OECD ministerial meeting



Qatar participated in the 2026 Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), held under the theme "Getting Industrial Policies Right for Open Markets, Growth and Prosperity, in Paris. HE the Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari represented Qatar at the meeting. According to a post by the Ministry of Finance on X, HE al-Kuwari also participated in a session on "Setting the Scene for Industrial Policy Discussion", alongside ministers, senior officials and policymakers from OECD member countries and partner economies. - **QNA**

## Minister meets UAE's ambassador



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with the United Arab Emirates's ambassador to Qatar Saeed Abdullah al-Qamzi. They discussed Qatar-UAE co-operation, relations and ways to bolster them, particularly in the spheres of international co-operation and sustainable developments. They also discussed a host of topics of mutual interest. - **QNA**

## Adviser to the PM joins session on EU-Gulf co-operation

The Berghof Foundation hosted a discussion session in Berlin on the regional dynamics in the Gulf and opportunities for enhancing co-operation between the European Union and the Gulf countries.

Speaking at the session was HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari.

During the discussion, HE Dr al-Ansari addressed the security and political devel-

opments in the region and referred to the Iranian attacks that targeted Qatar and the damage they caused.

In this regard, he stressed the importance of respecting the sovereignty of states and preserving the security and stability of the region.

He also underscored the need to end the war in Lebanon, spare the brotherly Lebanese people further suffering, and support diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving stability.



HE Dr al-Ansari further highlighted the supportive positions taken by European countries toward Qatar during the recent period, expressing appreciation for their solidarity and support in confronting regional challenges. - **QNA**

## Qatar slams attack on Unifil post in Lebanon

Qatar has condemned the attack that targeted a post belonging to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) in southern Lebanon, and resulted in the death of a Serbian soldier and injuries to two others from El Salvador and Spain.

Qatar considered the attack a serious violation of international humanitarian law and UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) reiterated Qatar's complete rejection of any attack targeting Unifil, which plays a vital role in maintaining security and stability in Lebanon.

The ministry stressed the need for an immediate investigation into the attack and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

The MoFA expressed Qatar's condolences to the family of the soldier and to the government and people of Serbia, as well as its wishes for a speedy recovery for the injured. - **QNA**

# Shura Council takes part in Belgrade conference of women lawmakers

The Shura Council participated in the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Belgrade, which aimed to provide a platform for women parliamentarians to exchange experiences and identify innovative, shared strategies to advance women's rights and empowerment.

The conference discussed key themes, including breaking down barriers to equality, promoting diversity, addressing stereotypes and harmful social norms, and working collectively to combat stereotypes, violence, and misinformation in the digital environment.

The Shura Council was represented at the conference, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the National Assembly of Serbia, by HE the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Dr Hamda al-Sulaiti.

During a session on "Challenging online stereotypes, violence and disinformation against women in politics", HE Dr al-Sulaiti highlighted Qatar's efforts to strengthen digital safety and promote cybersecurity awareness.

She referred to national initiatives launched through the National Cyber Security Agency to build a cyber-secure society through awareness campaigns, training programmes, and modern educational tools, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Cyber Security Strategy 2024-30.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti explained that these initiatives target various segments of society and utilise a range of educational and awareness tools, including digital safety guides, awareness videos, interactive cybersecurity games, interactive robots, and specialised workshops on personal data protection and digital risk prevention.

She noted that women par-



liamentarians face growing challenges in both political and digital spaces, including online violence, the reinforcement of stereotypes, misinformation, and algorithmic bias, all of which can limit women's fair participation in political life.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti emphasised the importance of continuously enhancing protection tools, legislation, and public awareness to keep pace with evolving digital threats, including phishing, ransomware, cyberbullying, and the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) and deepfake technologies.

She called for greater exchange of successful experiences and initiatives among countries to help build a safer digital society and strengthen co-operation in addressing shared cybersecurity challenges.

HE Dr al-Sulaiti also underscored the importance of developing joint awareness and training initiatives, exchanging best practices in data protection and

digital privacy, and promoting the safe participation of women in public life.

On the sidelines of the conference, she held meetings with a number of participating parliamentarians, including Hungarian Parliament Speaker Agnes Forsthofer, Serbia's National Assembly Vice-President Edin Djerlek, member of Germany's Bundestag Claudia Roth, Esawatini's Senate Deputy President Ndumiso Mdluli, member of the Portuguese Assembly Manuela Tender, member of Canada's House of Commons and Member of the King's Privy Council for Canada Michelle Rempel Garner, and president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s Bureau of Women Parliamentarians Cynthia Lopez Castro.

The meetings addressed parliamentary co-operation, relations and ways to enhance and develop them, in addition to exchanging views on a number of issues of mutual interest. - **QNA**

## MoFA director meets senior Indonesian officials

The director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)'s Policy and Planning Department, Dr Khalid bin Fahad al-Khater, met separately in Jakarta yesterday with Indonesia's Deputy Foreign Ministers Armanatha Christiawan Nasir and Muhammad Anis Matta, as well as Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Director-General for Asia Pacific and African Affairs Santo Darmosumarto, and the head of Indonesia's Foreign Policy Strategy Agency Muhammad Takdir, as part of preparations for the Qatar-Indonesia Strategic Dialogue.

During the meetings, they discussed the relations between Qatar and Indonesia, and ways to sup-



port and strengthen them across various fields, in addition to a host of topics of mutual interest.

The meetings also addressed preparations for the Qatar-Indonesia Strategic Dialogue and its

importance in enhancing co-operation, co-ordination, and consultation between the two countries on a number of regional and international issues of common concern. - **QNA**

Sea diving has been gaining popularity across Qatar, driven by increased public awareness of marine activities and the spreading of shared videos showcasing the country's underwater environment.

Accordingly, diving instructors and officials have stressed the importance of adhering to the standard safety procedures to ensure a secure and enjoyable experience for both scuba and free divers.

A number of diving instructors highlighted that certified training, careful assessment of weather and sea conditions, regular equipment inspections, and avoiding solo dives are among the key requirements for safe diving practices.

They noted that Qatar offers an attractive environment for diving enthusiasts due to its strategic coastal location and diverse marine sites.

They also pointed out that diving is an activity that can be practised year-round in Qatar, with each season offering unique conditions and experiences, describing the sport as an opportunity to explore a distinct underwater world rich in marine

# Diving, deep sea exploration gaining popularity: experts

life, fish species, and unique underwater landscapes.

Diving instructor Saqr Abdullah al-Suwaidi stressed that safety procedures are considered the basics of responsible diving, noting that a diver's well-being depends largely on adherence to training guidelines and operational protocols, regardless of experience level.

He stressed the importance of conducting comprehensive equipment checks before every dive and maintaining gear regularly.

He also emphasised the value of the "buddy system", which discourages solo diving and enables rapid assistance in emergencies.

Al-Suwaidi also stressed the importance of maintaining proper air manage-

ment, compliance with depth limits corresponding to certification levels, and thorough dive planning as essential safety measures.

He added that concerns about marine creatures are often exaggerated, describing Qatar's marine environment as relatively safe and noting that most risks arise from divers interfering with marine life or disturbing underwater ecosystems.

Similarly, diving instructor Hamad al-Ameri said that monitoring weather conditions and sea currents before diving is critical, alongside following instructions issued by relevant authorities.

He identified common mistakes among divers, including failure to inspect equipment before entering the water, as well as health-related factors such as fatigue

or consuming heavy meals before a dive, which may negatively affect safety.

Al-Ameri said that the Sealine and Khor Al Adaid are among Qatar's most popular diving destinations.

He also noted the presence of offshore dive sites featuring sunken shipwrecks that attract underwater explorers and adventure seekers.

Al-Ameri underscored the importance of complying with official measures and instructions, including informing the relevant authorities of departure and return times and using surface marker buoys to alert nearby vessels to the presence of divers.

He also expected that the number of diving enthusiasts in Qatar would continue to grow, supported by an estimated 10-

18 specialised training centres operating across the country, despite the absence of a unified governing body for the sector.

Diving instructor Shams al-Suwaidi meanwhile highlighted the sport's physical and psychological benefits, saying that it helps participants relieve stress, relax, and recharge in the sea's calm environment.

She noted that diving has gained significant momentum in Qatar since 2019, following increased local interest in the activity, which had previously been practised largely abroad.

Al-Suwaidi said that the most favourable diving season generally extends from late April through mid- or late July, depending on weather conditions.

Sites such as Sealine and the eastern and western areas of Khor Al Adaid offer diverse experiences for divers, particularly those interested in exploration.

She reiterated the importance of avoiding solo dives and of informing family members or friends of dive locations and expected return times as a basic precaution.

**H**E the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie has affirmed that environmental protection in Qatar is a firmly established national priority and an integrated framework closely linked to quality of life, the sustainability of resources and the security of future generations.

He noted that the State is continuing to strengthen an environmental approach based on proactive planning, scientific monitoring and the protection of natural resources, thereby enhancing its ability to achieve sustainable development.

In an interview with the Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE Dr al-Subaie said that World Environment Day, celebrated every year on June 5, serves as an opportunity to reaffirm the collective commitment to protecting Qatar's environment and safeguarding its natural resources, while encouraging the adoption of environmentally responsible practices in everyday life.

He stressed that the environment is a national asset and a shared responsibility, one that calls for sustained public awareness and co-ordinated institutional ef-

## Qatar 'advancing science-based, proactive approach to environmental protection'

forts based on strategic planning, continuous monitoring and effective regulation.

Environmental conservation, the minister continued, is no longer limited to protecting natural sites or reducing environmental violations.

Rather, HE Dr al-Subaie stressed, it has evolved into a comprehensive system that encompasses early monitoring, risk management, biodiversity conservation, tracking the impacts of climate change, and ensuring the responsible use of natural resources.

He noted that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) continues to implement its programmes aimed at protecting terrestrial, marine, and atmospheric environments, while monitoring air, water, and soil quality.

The ministry also works to preserve natural habitats and vegetation cover, in addition to enhancing environmental monitoring systems to support data-driven



HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie

en decision-making based on accurate scientific evidence.

The minister emphasised that efforts are ongoing to rehabilitate environmentally sensitive sites and curb practices that harm the terrestrial ecosystem.

He also stressed Qatar's commitment to safeguarding its marine environment, coastlines, and islands, recognising them as key contributors to biodiversity.

This is achieved, the minister said, by regulating activities in coastal and marine areas through measures that ensure the sustainable use of these sites while preserving their natural resources.

HE Dr al-Subaie also highlighted Qatar's progress in developing its environmental monitoring system through advanced networks for tracking air, water, and soil quality, as well as radiation monitoring and early warning systems.

The MoECC, he noted, continuously monitors a wide range of environmental and radiological indicators around the clock through an integrated national system that relies on real-time data, technical analysis, and close co-ordination with the relevant authorities.

The minister added that the MoECC

works in co-ordination with national stakeholders, as well as in co-operation with the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to exchange data and expertise and enhance technical preparedness.

On climate change, HE Dr al-Subaie affirmed that Qatar remains committed to supporting international efforts to address its impacts by fulfilling its related obligations, reducing emissions, advancing adaptation programmes, and strengthening national capacities in a manner that reflects the unique characteristics of Qatar's environment and its sustainable development priorities.

He also noted that Qatar's participation, represented by the MoECC, in the 31st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) – scheduled to be held in Türkiye in November – will provide an important platform to showcase the country's national efforts in emissions reduction, climate adaptation, and the development of environmental monitoring and data systems. – QNA

# World Environment Day 2026 issues call for climate action

**Q**atar joins countries around the world in marking World Environment Day 2026 today, reaffirming its commitment to environmental protection and the sustainable management of natural resources in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, which places environmental sustainability among its core pillars.

This year's observance is being held under the theme *Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future*, highlighting the event's role as the world's largest platform for environmental awareness and for addressing the challenges facing the planet and their impact on people, wildlife, and ecosystems.

World Environment Day 2026 focuses on climate change and the urgent warning signs being sent by the planet, including record-breaking temperatures, intensifying wildfires, increasingly severe storms, and the continued loss of glaciers.

Since its launch in 1973, World Environment Day has played a key role in raising environmental awareness and mobilising politi-

cal support to address major challenges, including ozone depletion, toxic pollution, desertification, and global warming.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) launched the slogan for Qatar Environment Day 2026 in February under the theme *Our Behaviour... Is Reflected in Our Environment*, highlighting the close relationship between people and their environment.

Speaking to the Qatar News Agency (QNA), the director of the MoECC's Green Development and Environmental Sustainability Department, Abdullah Jumaa al-Muraikhi, said that the country continues to translate sustainability principles into practical initiatives aimed at improving resource efficiency and advancing sustainable development.

He noted that the ministry is implementing a range of projects focused on promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns, strengthening circular economy principles, and improving energy and water efficiency

across various sectors.

Among the key initiatives, the official highlighted the development of the National Strategy for Sustainable Production and Consumption, resource-efficiency programs, treated water reuse projects, and initiatives designed to reduce emissions and enhance environmental performance.

Al-Muraikhi also emphasised efforts to support private-sector participation in the transition to a green economy through innovation and sustainable solutions that deliver both environmental and economic value.

He added that the ministry achieved notable progress over the past year in a number of sustainability projects, including the development of a national environmental sustainability framework and ongoing work on the sustainable production and consumption strategy in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and Qatar National Vision 2030.

The MoECC, al-Muraikhi continued, has also expanded circular economy initiatives aimed at

optimising resource use, reducing waste generation, and minimising losses, while implementing electricity and water consumption audits, including at ministry facilities, to identify opportunities for efficiency improvements and lower resource consumption.

The official further highlighted the Sustainable Modernisation of Traditional Wooden Boats Project, which seeks to balance the preservation of Qatar's maritime heritage with modern environmental sustainability requirements.

The initiative forms part of broader efforts to support environmental research and innovation while contributing to the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

Looking ahead, al-Muraikhi said that the ministry will continue advancing circular economy projects, strengthening energy and water efficiency programmes, expanding sustainability practices across public and private institutions, and developing environmental monitoring and performance assessment tools to support informed decision-making and

**World Environment Day 2026**  
Calls for Climate Action and Sustainable Future

**5 June**  
Marking World Environment Day

This year's theme: **«Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future»**

«Our Behavior... Is Reflected in Our Environment»  
**Qatar Environment Day theme for 2026**

Speaking to Qatar News Agency

«Qatar continues to translate sustainability principles into practical initiatives aimed at improving resource efficiency and advancing sustainable development.»

«The ministry is focused on promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns, strengthening circular economy principles, and improving energy and water efficiency.»

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Key Achievements last year:

- The development of a national environmental sustainability framework
- Expanding circular economy initiatives
- The development of a sustainable production and consumption strategy
- Implementing electricity and water consumption audits

achieve long-term environmental and economic benefits.

Addressing the environmental and climate challenges facing the Gulf region, including rising temperatures and water scarcity, the

official said that these challenges underscore the need to improve the management of natural resources and strengthen resilience to climate change.

Al-Muraikhi explained that the MoECC is focusing on projects aimed at enhancing water and energy efficiency while reducing resource waste.

He noted that efforts are underway to expand the use of treated wastewater for suitable applications and explore opportunities to reuse treated industrial water, helping to create added value while easing pressure on freshwater resources.

The official added that energy and water consumption audits are being carried out across government facilities to improve operational efficiency, reduce consumption, and lower associated emissions.

On the ministry's role in raising environmental awareness among the public and private sectors, particularly on World Environment Day, the official said that the ministry seeks to promote sustainability not only as an environmental responsibility but also as an economic and development opportunity.

He stressed that the ministry is working to increase awareness of sustainable production and consumption, circular economy principles, and the efficient use of resources, energy, and water.

The MoECC also encourages private-sector participation in the development and implementation of sustainable initiatives and projects, while promoting the integration of sustainability considerations into operational and procurement decisions.

Al-Muraikhi highlighted the growing role of advanced technologies in improving resource management and environmental performance.

The ministry is utilising digital systems and data analytics tools to monitor environmental indicators, including energy and water consumption, assess resource efficiency, and support planning and decision-making processes.

Among these initiatives is the Corporate Sustainability Disclosure Project, which aims to improve data quality, strengthen monitoring and evaluation processes, enhance resource management, and support circular economy efforts over the long term.

Regarding Qatar's co-operation with international organisations and neighbouring countries, al-Muraikhi said that the country is committed to benefiting from leading global practices in sustainability, circular economy development, and resource efficiency. – QNA

## Qatar: A premier destination for sustainable tourism landmarks

**I**n celebration of World Environment Day today, Visit Qatar is highlighting a diverse range of sustainable tourism destinations and experiences that reflect Qatar's unwavering commitment to sustainable development and responsible tourism.

In alignment with the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Tourism Strategy 2030, sustainability continues to play a pivotal role in the development of the country's tourism sector.

This is achieved by expanding sustainable infrastructure and promoting eco-friendly hospitality practices, ensuring tourism experiences that strike a perfect balance between modern development and environmental responsibility.

Across the country, both visitors and residents can explore tourism experiences and destinations that embody Qatar's shift towards sustainability.

These are driven by initiatives designed to preserve natural resources and support long-term development.

### In celebration of World Environment Day, Visit Qatar highlights the country's leading sustainable experiences and landmarks

#### ■ Msheireb Downtown Doha

Blending heritage, hospitality and innovation, Msheireb Downtown Doha offers visitors a unique way to experience the heart of the city.

Msheireb Downtown Doha is home to leading hotels, acclaimed restaurants, cultural attractions and public spaces, it is within easy reach of Souq Waqif, the Corniche and Msheireb Museums.

Recognised as the world's first fully built smart and sustainable city district, it incorporates energy-efficient buildings, water conservation measures and a fully electric tram network.



#### ■ Lusail City

As one of Qatar's largest planned cities, Lusail City combines residential communities, hotels, offices, retail and leisure attractions within a sustainably designed urban environment.

Home to destinations such as Place Vendôme, Lusail Marina Promenade, Maha Island and Winter Wonderland Qatar, the city incorporates district cooling systems, water conservation measures, green spaces, pedestrian pathways and cycling routes.

#### ■ Doha Metro

The Doha Metro plays a key role in supporting sustainable mobility across Qatar.

Connecting major cultural, commercial, sporting and tourism attractions, it provides residents and visitors with a fast, ef-

ficient and environmentally conscious way to explore the country.

#### ■ Public Parks and Green Spaces

Green spaces form an important part of Qatar's urban landscape, providing opportunities for recreation, wellbeing and community engagement.

Destinations such as Al Bidda Park, Oxygen Park, Katar Hills, Aspire Park, and Lusail's public parks offer accessible outdoor spaces that support biodiversity and encourage active lifestyles.

#### ■ Sustainable Stadiums

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 stadiums have set unprecedented global standards in the sustainability of major sporting events, with all venues earning the Global Sustainability Assessment System certification.

These monumental structures embody environmental innovation; Stadium 974 is the first fully demountable stadium built using shipping containers, while Education City Stadium achieved a five-star rating for its exceptional efficiency.

The design of Al Bayt Stadium significantly reduced cooling energy requirements, and Lusail Stadium utilised an advanced roof design to optimise energy consumption.

Visit Qatar continues to support the development and promotion of sustainable tourism experiences that align with national priorities and evolving visitor expectations.

By showcasing destinations and initiatives that prioritise environmental responsibility, Visit Qatar aims to encourage more conscious travel while reinforcing Qatar's position as a destination offering diverse, authentic, and high-quality experiences year-round.





# Hezbollah rejects truce announced by Lebanon and Israel

AFP/Reuters  
Dubai/Beirut

Hezbollah's chief has rejected a conditional truce announced by Lebanese and Israeli envoys, demanding instead a comprehensive ceasefire and full Israeli withdrawal as he threatened northern Israel with new attacks.

Naim Qassem's message came after Lebanese and Israeli representatives in the United States agreed to a conditional ceasefire that Lebanon's president called the "last chance" for a durable end to the fighting.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun has said that the ceasefire would come into force within 24 hours of all concerned parties approving it.

There was no immediate response from Israel, Lebanon or the US to Qassem's remarks.

Hezbollah is not a party to the US-brokered agreement reached between Israel and the Lebanese government on Wednesday, but would be required to halt attacks.

Lebanon was drawn into the wider Middle East war when Hezbollah attacked Israel to avenge the February 28 killing of Iran's supreme leader.

Hezbollah has rejected the Israel-Lebanon talks, and a previous ceasefire announced on April 17 has been breached daily, with Israeli troops deployed deep inside Lebanese territory and the Iran-backed group continuing to attack Israel.

"The ceasefire must be comprehensive... without the Israeli enemy having the freedom to kill," Qassem said yesterday, urging the government to halt "the farce and humiliation called direct talks" with Israel.

He also vowed that "as long as our villages are unsafe - being bombed, destroyed and our people killed - the settlements (north Israel) are unsafe".

The speech followed new Israeli strikes on Lebanon and fresh threats against Beirut by Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz, who said that the army will

"at this stage, continue its fire and ground operations... without the return of the population, while continuing to dismantle terrorist infrastructure".

Israeli forces also retain the "freedom of action, with American backing, to strike in Beirut in response to fire on Israeli communities and territory", he added.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a Hezbollah official told AFP that the group had informed the Lebanese government of its rejection of the truce agreement.

In south Lebanon, a United Nations peacekeeper was killed and two others were wounded, the UN force said, after a base was hit the previous night.

Belgrade said the slain peacekeeper was Serbian, with seven blue helmets now killed since the latest war erupted in March.

Israel blamed Hezbollah for his death.

Mohammad Chamseddine, 56, from Beirut's southern suburbs, told AFP that "this isn't the first time there's been a ceasefire and Israel violates it".

As an Israeli drone buzzed overhead, Chamseddine said the ceasefire for now was just "words on paper. I won't believe it until I see it on the ground. How can a ceasefire be on one side only?"

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported strikes in more than 20 locations in Lebanon's south and east yesterday, some causing casualties, including a couple and their daughter who were wounded in an attack on their car.

Israel's military renewed a warning to Lebanese not to cross the Zaharani River, around 45km from the border, after it last week declared all areas south of the river "combat zones".

Earlier yesterday the Israeli military said air raid sirens sounded in northern Israel, with one incident involving a "suspicious aerial target" resolved, while another incident was found to be a false alarm.

Hezbollah claimed several attacks on Israeli troops who have invaded south Lebanon.

## talabat, TOD by beIN team up to elevate FIFA World Cup 2026 experience

As the Mena (Middle East and North Africa) region gears up for the FIFA World Cup 2026, talabat has announced a partnership with TOD by beIN, the exclusive streaming platform for the tournament, to bring fans a more seamless and rewarding match-day experience from home.

Users of talabat who subscribe to or renew a talabat pro annual plan will unlock a complimentary one-year entertainment subscription to the platform from today, giving them access to live streaming of the FIFA World Cup 2026 alongside year-round benefits across talabat's ecosystem.

As talabat's premium subscription programme, talabat pro offers customers greater convenience and value across food, groceries, and everyday essentials, with benefits including free delivery, exclusive savings, and additional perks through Solo and Family plans.

"We know that, for our customers, game night is about uninterrupted excitement and creating moments with the people who matter most," said Moiza Saeed, senior director of partnerships at talabat.

"Through our partnership with TOD, we're bringing together premium sports entertainment and the everyday convenience of talabat pro to help customers create the ultimate home stadium experience - from match streaming to

meals, snacks, and everything in between," he added.

Across the Mena region, football is more than sport - it is a shared cultural moment that brings families and friends together around the screen and the table.

Through this partnership, talabat and TOD are combining world-class entertainment with everyday convenience, making it easier for fans to enjoy the tournament with their favourite meals, groceries, and essentials delivered directly to their door.

John-Paul Mckerlie, vice-president of Marketing & Sales at TOD by beIN, said: "As excitement builds towards the FIFA World Cup 2026, our partnership with talabat brings together two brands committed to delivering exceptional digital experiences."

"Through TOD by beIN, customers will enjoy seamless access to every match alongside premium entertainment for the entire fam-

ily, while benefiting from the convenience and value that talabat is known for," he said. "Together, we're creating a more connected, rewarding, and engaging entertainment experience for audiences across the region."

Fans will enjoy the tournament at its very best through TOD by beIN's advanced viewing features, including MultiView, 4K/HDR streaming, interactive timelines, real-time engagement, and automatic match highlights.

Beyond the World Cup, TOD by beIN will extend a rich library of premium Arabic, Turkish, and Western content, ensuring there is something for every member of the family.

The talabat pro and TOD by beIN annual bundles are now available to users across all talabat markets through the talabat app, with Solo and Family yearly plans available.

Customers can visit the talabat pro section in-app to subscribe and unlock access ahead of the tournament.

## Interactive Gulf Youth Day celebration tomorrow at Al-Thakhira Reserve

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

Qatar Youth Hostels, in co-operation with the Ministry of Municipality, has announced the opening of registration for the 2026 Gulf Youth Day celebration, to be held at Al-Thakhira Reserve tomorrow (June 6).

The event will feature a programme packed with environmental and recreational activities for young people.

The event aims to raise awareness among Gulf youth about the importance of preserving the environment and natural resources, and to provide them with an opportunity to learn firsthand about Qatar's rich environmental assets through a range of field activities and interactive experiences that combine entertainment and education.

The celebration itinerary will include a diverse array of activities related to ecotourism and nature exploration, allowing the participants to discover the biodiversity of Al-Thakhira Reserve, one of the country's most promi-



nent natural destinations.

It will also foster a culture of teamwork and initiative among young people.

The programme targets the 13-17 age group, with events running from 3pm-7pm.

A large turnout of young people interested in environmental and exploratory activities is expected.

This event is being organised in co-operation with Aquasports

for Sustainable Environmental and Agricultural Tourism, as part of the celebration of Gulf Youth Day, which represents an opportunity to highlight the role of youth in the development process, and to encourage them to actively participate in community and environmental initiatives, in order to contribute to building a generation that is more aware of sustainability issues and environmental protection.



Shabib al-Nuaimi

## New director of Publications and Translation Department

The Ministry of Culture announced the appointment of Shabib bin Arar al-Nuaimi as director of the Publications and Translation Department.

This appointment reflects the ministry's commitment to strengthening the role of publishing and translation, and to supporting cultural and intellectual activity in Qatar.

Al-Nuaimi is a well-known cultural figure in Qatar, having previously served as director of the Qatar Poetry Centre, affiliated with the Ministry of Culture.

During his tenure, he helped launch and organise numerous poetry and cultural events and programmes aimed at supporting literary talent and enhancing the presence of poetry in the local and Arab cultural scene.

Al-Nuaimi's cultural and administrative expertise is expected to contribute to the development of publications and translation programmes, enhance the presence of Qatari books, and broaden the horizons of translation and knowledge exchange with other cultures, in line with the ministry's strategy to support creativity and provide wider platforms for intellectuals, researchers, and creative individuals.

The Publications and Translation Department plays a vital role in publishing books, studies, and intellectual works, as well as translating cultural and intellectual works, promoting Qatari culture and contributing to building bridges of cultural communication with diverse cultures.

## Thousands of recycling bins distributed across Al Rayyan Municipality in May

As part of the National Waste Segregation at Source Programme, the Ministry of Municipality, represented by the Awareness Section of the General Cleanliness Department, distributed 885 blue recycling bins to households across Al Rayyan Municipality in May, bringing the total number of blue recycling bins distributed in the municipality to 15,027.

In addition, 885 grey bins for organic waste were distributed as part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to promote a culture of waste segregation at source and encourage sustainable environmental practices.

The distribution campaign will continue

throughout June as part of the ministry's efforts to ensure comprehensive coverage of all residential areas across Al Rayyan Municipality.

Hamad Hassan al-Tamimi, the head of the Awareness and Education Section at the General Cleanliness Department, emphasised that waste segregation at the source is a key pillar of environmental sustainability and contributes to achieving Qatar National Vision 2030.

He noted that awareness and educational initiatives will continue to be implemented in co-operation with various stakeholders to enhance environmental awareness and foster sustainable behaviours among members of the community.



## Inspection campaign on limousine cars finds 3 violations

A three-day inspection campaign, conducted during Eid al-Adha, targeting limousine cars owned by companies engaged in passenger transportation via electronic applications, has reported three violations.

Legal action has been taken against the cars in violation, as per the laws in place.

The campaign was conducted by the Ministry of Transport (MoT), in co-ordination with the Ministry of Interior (MoI)'s Public Transport Security Department.

A total of 66 limousines were inspected for potential violations of applicable laws and regulations regarding safety, reliability, and quality of service.

The campaign covered multiple areas across Qatar, with particular focus on the vital areas that see large visitor turnout during the Eid holidays.

The MoT focuses on the destinations and landmarks that attract the most visitors during public occasions and holidays.

## Israel top court strikes down government ban on ICRC prison visits

Reuters/AFP  
Jerusalem

Israel's Supreme Court has said that Israel must allow visits to Palestinian prisoners by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), ruling in favour of a petition against a ban that was brought in at the start of the Gaza war.

In its judgment issued on Wednesday,

the court found that the government had not offered sufficient justification for the blanket ban.

The ban on Red Cross visits to Palestinian detainees has restricted independent verification of their treatment, following reports of systemic abuse, starvation, and denial of medical care towards Palestinian prisoners.

"We take note of the decision of the court and stand ready to resume our work in vis-

iting detainees in Israeli places of detention," said Patrick Griffiths, a spokesperson for the ICRC.

The ruling, which covers those held in Israeli prisons and military detention, followed a joint petition by several Israeli rights organisations, including the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), to end the ban.

The Israel Prison Service, the Israeli prime minister's office and the Israeli mili-

tary did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The court found that the prohibition on ICRC prison visits had no adequate basis in Israeli law or in Israel's binding international humanitarian obligations, the ACRI said in a statement on Wednesday.

The Israeli state had argued that security interests demanded it suspend ICRC visits until all Israeli hostages were returned following the events of October 7, 2023.

## Hundreds in Libya protest against migrants, refugees

Hundreds of Libyans gathered outside the UN refugee agency headquarters in Tripoli yesterday to protest against irregular migrants and refugees that they say should leave Libya.

Demonstrators chanted "Libya belongs to Libyans" among other chants and called for the closure of the UNHCR headquarters in the capital.

They accused the UN agency of seeking to settle irregular migrants in the North African country.

Protesters were seen holding signs reading: "Our love for our country is not racism" and "Libya is not the world's garbage bin".

Libya is a key departure point for irregular migrants seeking to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean. - AFP

## DR Congo reports attack on Ebola burial team

Residents attacked an Ebola burial team in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo)'s South Kivu province this week, forcing responders to abandon a coffin and raising fears of further transmission.

The assault took place on Monday in Katana, a town controlled by AFC/M23 rebels some 30km north of the provincial capital Bukavu, according to the health ministry and the head of a local hospital reached by Reuters.

It targeted a "safe and dignified burial team" - specialised responders trained to handle highly infectious bodies under strict protocols to prevent contagion.

The body was subsequently handled by members of the community, a high-risk practice that can fuel new chains of infection, according to a situation report published online on Wednesday.

The health ministry and the hospital official did not specify what triggered the attack.

The DR Congo has recorded 363 confirmed Ebola cases and 62 deaths since the latest outbreak, the country's 17th, was declared on May 15, according to the latest health ministry data.

Health authorities reported 19 new confirmed cases, including two deaths, in the most recent update, with infections now spread across 17 out of 36 health zones in Ituri province. - Reuters

# IEI Qatar marks Information Society Day

The Institution of Engineers India (IEI) Qatar Chapter marked World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2026 with a hybrid event in Doha on May 19, bringing together over 150 engineers, academics, industry leaders and students.

The event, themed 'Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World' and in association with Oryx University and in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University, focused on digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), connectivity, inclusion and the future of resilient communication networks.

IEI Qatar Chapter chairman Abdul Sathar said the programme reflected the institution's commitment to promoting awareness, education and empowerment through technology. He noted that the event provided a platform for experts and professionals to exchange ideas, discuss challenges and explore innovations for the benefit of the engineering community.

Chief guest Sandeep Kumar, deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of India, highlighted the importance of international collaboration in advancing digital transformation and AI, while Ghana's Ambassador Mohammed N Ismaila stressed the role of technology in promoting inclusion, sustainable development and equal opportunities.

The keynote address was delivered by Starlink CEO Cyril Anand, who spoke on "Building Networks for Failures We Haven't Imagined Yet." He emphasised the need for adaptive and resilient communication networks capable of responding to future global challenges, highlighting the role of satellite connectivity and next-generation technologies in strengthening digital infrastructure.



A video message from International Telecommunication Union secretary-general Doreen Bogdan-Martin reinforced the importance of connectivity in building sustainable and inclusive societies.

Other speakers discussed the role of telecommunications, AI and digital innovation in driving economic growth, healthcare advancement and social development.

Highlights included the "Digital Lifelines: One Minute, One Digital Skill" initiative led by the IEI Women's Qatar Chapter, promoting digital literacy and leadership among women in STEM, and a student presentation by Noble International School on future habitats for Mars.

The event concluded with remarks by Oryx University vice-president for academic affairs Prof Najdawi, who said the theme aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030 and underscored the importance of ensuring that technological progress remains inclusive, accessible and beneficial to all.



## Birla Public School students crowned champs at Primary 1st Debate League

Birla Public School (BPS) celebrated the outstanding achievement of its young debaters, who won all three debate rounds and emerged as champions at the Primary 1st Debate League, hosted by Amjad International Academy.

The competition featured 20 talented young debaters representing 12 schools from across the region. BPS' students of Grade V and VI, displayed remarkable confidence, critical thinking, eloquence, and teamwork throughout the tournament.

The championship-winning team comprised Mohith Muthu, Mohammed Aman, and Pranav Pradeep, whose outstanding performances and persuasive arguments earned them top honours in the competition.

## Scouts and Guides closing ceremony at BPS celebrates leadership, service and unity



The closing ceremony of the Birla Scouts and Guides was held with great enthusiasm, discipline, and patriotic spirit on May 23 at the school auditorium. The event marked the successful culmination of a year of service, leadership, teamwork, and character-building activities undertaken by the school's Scouts and Guides.

The ceremony commenced with a warm welcome to the distinguished officials from the Qatar Scouts and Guides Association, Ahmed Khamis, Muna al-Mansouri, Paramjeet Bhullar. Their encouraging words and appreciation motivated the students to continue striving for excellence while upholding the values of discipline, service, integrity, and teamwork.

### Quiz competition winners honoured



The Qatar Chapter of Kannoth Mahallu honoured the winners of the Quiz competition conducted during the holy month of Ramadan at its Eid Friendship Gathering held at Umm Al Seneem Park. Sharafudheen P K, who secured first place; Yassir M M, who won second place; and Shameer K K, who placed third, were presented with awards during the event. Junaid VM, Rasim Hamza, Sharafudheen KS, and Shebin K Haneef also shared third place in the competition.

### Namians Qatar hosts Eid Majlis

NAM College Alumni Association Qatar Chapter recently organised Namians Qatar Eid Majlis on the third day of Eid. Alumni president Jasar Achoth said the event was a big success: "We are looking forward to the continued and active participation of our members in the future events as well."





# PISQ hosts theatre festival

The curtains rose on an extraordinary showcase of talent, imagination, and literary excellence as Pakistan International School Qatar (PISQ) presented Drama Galore 2026, a multi-day theatrical festival that brought together students from the KG, Primary, Boys, Girls, and Cambridge Wings.

Held at the Arbab Hall in May, the event provided students with a vibrant platform to express themselves through drama, strengthen their communication skills, and develop confidence through the performing arts. Drama Galore once again reflected PISQ's commitment to holistic education by promoting creativity, teamwork, leadership, and appreciation for literature beyond the classroom.

The festival commenced on May 6 with captivating performances by the KG and Boys Wings. The youngest performers enchanted the audience with *The Kingdom of Light & Shadow of Greed*, a colourful production that showcased confidence, imagination, and stage presence.

The Boys Wing then presented Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, demonstrating impressive acting skills and a deep understanding of classical literature.

On May 7, the Cambridge Wing took centre stage with a presentation of Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, bringing one of the world's greatest classical tragedies to life. The performance reflected the students' literary understanding, stage discipline, and dedication to dramatic arts. The event was further honoured by the presence of distinguished guests, including Anwer Jawad.

The final day, 10th May 2026, featured outstanding performances by the Primary and Girls Wings. The Primary Wing delighted the audience with the much-loved Urdu drama *Anarkali* while the Girls Wing delivered a powerful adaptation of Christopher Marlowe's *Dr Faustus*. Both productions captivated the audience through strong characterisation, engaging storytelling, and artistic excellence. The occasion was graced by special guests Ali Sikander and Dr Shafiqurehman.

**Impressive Participation Across Wings**

Drama Galore 2026 witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and mentors across all wings of the school. More than 180 students, mentors, hosts, and performers contributed to the festival, making it one of the largest co-curricular events of the academic year.

The performances were

the result of weeks of dedicated rehearsals, script preparation, costume design, stage planning, and teamwork. Students not only developed acting skills but also learned valuable lessons in collaboration, responsibility, and perseverance.

### Behind the Scenes

The success of Drama Galore 2026 was made possible through the collective efforts of teachers, coordinators, technical staff, and the organising team. Extensive rehearsals were conducted throughout early May to ensure polished performances and smooth stage transitions.

Special appreciation is extended to the mentors of all participating wings, whose dedication and guidance enabled students to perform with confidence and professionalism. The efforts of the technical team, stage management crew, photographers, and support staff ensured the seamless execution of all three event days.



## Clean-up campaign at singing sand dunes

Members of the Bangladeshi Volunteers Qatar (BVQ) took part in 593rd clean-up drive by DeapQatar Conservation at the famous singing sand dunes recently. The desert cleanup brought together around 50 volunteers who successfully removed approximately 130 kilograms of waste from the area, demonstrating their strong commitment to protecting the environment.

The initiative aims to promote environmental conservation and raise public awareness on the importance of environmental protection.

DeapQatar Conservation thanked BVQ and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Qatar Region for their valuable support and collaboration.

BVQ emphasised that environmental protection is a shared responsibility. The organisation stated that it will continue to support the "Keep Qatar Clean" initiative by taking part in various environmental and community welfare activities in the future.

BVQ believes that initiatives like this not only contribute to environmental preservation but also strengthen the spirit of international harmony, community engagement, and social responsibility.



## QPWA organises Eid gathering in Qatar

Indian expatriate forum Qatar Parakkadavu Welfare Association (QPWA) organised an Eid gathering at the Athlen Sports Club House on Salwa Road. The event was presided over by Association president M P Muhammed. General secretary Ismail V P delivered the welcome address, while treasurer Abbas T P proposed the vote of thanks.

As part of the celebrations, a variety of fun

games and competitions were organised for children. The gathering was further enlivened by a musical evening presented by the renowned Qatar-based music band 4S Music. Around 100 members of the association and their family members attended the Eid gathering, making it a joyful occasion that strengthened friendship, unity, and community spirit among the participants.



## QMASC Qatar Chapter conducts Eid Meet

The QMASC Qatar Chapter organised an Eid Meet at Signature Restaurant, Doha, bringing together community members in a spirit of festivity, unity, and brotherhood to celebrate Eid.

Senior community leader Raman Nair attended the event as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the importance of Eid get-togethers in

strengthening social bonds and community relationships. Recalling the early days in Qatar, he shared that in the late 1980s, Eid celebrations were often held in bachelor villas in Doha, fostering togetherness and strong community ties among expatriates.

QMASC Qatar Chapter president Ismail NK and general secretary Shanahas Edodi also addressed the gathering, extending

Eid greetings to members and emphasising the importance of preserving unity and community spirit through such social gatherings.

The Eid Meet concluded on a warm and cheerful note, with members engaging in friendly interactions and reaffirming their commitment to strengthening friendship and community harmony.



## Bangiya Parishad Qatar celebrates poet Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary

Bangiya Parishad Qatar celebrated the 165th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore on May 21 with a vibrant cultural evening titled 'Robir Aloy', showcasing Tagore's music, dance, drama, and literary performances.

The programme began with lamp lighting and a welcome

dance, followed by the formal inauguration graced by A P Manikantan, president of the Indian Cultural Centre, along with P N Baburajan, chairman of ICC Advisory Board, and Monika Modi, Member of ICC Advisory Board. The event was led by its president, Saumya Sikdar and the BPQ executive committee.

The cultural segment featured beautiful kids' anchoring, songs, and performances, along with Birpurush recitation, dance items, and a soulful Rabindra Sangeet group song by the small kids and adult choir.

A felicitation ceremony honoured board examinees and winners of the art competition and

fun games. The highlight of the evening was Tagore's dance drama *Chitrangada*, which received high appreciation for its artistic presentation.

The event concluded with celebration of Tagore's legacy and the spirit of culture, unity, and creativity within the community.



# Ruling party dominates local election but fails to win Seoul

AFP  
Seoul

Republic of Korea's ruling Democratic Party swept most seats in local elections but failed to flip the crucial Seoul mayoral seat, official results showed yesterday, in a sign that voters sought to keep a check on its power.

The vote was seen as an early referendum on President Lee Jae-myung's first year in office. He took power after months of political upheaval triggered by his conservative predecessor's declaration of martial law.

While Lee's party won most major races, incumbent conservative mayor Oh Se-hoon narrowly retained Seoul, defeating the Democratic Party's rising star Chong Won-o in a close contest.

With 99.54 percent of ballots counted, Oh, of the People Power Party (PPP), held 49.15 percent of the vote, all but securing victory with Chong trailing on 48.13 percent and few votes left to be counted.

"This election is a victory for common sense," Oh said, adding Koreans "have left Seoul as the last safety net of democracy to prevent (the country) from tilting completely to one side".

About 50 percent of the country's population resides in Seoul and its surrounding metropolitan area.

Analysts said the failure by Lee's ally to flip Seoul may suggest an undercurrent of discontent with his liberal party, even though gen-



Mayor candidate Oh Se-hoon of South Korea's main opposition People Power Party celebrates his victory after national TV predicted his win in the local elections at his campaign camp in Seoul yesterday. (AFP)

eral support for the PPP has collapsed.

Shin Yul, a political science professor at Myongji University, said the Seoul defeat suggested that centrist voters may have become dissatisfied with the Lee administration.

Lee said the government would "humbly accept the will of the people" and work with newly elected municipal governments regardless of political affiliation.

The Seoul mayoral seat draws extra scrutiny because of the capital's outsized economic, cultural and political weight, said Byung-hwan Son, director of George Mason University's Korean Studies Center.

"Since the election of former president Lee Myung-bak, who

was a highly visible Seoul mayor, the position has been widely considered a major stepping stone for future presidential hopefuls," he told AFP.

The National Election Commission apologised after 14 Seoul polling stations ran out of ballot papers in an unprecedented mishap blamed on a failure to anticipate turnout.

Lee ordered an investigation into the ballot shortage, condemning "a flaw that is difficult to accept".

Lee was elected president in June 2025 after six months of political turmoil triggered by his predecessor, Yoon Suk-yeol, who declared martial law in December 2024 before being impeached and removed from office.

Yoon's PPP remains divided over the episode. Its popularity has collapsed, and it suffered a crushing defeat in the local elections -- a stark reversal from the landslide victory it secured four years ago.

PPP leader Jang Dong-hyeok expressed his "sincere apologies" for what he described as a "disappointing" result.

The Democratic Party, meanwhile, has benefited from Lee's strong public standing.

It also won nine parliamentary seats in by-elections, while the PPP secured four and an independent candidate won one.

Another closely watched race was a parliamentary by-election in Busan, the country's second-largest city, where conservative former justice minister Han Dong-hoon won as an independent.

Analysts pointed to challenges for Oh, the re-elected Seoul mayor, if he bids for the presidency.

He is "a political veteran... with name recognition few in his party can match," Gi-Wook Shin, a sociology professor at Stanford University, told AFP.

"But he projects a sense of political fatigue, offering no fresh image and no new agenda to anchor a national candidacy."

Lee Jae-mook, a political science professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, said the polls showed "public sentiment was nuanced and complex".

"This election showed that voters sought to hold (Yoon) accountable for his martial law declaration, while at the same time preserving a mechanism to check and balance the current administration," he told AFP.



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspecting the newly-inaugurated nuclear materials production factory at an undisclosed location in North Korea. (AFP)

# Kim vows boost in nuclear capabilities

AFP  
Seoul

Kim Jong-un vowed an "exponential" increase in nuclear military capabilities as state media reported the North Korean leader visited a new atomic facility.

The nuclear-armed country is believed to operate uranium enrichment facilities at three sites — Yongbyon, Kangson and Kusong.

Kim on Wednesday went to a "newly-inaugurated nuclear materials production factory", Pyongyang's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

KCNA reported that Kim noted an "ambitious future plan designed to beef up our state's nuclear forces at an exponential rate."

Rejecting pressure from the US, North Korea insists it will not give up its nuclear arsenal, describing its path as "irreversible".

While at the reported facility, Kim also said the "weapons-grade nuclear materials production capacity more than doubled during the past 5-year course."

North Korea has conducted eight missile tests this year, which analysts say may reflect Pyongyang's efforts to take advantage of eroding international norms to cement its nuclear status.

Although North Korea did not disclose the location, analysts said the facility was likely the newly completed uranium enrichment plant at Yongbyon.

Yang Moo-jin, former president of the University of North Korean Studies, said if the site is indeed verified to be at Yongbyon, it could also serve a propaganda purpose.

With Iran's enriched uranium stockpile a key issue in US-Iran nuclear talks, North Korea appears to be "deliberately showcasing" its expanding nuclear capabilities to signal that denuclearisation is not up for negotiation with Washington, he added.

The key takeaway from Wednesday's inspection is that North Korea is ramping up production of nuclear materials to meet growing demand, said Hong Min, an analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification.

North Korea has already unveiled a large number of tactical nuclear weapons, he said, and as a result there is a "growing need to produce more nuclear warheads" for deployment on tactical missiles.

Pyongyang withdrew from the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1993 and has since conducted six nuclear tests, subjecting it to multiple UN resolutions, and is believed to possess dozens of nuclear warheads.

# Brunei's sultan announces cabinet shake-up

Reuters  
Bandar Seri Begawan

Brunei's ruler announced a major cabinet reshuffle yesterday, creating new key portfolios and appointing two of his younger sons as ministers, in a sign of potential succession planning in the tiny oil-rich sultanate. The shake-up is the first since 2022 and comes as Brunei, on the island of Borneo, faces pressure from a global energy crisis sparked by the US-Israeli war in Iran.

It also comes a year before Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, the world's longest reigning monarch who ascended the throne in 1967, prepares to celebrate his diamond jubilee.

The 79-year-old, who holds multiple roles in government, has made limited public appearances this year after undergoing knee replacement surgery in January.

In a televised broadcast, Sultan Hassanal said he would continue to hold the key roles of prime minister, defence minister and finance minister.

His second eldest son, Prince Abdul Malik, would be appointed as Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, his first cabinet role.

His second youngest, Prince Abdul Mateen — a polo enthusiast who is popular on social media — was appointed as foreign minister, a role previously held by the sultan himself.

His eldest, Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah retained his role as Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Sultan Hassanal also announced the creation of three new ministerial roles to strengthen policy co-ordination across the government. The Primary Resources and Tourism Ministry would also be re-organised as the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, he said.

"This is intended to accelerate the develop-

ment of priority sectors, strengthen economic diversification efforts, support sustainable economic growth and create meaningful employment opportunities," he said.

The reshuffle also saw the highest number of female cabinet appointments so far, including the minister of education, and three deputy ministers. Brunei has been one of the few beneficiaries of the war in Iran, boosting exports of crude oil, refined products and gas in recent weeks. But it faces soaring subsidy costs to keep pump prices among the lowest in the region.

Last month, Brunei began barring foreign-registered vehicles with fuel tanks less than three-quarters full from entering the country in a bid to deter cross-border smuggling and conserve domestic supplies.

On Wednesday, its energy department said the government had established a special committee to monitor and co-ordinate measures aimed at addressing the effects of the Middle East conflict.

# Mystery structure spotted, then vanishes at contested atoll

Reuters  
Manila

Satellite images obtained by Reuters confirmed the presence of a structure at the entrance of the hotly disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea last week, though later imagery suggests it is no longer there.

The Philippines said on Wednesday it was investigating reports about the presence of a new structure on the Scarborough Shoal, which China has at times attempted to block since it seized de facto control of the atoll in 2012.

Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro received raw information about the presence of the structure, he told reporters on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue — a regional defence forum — in Singapore on Saturday.

Photographs taken on May 27, 29, and 30 show what an analyst at Vantor, a commercial provider of satellite imagery, said was possibly a floating raft or buoy at the opening of the atoll, in addition to a barrier stretching across it in the May 27 and 29 images.

On Tuesday, US-based maritime monitoring group, SeaLight, posted on X satellite imagery taken on May 28 of Scarborough Shoal showing what it described as a "small, reflective object clearly distinguishable on the reef flat near the lagoon entrance."

"Evidence suggests it is a persistent feature rather than a transient optical artifact," SeaLight said, citing its review of additional satellite images.



A satellite image shows a possible raft at the opening of Scarborough Shoal, in the South China Sea. (Reuters)

But it could no longer be seen in a June 1 image taken by Vantor, the first reported evidence that the suspected structure is no longer present there.

China's defence ministry and its embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Scarborough, which China calls "Huangyan Dao" is one of Asia's most disputed maritime sites, and some diplomats and analysts fear long-running frictions and confrontations over the atoll could degenerate into armed conflict.

In recent years, Chinese coast guard vessels have clashed frequently with Philippine fishermen around the shoal, which is located close to major shipping lanes and is coveted for its fish stocks and a turquoise lagoon that provides a haven for vessels during storms.

China's military and coast guard carried out patrols in the area on Sunday, just after Philippine and US forces held a five-day maritime exercise in the same waters — the third such drill this year — to strengthen interoperability and maritime security.

A landmark 2016 ruling on various South China Sea issues by the Permanent Court of Arbitration backed Manila, but establishing sovereignty over Scarborough Shoal was outside its scope.

The court said Beijing's blockade there violated international law as it was a traditional fishing ground for several countries, including China, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Last year, China announced the creation of a national nature reserve at the shoal, a move quickly denounced by the Philippines, which described it as a "clear pretext for occupation."

# Indonesia arrests deputy minister on graft charges

Reuters  
Jakarta

Indonesia's anti-graft agency has arrested the country's deputy minister for immigration affairs, a spokesman said yesterday, making him the second high-profile government official in two days to face corruption charges. The arrest came a day after Indonesia's Attorney General's Office (AGO) detained Dadan Hindayana, the former head of an agency which oversees President Prabowo Subianto's flagship free meals programme.

Dadan was named as a suspect in a corruption case linked to the programme's governance and procurement.

The two alleged corruption cases are unconnected.

Silmy Karim, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Correctional Affairs, has been named a criminal suspect along with seven other people for his alleged involvement in a "systematic" extortion scheme that charged money to issue stay permits for foreign applicants, chief of the anti-graft agency KPK Setyo Budiyoanto told reporters yesterday.

Silmy had been questioned at the KPK's office since Wednesday night and emerged around 10 hours later yesterday morning in

handcuffs and wearing an orange jacket, indicating that he has been named as a suspect. He was then transported to a detention house.

The alleged corruption took place in 2023 to 2024, KPK spokesperson Budi said. Silmy served as director general for immigration affairs under Prabowo's predecessor Joko Widodo during the period. Prabowo took office in 2024 pledging to eradicate corruption and crack down on the illegal exploitation of Indonesia's vast natural resources. Separately yesterday, an Indonesian court sentenced Immanuel Ebenezer, a former deputy manpower minister who was arrested last year, to four and a half years in prison for corruption related to the processing of safety permits, making him the first member of Prabowo's cabinet to receive a criminal sentence. In April, the country's chief ombudsman was arrested just six days after his appointment for allegedly taking a bribe from a local nickel company.

"Honestly, we have been deeply concerned over the past two days by the repeated events which we clearly did not expect," State Secretariat Minister Prasetyo Hadi said yesterday.

He said the government respects the legal proceedings being conducted by the anti-graft agency and the AGO.

# Vietnam says USTR forced labour conclusion does not reflect its efforts

Vietnam's foreign ministry said yesterday that the US Trade Representative's conclusion that it had failed to curb trade in goods made with forced labour does not fully or accurately reflect Vietnam's mitigation efforts.

Vietnam's policy strictly prohibits any form of forced labour, and it complies with the regulations of the International Labour Organisation, foreign ministry spokesperson Pham Thu Hang told a regular press conference in Hanoi. Earlier this week, the Trump administration proposed tariffs of up to 125% on imports from 60 countries, including Vietnam, after determining they had failed to curb trade in goods made with forced labour, an assertion that US trading partners have rejected. The probe coincided with a surge in Vietnam's exports to the US.

The US trade deficit with Vietnam reached \$54.8bn in the first three months of this year, second only to Taiwan and higher than the deficits with major exporters China and Mexico, US data showed.

The Trump administration has repeatedly said it wants to reduce trade deficits. "Vietnam has been and will continue to exchange and work with the US in a constructive and co-operative manner to resolve existing disagreements, while always trying to protect legitimate interests of workers and businesses," Hang said. Vietnam is being targeted by the Trump administration for allegedly distorting trade with excess capacity, intellectual property violations and the use of goods from forced labour. (Reuters)

# Thailand working 'to bolster position in maritime dispute with Cambodia'

Thailand is working to strengthen its position in the dispute with Cambodia over overlapping maritime claims in the Gulf of Thailand, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow held meetings with legal advisers to "bolster" Thailand's position on the overlapping claims with Cambodia, the foreign ministry said in a statement. The announcement came after Cambodia this week launched a little-used compulsory conciliation process under the UN Law of the Sea (Unclos). "Cambodia's move followed Thailand's decision

last month to unilaterally scrap a 2001 agreement with Cambodia that sought to develop a framework to jointly explore hydrocarbons in the disputed area in the Gulf of Thailand.

The area in dispute covers approximately 26,000 square km (10,040 square miles) of sea is known as the Overlapping Claims Area (OCA) and is estimated to hold nearly 12tn cubic feet of natural gas and large quantities of oil with a value of about \$300bn.

The foreign ministry said the discussions also included "Thailand's legal and procedural

readiness for the commencement of compulsory conciliation under the Unclos, which had been prepared in advance for some time".

Thailand has consistently rejected Cambodian efforts to resolve disputes using international mechanisms, including the International Court of Justice, insisting instead on bilateral negotiations.

Last year, hostilities broke out twice between the two countries along their 817-km (508-mile) border, killing nearly 150 people and displaced hundreds of thousands. A ceasefire has been in place since December. (Reuters)

# India targets Venezuelan oil as PM Modi meets Rodriguez

AFP  
New Delhi

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez yesterday for talks to bolster trade between the oil exporter and his energy-hungry nation.

New Delhi's foreign ministry said India saw Venezuela's vast oil reserves as an "opportunity", saying it had already become a major source of crude.

Rodriguez has led Venezuela, which accounts for around 17% of global crude reserves, since January, when US forces captured former socialist president Nicolas Maduro.

She was given a red-carpet welcome and shook hands with Modi outside New Delhi's sprawling Hyderabad House before the talks began.

Modi later said that he was "happy" to have met the Venezuelan leader.

"We had extensive discussions on expanding our co-operation in energy, critical minerals, technology, agriculture, health and people-to-people ties," he said in a post on X.

"As a valued partner in Latin



Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi before their meeting at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi, yesterday. (Reuters)

America, our close co-operation with Venezuela holds immense importance for the Global South."

Rodriguez, speaking after she landed on Wednesday, said she expected "very fruitful" discussions.

Rodriguez's visit comes as India — the world's third-largest oil importer — ramps up purchases of Venezuelan crude to offset supply disruptions linked to war in the

Middle East.

"The government... is aggressively seeking out new sources of crude oil and energy to ensure India's energy security," senior Indian foreign ministry official Rudrendra Tandon told reporters after the meeting.

"So Venezuela is an opportunity, and it is very much part of our plan."

India normally sources about

half of its crude through the Strait of Hormuz.

But Iran has restricted shipping through the strait — which normally carries about one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas shipments — since the US and Israel launched attacks on February 28.

"Naturally, today's discussions focused on forging an energy partnership," Tandon said.

"In the energy sector we see a perfect complementarity... In fact, in our spot purchases, Venezuela has already emerged as the third largest supplier this month."

India, the world's fastest-growing major economy, has found itself reeling from the global energy shock sparked by the Iran war.

Elevated global crude prices are driving up India's import bill, threatening to stoke inflation and widen its current account deficit to a 14-year high, while placing pressure on an already beleaguered rupee.

"Venezuela possesses one of the largest oil reserves in the world," Tandon said.

"The Indian economy is a large and growing consumer of oil and will have stable demand growth for many years to come."

## UK plays down concern on free trade deal with India

Reuters  
London

Talks between Britain and India on implementing a free trade deal are moving quickly and going well, trade minister Peter Kyle said, suggesting the deal would not be reopened but could come into effect later than expected after a dispute over steel. Britain and India agreed a free trade deal in May 2025 and signed it two months later, to be implemented after each country ratified the deal, which was expected to happen within about a year. But Indian officials have expressed concern about steel trade measures that Britain is due to introduce next month, and have suggested that aspects of the trade deal could be renegotiated as a result.

Speaking after returning from talks in Delhi on Wednesday, Kyle played down the disagreement, citing comments by his Indian counterpart Piyush Goyal that discussions had gone well.

"We look forward to cracking on. These things take time but we've been working at breakneck speed," Kyle told re-

porters after a trade dinner in the City of London.

A British official has said talks on implementing the free trade agreement (FTA) were separate to the steel trade measures.

Asked if the deal could be reopened, Kyle said: "I'm not negotiating in public or via the media, but the FTA is what it is." He hinted that its implementation might come later in the year.

"If we implemented the deal in autumn this year, it would be the fastest implementation period of any trade deal that Britain has ever signed."

Indian officials had previously said they expected the agreement to be implemented by May, although Britain has not put a precise timescale on talks. Kyle also looked to reassure on the prospect of new US tariffs over forced labour, saying Washington had acknowledged UK efforts on the issue and that Britain faced no new tariffs for the moment.

"(The) report vindicates our approach because they named the British legislation and put us in the highest category of any of their partner countries," Kyle said, adding a UK-US trade deal agreed last year was not impacted.

## Starmmer condemns Musk's comments on student stabbing

AFP  
London

UK leader Keir Starmer accused US tech tycoon Elon Musk yesterday of "trying to whip up division" in Britain following anger over the police handling of the murder of a white student by a Sikh man.

The case of 18-year-old Henry Nowak, who was put in handcuffs by police as he lay mortally wounded after being stabbed by Vickrum Digwa, 23, in the southern city of Southampton in December, has become highly politicised in the UK.

Digwa lied and told police he was the victim as Nowak had racially insulted him.

Far-right figures have claimed the murder is evidence that police forces in Britain treat white people and ethnic minorities differently — an allegation Starmer's Labour government and police chiefs vehemently deny.

Musk, the billionaire owner of X, has posted numerous times on the platform about the police response to the stabbing.

In one, he asked whether people knew that "official police policy requires them to be racist against Whites?"

Musk has offered to fund a private prosecution against the police over its handling of the murder, and in-



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer makes the opening remarks to a meeting of Regional Mayors at the National STEM Learning Centre in York, yesterday. (AFP)

sulted the Hampshire Police force.

"We need to also assert who we are as a country, because Musk, again, has been interfering in our politics in the last few days, trying to whip up division. That is not who we are in Britain," Starmer told reporters.

"In Britain, we are reasonable, tolerant people," he added ahead of a meeting with Nowak's family at his official Downing Street residence.

"When we have a terrible case like Henry's case... we react calmly, as his family have done," the prime minister said, referring to pleas from Nowak's father that his son's murder should not be used

"to create further division, hatred or tension."

Digwa was jailed for at least 21 years on Monday for stabbing Nowak to death using a ceremonial knife with a 21-centimetre (eight-inch) blade following an altercation about a mobile phone.

Starmer has said there was "no justification" for violence at a Southampton protest on Tuesday night attended by far-right agitators, which saw demonstrators throw bricks, flares and chairs at police officers.

A 44-year-old man on Thursday pleaded guilty to violent disorder and carrying an offensive weapon.

Another person has been charged with assault.

The prime minister said it was "unforgivable" that hard-right firebrand Nigel Farage, whose Reform UK party leads opinion polls, had called for people to respond to the murder with "pure cold rage".

Farage, who has been accused of stoking racial tensions with his remarks, has defended his comments.

Starmer has called bodycam footage of Nowak's death, during which the victim can repeatedly be heard telling officers he could not breathe, as "harrowing".

He said "there are serious questions that need to be answered" about the police response.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) watchdog is investigating and is expected to report back within the next three months.

An inquest into whether police contributed to Nowak's death will open in front of a jury in September 2027, officials announced yesterday.

Musk has long been an outspoken critic of Starmer, who served as a chief state prosecutor before entering politics.

The pair clashed last year over a decades-long "grooming gangs" sexual abuse scandal.

In that case the prime minister accused the world's richest man of "spreading lies and misinformation".

## Bangladesh foils Indian border push-in attempts

Reuters  
Dhaka

Bangladesh said yesterday it had foiled several attempts by India to force people into the country over the previous 24 hours, reviving a dispute over alleged undocumented migration and clouding efforts to improve ties between the South Asian neighbours.

Their border is one of the longest land frontiers in the world, stretching for more than 4,000km (2,500 miles) across all sorts of terrain, making it difficult to police.

Border Guard Bangladesh said it had detected 10 attempted infringements by Indian authorities along several sections of the border.

India's Border Security Force and ministry of external affairs did not respond to requests for comment. India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, which governs the border states of Tripura, West Bengal and Assam, has said it would tackle undocumented migration as a priority and since last year it has been trying to push Bengali-speaking Muslims branded "illegal infiltrators" into Bangladesh. The issue has complicated efforts by both countries

to mend ties following the 2024 ousting of Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's long-time India-aligned leader. "No individual or group will be allowed to enter Bangladesh illegally through the border," BGB said in a statement, adding that any attempt to violate international border management norms and bilateral understandings would be "strictly resisted".

Bangladesh's border guards last month intensified patrols and launched public awareness campaigns along parts of the frontier due to concerns India had illegally forced people into Bangladesh in what officials, rights groups and analysts describe as "push-ins" — informal transfers of people into Bangladesh without going through verification and repatriation procedures.

India's foreign ministry in May told reporters it had asked Bangladesh to verify the nationality of more than 2,860 suspected Bangladeshis living illegally in India.

In one incident in the last day in the southwestern border district of Jhenaidah, the BGB alleged that Indian Border Security Force personnel tried to move 30 to 35 people towards Bangladeshi territory in a prison van after opening a border gate. The BGB said it forced the vehicle to retreat.



An army personnel walks past the burnt house in Sri Lanka's Batagoda yesterday, a day after a fire broke out at an elder care home. (AFP)

## Sri Lanka care home owner in custody after fire kills 12

AFP  
Colombo

The owner of an illegally operated care home in Sri Lanka was remanded in custody yesterday, a day after a fire killed 12 residents and injured six others, officials said.

Isuru Anushka, of the Maupiya Sewana home, was ordered to be held until June 11 as investigations opened into Wednesday's fire, one of the deadliest on the island for decades.

A magisterial inquiry into the incident was told by officials that the facility was not authorised to operate as a care home and had not met the minimum standards set by regulators.

"Police have been ordered to investigate violations of regulations governing the care of the elderly," an officer told reporters following a preliminary court hearing.

The inquiry was also told that 11 residents of the home were burnt to death at the home, while

the 12th victim succumbed to severe burns at a local hospital.

Another six escaped with complications from smoke inhalation.

Forensic experts combed through the wreckage of the single-storey building and discovered seven charred bodies yesterday morning, raising the death toll to 12 from the initial five on Wednesday.

An AFP photographer saw the owner in handcuffs being escorted to the scene yesterday, as police interviewed survivors and neighbours.

In addition to elderly residents, the facility also housed young people with mental health issues.

The youngest victim was a 17-year-old boy, police said.

Police said initial witness accounts suggested that the fire originated in a storeroom where dozens of mattresses were stacked.

Police spokesman Frederick Wootler said 51 residents and staff rescued on Wednesday had been moved to a nearby government school.

## Climber alive after missing for 6 days on Everest

AFP  
Kathmandu

A Nepali climbing guide who went missing on Mount Everest for six days and was believed dead has been found alive after crawling alone almost to Base Camp, officials told AFP yesterday.

His wife had even begun to offer last rite prayers for his soul, she told AFP at the hospital in the capital Kathmandu, where he is recovering from "some frostbite" but is conscious.

Mountaineer Dawa Sherpa — who is in his 50s, and is better known as "Hillary", like famed climber Edmund Hillary — vanished on the upper reaches of the world's highest mountain in bitter conditions, early on May 30.

He was found yesterday morning close to Base Camp by the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC), a Nepali team that helps set routes on Everest and clean up waste left behind.

"He was found by a team of SPCC this morning close to the base camp — he was crawling down," Pemba Sherpa of 8K Expeditions, which was overseeing search and rescue efforts, told AFP.

A helicopter flew him to Kathmandu, where an AFP team saw him carried out on a stretcher.

"He is awake and undergoing treatment," Nishant Dhakal, a doctor in the intensive care unit of Kathmandu's HAMS Hospital, said.

"We are managing his frostbites, cold injuries, hydration and trauma. He is being further evaluated and will be in our ICU."

Dawa Sherpa's wife, Damu Sherpa, said her family was overjoyed.



Paramedics work to transport Dawa Sherpa from the helipad at HAMS Hospital in Kathmandu, yesterday. (Reuters)

"We were very happy to hear the news, we had given up hope," she said. "We also began puja (last rite prayers) yesterday."

His daughter Mendo Lhamu Sherpa said they almost did not believe it when they received a telephone call to say that he was found. "At first we were not sure if it was him — but they sent us photos to confirm, and then I was happy," she said.

Climber Chris Thrall, a former British Royal Marine, said he successfully summited the 8,849-metre (29,032-foot) peak with Dawa Sherpa around 5:00pm on May 29.

He posted a video message on Instagram on Wednesday mourning what he thought was the death of Dawa Sherpa.

He called him an "absolute gentle giant of a man and a true 'tiger of the mountains'", in a post that assumed the worst.

Thrall described how on May 30 he had begun to descend from Camp Four — at around 7,950m, just below the low-oxygen "death zone".

He said that as he descended,

Dawa Sherpa stopped.

"He sat down for a rest with his backpack, these guys carry huge loads," he said. "And I turned and I said, 'Hillary, are you okay, brother?' He said, 'Yes, yes, fine Chris, please go, go!' This is nothing new, you know, I'd go ahead, he'd go ahead."

As Thrall went down, he found a Polish climber who was struggling after running out of supplementary oxygen and had suffered frostbite. "It had been a long summit push. What should have been five days to the summit and back took us 11 days, that's how challenging the conditions were," said Thrall.

"So, do I go back for Sherpa, who's probably going to rock up and be fine, as he has done hundreds of times before?" he added.

"Or do I help my fellow climber, who's got no oxygen, frostbite in his fingers, and obviously you're never far off hypothermia up there?"

Thrall described tough conditions, sharing his oxygen cylinder with the Pole as they descended, taking 11 hours to get to Camp Three. It would usually take two hours.



# Dire consequences of injustice

Injustice is deviation from justice and violation of the truth.

## There are three broad types of injustice:

1- To be unjust towards Allah The Almighty: The most heinous forms of this type are disbelief, polytheism, and hypocrisy. Allah The Almighty Says (what means):

{And [mention, O Muhammad], when Luqmaan said to his son while he was instructing him, "O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with him] is great injustice."} [Qur'an 31:13]

{Indeed, the curse of Allah is upon the unjust.} [Qur'an 11:18]

2- To be unjust towards other people: Allah The Almighty Says (what means):

{And the recompense of an odious deed is an odious deed like the like of it; yet whoever is clement and acts righteously, then his reward is up to Allah. Surely, He does not love the unjust.} [Qur'an 42:40]

{The cause is only against the ones who wrong the people and tyrannise upon the earth without right. Those will have a painful punishment.} [Qur'an 42:42]

3- To be unjust towards oneself: Allah The Almighty Says (what means):

{Then we caused to inherit the Book those We have chosen of Our servants; and among them is he who wrongs himself.} [Qur'an 35:32]

{He [Moosa] said, "My Lord, indeed I have wronged myself, so forgive me," and He forgave him. Indeed, He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.} [Qur'an 28:16]

In fact, all three types are considered as doing injustice to oneself as one wrongs oneself when one intends to do injustice.

Ah-Thahabi, may Allah have mercy upon him, maintained that injustice is a major sin and said that doing injustice to others may take the form of trespassing on their property, abusing them physically or verbally, and attacking the weak. He mentioned the Qur'anic verses and Prophetic Hadiths that threaten the unjust. Then he reported that some of the righteous predecessors said, "Do not wrong the weak so as not to be one of the evil strong people." In addition to this, he mentioned some forms of injustice that he considered to be major sins:

- Devouring the property of orphans
- Procrastination in repaying debts despite the ability to repay at the due time.
- Denying a wife her rights such as dowry, clothing and provision.
- Denying a labourer his wage or salary
- Inaccurate divisions and valuation, which are considered major sins, according to Ibn Hajar, may Allah have mercy upon him.

## The Texts of the Shari'ah Dispraise Injustice

Allah The Almighty Says (what means): {And those cities - We destroyed them when they wronged, and We made for their destruction an appointed time.} [Qur'an 18:59]

{And in no way did We do injustice to them, but it is they who were the unjust.} [Qur'an 43:76]

{Allah does not love the unjust.} [Qur'an 3:57]

{And your Lord does injustice to no one.} [Qur'an 18:49]

{And your Lord is not ever unjust to [His] servants.} [Qur'an 41:46]

{Verily the unjust are surely in perpetual torment.} [Qur'an 42:45]

In addition, there are many Qur'anic verses that speak about doing injustice to oneself. These verses explain that this type of injustice comes in two forms: Shirk (polytheism), and disobeying Allah The Almighty. Shirk is the most heinous



of sins; Allah The Almighty Says (what means): {Then we caused to inherit the Book those We have chosen of Our servants; and among them is he who wrongs himself, and among them is he who is moderate, and among them is he who is foremost in good deeds by permission of Allah. That [inheritance] is what is the great bounty.} [Qur'an 35:32]

Doing injustice to others through aggression against their lives, property or anything else, is dispraised in many Qur'anic verses such as the verse that reads (what means): {The cause is only against the ones who wrong the people and tyrannise upon the earth without right. Those will have a painful punishment.} [Qur'an 42:42]

Similarly, the Hadiths of the Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, dispraise injustice:

● It was narrated on the authority of Abu Moosa Al-Ash'ari, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said: "Indeed, Allah gives respite to the oppressor, but when He seizes him, He does not let him escape." Then he recited: {And thus is the taking away of your Lord when He takes away the towns [while] they are unjust; surely His taking away is painful [and] strict.} [Qur'an 11:102] [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

● The Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said: "Protect yourselves against doing injustice, for injustice will be darkness on the Day of Resurrection." [Muslim]

● 'Aa'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, said to Abu Salamah ibn 'Abdur Rahman, may Allah be pleased with him, who was disputing with some people over a piece of land, "O Abu Salamah, beware of seizing land unjustly because the Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said, 'Whoever seizes unlawfully a hand-span of land, a collar of seven lands will be around his neck [in the Hereafter]!' [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

● It was narrated on the authority of Huthayfah, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said: "Do not be blind followers and say: 'If people do good, we do good, and if people do injustice, we do injustice.' Adjust yourselves; when people do good, do good, and when they wrong, do not do injustice." [At-Tirmithi]

● It was narrated on the authority of 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ood, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said: "Whenever a person is murdered, there is a share of the burden of the crime on the son of 'Adam [Adam], may Allah exalt his mention, since he was the first to commit murder." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

● It was narrated on the authority of Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said:

Do not envy one another; do not commit Najash [to overbid against a rival purchaser simply to harm him with no intention of buying the merchandise]; do not hate one another; do not turn your backs on one another; do not enter into commercial transactions when others have entered into that [transaction]; rather, be, O slaves of Allah, brothers. A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim; he does not do injustice to him, he does not let him down, and he does not disdain him. Piety is here, [and he pointed to his chest three times]. It is enough evil for a Muslim to disdain his brother Muslim. All of a Muslim is inviolable for other Muslims: his blood [life], his property and his honour. [Muslim]

The righteous predecessors also dispraised injustice in their sayings:

● 'Ali ibn Abi Taalib, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The day when the wronged will triumph over the wrongdoer will be far severer than the day when the wrongdoer wronged him." Mu'aawiyah, may Allah be pleased with him, would say, "I would be terrified to wrong a person

who has none but Allah The Exalted to seek His help against me."

● Abu Al-'Aynaa, may Allah have mercy upon him, said, "I had some unjust enemies, and I complained about them to Ahmad ibn Abi Daawood. I said to him, 'They have become united like a single hand against me!' He replied, 'The hand of Allah is over their hands.} [Qur'an 48:10] I said, 'They are cunning!' He replied, 'The evil plot does not encompass except its own people.} [Qur'an 35:43] I said, 'They belong to a large company!' He replied, 'How many a small company has overcome a large company by permission of Allah The Exalted.} [Qur'an 2:249]'"

● Yoosuf ibn 'Asbaat, may Allah have mercy upon him, said, "Whoever wishes an oppressor long life wants Allah The Exalted to be disobeyed in His universe."

● Ibn Mas'ood, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "When the punishment was removed from the people of Yoonus, may Allah exalt his mention, they all returned the rights of others to the extent that a man would pluck a stone out of the foundation of his house and return it to its owner."

● Abu Thawr ibn Yazeed, may Allah have mercy upon him, said, "Using an unlawfully acquired stone in a building is considered the beginning of its destruction."

● A scholar said, "Had a single stone of injustice been used in building Paradise, the House of Eternity, it would have been ruined."

● A sage said, "When you want to do injustice, remember the justice of Allah The Almighty that will be executed against you. When you want to use your strength to wrong others, remember that Allah The Exalted has the strength to punish you. Never, be impressed by someone who sheds blood, as his Assassin never dies."

● Yazeed ibn Haatim would say, "I fear nothing more than a person whom I wronged while knowing that he has no

supporter but Allah The Exalted, especially when he says, 'Allah The Exalted is sufficient to judge between me and you.'"

● One day, 'Ali ibn Al-Fudhayl wept, so he was asked why. He replied, "I feel sorry for those who wronged me, because they will have nothing to say to Allah The Almighty as an excuse."

● While Sulaymaan ibn 'Abdul-Malik was on the pulpit, a man said to him, "Remember the Day of Announcement!" Sulaymaan descended from the pulpit and asked the man, "And what is the Day of Announcement?" The man answered, "Allah The Almighty Says (what means): {Then an announcer will announce between them, "The curse of Allah be on the unjust.} [Qur'an 7:44]"

● Abu Ad-Dardaa, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Beware of the orphan's tears and the supplication of a wronged person."

● Some scholars state that there are three types of injustice:

● Unforgivable injustice: This type refers to Shirk, from which we seek refuge with Allah The Exalted. Allah The Almighty Says (what means): {Indeed, Allah does not forgive association with Him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills.} [Qur'an 4:48]

● Injustice that cannot be waived: This type refers to doing injustice to the servants of Allah The Almighty.

● Forgivable injustice: This type refers to wronging oneself.

● A man passed by a person whom Al-Hajjaaj had crucified, and said, "O Allah, your leniency with the oppressors has harmed the oppressed." When the man slept that night he saw in a vision that he entered Paradise, and saw the man who had been crucified in the highest ranks of Paradise; then he heard a caller say, "My leniency with the oppressors has admitted the oppressed people to the highest ranks in Paradise."

● It was said, "Whoever plunders others property, others will plunder his property."

● It is said, "Whoever does injustice for long, loses power."

● 'Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "Beware of the supplication of an oppressed man, as it is answered."

● 'Ali, may Allah be pleased with him, said, "The previous nations were destroyed because they kept denying people's rights until this became rampant, and they spread transgression until its rights were ransomed."

● It was said, "The most evil of all wrongdoers is the one who wrongs some people for the benefit of others."

● Ibn Al-Jawzi said, "Injustice necessitates two sins: usurping others' rights and defying Allah The Exalted with disobedience. The sin of doing injustice is more evil than other sins because it is usually committed against the weak, who are powerless to fend for themselves. The cause of injustice is the darkness of the heart; a man whose heart is lit with guidance would not commit injustice."

● Ibn Taymiyyah, may Allah have mercy upon him, said, "People unanimously agree that the consequences of injustice are dire and that the outcomes of justice are good." He also said that, "Allah The Exalted grants victory to a just state even if it is a non-Islamic state, and lets an unjust state be defeated, even if it is an Islamic state."

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/>



# Causes of injustice

A - The devil: Allah The Almighty Says (what means):

{O you who have believed, enter into Islam completely [and perfectly] and do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy.} [Qur'an 2:208]

{Satan has overcome them and made them forget the remembrance of Allah. Those are the party of Satan. Unquestionably, the party of Satan - they will be the losers.} [Qur'an 58:19]

B- A persistent evil-enjoining soul: Allah The Almighty Says (what means): {Indeed, the soul is a persistent enjoiner of evil.} [Qur'an 12:53]

C- Personal inclination; Allah The Almighty Says (what means):

{So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just.} [Qur'an 4:135]

{But as for he who feared the position of his Lord and prevented the soul from [unlawful] inclination, then indeed, Paradise will be [his] refuge.} [Qur'an 79:40, 41]

{...and do not obey one whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance and who follows his desire.} [Qur'an 18:28] There many other similar verses.

## Curing and Giving Up Injustice

1- Remembering that Allah The Almighty never does injustice; He Says (what means):

{Whoever does righteousness - it is for his [own] soul; and whoever does evil [does so] against it. And your Lord is not ever unjust to [His] servants.} [Qur'an 41:46]

{Indeed, Allah does not do injustice, [even] as much as an atom's weight} [Qur'an 4:40]

{Allah wants no injustice to the worlds.} [Qur'an 3:108]

2- Considering the fateful destiny of unjust people: Allah The Almighty Says (what means):

{And decidedly not one of you [there is], except that he will go [herded] down

to it; that, for your Lord, has been a thing decreed, a must. Thereafter, We will safely deliver the ones who were pious and leave behind the unjust [ones], [abjectly] kneeling.} [Qur'an 19:71, 72]

{And your Lord would not have destroyed the cities unjustly while their people were reformers.} [Qur'an 11:117]

{Say, "Have you seen for yourselves? In case the torment of Allah comes up to you suddenly or openly, will any be perished except the unjust people?"} [Qur'an 6:47]

3- Not to despair of the Mercy of Allah The Almighty: He Says (what means): {Indeed, no one desprais of relief from Allah except the disbelieving people.} [Qur'an 12:87]. It was narrated on the authority of Safwaan ibn Muhriz that a man asked Ibn Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, "What did you hear the Messenger of Allah, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, say in private?" Ibn 'Umar replied, "I heard the Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam, say:

A believer will be brought extremely close to his Lord on the Day of Resurrection. Enveloping him in His Mercy; He will make him confess to his sins by asking him: "Do you remember doing this sin and that sin?" He will reply: "Yes, my Lord, I remember." Then Allah The Almighty will say, "I covered it up for you in the worldly life, and I forgive you for it today." Then the record of his good deeds will be handed to him. As for the disbelievers and hypocrites, their evil acts will be exposed publicly {...and the witnesses will say, "These are the ones who lied against their Lord." Unquestionably, the curse of Allah is upon the wrongdoers...} [Qur'an 11:18]" [Muslim]

Moreover, the Hadith about the story of

the man who killed ninety-nine people, as well as the one who said: "By Allah, if my Lord takes hold of me, He would torment me as He has not tormented anyone else." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim], support the same meaning that a believer must not despair of the mercy of Allah The Almighty.

4- Imagining the predicament of reckoning and judgment on the Day of Judgment; Allah The Almighty Says (what means): {And the earth will shine with the light of its Lord, and the record [of deeds] will be placed, and the prophets and the witnesses will be brought, and it will be judged between them in truth, and they will not be wronged. And every soul will be fully compensated [for] what it did; and He is most knowing of what they do.} [Qur'an 39:68-70]

5- Remembrance and mentioning of Allah The Almighty and seeking His forgiveness: Allah The Almighty Says (what means): {And those who, when they commit an immorality or wrong themselves [by transgression], remember Allah and seek forgiveness for their sins - and who can forgive sins except Allah? - and [who] do not persist in what they have done while they know.} [Qur'an 3:135]

6- Restraining oneself from doing injustice and returning rights to their owners: Sincere repentance is to feel remorse in the heart, to restrain oneself from disobeying Allah The Exalted, to ask Him for forgiveness by the tongue, and endeavour to return rights to their owners. Consequently, whoever has transgressed against his brother's honour, property or anything else, then let him ask for his forgiveness today before the time (the Day of Resurrection) when there will not be any

dinars or dirhams and there will only good deeds and evil deeds, as mentioned in the authentic Hadith.

## Consequences and Harms of Injustice

● Injustice incurs the anger of Allah The Exalted.

● Allah The Almighty makes an unjust person suffer all types of torment.

● Injustice destroys families and states.

● An unjust person will be deprived of all forms of the intercession of the Prophet, sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam.

● Letting unjust people go unpunished corrupts the entire Ummah (Nation)

● Injustice is a sign of the hardness and darkness of the heart.

● An unjust person is low and mean in the sight of Allah The Exalted.

● Injustice causes one to lose the blessings of Allah The Almighty. The Qur'an tells us the story of the man who lost his two gardens because of his injustice: Allah The Almighty Says (what means):

{And he entered his garden while he was unjust to himself. He said, "I do not think that this will perish - ever. And I do not think the Hour will occur. And even if I should be brought back to my Lord, I will surely find better than this as a return."} [Qur'an 18:35, 36]

Injustice was the only cause of the destruction of previous kingdoms: {So the people that committed wrong were eliminated. And praise to Allah, Lord of the worlds.} [Qur'an 6:45]

{So We took him [Pharaoh] and his soldiers and threw them into the sea. So see how was the end of the wrongdoers.} [Qur'an 28:40]

Allah The Almighty also tells us about the people of Lut (Lot), may Allah exalt

his mention, Saying (What means): {So when Our command came, We made the highest part [of the city] its lowest and rained upon them stones of layered hard clay, [which were] marked from your Lord. And Allah's punishment is not from the wrongdoers [very] far.} [Qur'an 11:82, 83]

Similarly, Allah The Exalted destroyed the people of Noah (Noah), may Allah exalt his mention, 'Tha-mood, 'Aad and the Companions of the Thicket. Allah The Almighty Says (what means): {So each We seized for his sin; and among them were those upon whom We sent a storm of stones, and among them were those who were seized by the blast [from the sky], and among them were those whom We caused the earth to swallow, and among them were those whom We drowned. And Allah would not have wronged them, but it was they who were wronging themselves.} [Qur'an 29:40]

The remorse of unjust people is useless if it comes too late; {And the Day that the unjust [person] will bite at both his hands, [and] say, "Oh, would that I had taken to myself a way along with the Messenger?"} [Qur'an 25:27]

Injustice is one of the sins that cause one to be punished in this world and in the Hereafter because it affects others. This is no surprise, as the wronged person humbly and bitterly supplicates against the person who did injustice to him, and Allah The Exalted answers his supplication, Saying: "By My Might and Exaltedness, I shall rescue you, even if it be after some time."

Hence, fear Allah The Almighty; be just and return the rights to whom they are due, before there comes a day when there will be no repelling.

Article source: <http://www.islamweb.net/emainpage/>

As the European Union (EU) unveiled its technology sovereignty package on Wednesday, a top official posted in glee: "Today is Tech Liberation Day!" True technological independence from US Big Tech, however, will take longer to attain.

The EU plan aims to boost European tech firms and limit some access for dominant US rivals. It marks a key but initial step, with the bloc trailing far behind the US and Asia on AI, chips, cloud services and data centres.

Ralf Wintergerst, president of German digital industry group Bitkom, said measures like the proposed Chips Act 2.0 were a "step in right direction", but Europe needed concrete action and a better investment environment from chips to AI infrastructure.

"It is now crucial that these efforts do not stop at mere announcements. Europe needs to move quickly," he said. EU tech chief Henna Virkkunen presented the package

## Europe's tech 'liberation day'? Computer says not yet

that restricts US giants like Amazon, Microsoft and Google from the most sensitive cloud tenders, while encouraging a quick build-out of data centres that use at least some European hardware or software.

On chips, the plan is less about luring leading-edge plants and more about supporting existing strengths around leading chip equipment maker ASML from materials to advanced packaging, while using public demand to help startups scale.

But with few regional champions, cutting reliance is not going to happen quickly. The bloc has no European version of Nvidia to design AI chips, no rival to Taiwan's TSMC to manufacture them, and no software giants comparable with the big US firms able to drive demand through vast cloud platforms.

"We will continue to rely on Nvidia and AMD for GPUs and will need to cooperate with international partners on certain AI models. This is not a weakness, but realism," said Achim Weif, CEO of German cloud provider Ionos.

"It must be clear that sovereignty does not mean self-sufficiency."

The EU plan also contains little new money, especially compared with huge US investment and Chinese industrial support. That leaves the bill to member states already under budget pressure, while companies face high energy costs, labour shortages and fragmented capital markets.

"Europe cannot regulate its way into semiconductor leadership", said Erik Rein, head of European chipmaker association ESIA, who also heads Bosch's

semiconductor business. Mitchell Rutledge, Europe Policy Manager at the Computer & Communications Industry Association, said a focus on data centre capacity was good but Europe needed to be attracting investment, "not shutting it out".

A Microsoft spokesperson said the firm shared the EU's ambition to strengthen technological sovereignty and global competitiveness in AI, but called for an open market with "fair competition".

Wolfgang Weber, managing director of ZVEI, the German electrical and digital industry group, praised plans for faster approvals of strategic tech projects that require state aid, though he said Europe couldn't "force the issue". "Europe achieves sovereignty through its own strength, not through barriers," he said.

The final European Commission package also stopped short of a hard "Buy European" approach, which left some critics saying it had not gone far enough.

"I am sceptical that this will be sufficient to ensure long term independence from the US," said Greens/EFA European parliament member Kim van Sparrentak.

"This long delayed package finally recognises the scale of Europe's digital dependency, but ultimately falls short."

Some pointed to the balance the measures struck—realistic small steps towards a longer-term ambition. "The package frames tech sovereignty in a more pragmatic way than previous debates often did," Julia Hess of interface, a German technology policy think-tank, told Reuters. — Reuters

# Russia bets on air war as it stumbles on the battlefield

- Russian strikes come amid slowing ground momentum
- Moscow's gains miniscule compared to same period last year
- Slowing advances could weaken Kremlin's hand in peace talks

By Dan Peleschuk  
Reuters

Russia is pummeling major Ukrainian cities in an effort to sustain a sputtering war effort marked by a struggle to maintain momentum on the battlefield, where advances over the last month slowed to a near halt, researchers say.

Tuesday's devastating air attacks on Ukraine — which killed 23 people and wounded more than 130 — followed months of stalling progress for Moscow, which has faced stiffer Ukrainian resistance on the ground and mounting strikes on oil infrastructure and military-industrial sites from the air.

While Russian forces are still grinding forward in parts of Ukraine's eastern region of Donetsk, their glacial pace — combined with pushback elsewhere on the front line — threatens to weaken the Kremlin's hand in any future peace talks, analysts say.

President Vladimir Putin has insisted that the war cannot end unless Russia controls all of Donbas — which groups the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. Ukrainian forces still hold around a fifth of Donetsk.

"In the broader picture, if the Russians can't find ways to pick up momentum significantly, the goal of capturing Donbas this year is slipping out of their reach fast," said John Helin, analyst and co-founder of the Black Bird Group, a Finnish conflict-analysis team.

According to Black Bird Group's latest data, shared with Reuters, Russian forces captured just 82 sq km of Ukrainian territory in May, compared to 94 sq km in April and 25 sq km in March. That stands in stark contrast to the much larger gains made over the same period last year, when Moscow's troops took 538 sq km, 226 sq km, 185 sq km, respectively, according to Black Bird.

The Institute for the Study of War (ISW), a Washington-based think tank, said a series of escalating Russian strikes on Kyiv and other cities in recent weeks has been aimed partly at distracting from Moscow's battlefield woes and the impact of Ukraine's own long-range attacks inside Russia.

On Wednesday, Ukrainian drones struck an oil export terminal in St Petersburg, hours before a major annual economic forum kicked off in the city, in a bid to embarrass the Kremlin. "Putin is using massive strike packages against Kyiv in an effort to break Ukraine's will to fight as well as to disguise his weakness," ISW said in an assessment on Tuesday, following the attack on Kyiv and Dnipro, a southeastern industrial hub.

It was the third heavy assault on the Ukrainian

capital within a month. Russia's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment for this story. Putin has said his forces were advancing on the battlefield and could soon conclude the war. The Kremlin said on Wednesday it would continue striking Ukraine "systematically" in response to attacks like those on St Petersburg.

### SLOW PACE OF GAINS

The Kremlin's spring offensive has primarily targeted Ukraine's so-called "fortress belt" of strategic cities in Donbas, stretching from Slovyansk and Kramatorsk in the north to Kostiantynivka in the south.

Kyiv has vehemently refused to cede the remaining parts of Donbas that Russia has been unable to conquer in four years of war. And analysts say Moscow's slower rate of advance means it is losing leverage.

A drone-infested "kill zone" along the 1,200-km front line, in which territory is fiercely contested and weakly controlled, makes concrete losses and advances difficult to assess. The front line is often blurred into a "grey zone", with small pockets of troops from both sides intermingled across several kilometers.

Earlier this week, Ukrainian open-source group DeepState said Russian troops in May saw their smallest monthly gains since October 2023 — 14 sq km — despite a 37.5% spike in assaults by Russian forces. It added that a delay in showing Ukrainian advances meant Kyiv's forces were likely to have retaken more territory than Russia captured for the first time since a failed Ukrainian counteroffensive in 2023.

DeepState's map shows Ukraine made minor new gains in May around the village of Novoselivka, some 50km southwest of Pokrovsk, compounding earlier gains near the same area after a successful winter counterattack. "The war is entering a new stage and it is important for the Ukrainian state not to lose the initiative," the group said on Monday.

A senior Ukrainian commander, Brigadier General Andriy Biletsky, who commands Ukraine's Third Army Corps, told Reuters last month that Ukraine had a six-month opportunity to knock Russia onto the back foot and strengthen its own hand for peace talks.

Mathieu Boulegue of the US-based Center for European Policy Analysis said Moscow's war machine is also grappling with shrinking industrial capacity due to Western sanctions, as well as dwindling stocks of nearly all weaponry.

"They are really slowly, I think, changing the cost-benefit calculus of the Kremlin," he said of Russia's appetite for continuing the war.



## How Nvidia nudge propelled Micron into the AI top league

By Stephen Nellis  
Reuters

Micron Technology's march toward a \$1tn valuation is nothing if not dramatic: a year ago it was a little over \$100bn. That surge, though, was not built on its famed frugality, but on a nearly too-late push from Nvidia that pulled the US memory chipmaker into the centre of the AI boom. For decades, the Idaho-based company survived by building factories on a shoestring budget, adopting used equipment and avoiding cutting-edge bets. That discipline helped it endure brutal boom-bust cycles in memory chips and outlast rivals, leaving it one of three global suppliers alongside Korea's Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix.

But that approach of treating memory chips as a commodity clashed with Nvidia's vision for AI. Three years ago, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang met Micron boss Sanjay Mehrotra and outlined how he expected the memory market to evolve, Huang said in a media interview last month. Huang had long bet early that memory, and not just processors, would become a critical bottleneck for AI, forcing suppliers like Micron to rethink both technology and spending. "I was really grateful that Micron and Nvidia really lined up all of our road map," Huang said in the interview.

As Nvidia and other AI leaders rewired data centers, memory shifted from a commodity component to specialized high bandwidth memory (HBM) chips tailored to specific processors. These chips are co-designed for customers, making Micron's offerings for Nvidia distinct from those it sells to Advanced Micro Devices or others. Micron's chips are now tightly integrated into AI systems, including Nvidia's upcoming Vera Rubin platform. That alignment reshaped Micron's trajectory, pulling it into long-term, higher-margin deals and giving investors greater confidence in its earnings. Micron's stock has surged roughly 10-fold over the past year. The company crossed the \$1tn market capitalization on May 26, joining an elite group of trillion-dollar firms including Samsung. A day later, Hynix hit that mark.

Separately, Marvell Technology's shares hit a record high earlier this week after Huang called the custom chipmaker the next "trillion-dollar company" during the Computex week in Taipei.

### AI GROWTH RESHAPES MICRON'S TRAJECTORY

Micron expects the HBM market it serves to grow to about \$100bn by 2028. It posted a \$14bn profit in the latest quarter, a striking turnaround from the \$5.8bn loss it posted as recently as 2023, when the memory cycle turned and demand collapsed. That rebound follows a misstep. For years, memory was a commodity business,



Sanjay Mehrotra, CEO of Micron Technology Inc, shows a chip on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange. (Reuters/File Photo)

with customers such as Apple and Dell able to switch suppliers easily and drive down prices. That volatility made Micron wary of betting early on high-bandwidth memory, even as Korean rivals pushed ahead.

Nvidia's AI build-out forced a rethink. Micron said in March it had signed its first five-year supply agreement, a landmark shift for an industry long driven by short-term pricing swings. Analysts expect Nvidia to be central to those arrangements, though neither company has confirmed it. "They are seeing long-term customer demand, with real commitment," said Ben Bajarin of Creative Strategies. "That is the key driver getting them to spend money."

### REMAINING NIMBLE IN A CYCLICAL MARKET

Micron's old habits have not entirely disappeared and may still be an advantage, even as the company adapts them for a faster-moving market. The challenge now is speed. Under Mehrotra, Micron has focused on shortening development cycles and quickly fixing production issues, a critical capability in AI where missing technical specifications can cost lucrative supply deals. Micron's position as the only major US-based memory supplier also adds an edge as customers diversify away from Korea and governments push for domestic supply chains. But the real test will come when the cycle turns again. Analysts expect AI to make the memory market structurally larger, but not immune to slowdowns. When that happens, Micron's longstanding discipline — the same frugality that once held it back — could again set it apart.

"In the early days, nobody gave Micron a chance," said Dan Hutcheson, vice chair of technology consulting firm TechInsights. "They've always had that back-against-the-wall attitude. If they lose that, like Intel lost it, they'll die."



Smoke billowing from a fire during drone and missile attacks in Kyiv on Wednesday. Russian missile and drone barrages rocked parts of Ukraine, killing four and wounding dozens, officials said on June 2, the latest attacks in a war with no end in sight. (AFP)

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## Labour minister meets ILO director-general



HE the Minister of Labour Dr Ali bin Smaikh al-Marri met with Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Gilbert Houngbo, on the sidelines of the International Labour Conference, taking place in Geneva. During the meeting, the two sides discussed mechanisms for enhancing co-operation between Qatar and the ILO and ways to further strengthen and develop this co-operation. The two sides also reviewed the progress of the joint work programme between Qatar and the ILO, the extension of which was signed last year with the aim of enhancing the work environment, increasing the competitiveness of the national workforce, and developing and training the national talents in line with labour market needs. (QNA)

## Qatar, UAE discuss strengthening co-operation in municipal affairs



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met yesterday with ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the State of Qatar Saeed Abdullah al-Qamzi to discuss ways of enhancing bilateral co-operation. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates and explored opportunities to strengthen collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The discussions focused on advancing co-operation in municipal and related sectors, reflecting the continued commitment of both countries to deepening ties and promoting shared interests. The meeting forms part of ongoing engagement between Doha and Abu Dhabi aimed at expanding co-operation and reinforcing bilateral relations across a range of fields. (QNA)

## Daam, QFA ink funding agreement to support Qatari fans delegation

The Social and Sport Contribution Fund (Daam) has signed a funding agreement with the Qatar Football Association (QFA) to support the Qatari Fans Delegation Program, aimed at backing the national team during the FIFA World Cup 2026.



Under the agreement, the fund will provide the necessary financial support to enable the Qatar Football Association to implement a comprehensive plan for transporting the Qatari fans delegation from the State of Qatar to the United States and Canada. The programme includes travel arrangements, flight tickets through Qatar Airways, the official carrier, as well as hotel accommodations and local transportation.

Secretary-General of the Qatar Football Association, Mansoor Mohammed al-Ansari praised the agreement, stating: "We extend our sincere thanks to Daam for this valuable co-operation and outstanding support in funding

the travel arrangements for Qatari fans attending our national team's matches at the FIFA World Cup 2026. We look forward to a safe and successful journey, as well as exceptional support from our fans at this global event. Undoubtedly, this support from the Fund represents a key pillar in the implementation of our operational plans across all aspects, enabling us to deliver an outstanding fan experience for Qatari supporters during the FIFA World Cup 2026."

For his part, Director of Programs at Daam, Hassan Yousef al-Obaidli said: "We are proud to support this initiative, which goes beyond being merely a supporters' trip. It represents a message

of loyalty and encouragement for our national team at the world's biggest sporting event. Through this support, we aim to remove all obstacles facing Qatari fans, enabling them to stand firmly behind Al Annabi and contribute to showcasing Qatar's identity on the global stage."

The initiative is expected to facilitate the participation of approximately 1,000 individuals, including Qatari supporters, members of the supporters' association, media representatives, and players' families, to support the national team, strengthen media coverage, and create a vibrant atmosphere that will help drive the team toward achieving the best possible results at this global event.

This agreement reflects the leading role played by both Daam and the companies listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange in supporting sports initiatives, in line with the objectives of the Qatar National Vision 2030. (QNA)

## Mada offers QR600k for accessibility innovations

From page 1

Al-Obaidli noted that Daam Fund is committed to supporting initiatives that promote technological innovation and digital inclusion. He also stressed that technology is a key pillar in building a more inclusive and sustainable society.

Meanwhile, Dr Ascharaf Othman, director of the Research Development Innovation Programme at Mada, gave a presentation about the award and highlighted its salient features.

He said: "The award continues to support innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and students in transforming ideas into practical solutions that enhance digital accessibility and assistive technology across the Arab world. After the submission of the proposals, there will be a jury consisting of leading academics and digital experts to select the winners of the award. The award will most probably be announced between December 2026 and January 2027."



Amani al-Tamimi and Hassan Yousef al-Obaidli at the press conference. PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam.

According to Dr Othman, there will be five winners altogether. He said: "There will be a Grand Impact Award and the winner will be awarded QR120,000. This funding is dedicated to supporting new innovation trends in digital accessibility and assistive technology during their early stages," he continued.

Through the Innovation Award 2026, Mada focuses on encouraging and developing innovative solutions based on AI technologies. Mada also provides a comprehensive mentoring team to support the short-listed innovators.

Lastly, in the 'Emerging Innovation Grant' category, there will be two winners, each awarded QR120,000. This funding is dedicated to supporting new innovation trends in digital accessibility and assistive technology during their early stages," he continued.

Through the Innovation Award 2026, Mada focuses on encouraging and developing innovative solutions based on AI technologies. Mada also provides a comprehensive mentoring team to support the short-listed innovators.

# Trump ideas could bring peace in Ukraine: Putin

Reuters St Petersburg

President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that US President Donald Trump's proposals for peace in Ukraine could end the fighting, but said Kyiv needed to compromise — and that he saw no signs of that, so was ready to fight on to victory.

Speaking to foreign media editors on the sidelines of Russia's annual economic forum in what is the fifth year of Europe's deadliest land war since World War Two, Putin said Russia would defeat Ukraine on the battlefield if necessary.

But he said it was also ready to end the war via diplomacy, and to honour unspecified compromises he said had been agreed with Trump at a summit in Alaska last year.

He showed no signs of changing his stance that for the war to end, Ukraine must surrender the rest of its eastern Donbas region — a demand that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has rejected as akin to capitulation.

"The offensive is ongoing on a daily basis. At present, the Russian Federation has taken full control of the Luhansk People's Republic — 100%. And Russia has brought over 85% of the territory of the Donetsk People's Republic under its control," he said, referring to two of the four regions in Ukraine which Moscow



President Vladimir Putin meets with representatives of international news agencies at the Constantine Palace in St Petersburg yesterday. (AFP)

claimed as its own in 2022 in a move Kyiv and most Western countries rejected as an illegal land grab.

"We are certainly prepared and willing to reach an agreement with Ukraine through peaceful means. Specifically, on the basis we discussed during our meeting with President Trump in Anchorage. Russia agrees to those compromises we discussed in Anchorage. The Ukrainian side must also agree to these compromises. Then the conflict will quickly come

to a natural conclusion," Putin said. Putin said Russia's own resources to wage and win the war were strengthening and that it had weapons which Ukraine simply did not possess. While he conceded that Moscow needed to do more to protect itself against Ukrainian drones, he made it clear that he thought time was on Russia's side and that Ukraine did not have the manpower to prevail.

"And there is one more thing that is of paramount importance: the patriotism and resolve of the Russian people, which are essential to achieving the objectives and tasks of the special military operation," said Putin, using the phrase Russia uses to describe its war.

Putin said that Russia had not yet used its Oreshnik hypersonic missile against Ukraine in real combat conditions, but had only tested it to observe the results in order to make decisions about its future full-scale use, including against urban targets.

The Oreshnik, which Russia first fired against Ukraine in 2024, is a nuclear-capable missile with a range of over 5,000km (3,100 miles). Putin has said before that it is impossible to intercept, though Western experts have questioned that assertion.

Putin sidestepped a question about his own political future beyond the end of his current term in 2030, saying his health was in God's hands.

## Qatar engages with partners for de-escalation

From Page 1

The prime minister voiced the need for all parties to respond to the ongoing mediation efforts, which would open the way for addressing the root causes of the crisis through peaceful means and dialogue, and lead to a sustainable agreement that prevents renewed escalation.

The prime minister also received a phone call from Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan.

They discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them. The mediation efforts between US and Iran also came under discussion.

The call also addressed coordinating efforts to support mediation aimed at reducing escalation, which contributes to strengthening security and stability in the region.

The prime minister held a telephone conversation yesterday with Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Tom Berendsen.

The conversation focused on strengthening co-operation between Doha and Amsterdam and discussed the Pakistan-led mediation efforts involving the US and

Iran. The two sides also addressed broader international initiatives aimed at de-escalating tensions in the region.

The prime minister said successful mediation could help pave the way for a lasting agreement that would prevent a renewed escalation and contribute to greater regional security and stability.

The discussion comes amid continued diplomatic activity by regional and international actors seeking to reduce tensions and encourage a negotiated resolution to disputes involving Washington and Tehran.

The prime minister also received a telephone call from Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs George Gerapetritis to discuss bilateral relations and ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing regional tensions.

They reviewed co-operation between Qatar and Greece and explored ways to further strengthen ties between the two countries.

The ministers also discussed Pakistan's mediation efforts between the US and Iran, and on coordinating support for mediation efforts designed to reduce escalation and help reinforce regional security. (QNA)

## How the social media is reshaping food business landscape

From Page 1

For food and beverage businesses, social media has evolved beyond a marketing tool. Recommendations from influencers, food bloggers and everyday users increasingly shape dining preferences and purchasing decisions, while visually appealing content helps brands reach wider audiences.

The impact is particularly evident in the food sector, where products can quickly gain attention through photos and videos shared online. From artisanal pastries and speciality coffees to gourmet burgers and elaborate desserts, eye-catching offerings often generate engagement that translates into sales.

Alcazar said consumers today are looking for more than just quality products.

"As a home business owner, I noticed that customers value not only the quality of the product but also the experience, presentation, online presence and personal connection with the seller," she said.

Digital platforms have also created oppor-

tunities for entrepreneurs to build customer bases around niche products and specialised concepts. Alcazar said she has observed a rise in home-based and small-scale businesses, particularly among people seeking to turn hobbies and passions into commercial ventures.

"As a home business owner selling artisan doughnuts, I personally witnessed how more individuals became interested in turning their passions and hobbies into businesses," she said. "The online market became more active, creative and diverse compared to before."

Her observations echo findings from a Qatar Development Bank study on home-based businesses, which identified growing interest in sectors such as food production, catering and speciality products. The study found that digital tools and social media platforms have expanded opportunities for entrepreneurs to build brands and connect directly with customers.

Consumer expectations have evolved as well. Research on online food-ordering behaviour in Qatar suggests that convenience, accessibility and ease of ordering are among the factors in-

fluencing customer satisfaction. Those trends accelerated during the Covid-19 pandemic, when consumers became accustomed to digital interactions and delivery services.

Alcazar believes those behavioural changes have endured. "Customers appreciate being able to order from home quickly and easily, especially for food and speciality items," she said. "There is also a greater openness toward trying new products and supporting small or home-based businesses."

While digital platforms have opened new opportunities, they have also intensified competition. Businesses now compete not only on product quality and price but also on their ability to capture attention and remain visible in increasingly crowded online spaces.

Standing out has become far more challenging than it was five years ago, Alcazar said.

"Many people now offer a wide range of products and services, especially within the food industry. Businesses now need to focus not only on product quality, but also on branding, customer engagement, presentation and consistency in order to stand out." (Reuters)

## Swiss to deploy troops as France hosts G-7 summit

Switzerland will deploy around 4,000 troops inside its territory to reinforce security as world leaders gather for the G7 summit in neighbouring France in mid-June, the Swiss army said yesterday. The June 15 to 17 summit, to be held across Lake Geneva in the French town of Evian-les-Bains, will bring together leaders from the world's major economies, including US President Donald Trump, alongside other high-level delegations. The scale of the event and its proximity to the Swiss border require close coordination between civilian and military authorities, the unit that plans and manages the Swiss Armed Forces said. Protests are anticipated.

"The proximity to the border presents a major challenge

for security authorities in the cantons of Vaud, Geneva and Valais. As a result, the Federal Council and Parliament have decided on a subsidiary security deployment of the army," the Swiss army's Defence Group said in a statement. Military personnel will be tasked with protecting critical infrastructure, including Geneva Airport, bolstering border surveillance, and monitoring key transport routes and Lake Geneva, it said. Switzerland's air force will also step up air policing, with airspace restrictions in place from June 10 to June 19, and will provide counter-drone systems and protection against nuclear, biological and chemical threats, the statement added. (Reuters)



# QM lines up exciting mix of events for June

QNA  
Doha

Qatar Museums (QM) has announced its public programme for June, featuring a diverse range of workshops, exhibitions, family drop-in activities, and masterclasses across its museums and creative spaces throughout Doha.

In this regard, the National Museum of Qatar (NMQ) places creativity at the heart of its visitor experience this June through two lively activities designed to encourage families and young visitors to engage directly with the museum's collection.

● Through Museum Bingo on June 8 and 15, Gallery 2 will become a space full of discovery, where participants aged 8 to 14 will explore the museum's collection through a fun Bingo challenge. Using specially designed paper handouts inspired by objects from the collection, young visitors will develop their observation skills through an enjoyable interactive activity.

● As part of the popular Gahwa Saturday program, the drop-in activity Ocean Stickers Aquarium, taking place on June 20, invites children aged 3 to 12 to create their own paper aquarium using sea creature stickers inspired by objects from the museum's collection.

Meanwhile, the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) will present a rich and varied programme throughout June. Children aged 5 to 11 will have the opportunity to participate in Planet Kids Club: Ancient History, Dinosaurs on June 6, in addition to Kufic Intermediate (Children and Youth) on June 6, 13, 20 and 27, as well as Nasta'liq Intermediate, Women's Calligraphy Workshop on June 7, 8, 9 and 10.

● On June 13, the Museum of Islamic Art will welcome visitors to Saturday Story Time: Yara, My Friend from Syria, a monthly storytelling and colouring session held at the museum library for children aged 3 to 8. The programme continues on Saturdays each month. This month's session is based on the story Yara, My Friend from Syria, a warm and engaging tale suitable for young children.

● Arabic calligraphy workshops will also continue during the month, this time with Ruq'ah Beginners (Children and Youth) on June 15, 22 and 29.

● In addition, Watercolour Painting for Adults workshops will be held on June 21, 22, 23 and 24 over four sessions for interme-

mediate and advanced participants. The workshops include training in drawing skills and watercolor techniques, including wet-on-wet and dry-on-wet methods, enabling participants to produce a complete artwork on paper.

● The museum will also host Creative Work by Arabic Calligraphy (Children and Youth) on June 24, during which participants will draw inspiration from Arabic calligraphy displayed in the museum galleries to explore the beauty of this art form and create their own works. Participants will select a text from the museum's collection and reproduce it on glossy ornament paper.

● The MIA Library Film Club will return on June 28 with the documentary 'The Mosque: A Community's Struggle', which addresses issues of community, identity and faith.



● The MIA Library Book Club will also organize a session on June 29 focusing on the book 'Made for the Eye of One Who Sees: Canadian Contributions to the Study of Islamic Art and Archaeology'.

● The Museum of Islamic Art will further invite visitors to a family adventure through Family Day: Wonders of Nature on June 30, exploring the world of animals and the inspirations drawn from nature that are reflected in artworks and artifacts from various cultures across the Islamic world.

Meanwhile, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art will present one of its most diverse programmes during June, beginning with Public Guided Tours: Resolutions, Evolving Realities every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the month, in addition to Art Lessons with Ismail Azzam every Sunday and Tuesday.



The recurring workshop explores portraiture techniques across a range of mediums including pencil, charcoal, and paint. It is designed to provide a stimulating environment for developing artistic talent, sharing experiences, and engaging in lively artistic discussion.

● On June 7, audiences will have the opportunity to attend Mathaf Design Circle: Hassan Fathy Edition, a gathering that brings together designers, architects, and creatives to explore how culture, material, and human behaviour can inform design.

The programme also includes Drawtastic on June 6 and 27, Mirror Portrait on June 10, and Voice and Presence Art on June 13, which explores vocal performance, public speaking, and effective communication skills.

● On June 14, participants will create shadows as they move using different mediums and extended tools that allow lines to shift with the body through the Growing Shadow workshop. A similar workshop for children, Growing Shadow: Kids Edition, will be held on June 21. Mathaf will also organise Action Model Drawing on June 17.

● On June 27, young participants will have the opportunity to attend a creative session entitled Unedited, while on the following day, the museum will organise Shaping Culture.

As June marks a landmark month in the world of sport, 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum (3-

2-1 QOSM) will celebrate the occasion through three exhilarating activations that combine athletic inspiration, cultural celebration, and creative hands-on activities.

● On June 19, 20, 26 and 27, football will take centre stage through World Cup Celebration! Held over four afternoons filled with festive, family-friendly activities.

Visitors will be able to test their football knowledge in a World Cup trivia competition, with prizes awarded to winners, in addition to taking part in craft workshops to design their own World Cup jersey and create a handmade football.

● The museum will also organize the 321 Cultural Olympiad 2026 Exhibition on June 22. In celebration of Olympic Day, the museum will host Olympic Day: Move & Discover on June 22.

Meanwhile, M7 will continue to support emerging creative talent throughout June through an intensive masterclass that goes beyond design to address the business side of the fashion industry through Fundamentals of a Fashion Business Masterclass, which will be held from June 7 to 10.

● For its part, Tasweer Photo Festival Qatar will continue its programming through a group exhibition that celebrates community creativity and places it at the center of the experience through the "Be With Us" Exhibition, which will continue welcoming visitors until June 16.

# Alumni reflect how QF schools shape future of their graduates

As the Class of 2026 from Qatar Foundation (QF) schools prepare to embark on a new chapter in their lives, alumni of one of those schools - Qatar Academy Doha (QAD) - are reflecting on the moments there that shaped their personalities, broadened their perspectives, and guided them toward successful careers in fields ranging from law to cultural and community work.

The latest graduates from schools under QF Pre-University Education were celebrated at their annual Commencement ceremony. And among those who came before them is lawyer Hamad al-Mannai, a QAD alumnus, who still remembers the day when he spotted his father walking through the school gate. He felt nervous when a classmate whispered to him: "Isn't that your father?"

Minutes later, al-Mannai was sitting near his father in the principal's office, listening to a discussion about his academic struggles and the need for him to take responsibility for his future. He recalls that moment as the true turning point - not only because of his father's words, but also because of the school's encouragement in helping him realise his potential.

"In that moment, I realised my future depended on me. And that I had to put in the effort to become who I wanted to be," he says.

Al-Mannai says his time at QAD



Fatema al-Malki

shaped his personality and outlook on life more than any other experience. "I cannot imagine anything that influenced me the way the school did," he says. "Growing up among a mix of cultures, ethnicities, and nationalities gave me an experience I could never have had anywhere else."

"Studying in English opened new doors for me; it taught me different ways of thinking and understanding new knowledge, cultures, and people. It sharpened my intellect and nurtured my curiosity. I always felt the world was much bigger than what we saw around us, and the school helped me discover that early on."

Among his strongest memories are the Qatar National Day celebrations at school, especially the tra-



Hamad al-Mannai

ditional Qatari Ardah performances that students eagerly prepared for each year. The moment closest to his heart, however, was when he became responsible for organising the Ardah himself.

When she watches this year's QF school graduates open a new chapter in their lives, Fatema al-Malki, a QAD alumna and a manager of Qatar Reads, an initiative under Qatar National Library, finds herself reminiscing on her own journey within the school's walls - a journey that shaped not only her academic path, but also the way she views the world and herself.

"I see in these graduates many of the same qualities that connected us all - curiosity, ambition, discipline, and a constant desire to give back," she says. "The school did not

just teach us academic subjects; it instilled in us a system of values that stayed with us throughout every stage of our lives."

More than a decade after graduating, al-Malki continues to reflect on her own school experience through her work with Qatar Reads: "I try to create similar environments for others - spaces where people feel inspired, challenged, and supported at the same time." What remains most vivid in al-Malki's memory is not only what happened inside classrooms at QAD, but also the lessons that extended far beyond them.

"Physical education meant preparing for the Terry Fox Run, where we learned the meaning of teamwork and shared purpose. And one of my art classes even took me to Paris, an experience I still remember with wonder and gratitude. I always felt that school was connected to real life, and that what we learned extended far beyond exams."

This philosophy also shaped Al Malki's understanding of success. At QAD, achievement was never tied solely to talent, but also to perseverance, research, and problem-solving. "In math class, we were not allowed to move to the next step until we had reached the solution ourselves," she explains. "That taught me to always search for solutions rather than focus on obstacles."

# Qatar's culture of giving extends beyond borders

By Shaima Sherif  
Staff Reporter

From local community initiatives to international relief efforts, Qatar's long-standing culture of generosity continues to shape its identity as a nation committed to humanitarian action, solidarity and sustainable development.

Throughout the year, residents actively contribute to charitable causes through donations, volunteer work and community initiatives. Participation often increases during Ramadan and other religious occasions, when acts of giving become a visible expression of solidarity and compassion.

In a recent 'Gulf Times' report, a spokesperson for Qatar Charity (QC) noted that Ramadan serves as a reminder of collective responsibility and encourages greater support for those facing hardship locally and internationally.

This spirit of generosity is reflected in a wide range of humanitarian, healthcare, education and social welfare initiatives. Numerous organisations contribute to these efforts, helping deliver aid, improve livelihoods and expand opportunities for vulnerable populations. Among them are Qatar Red Crescent Society, which provides emergency relief and healthcare assistance in crisis-affected regions, and QC, which supports development programmes focused on education,

water, sanitation, nutrition and economic empowerment.

Education Above All Foundation has also become internationally recognised for promoting access to quality education, while Qatar Cancer Society contributes through awareness campaigns, patient support and public health initiatives. At the community level, the Zakat Fund Qatar plays an important role in directing charitable contributions to individuals and families in need.

Together, these organisations represent only part of Qatar's broader humanitarian landscape. Their work reflects a national commitment to supporting communities during times of crisis while also investing in long-term development and resilience.

Over the years, Qatar has expanded its role as a global humanitarian partner, contributing to relief efforts in regions affected by conflict, displacement and natural disasters. At the same time, it continues to support projects aimed at improving education, healthcare, food security and sustainable development.

As global challenges evolve, Qatar's approach increasingly combines immediate assistance with long-term impact. More than the work of any single organisation, it is the collective culture of giving among Qatar's people that continues to define the country's humanitarian identity and reinforce its reputation as a nation committed to helping others.

# QF creates sporting opportunities for women at Education City Stadium

Qatar Foundation's (QF) Ladies Sport Night is back for the summer, giving women and girls the chance to enjoy sport in a FIFA World Cup arena hosted in partnership with Qatar Sports For All Federation.

The Education City Stadium will be the setting for female-focused sporting tournaments, activities, interaction, and fun every Tuesday throughout June, July, and August, with the first instalment of the Ladies Sport Night: Summer Edition happening on June 9 from 6pm - 10pm and registration is open now at <https://educationcity.qa/feed/ladies-sport-night-summer-edition>.

Sponsored by Oryx GTL, Ladies Sport Night is tailored spe-

cifically for women and girls, providing an inclusive, comfortable, and safe setting for them to discover, participate in, and embrace sport and healthy living.

The first event of summer 2026 will feature volleyball, badminton, and strength and endurance tournaments organised in partnership with Qatar Sports For All Federation. Participants will also be able to enjoy everything from Mat Pilates and Zumba to boxing, as the Ladies Sport Night: Summer Edition further illustrates Qatar Foundation's commitment to empowering women and girls through sport.

Ladies Sport Night: Summer Edition evenings are open only to women and girls aged 10 and above (activity details, including age limits, are in the registra-



tion link for specific activities). Pre-registration is required to take part, while photography and filming devices, pets, bikes, scooters, rollerblades, personal speakers, and audio devices are not permitted.

Everyone taking part in the Ladies Sport Night: Summer Edition must wear proper training clothing - such as t-shirts, shorts that cover knees, tracksuits, and training shoes - while ensuring it respects local customs and



norms. Entry will not be permitted for anyone wearing traditional attire, jeans, skirts, dresses, crop tops, or clothing that is transparent or ill-fitting. To ensure safety, abayas should not be worn while participating in Ladies Sport

Night: Summer Edition activities. Following its return on June 9, the stadium will host further Ladies Sport Night: Summer Edition events on 16, 23, and 30 of June; 7, 14, 21, and 28 of July; and 4, 11, 18, and 25 of August.