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SCAN TO SHOP

Children of Qatari
moms, Qatar-born
residents can apply
for national service

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

Qatar has widened the gates of its national service programme, inviting a new generation of young men into uniform: the children of Qatari mothers and the foreign-born sons of long-settled residents.

The Ministry of Defence announced the change in a post on X yesterday, opening a door that until now had been restricted to those without Qatari fathers. To walk through it, applicants must have been born in Qatar, be at least 18 years of age, carry a clean record of good conduct and reputation, and hold a valid Qatar residency permit.

The fine print sets out the rest. Candidates must not have been convicted of crimes involving dishonesty or breach of trust unless they have since been rehabilitated, nor have been dismissed from service before. They must be medically fit and clear the admission interview.

For those who make the cut, the rewards are tangible. Service may run for up to five years and carries a financial incentive of as much as QR7,000 a month. Recruits will enjoy priority consideration for a place in the Qatar Armed Forces, and once their term is done, priority in securing permanent residency, a prize coveted across the Gulf's expatriate communities.

Applications are to be filed electronically through the ministry's website under the recruitment option.

PM meets GCC secretary-general

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Secretary-General of the Co-operation Council of the Arab Gulf States (GCC) Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi, who is visiting the country. They discussed prospects for strengthening the progress and achievements of the GCC, in addition to the latest developments and updates in the region. (QNA)

Amir, Kuwait Amir review situation

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah. They reviewed the strong fraternal ties between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them in ways that serve the interests of the two brotherly peoples and enhances security and stability in the region. Their Highnesses also discussed developments in regional and international affairs of mutual interest. (QNA)

Sweden condemns Iran attacks on Qatar

Stockholm hails Doha's resilience, commitment to diplomatic solution

By Faisal Abdulhameed
al-Mudahka
Editor-in-Chief

Sweden has "strongly condemned Iran's attacks on Qatar and its neighbours," with Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard conveying her government's support and solidarity to Doha during a visit she described as coming at "a serious and sensitive time for the region."

Stenergard said any sustainable peace settlement must address free navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, ensure Iran does not

acquire nuclear weapons, and remove the threat Iran poses to regional and international security.

"Our position is clear — we urge all parties to continue talks and pursue a diplomatic solution. There is a strong global urge and interest that these efforts, as soon as possible, lead to a sustainable peace," she told *Gulf Times* in an exclusive interview.

The minister praised Qatar's contributions to conflict resolution, saying both countries shared a conviction in the value of diplomacy and peaceful solutions guided by international law, the protection of civilians and humanitarian principles.

Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs Maria Malmer Stenergard.
PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

"We commend Qatar's resilience and its strong commitment to diplomacy and peaceful solu-

tions...Sweden highly appreciates Qatar's contributions to regional and global conflict resolution.

"Sweden and Qatar share a strong belief in the value of diplomacy and peaceful solutions guided by international law, protection of civilians and humanitarian principles," the minister emphasised, adding that "At a time of deep regional tension, mediation and dialogue are essential."

Stenergard said Sweden and Qatar could contribute to long-term stability in complementary ways — Qatar through its mediation expertise, and Sweden through its commitment to humanitarian action, development co-operation and conflict prevention.

The minister said, "Both countries share a strong belief in inclusive political solutions, respect for international law and the importance of stability and predictability."

According to Stenergard, the exchange between Sweden and Qatar has increased significantly since the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Sweden in September 2024.

"This includes political dialogue on regional and global issues, security and mediation as well as business forums. The visits have translated into concrete frameworks for co-operation in areas such as mediation, humanitarian and development co-operation, transport and logistics, as well as trade and innovation," the minister explained. **To Page 7**

The Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani leading the inauguration of this year's edition of Project Qatar, which will run until June 11 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).
PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam

Project Qatar 2026 opens

145 exhibitors, 25 global companies converge in a show of confidence in Qatar's market

By Peter Alagos
Business Editor

The 2026 edition of Project Qatar kicked off yesterday at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), underscoring the strength of Qatar's economy amidst regional challenges, with the construction sector emerging as a crucial player in driving economic progress.

Running until June 11 under the theme 'Manufacture, Build, Innovate', the exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal

al-Thani, in the presence of engineer Mohammed bin Abdulaziz al-Meer, president of the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), alongside a number of senior officials, ambassadors, and representatives of diplomatic missions.

Hayat Bayan, Commercial & Operations director at IFP Qatar, said the event reflects the ongoing transformation of Qatar's construction, manufacturing, and infrastructure sectors. It also aims to strengthen integration between industry, technology, and smart building solutions, supporting sustainable development goals and the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030. **To Page 7**

US launches new strikes after Iran downs its copter

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said late last night its "forces began launching self-defence strikes against Iran".

It added that the attacks were in response to "yesterday's downing of a US Army Apache helicopter".

Iran's Mehr news agency reports that residents and sources in Sirik Port and its surrounding villages heard multiple explosions in the area yesterday evening.

Earlier US President Donald Trump said Iran had shot down a US Apache helicopter in the Strait of Hormuz and vowed to respond, deepening doubts about prospects for peace between the two countries. **To Page 11**

Qatar and Federated States of Micronesia forge diplomatic ties

Qatar and the Federated States of Micronesia have signed a joint statement to establish diplomatic relations.

The signing took place at the headquarters of the Permanent Delegation of Qatar to the United Nations in New York.

On Qatar's side, the joint statement was signed by HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations HE Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani, while on the Federated States of Micronesia's

side, the statement was signed by Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the UN Jeem S Lippwe.

Following the ceremony, both parties underscored the desire to strengthen and advance relations and co-operation.

They emphasised the importance of adhering to the principles of the United Nations and international law as well as respecting and reinforcing international peace and security. — QNA

90% in Qatar use AI to shop: Visa study

Visa has released the annual Stay Secure study in Qatar, which assesses consumer awareness and behaviours around digital commerce and fraud. This year's edition, conducted by Wakefield Research, highlights how AI-enabled shopping and social commerce are changing consumer behaviour even as expectations around trust and protection remain firmly in place. Consumers are embracing artificial intelligence as part of their shopping journeys, according to the study, citing that 90% in Qatar have used artificial intelligence (AI) tools to assist with shopping, including comparing prices (60%), finding gift ideas (58%), and checking reviews or product ratings (56%).

The appeal is clear: 95% feel new technologies, including AI-powered tools, are making online shopping faster and easier than before, the study noted. AI is also influencing discovery, with 56% typically discovering new brands or retailers while shopping online, it also stated.

"However, consumers remain more cautious when it comes to AI handling transactions on their behalf. Today, only 28% would trust AI agents to complete checkout, reinforcing the importance of earning consumer trust in the age of agentic commerce," the study noted. **To Page 7**



PM meets Swedish minister

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs Maria Malmer Stenergard, who is visiting Qatar. They discussed co-operation, relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them, in addition to discussing mediation efforts between the US and Iran. The meeting also addressed co-ordinating efforts to support mediation aimed at de-escalation, which contributes to security and stability in the region. - **QNA**

Sheikh Saud meets GCC secretary-general



HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani met yesterday with Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi and his accompanying delegation, during their visit to Qatar. They discussed the latest security developments in the region and explored aspects of military co-operation and joint co-ordination in light of current circumstances. The GCC chief's visit to Qatar came at the invitation of the Joaan Bin Jassim Academy for Defence Studies to deliver a lecture on "Political and international transformations and their impact on the Arabian Gulf" to participants in the 6th national defence course. Following the lecture, a discussion took place covering the main themes and issues addressed by Albudaiwi. - **QNA**

Amir congratulates Jordan's king

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to Jordan's King Abdullah II on the anniversary of the latter's accession to the throne. His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent a similar cable of congratulations to King Abdullah. Meanwhile, HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to Jordan's Prime Minister Dr Jafar Hassan on the anniversary of King Abdullah II's accession to the throne. - **QNA**

PM meets Lebanon's Walid Jumblatt

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani met yesterday with the former president of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party, Walid Jumblatt, who is visiting the country. They discussed the latest developments in Lebanon and the current situation in the region. - **QNA**



Al-Khulaifi holds meetings with UK officials

HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met separately yesterday with the UK's National Security Adviser Jonathan Powell; the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Hamish Faulkner; and the Minister for International Development at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Baroness Jenny Chapman. The meetings discussed bilateral relations and ways to support and strengthen them, and explored the latest developments in the region, particularly the mediation efforts between the US and Iran. - **QNA**

Speaker of Shura Council meets UAE envoy



HE the Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanim met yesterday with the United Arab Emirates's ambassador to Qatar Saeed bin Abdullah al-Qamzi. They discussed existing bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the areas of parliamentary co-operation, and ways to strengthen and develop them. - **QNA**

Minister visits 'GreenTech Amsterdam 2026'

HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah took part in the inauguration of the "GreenTech Amsterdam 2026" Expo in Amsterdam.

Running until June 11, the event positions itself as one of the preeminent expos specialising in agri-tech, innovation, and food security, a global platform that gathers governments, enterprises, firms, and experts from around the globe.

During the official tour of the exhibition,

HE al-Attiyah was briefed on the latest innovations and technological solutions in the fields of smart agriculture, greenhouses, and water-resource management.

He was also briefed on artificial intelligence (AI) applications leveraged in the agricultural sector, designed to supercharge productivity, enhance the management of natural resources, and promote sustainable development.

The minister got acquainted with the cutting-edge AI-powered applications in

the agricultural sector, which play a pivotal role in advancing food-production systems through the analysis of agricultural data, the prediction of potential challenges and risks, the enhancement of water and energy efficiency, and support for data-driven decision-making.

Such innovations are expected to forge ahead with the modernisation of the sector while opening new horizons for sustainable and innovative agricultural development.

HE al-Attiyah affirmed that Qatar's participation in this global event comes as part of its commitment to keeping abreast of the rapid evolution in the agricultural sector and capitalising on cutting-edge technologies and global innovations, supporting Qatar's efforts to advance the food security system, turbocharge agricultural sustainability, and elevate domestic production efficiency.

The minister spoke about Qatar's foremost initiatives and projects in the areas of agricultural innovation and modern technologies, along with the ongoing efforts to



develop the agricultural sector and bolster its ability to confront climate-induced challenges, as well as enhance the management of natural resources in sync with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Qatar National Vision 2030.

As part of his participation in the expo, HE al-Attiyah held separate meetings with the Netherlands's Minister for Food Se-

curity, Fisheries and Horticulture Silvio Erkens, and the UAE's Minister of Climate Change and Environment Amna bint Abdullah al-Dahak.

The meetings went over avenues for deepening co-operation in the domains of modern agriculture, advanced agri-tech, and food security, and discussed opportunities for sharing expertise in those areas. - **QNA**

'All preparations made to welcome Qatar fan delegations to US'

Qatar Football Association (QFA) marketing and communications director Khaled Mubarak al-Kuwari (**pictured**) said that all preparations are set for fans from Qatar to be received in San Francisco to cheer for Team Qatar during their FIFA World Cup 2026 matches.

He told the Qatar News Agency (QNA)

that the first fan delegations are set to arrive today, while the rest will follow on the following two days.

Al-Kuwari said that all hotel and transportation arrangements have been finalised to facilitate the fans and provide them with the best environment to support the national team.

He highlighted that the QFA help desks

were set at the delegations' hotels to provide them with the necessary assistance.

The official thanked Qatar's embassies in the US and Canada, as well as its Consulate General in Los Angeles, for their support and co-operation.

Al-Kuwari said that the QFA has extended an invitation to Qatari and Gulf students studying in the US and Canada,

as well as the companions of Qatari patients receiving treatment there, along with co-ordinating with Arab communities in San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver to attend Al Adaam's matches.

He added that the cheering campaign will run under the slogan *All for Qatar*, expressing full confidence in the fans to support the national team. - **QNA**



Updated villa and mansion requirements offer more flexible solutions: top official

HE the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Municipality Eng. Ali bin Mohamed al-Ali has spoken on the latest updated requirements regarding the villas and mansions of citizens Qatar.

He told the Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the updated planning and architectural requirements for residential villas and mansions were introduced in response to the needs of Qatari families and the social and urban transformations witnessed by the State in recent years.

The updates, HE al-Ali said, provide greater flexibility in design and construction, enhance family stability, ensure the optimal utilisation of land, and preserve the quality of the urban environment and the residential identity of neighbourhoods.

He added that the updates were based on an extensive study and periodic reviews of the comprehensive master plan approved in 2018, in addition to feedback from citizens, consultancy offices, and relevant authorities.

The objective, the official

shared, is to keep up with state-of-the-art construction and development practices while meeting the current and future needs of society, noting that the updates are in sync with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030), which strives to achieve sustainable urban development and improve quality of life.

HE al-Ali pointed out that the new updates encompass more than 20 standards reflecting a realistic understanding of changes in family size and modern lifestyles.

He said that the new requirements allow expansion through several options, foremost of which are expanding the ground floor without setbacks on the neighbouring or rear side, expanding above accessory buildings or detached Majlis structures, and providing an internal suite within the villa.

The official added that allowing the establishment of an independent internal suite for a family member is intended to strengthen tight-knit families and enable members of the extended family to reside within the same building

while maintaining an appropriate degree of privacy and independence.

The measure, HE al-Ali continued, also provides "practical solutions" for the needs of children and senior family members within a unified and harmonious residential setting.



He affirmed that the permitted height of residential villas has been increased to 16m, while an internal mezzanine floor with a coverage ratio of 35% has been rolled out for the first time.

The height of Majlis buildings has also been increased to 10m, the official highlighted, including the workshop level, with the addition of a mezzanine floor permitted at a

coverage ratio of up to 80%.

These measures, he added, provide designers and developers with greater flexibility to meet family needs and achieve the optimal utilisation of land.

HE al-Ali noted that the updates concerning mansions include elevating building heights to range

between 17-22m where designs do not include domes or architectural elements, and between 20-25m as a maximum where such features are included, depending on plot size.

The regulations, he said, also permit the addition of an internal mezzanine floor with a coverage ratio not exceeding 35% in accordance with approved planning and

regulatory requirements.

The official stressed that the amendments seek to strike a balance between granting citizens greater flexibility in construction and preserving residential privacy and the quality of the urban environment through clear planning and architectural controls that ensure no adverse impact on neighbouring properties or the broader urban landscape.

HE al-Ali said that the updates include reducing side and rear setbacks to 1.5m where no windows are provided, while permitting windows within those setbacks provided their height is not less than 1.8m.

The height of villa boundary walls has also been increased to 3.4m.

The updates further included examining a number of setbacks and requirements related to buildings, accessory structures, and Majlis structures, the official noted, emphasising that this will allow better utilisation of the available space within residential plots.

Among the most notable measures is the permission of a 2m front

projection for the first floor and roof level, in addition to reducing the front setback requirement for 50% of the roof-floor facade length to zero metres.

HE al-Ali His stressed that the benefits of the newly introduced standards are available to all properties, whether construction has already been completed, remains under development, or is still at the licensing stage.

Property owners, he said, may submit development or modification applications through accredited engineering consultancy offices via the artificial intelligence (AI)-supported electronic building permit system, where applications are vetted and evaluated in accordance with approved regulations and procedures before the issuance of the necessary permits.

HE al-Ali asserted that the updates will play a pivotal role in developing a sustainable urban environment that responds to community needs and supports the stability of the Qatari family, while also fostering the efficiency of land utilisation and provide more suitable housing options. - **QNA**



HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani with ministers, Shafallah Centre officials and others at the ceremony.

PM honours 36 graduates of Shafallah Centre

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani honoured 36 graduates of the Shafallah Centre for Persons with Disabilities at a ceremony held yesterday morning at the centre's headquarters in Doha.

The prime minister presided over the

centre's 2026 graduation, joined by a number of ministers, senior Shafallah officials, faculty and administrative staff, and the graduates' families.

Shafallah Centre executive director Fatima Saeed al-Saadi said that the prime minister's patronage of the ceremony reflected the close attention Qatar pays to persons with disabilities and its commitment to supporting their path towards empowerment and a fuller role in society.

She described the occasion as both na-

tional and humanitarian, embodying Qatar's drive to entrench inclusion, equality and equal opportunity in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Graduation, al-Saadi added, opened a new chapter of contribution, independence and engagement in professional and social life.

The centre's work, she said, extends the State's wider approach to supporting and empowering persons with disabilities under Vision 2030 and Law No. 22 of 2025 on persons with disabilities, which advances the principles of inclusion, equal opportunity, independence and active participation.

Its programmes help translate those

goals into practice through specialised educational and rehabilitation services that build members' capabilities and widen their access to learning, work and community life.

Al-Saadi noted that the centre continues to prepare its members for employment through integrated educational and rehabilitation programmes, working with partners across the public and private sectors to strengthen their integration into society and the labour market.

The Shafallah Centre offers a broad range of services tailored to its members' needs – from academic qualification to vocational training and sports and arts activities – with an emphasis on the personal

and life skills that enable independence and community participation.

It pursues economic empowerment by readying members for the labour market, with a number of graduates having taken up posts in public and private bodies, reinforcing their job stability and their place in varied working environments.

Established in 1999, the Shafallah Centre is one of the centres of the Qatar Foundation for Social Work.

It provides specialised educational and rehabilitation services for persons with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder, while promoting public awareness of their rights and supporting opportunities for inclusion and independence.

MoPH and HBKU to survey developmental disability services

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

Qatar has set out to take a full measure of how it diagnoses and supports those living with developmental disabilities, launching the assessment phase of a sweeping national survey that will reach into some 70 healthcare facilities over the coming year.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), working alongside Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), unveiled the project at an event drawing representatives from the country's major hospitals, centres and institutions that diagnose and care for individuals

Survey to comb through 70 facilities, mapping gaps in care from autism to ADHD

with developmental disabilities.

The aim is plainly stated: to hold up a mirror to the system as it stands, capturing an accurate picture of current services, pinpointing where they excel and where they fall short, and ultimately making them better and easier to reach.

Running over a full year, the survey will canvass hospitals, health centres, clinics and specialised treatment centres across the country, casting its net wide

enough to take in roughly 70 facilities in all.

Adviser to the Minister of Public Health and national lead for the autism action plan, Dr Salma Khalaf al-Kaabi, told the gathering the project sits squarely within Qatar's drive to develop and strengthen developmental disability services in step with international best practice.

She pressed for closer collaboration among all those involved and urged healthcare providers



and partner institutions to take part, so that the data gathered reflects the true state of care on the ground.

The findings, al-Kaabi explained, will feed evidence-informed decision-making, expose the gaps and challenges threaded

through existing services, and lay the groundwork for national strategies that lift both the quality of care and the quality of life of those it serves, drawing them more fully into society.

The survey casts a broad diagnostic net, covering autism spec-

trum disorder (ASD), intellectual developmental disorders, speech and language disorders, learning disorders, developmental co-ordination disorder (DCD), attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and stereotypic movement disorder.

QIIB celebrates Al Shaqab Equestrian League champions

Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIB) hosted a ceremony at its headquarters to honour four show jumping riders who delivered outstanding performances throughout Al Shaqab Equestrian League competition.

The QIIB was the championship's official sponsor.

The recognition followed the conclusion of the championship's third and final round, held recently.

The ceremony was held in the presence of QIIB chief executive Dr Abdulbasit Ahmed al-Shaibei, deputy chief executive Jamal al-Jamal, head of Human Resources and Administration Ali al-Mesaifri, and Khalid al-Shaibei, head of Business Development.

The ceremony honoured a distinguished group of riders who secured podium finishes across the championship's various competition categories.

They are Ibrahim bin Yousif al-Mahmoud, Mohammed Hamza al-Kuwari, Noura bint Abdulaziz al-Rumaihi, and Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Marri.

The recognition reflects the natural extension of the strategic partnership



The ceremony was held in the presence of QIIB chief executive Dr Abdulbasit Ahmed al-Shaibei, deputy chief executive Jamal al-Jamal, head of Human Resources and Administration Ali al-Mesaifri, and Khalid al-Shaibei, head of Business Development.

agreement previously signed between the QIIB and Al Shaqab, which was founded on a shared vision to support the development of equestrian sport and empower riders across all levels of competition.

Through the partnership, the QIIB seeks to ensure that its sponsorship goes beyond financial and organisational support, encompassing the direct recognition of outstanding sporting achievements and encouraging young athletes to continue striving for excellence on both the local and international sporting stage.

"We are delighted to welcome this out-

standing group of Qatari riders whose exceptional performances in the Al Shaqab Equestrian League have set a remarkable example of dedication and excellence," al-Shaibei said. "This recognition goes beyond celebrating a sporting achievement; it reflects our steadfast commitment to social responsibility and to Qatar National Vision 2030, which places investment in people and the development of youth and sporting talent among its foremost strategic priorities."

"At QIIB, our approach extends well beyond the traditional concept of spon-

sorship," he added. "We view our support for Al Shaqab Equestrian League as a national partnership that contributes to building the future while preserving and celebrating our authentic heritage and cultural identity."

"For us, equestrian sport is far more than a competitive pursuit; it is a deeply rooted legacy that embodies the values of courage, determination, and excellence upon which Qatari society has been built," al-Shaibei continued. "The achievements of these outstanding riders reflect the success of our shared

efforts with Al Shaqab in creating a supportive and inspiring environment for national talent, one that nurtures their abilities, refines their skills, and prepares them to represent Qatar with pride and distinction."

"We are immensely proud of what these riders have accomplished and of the high organisational and technical standards demonstrated by the League throughout this season," the QIIB chief executive stated.

"These achievements reaffirm the strength of the vision that guided our partnership and the positive outcomes it continues to deliver," he added.

"QIIB will remain a committed partner and a strong supporter of national initiatives that contribute to building a generation proud of its identity and driven to achieve excellence," al-Shaibei said. "We extend our congratulations to all the riders honoured today and express our appreciation for the outstanding efforts of the Al Shaqab management team."

"We wish them continued success and even greater achievements in the years ahead."

3rd Distinguished Youth Researcher Award unveiled

The Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs and the Ministry of Sports and Youth have announced the launch of the third edition of the "Distinguished Youth Researcher Award".

Organised under the supervision of the Department of Islamic Research and Studies at the Ministry of Endowments, in co-ordination with relevant departments in both ministries, the award comes within the framework of strengthening the strategic partnership between the two ministries and supporting efforts to empower youth in Qatar in the field of scientific research.

The director of the Department of Islamic Research and Studies, Sheikh Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Ghanem al-Thani, affirmed that the award is an initiative aimed at young researchers, seeking to encourage them to study the most pressing societal challenges and propose practical solutions that contribute to the advancement of society.

He commended the ongoing fruitful co-operation between the ministries, emphasising that the third edition of the award represents a new step in encouraging young researchers, both Qatari



Sheikh Dr Ahmed

priority national issues, and contributing to knowledge production and the development of evidence-based solutions.

She added that the Ministry of Sports and Youth is committed to providing a supportive environment for young people, enabling them to utilise their research and intellectual capabilities to address the challenges that affect their lives and aspirations.

Al-Sulaiti emphasised that involving youth in studying and analysing their issues contributes to achieving more realistic results and more applicable recommendations, and strengthens their role as active partners in national development.

The selection of the themes for the third edition of the award, she noted, aligns with the growing interest in studying the factors that influence the formation of youth



Jawaher al-Sulaiti

values and behaviours, especially in light of the rapid transformations witnessed in the digital sphere and social media, and the challenges and opportunities they present.

Five main themes, covering various dimensions related to the concept of role models in the lives of Qatari youth, will be addressed.

The total prize money for the winners in the third cycle exceeds QR200,000, distributed among the top three winners.

The first-place winner receives QR100,000, the second QR75,000, and the third QR50,000.

It was also decided that Monday, 1 Safar 1449 AH, corresponding to July 5, 2027, would be the last day to receive the research papers.

The results will be announced no later than December 31, 2027. – QNA

Daam launches campaign to promote values in schools

Daam, the Behavioural Healthcare Centre, one of the centres under the umbrella of the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, has launched a campaign titled "moral example" to raise awareness of good manners and reinforce moral values and behaviour among school students.

Through awareness lectures and interactive activities tailored to different educational levels, the campaign aims to promote setting a positive example and instilling a sense of individual and social responsibility.

The campaign's first event was held at Al Arqam Academy for Girls, targeting 273 students.

It included programmes and activities designed to strengthen the values of respect, co-operation, honesty, and responsibility, helping to build a positive and cohesive school environment.

Daam cCommunity awareness director Hussain al-Harami said that the campaign seeks to promote moral values and responsible behaviour, recognising schools' role in character development and in fostering ethical practices that contribute to social cohesion.

Campaign co-ordinator Sara al-Sulaiti said that the campaign relies on interactive activities and innovative educational tools that encourage active student participation and the practical application of moral values in daily life.

It will resume in September and October as part of Daam's ongoing plan covering educational institutions, contributing to the development of a conscious generation capable of making a positive impact on society. – QNA





Deputy PM meets Swedish minister

HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani met yesterday with Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs Maria Malmer Stenergard and her accompanying delegation, who are visiting Qatar.

They discussed the latest security developments and updates in the region and discussed aspects of defence co-operation and co-ordination in light of the current circumstances.

HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad attended the meeting, along with senior officials and officers from both sides.

- QNA



AMAN holds awareness activities to enhance protection of the family

The Social Protection and Rehabilitation Centre (AMAN), one of the centres affiliated with the Qatar Foundation for Social Work, is carrying out its awareness campaign on "A Safe Environment In Every Home".

Targeting parents and guardians, the campaign aims to promote safe and violence-free home environments based on dialogue, support, and psychological well-being.

In a statement, AMAN said that the initiative stems from its preventative approach, which seeks to raise awareness of family safety, positive parenting, and child protection.

AMAN provides practical tools for dealing with psychological pressures within the home, thereby contributing to family stability and the protection of women and children.

AMAN acting executive director Fadal al-Kaabi highlighted the centre's conviction that the family unit is the first line of defence in protecting society, adding that fostering a safe home environment begins with awareness and empowerment.

The campaign aims to enhance family awareness of the essential skills needed to build strong and cohesive relationships among family members based on dialogue and mutual respect.

Such relationships, al-Kaabi said, have a positive impact on child upbringing, the protection of women, and the overall stability and cohesion of the family.

He affirmed AMAN's commitment to expanding the reach of these awareness programmes through partnerships with various entities as part of its social responsibility to prevent violence and improve family quality of life, in line with Qatar's vision for a cohesive and secure society under the Qatar National Vision 2030 and AMAN's new 2026-30 strategy.

The idea behind campaign is to provide parents with awareness workshops and discussion sessions in co-ordination with AMAN's partners in both the public and private sectors.

Al-Kaabi said that these include the Ministry of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, Lusail University, the General Authority for Minors' Affairs, the Minaretein Centre at Education City Mosque, Halima Al Saadia Primary School for Girls, and the Moza bint Fahd Qur'an Memorisation Centre.

He noted that sessions have also been held at the Qatar National Library and Katara Cultural Village, with more collaborations with additional government entities to come this year.

More than 400 people benefited from these awareness workshops during the second quarter of 2026.

The director of AMAN's Community Awareness Department, Bakhta al-Ghayathin, said that these awareness activities are part of AMAN's efforts to engage directly with families and provide practical, interactive educational content that enables parents to apply family safety concepts in their daily lives through simple and effective methods that promote dialogue and reduce negative behaviors at home.

Meanwhile, the director of AMAN's Communications and Media Office, Hanan al-Ali, affirmed the centre's commitment to delivering awareness workshops and discussion sessions that reflect the realities of family life and address the actual needs of families.

She underscored AMAN's endeavours to collaborate with as many partners as possible to strengthen community partnerships and offer high-quality programmes that contribute to building a well-informed and secure society in which the family serves as a nurturing environment for stability and safety. - QNA



NCSA holds special event to honour top entities, trainees



The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) organised the "From Adoption to Impact Creation" event yesterday, as a culmination of the journey of the National Cyber Security Training Programme, within the framework of its continuous efforts to strengthen the national capacity-building ecosystem in the field of cybersecurity and to reinforce effective partnerships with various government entities and vital sectors.

During the event, NCSA president Eng. Abdulrahman bin Ali al-Farahid al-Malki honoured the top six entities and the top six trainees in recognition of their achievements and contributions to supporting the programme's journey, as well as to promote a culture of appreciation and encourage excellence.

NCSA director-general Ahmed Mohammed al-Mutawa al-Hammadi emphasised that the agency believes protecting Qatar's digital space is a developmental and sovereign necessity that supports the economy, society, and vital services, in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

He said that the National Cyber Security Academy is a national platform for building competencies, noting that the updated training roadmap focuses on readiness for the era of artificial intelligence (AI), comprehensive skills development, and empowering leaders and decision-makers to enhance national cyber readiness.

The assistant director of the Cybersecurity Policies and Strategies Department, Dalal Abdulaziz al-Aqeedi, stated that the Academy is committed to developing high-quality training programmes for 2026 based on a clear vision and a comprehensive training schedule that keeps pace with the rapid changes in the cybersecurity field and focuses on measurable impact and building both institutional and individual capabilities.

She pointed out that the past year witnessed significant quantitative growth in terms of the number of participants in the programme, with the number of beneficiaries reaching 54,000 trainees.

The number of beneficiary entities also increased to 100, in addition to providing 800 professional certifications to national talents, reflecting the growing confidence in the agency's programmes and its role in building national capabilities.

The event witnessed the announcement of the National Cyber Security Training Programmes offered by the National Cyber Security Academy for 2026.

The NCSA also presented a visual showcase highlighting the most significant achievements.

The event also provided direct platforms for meeting experts, where Academy specialists engaged in discussions with representatives of entities and managers of training and cybersecurity departments to answer inquiries and co-ordinate registration opportunities across various learning tracks, including self-learning. - QNA

البنك العربي
ARAB BANK

Final Announcement from Arab Bank plc – Qatar

This is to announce that the below list of cheques issued by applicants through our Bank have not been presented to date and remain outstanding for over 10 years.

In case the Bank is not contacted with regards to these cheques within 3 weeks from the date of this announcement, their proceeds shall be transferred to General Authority for Minor Affairs.

Kindly visit our Main Branch located at Grand Hamad Street or contact us at 4438 7878.

S#	Cheque No.	Currency	Amount	Applicant	Beneficiary
1	16920	QAR	2000.00	ARAB BANK	THE PEARL OWNERS CORPORATION
2	16955	QAR	2,400.00	ARAB BANK	وزارة التعليم والتعليم العالي
3	17052	QAR	4,606.47	ARAB BANK	ABDULLA FAHAD ALI AL ABDULLA AL THANI
4	17053	QAR	1,197.68	ARAB BANK	RAWDA MOHAMMAD MAHMOUD SAEED
5	17054	QAR	96,735.87	ARAB BANK	AISHA QAASSIM DARWISH FAKHROO
6	17055	QAR	233,455.90	ARAB BANK	MARYAM ABDULLA DARWISH FAKHROO
7	17061	QAR	96,735.87	ARAB BANK	AMNAH JASSIM DARWISH FAKHROO
8	17069	QAR	96,735.87	ARAB BANK	SHAIKHA QAASSIM DARWISH FAKHROO
9	17070	QAR	96,735.87	ARAB BANK	MARYAM QAASSIM DARWISH FAKHROO
10	17130	QAR	72.93	ARAB BANK	ABDULLA FAHAD ALI AL ABDULLA AL THANI
11	17131	QAR	18.96	ARAB BANK	RAWDA MOHAMMAD MAHMOUD SAEED
12	17132	QAR	1,531.96	ARAB BANK	AISHA QAASSIM DARWISH FAKHROO
13	17133	QAR	3,696.17	ARAB BANK	MARYAM ABDULLA DARWISH FAKHROO
14	17138	QAR	1,531.56	ARAB BANK	SHAIKHA QAASSIM DARWISH FAKHROO
15	17139	QAR	1,531.56	ARAB BANK	MARYAM QAASSIM DARWISH FAKHROO
16	17140	QAR	30,456.22	ARAB BANK	HEIRS / NASSER BIN KHALID AL THANI
17	17141	QAR	21,879.47	ARAB BANK	MOHAMMAD ABDUL RAHMAN DARWISH FAKHROO
18	17145	QAR	131.28	ARAB BANK	FAWZIYA MOHAMMAD AL OTHMAN FAKHROO

قطر للطاقة
QatarEnergy
LNG

QatarEnergy LNG
Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/A/SUP/7671/26, B0D MATERIAL AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY OF GASKETS	10/06/2026 to 12/07/2026	0	25,000	12/07/2026

Scope of Work:
MATERIAL AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY OF GASKETS FOR 5 YEARS (+ 2 YEARS OPTIONAL) WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT

Bid Validity: Bid Offer should be valid for 270 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

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

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

QPC, GISR strengthen research, media ties

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Qatar Press Centre (QPC) has signed a co-operation agreement with the Global Institute for Strategic Studies (GISR), a member of Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

The agreement aims to enhance partnerships between media and research institutions in Qatar, support collaborative efforts to serve shared objectives, and broaden the horizons for exchanging expertise and information on issues of mutual interest.

It also aims to strengthen intellectual, media, and research co-operation between the two parties through organising joint seminars, conferences, and forums; realising studies, research papers, and analyses; exchanging scholarly and media publications and knowledge content; and collaborating on publishing, translation, and intellectual production projects.

It also seeks to develop specialised training programmes in media and strategic fields and facilitate the exchange of experts and trainers, thereby contributing to raising the efficiency of national and media personnel and enhancing their professional and intellectual capabilities.

The agreement includes organising roundtables, dialogue sessions, and specialised meetings; hosting prominent intellectual, diplomatic, and media figures; collaborating on local, regional, and international events of mutual interest; and supporting the participation



Dr Mohamed Ali al-Shehi with Sadiq Mohammed al-Ammari at the agreement signing.

of both parties in international conferences and forums.

The agreement was signed by QPC director-general Sadiq Mohammed al-Ammari and GISR executive director Dr Mohammed Ali al-Shehi at the centre's headquarters.

Al-Ammari emphasised that the agreement represents a strategic step towards building a lasting bridge between scientific research and media, contributing to raising the quality of media, research, and knowledge content, and developing cultural and academic events at the local, regional, and global levels.

He noted that the partnership will provide an integrated platform for enhancing knowledge, supporting research initiatives, and enabling stakeholders to achieve their shared goals in serving society.

Al-Shehi stated that signing the agreement with the QPC represents a significant step towards building close co-operation between the two sides.

He noted that the next phase will witness work on implementing joint programmes and activities addressing a number of fundamental issues, particularly in the political and strategic fields.

38th Doha Theatre Festival begins on June 21

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The organising committee of the 38th Doha Theatre Festival held a draw for the theatrical performances of the participating amateur groups to determine the order and dates of the competing performances within the current edition's events.

The draw ceremony was held in the presence of Abdulrahim al-Siddiqi, director general of the Theatre Affairs Centre, along with representatives of the participating amateur theatre groups: Ibrahim Mohammed, head of the Doha Theatre Group; artist and director Nasser Abdulredha, representing the Qatar Theatre Group; and Ali al-Siddiqi, vice president of the Al-Watan Theatre Group.

The final schedule of the theatrical performances was approved, marking the beginning of final preparations for this highly anticipated cultural event.

The 38th Doha Theatre Festival is scheduled to take place from June 21 to 24

According to the draw results, the festival will open with the play *Under the Rubble* by the Doha Theatre Group, directed by Faleh Fayez and written by Saudi writer Yasser al-Hassan

at the Al-Mayassa Theatre in the Qatar National Convention Centre.

According to the draw results, the festival will open with the play *Under the Rubble* by the Doha Theatre Group, directed by Faleh Fayez and written by Saudi writer Yasser al-Hassan.

The play presents a profound philosophical and psychological vision centred on dialogue and human conflict, addressing existential issues related to humanity and its destiny, moving beyond the traditional dramatic structure based on a straightforward sequence of events.

On June 22, the Qatar Theatre Company will present its play *The Dividing City*,



The draw ceremony of the festival was held in the presence of Abdulrahim al-Siddiqi, director general of the Theatre Affairs Centre.

written by Talib al-Dous and directed by Mohammed al-Mulla.

The play features a distinguished cast including Faisal Rashid, Ahmed al-Aqlan, and Asrar Mohammed, along with

a number of young actors, in a work that addresses a range of social and human issues through a contemporary theatrical approach.

The third performance of the festival

will be presented by the Al-Watan Theatre Company on June 23 with the play *The Black Pearl*, written and directed by Shua'il al-Kuwari, and featuring a group of young members of the company, including Abdullah al-Hail, Khalid Boushikha, Salman Salem, Abdullah Hassan, and Khalid Ibrahim.

The play unfolds within a framework inspired by the Gulf's maritime heritage, with *The Black Pearl*, a rare and extremely deep pearl-diving site on the seabed, forming the central plot and the core conflict of the work.

The story begins when a father stipulates that a man wishing to marry his daughter must bring him a pearl from this mysterious and remote herd as her dowry. This sets off a dramatic conflict between ambition and fear, love, and sacrifice, and the human will in the face of the unknown.

The festival concludes on June 24 with an awards ceremony, where winners will be honoured in six main categories – Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Script, Best Director, Best Set Design, and Best Overall Production.

UDST students turn classroom theory into real-world telecom solutions

Shaima Sherif
Staff Reporter

Students at the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) transformed classroom knowledge into practical telecom and cybersecurity solutions during a Vodafone-sponsored hackathon, highlighting industry-ready skills for Qatar's digital future.

The Vodafone Infrastructure Intelligence Hackathon brought together telecommunications and engineering students to tackle real-world networking and cybersecurity challenges, providing participants with an opportunity to apply concepts learned in lectures and laboratories to industry-based scenarios.

First-place winner Hamad al-Kuwari described the competition as a valuable bridge between theory and practice.

"This was a unique experience because we learned about cyber se-



curity and how it works in real life," al-Kuwari said. "We implemented the theory part that we learned in our lecture in real life."

Working alongside his team-

mates Ahmad Jamal and Rashid Kaabi, al-Kuwari designed the theory part that we learned in our lecture in real life."

Working alongside his team-

He said the challenge offered insights into how cybersecurity functions across corporate, private and public sectors.

"Basically, it was a unique ex-

perience because we learned from it a lot – how cyber security works in corporate, private and public sector companies," he added, while thanking faculty member Dr Ahmad Abdullah for helping students develop practical skills beyond the classroom.

The competition also highlighted the role of industry-linked initiatives in preparing graduates for employment. Second-place winners, Michael Joshua Tenderso and Jose Luis Sandoval, both telecommunications students in electrical engineering, said the experience allowed them to build on years of academic learning.

"We're definitely very thankful to our professors because they have been very helpful to us throughout all the courses that they have delivered to us, from lessons and lectures to labs and applications," Tenderso said.

He stressed the importance of such competitions for young people entering the workforce.

"It's very significant because

it gives us a stepping stone for us to be applicable for current infrastructures or industries like Vodafone, Ooredoo or other telecom companies," he said.

Third-place team members Mohamed Ziad al-Baisoumy, Rayen Cherif and Mohamed al-Mejresi demonstrated how networking concepts studied throughout their degree programme could be integrated into a single project.

Al-Baisoumy explained that students drew upon multiple networking courses and protocols before bringing everything together during the challenge. The team created a network architecture featuring secure internal, DMZ and external zones, configuring routers, switches and communication systems to enforce strict access controls.

"The inside is the most secure zone," al-Mejresi explained, noting that each section of the network was assigned different communication permissions based on security requirements.

The All-new HUAWEI nova 15 Max Delivers Extreme Endurance and Toughness

The HUAWEI nova 15 Max is set to redefine smartphone endurance with its massive battery and durable design. Designed for users who demand reliable all-day performance without compromise, the latest addition to the nova series combines power, style, and innovation in one sleek device. With price only QAR 1199 and gifts worth QAR 499, the HUAWEI nova 15 Max will be available now from 4-June. Customers can buy theirs through Huawei's official online and offline store, LULU, Jarir Bookstore and Carrefour.

The HUAWEI nova 15 Max is powered by an 8500mAh HUAWEI Super Battery, offering a larger battery capacity and longer battery life compared to the previous generation. Real-world testing shows the device can support up to 23 hours of continuous video playback, ensuring dependable performance throughout the day. The phone also introduces reverse charging technology, allowing users to conveniently power compatible Huawei devices on the go, effectively turning the

smartphone into a portable power bank.

Built for durability, the HUAWEI nova 15 Max has achieved the SGS Premium Performance Mark 5-Star Drop Resistance certification, helping disperse impact force and reduce the risk of damage from everyday drops. In addition, precision sealing technology at key body joints helps block sand and dust, while the device's IP65 rating provides reliable water and dust resistance for daily use.

For photography enthusiasts, the HUAWEI nova 15 Max comes equipped with a 50MP Ultra Vision Camera featuring an RYYB colour filter array that improves light intake by 40%. Combined with a large sensor and F1.9 aperture, the camera captures bright, detailed photos even in low-light environments without the need for additional lighting.

The experience is further enhanced by a stunning 6.84-inch OLED Eye Comfort Display



HUAWEI nova 15 Max



that delivers immersive visuals with smooth responsiveness and intelligent viewing adaptation. Whether navigating outdoors under bright sunlight or binge-watching content late at night, users can enjoy a consistently comfortable and vivid viewing experience. With up to 4000 nits of dynamic peak brightness, the display ensures bright highlights, deep contrast, and rich detail in every scene.

Beyond its impressive specifications, the HUAWEI nova 15 Max is designed around the real needs of today's smartphone users. From long working days and outdoor activities to entertainment, gaming, social media, and late-night conversations, the device is built to deliver reliable performance throughout the day. Its massive battery, durable body, and immersive display make it a dependable companion for both productivity and everyday entertainment.

The device also continues the nova series' focus on youthful design and practical innovation. While the 8500mAh battery gives

users greater confidence for heavy daily usage, the sleek design and polished finish ensure that power and durability come with a stylish look. Whether for work, travel, social gatherings, or daily content creation, the HUAWEI nova 15 Max brings together endurance, toughness, and modern aesthetics in one device.

For users in Qatar, where daily life often combines work, commuting, outdoor movement, and constant connectivity, the HUAWEI nova 15 Max offers a practical balance of battery life, durability, and entertainment experience. Its long-lasting battery helps reduce charging anxiety, while its water, dust, and drop resistance features provide added peace of mind for everyday use.

With its extreme endurance, tough design, capable camera, and eye-comfort display, the HUAWEI nova 15 Max is a strong choice in its segment. Priced at only QAR 1199 with free gifts worth QAR 499, it offers customers in Qatar a powerful, stylish, and reliable smartphone experience for daily life.



UDST receives Menasa Naspasilver Award for innovative practices

The University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) has been awarded the Menasa Naspasilver Award for Innovative Practice in recognition of its Student Mental Health Ambassadors programme, reaffirming the university's commitment to student wellbeing, peer support, and creating a psychologically safe and inclusive campus environment.

The award was presented by Menasa, Naspas, the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia regional network of Naspas, which recognises excellence and innovation in student affairs and higher education initiatives across the region. The distinction highlights UDST's innovative and impactful approach to wellbeing of students and positions its mental health programme as a leading peer-support initiative within higher education institutions across the



Menasa region. The Student Mental Health Ambassadors work closely with student counselling and accessibility services to promote mental wellbeing

awareness and encourage students to seek support through peer-led engagement and outreach initiatives. The programme reflects UDST's continued efforts to strengthen student support systems and foster a campus culture built on empathy, connection, and wellbeing.

Nicole Penney, manager, Student Counselling and Accessibility Services at UDST, said: "Receiving the Menasa Merit in Innovative Practices Silver Award is a proud milestone for our team and a testament to the impact of the Student Mental Health Ambassador Programme. This recognition reflects our commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive campus environment where student wellbeing is prioritised. We are grateful to our student ambassadors, whose dedication and leadership continue to create meaningful conversations around men-

tal health and strengthen the sense of community across our campus."

Among the programme's key initiatives is the "Wellbeing Café," created to provide students with a welcoming and psychologically safe space to connect, participate in wellbeing-focused activities, and strengthen resilience among their peers. The programme has also led several awareness campaigns aimed at reducing the stigma surrounding mental health, in addition to organising peer-led workshops that encourage open dialogue and student engagement. The recognition further demonstrates the positive impact of peer-led mental health initiatives in higher education, highlighting their role in promoting wellbeing, strengthening peer support networks, reducing stigma, and empowering students to access the support they need.

Qatar Foundation schools chess tourney champions learning beyond classroom

Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education, in collaboration with the Qatar Chess Federation, organised the Qatar Foundation (QF) Schools Chess Tournament, hosted at Academyti in Education City, reflecting its commitment to promoting sports engagement and enriching students' educational experience beyond the classroom.

The tournament brought together 64 students from across QF schools, providing them with an opportunity to strengthen their critical thinking, strategic planning, concentration, and decision-making skills, while also fostering sportsmanship and positive competition.

The event concluded with an awards ceremony recognising the tournament winners. Sofia Zubrytskyi, a student from Qatar Academy Al Wakra, claimed first place in the girls' category, while Nasser Faisal al-Thani, a student from Academyti, secured first place in the boys' category. Qatar Academy Doha was also awarded the best school trophy in recognition of its outstanding overall performance throughout the competition. Abdullah al-Kaabi, head of Sports Affairs at QF's Pre-University Education, said: "Sport is a fundamental part of QF's educational philosophy, as it contributes to building students' character while developing essential life and leadership skills.

"In this context, the Chess Tournament serves as a platform that combines



learning with competition, giving students the opportunity to strengthen their abilities in critical thinking, analysis, and decision-making, with a positive impact on both their academic and personal growth."

Saad Faisal al-Dosari, 10-year-old, a student at Academyti and one of the tournament participants, said: "This tournament was a wonderful experience for me because I enjoy playing chess, which helps me think calmly and plan every move. It has also taught me patience and self-confidence."

Aisha Abdulaziz al-Khalifa, 10-year-old, from Tariq Bin Ziad School said: "This was my second time taking part in a chess competition, and I enjoyed it even more than the first. To me, chess is more than just a game, it helps me focus and think carefully before making decisions. My teacher encouraged me to participate, and I hope to compete in more tournaments and inspire my friends to try this exciting sport as well."



Msheireb Museums, Sidra Medicine host Science Café session on wellness



The participants of the panel discussion during Science Café session on health issues.

Msheireb Museums and Sidra Medicine, hosted the third Science Café session under the theme of "The Rising Tide: Obesity, Diabetes & Metabolic Diseases", delivering an engaging discussion on the prevention, innovation, and importance of empowering healthier futures for communities.

The event took place at Bin Jelmood House on and was attended by Dr Ammira Akil, principal investigator – associate level at Sidra Medicine; Dr Tariq Chukir, endocrinology consultant at Qatar Metabolic Institute and attending physician – Endocrinology at Sidra Medicine; Dr Hoda Yaseen Azzam, attending physician – Endocrinology at Sidra Medicine; Dr Altayeb Abdalaziz, consultant physician and endocrinologist at The View Hospital; Reem bint Abdulrahman al-Muftah, director of WHOOP Labs in Doha; and Ghinwa Zoubeir, clinical dietitian at The View Hospital.

The panel session featured an open,

interactive conversation between clinicians, researchers, nutrition specialists, and healthcare professionals who shared their insights into metabolic health, lifestyle interventions, emerging therapies, and the role of technology and precision medicine in disease prevention and management.

Mohammed al-Yousuf, manager of operation and visitor relations at Msheireb Museums, said: "Through our ongoing partnership with Sidra Medicine, the Science Café series continues to demonstrate the power of bringing together culture, education, and science to address topics that have a direct impact on our communities. At Msheireb Museums, we are committed to creating spaces for meaningful dialogue and lifelong learning, where experts and the public can come together to explore important societal issues."

Dr Sahar Da'as, research manager at Sidra Medicine and lead of the Science

Café initiative, said: "I am so proud to see how far our joint Science Café series has progressed over the past three years. It has gone on to become a credible platform where knowledge, ideas and insights are shared and discussed with the community. Our latest engaging session highlighted the impact of lifestyle and the role of prevention and precision medicine in addressing obesity, diabetes and metabolic diseases."

The discussion explored the global impact of obesity and metabolic diseases, covering key topics including diabetes prevention, nutrition and healthy lifestyles, childhood obesity, mental wellbeing, and the role of family support in long-term health outcomes.

It also highlighted the transformative potential of precision medicine, artificial intelligence (AI), and digital health technologies in advancing personalised care and significantly improving disease management.

HBKU, Imperial College London launch environmental health partnership

The Environmental Research Group (ERG) at Imperial College London and the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (Qeeri) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) have launched a new two-year strategic partnership focused on environmental health research in arid urban environments.

The partnership was formally inaugurated recently at Imperial's White City Campus in London,

bringing together representatives from both institutions to mark the start of a joint research programme designed to generate high-quality scientific evidence to inform environmental health policy and management in Qatar, the United Kingdom, and other regions facing similar environmental challenges.

The initial two-year framework establishes a platform for long-term collaboration through joint

funding applications, shared research initiatives, and sustained knowledge exchange, reinforcing both institutions' commitment to delivering research with tangible societal impact.

For Qeeri and HBKU, the initiative supports Qatar's national priorities around environmental resilience, sustainability, and public health, while strengthening the country's growing role in international environmental research.

Rapid urbanisation in hot and arid regions presents a complex combination of natural and human-made environmental exposures. The ERG-Qeeri partnership will focus on three priority research areas:

Air pollution exposure assessment across the indoor-outdoor continuum, developing improved methodologies to better understand personal and population exposure patterns in hot urban environments.

Oxidative potential and toxicology of natural dust and pollutant mixtures, examining how desert dust interacts with anthropogenic emissions and the resulting implications for human health.

Microplastics in air and water, investigating the occurrence, transport, and potential health effects of emerging contaminants in hot, dry climates, with a particular focus on the country.

The programme combines ERG's internationally recognised expertise in exposure science, air pollution epidemiology and toxicology, and environmental health with Qeeri's strengths in air quality science, source attribution, atmospheric chemistry, and environmental health. Together, the partnership aims to deliver policy-relevant research with measurable public health benefits.

Dr Tareq al-Ansari, executive director of Qeeri, said: "This partnership reflects Qeeri's commitment to addressing pressing environmental challenges through strategic international collaboration. Working with Im-



perial's Environmental Research Group strengthens our ability to deliver high-impact science that supports sustainable development and environmental health resilience in Qatar and beyond."

For ERG, which is based within Imperial's School of Public Health, the collaboration further expands its global environmental health research portfolio and supports its commitment to interdisciplinary research addressing sustainability and human health.

Frank Kelly, director of ERG, said: "This partnership with Qeeri represents an important step forward in advancing collaborative environmental health research in regions where natural and anthropogenic exposures intersect in complex ways. By combining our complementary expertise, we will generate high-quality evidence that can directly inform policy and improve population health outcomes in both Qatar and the UK."

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, AMILA SAJITH DHARMAKEERTHI

holder of

**SRILANKA Passport No. N7277958
QID No. 29314407993**

hereby change my name

from

AMILA SAJITH DHARMAKEERTHI

to

**AMILA SAJITH RAJAPAKSHA
RAJAPAKSHA MUDIYANSELAGE**

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

I, EMAROT HOSSAN

holder of

**BANGLADESH Passport No. EJ21752233
QID No. 28705028755**

hereby change my name

from

EMAROT HOSSAN

to

MD IMAROT HOSSAIN

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

Mazda Qatar launches 2026 Early Summer Offers

Mazda Qatar, represented by its sole agent National Car Company, has announced the launch of the Mazda 2026 Early Summer Offers.

The campaign was created for customers who value proven quality, lasting reliability, refined performance, and long-term ownership confidence in today's increasingly competitive automotive market.

The Mazda 2026 Early Summer Offers will run until July 18, 2026, bringing exceptional value and ownership benefits across the full range of Mazda SUVs and sedans available at the state-of-the-art Mazda showroom in Al Nasr, Doha.

The limited-period campaign combines Mazda's renowned Joy of Driving philosophy with comprehensive ownership privileges



designed to deliver greater peace of mind, convenience, and long-term value for customers and families across Qatar.

Each New Mazda purchase of model year 2026 CX-30, CX-5, CX-60 and CX-90 includes free

one-year comprehensive insurance, free registration, two years/30,000km scheduled service (whichever comes first), five-year unlimited mileage warranty, and five years roadside assistance. Besides the regular modes of



payment, customers can also opt for flexible in-house finance schemes (short term) and long-term finance with zero down payment in association with Tamweel by Al Jazeera Finance. Finance schemes are subject to

credit approval.

Sathish Nair said, "Through the Mazda 2026 Early Summer Offers, we aim to deliver a premium ownership experience that combines Mazda's renowned Japanese craftsmanship, refined driving

performance, advanced safety, and dependable aftersales support."

Nair added: "Whether choosing a compact urban SUV or a spacious flagship family vehicle, customers will experience Mazda's unique blend of elegant design, refined comfort, and engaging performance – together with ownership benefits designed to deliver lasting value and confidence.

"At National Car Company, we remain committed to delivering exceptional customer experience and the true 'Joy of Driving' that continues to build long-term loyalty and trust among Mazda customers in Qatar."

For more information, visit the Mazda showroom at Al Nasr Street, call 44435965/44417859, WhatsApp on 66446675, or log on to www.mazda-qatar.com

Sweden condemns Iran attacks on Qatar, supports diplomatic solution

From Page 1

She noted that the visit by His Highness the Amir and the following high-level visits in both directions have created momentum in both nations' bilateral relations. "Exchanges such as these help move good relations to concrete co-operation. I am grateful to pursue this positive path of bilateral exchange," she also said.

Stenergard said she also raised Ukraine during her meetings in

Doha, describing Sweden's support for the country as strong.

"Sweden wants to be a constructive and reliable long-term partner to Qatar, strengthening our co-operation even further in areas such as trade and investment, healthcare, education, green transition, digitalisation, and sustainable development," she said.

During uncertain times, it is more important than ever to build bridges and partnerships, Stenergard added.

Chopard presents L'Heure du Diamant at Place Vendome

Chopard, together with its longstanding partner Al-fardan Jewellery, is presenting exceptional L'Heure du Diamant pieces at the Maison's Doha flagship boutique in Place Vendome Mall. Situated in the heart of Lusail city, the boutique offers an immersive environment where guests are invited to explore the radiant world of Chopard watches and jewellery.

From June 9-15, the boutique will welcome esteemed clients for a curated journey to discover the L'Heure du Diamant collection. Private appointments will offer a tailored experience, complemented by a refined selection of light delicacies.

Rooted in decades of artistry and innovation, the collection reflects Chopard's renowned reputation for creating "jewels that tell the time." Guests are invited to explore exceptional diamond-set timepieces, including designs featuring ornamental stone dials, crown-set diamonds, and the



iconic bark-type bracelets.

To further enrich the experience, clients will have the opportunity to view a curated selection of limited edition watches, including Qatar exclusive L'Heure Du Diamant timepieces. These captivating creations highlight Chopard's dual expertise in Haute Joaillerie and Fine Watchmaking, offering a glimpse into the Maison's world of innovation, craftsmanship, and artistic elegance.

QC distributes 'Mushaf Basirah' to visually impaired individuals in Nigeria

Qatar Charity (QC) has distributed 994 copies of 'Mushaf Basirah' (Braille Qur'an) to visually impaired beneficiaries across 11 states in Nigeria, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive access to Islamic knowledge and the spiritual empowerment of vulnerable groups.



The initiative comes amid a significant need for accessible learning resources in Nigeria, where persons with disabilities represent a notable segment of the population. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, around 6% of Nigerians live with disabilities, with visual impairment among the most prevalent challenges. National assessments further indicate that millions experience vision loss, underscoring persistent barriers to education and religious engagement – particularly due to the limited availability and high cost of Braille materials.

In response, Qatar Charity facilitated the shipment of the Braille Qur'an copies from its headquarters in Doha for distribution to eligible recipients nationwide. The intervention specifically targeted visually impaired individuals who are literate in Braille, ensuring that the support reaches those best positioned to benefit from it and maximises its impact.

Field teams, in coordination with local partners, carried out extensive groundwork ahead of the distribution. This included close engagement with community leaders, Islamic institutions, and organisations representing persons with disabilities to identify beneficiaries in a transparent and needs-based manner.

A key distribution event in Sokoto State was attended by the executive governor, Ahmad Aliyu, reflecting strong institutional support and highlighting effective collaboration between Qatar Charity and local authorities in delivering high-impact humanitarian initiatives.

Beneficiaries expressed profound appreciation for the initiative, noting its transformative significance in their daily lives.

Recipients emphasised that access to the Braille Qur'an will enable them to read, memorise, and reflect on the Qur'an independently – strengthening their spiritual connection while enhancing their sense of dignity and self-reliance.

Beyond its immediate outcomes, the initiative contributes to broader efforts to advance inclusion, promote equal access to essential resources, and foster the full integration of persons with disabilities into community life.

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Bayan said, "The launch of this year's edition of Project Qatar amid ongoing regional developments reflects the resilience of the Qatari economy and its ability to navigate challenges, while reaffirming the pivotal role of the construction sector as a key driver of economic development in the country."

According to Bayan, the participation of 25 international companies "stands as a testament to global confidence" in the growth potential of Qatar's construction market, underscoring the conviction among international players that the sector "offers genuine and sustainable opportunities."

She said, "This international presence also highlights the expanding scope of economic partnerships and Qatar's success in strengthening its position as a regional hub for investment."

Bayan explained that the exhibition has evolved into a comprehensive professional platform that brings together the public and private sectors under one roof, enabling contractors, suppliers, developers, and investors

to explore new collaboration opportunities and discover the latest products, machinery, smart building solutions, and advanced industrial technologies.

She said, "This year's edition features a dedicated B2B Matchmaking Platform, offering targeted business meetings between buyers, suppliers, contractors, developers, government entities, and international investors, with the aim of transforming professional networking into tangible business opportunities and long-term strategic alliances."

"The exhibition's role extends beyond showcasing products and services. It serves as a practical platform for accelerating partnerships and business expansion by connecting companies directly with decision-makers and future projects, creating new opportunities for partnerships and investments."

Bayan said this year's edition brings together 145 exhibitors, including 120 local companies and 25 international firms representing a broad range of sectors related to construction, building materials, industrial technolo-

gies, energy, engineering services, smart city solutions, and sustainable infrastructure.

"This strong turnout underscores growing confidence in the Qatari market and its continued appeal for high-value investments and partnerships," Bayan pointed out.

Bayan noted that the exhibition will host the Excellence in Industry & Innovation Awards, organised in collaboration with the Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (Gord), to recognise pioneering initiatives, projects, and companies in the construction sector.

In addition, the event will feature a dedicated Startup Stage, aimed at supporting entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by providing them with a platform to showcase their innovative solutions to investors, major corporations, and key industry stakeholders.

Engineer Khalid al-Najjar, Technical Office director at Ashghal, said: "Ashghal's participation as Strategic Partner reflects its leading role in shaping the development landscape and advancing infrastructure projects."

90% in Qatar use AI to shop: Visa study

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As AI adoption grows, the study stated that consumers increasingly view the technology as part of the solution to fraud. Some 57% feel AI has made scams easier to recognise today and 81% believe AI will play a critical role in protecting consumers from fraud in the future.

Shopping through social platforms has become mainstream, with 75% of consumers in Qatar having purchased products directly through social media platforms, according to the study. As commerce expands across new channels, it emphasised that fraud risks continue to follow consumers online.

Another 33% have experienced a financial scam in the past 12 months. Among those who have experienced a scam, 50% report the incident occurred on social media,

more than those who encounter scams on other platforms such as websites, online marketplaces, or shopping apps, the study stated.

The study also highlights growing concern around how children encounter scams online, with 84% of consumers reporting that children in their lives struggle to recognise scams. A significant 60% have seen a child fall victim to a scam while gaming or shopping online.

That concern comes as children gain greater access to digital commerce. Thirty-seven percent of parents in Qatar have children who can access mobile payment apps or digital wallets, the study pointed out.

When it comes to protecting against fraud while shopping online, consumers look first to institutions rather than themselves. Forty-eight percent believe banks or financial insti-

tutions should be primarily responsible, followed by government authorities or regulators (39%) and payment providers (28%). Only 14% believe consumers themselves should hold primary responsibility.

They also want more proactive reassurance, noted the study. Fifty-eight percent would feel secure receiving real-time alerts from their bank or payment app when something looks suspicious, while 35% would feel more comfortable seeing a familiar, trusted logo at checkout, it stated.

"Visa's Stay Secure study reveals that as online shopping and social commerce continue to accelerate, fraud and scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Consumers perceive fraud protection as a shared responsibility but expect banks and payment providers to take the lead, highlighting the importance of

secure-by-design payment systems," said Dibyajyoti Sen, head of Risk, GCC, Visa.

He added: "As commerce moves toward more AI-powered and agentic experiences, consumers are embracing the convenience AI can bring to shopping but remain sceptical about AI completing purchases on their behalf. With Visa Intelligent Commerce, we are enabling the next era of commerce built on trust, control and confidence."

The Stay Secure study was commissioned by Visa and conducted by Wakefield Research from January to February, 2026. It involved a survey of 5,800 adults aged 18 years and older across 17 CEMEA markets, including Bahrain, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, Ukraine, and the UAE.

Shafallah graduates ready to contribute to society: director

By Shaima Sherif
Staff Reporter

Thirty-six graduates from Al Shafallah Center for Persons with Disabilities are ready to take their place in society after years of specialised education, rehabilitation and vocational training, a senior official said. The graduates, who include individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders, were celebrated during Al Shafallah Centre's 2026 graduation ceremony in Lusail.

The event highlighted the progress made by beneficiaries who have completed years of tailored support designed to help them achieve greater independence and participation in community life. Speaking to Gulf Times, Dr Mohammed Saleh Tolefat, medical director at Al Shafallah Center for Persons with Disabilities, said the graduating class represents the culmination of years of educational, therapeutic and vocational development. "Today, in 2026, we have a bunch



Dr Mohamed Tolefat.

of 36 graduates from our candidates and they are ready for being in the society," Dr Tolefat said.

He explained that the graduates have benefited from a comprehensive support system that began in early childhood and continued throughout their development. "They got all the early intervention since their childhood and they got their educational rights," he said. "They got services regarding rehabilitation, treatment and vocational train-

ing, which is very important because it takes them into society."

According to Dr Tolefat, the centre's approach focuses on recognising the unique abilities and needs of each individual. Beneficiaries receive personalised programmes designed to maximise their potential and equip them with practical life and workplace skills.

"All our candidates have different intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders, so according to their own abilities, they got the training that suits them," he said.

The emphasis on vocational preparation forms a key part of the centre's mission, helping beneficiaries build confidence and develop skills that can support future employment and community engagement. By tailoring training to individual strengths, the centre aims to ensure that every graduate is given the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to society.

For families, educators and support staff, graduation marks more than an academic mile-

stone. It represents years of dedication, perseverance and collaboration aimed at helping young people with disabilities lead fuller and more independent lives.

Dr Tolefat stressed that inclusion should remain at the heart of society's approach to persons with disabilities. "Our final message is that it is their right to be in society," he said. "It is the right of people with disabilities to have their own life like any others."

His remarks reflect a broader commitment to ensuring that persons with disabilities are empowered to participate fully in education, employment and community life. As the 36 graduates move forward to the next chapter of their journeys, the ceremony served as a reminder that inclusion is not only about access to services, but also about recognising the talents, aspirations and potential of every individual. For the graduates of Al Shafallah Center, it was a celebration of achievement and an affirmation of their place within Qatar's society.



Xi hails deeper understanding at end of North Korea summit

Reuters
Seoul/Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping wrapped up yesterday his first visit to North Korea in seven years, saying it had established a deeper, more comprehensive understanding yielding a clearer path for development of ties, the official Xinhua news agency said.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Xi agreed to expand co-operation in the areas of politics, economy and culture at a summit in Pyongyang that opened a new chapter in ties, the North's official KCNA news agency said.

"The mutual understanding between China and North Korea has become deeper and more comprehensive, and the direction of future development has become clearer and more defined," Xi told his hosts at a luncheon before his departure, Xinhua added.

Kim waved both hands as Xi's plane taxied down the tarmac, in footage from China's state broadcaster CCTV, after an enthusiastic send-off by Pyongyang residents, who lined the road to the airport, waving flags and shouting friendship slogans.

Earlier, the leaders jointly planted a fir tree in the grounds of a key political training school for party cadres, which Xinhua said symbolised "ever-renewing friendship".

On the second day of his visit to China's only formal treaty ally, Xi had also visited Pyongyang's Sino-Korean Friendship Tower that commemorates Chinese soldiers who died in the Korean War,



Chinese President Xi Jinping sits next to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un as he attends a performance at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, during his state visit, in Pyongyang. (Reuters)

the agency added.

Both agreed to strive for closer strategic communication through visits by high-level officials, KCNA said.

Kim told Xi he would fully support the "One China principle," which Beijing views as meaning that both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one country, regardless of changes in the international situation, it added.

China views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory and has never renounced the use of force to bring the island under Beijing's control, although Taipei rejects the sovereignty claims.

Despite the expressions of goodwill, however, analysts saw contrasting priorities in the official summaries of the visit.

While Xinhua detailed proposals ranging from high-level exchanges to trade and agriculture, along with restoration of transport links, KCNA cast the summit more broadly as a

pact of equal partners, the analysts said.

Pyongyang stressed regime dignity and the neighbours' "special relationship," added Lim Eul-chul, a professor at Republic of Korea's Kyungnam University, while Beijing emphasised practical state-to-state ties and its initiatives for international order.

"North Korea removed elements that could make it look like a subordinate, dependent or beneficiary party, and rewrote the relationship as one between equals," said Hong Min, a senior research fellow at the Korea Institute for National Unification.

"It amplified signals of solidarity, such as anti-US and Taiwan-related messages, while erasing signals of dependence or subordination."

China is North Korea's biggest trade partner and analysts have said Xi's trip could focus on trade and tourism.

"I feel that sometimes the two

countries may appear quite friendly on the surface, but in reality there are still many issues," said Zhu, a 43-year-old doctor in Beijing who declined to give her full name.

Xi and first lady Peng Liyuan attended a performance of Chinese and North Korean songs, accompanied by Kim and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, that highlighted "the value and closeness of DPRK-China friendship," KCNA said.

It was referring to the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Chinese-North Korean relations had reached a "new historical starting point," Xi said at a banquet hosted by Kim for the 65th anniversary of the neighbours' friendship treaty, KCNA added.

Xi vowed that Beijing would not swerve from its commitment to safeguard common interests, Xinhua said on Monday.

But North Korean media did not say if Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme or relations with the US figured in the talks.

Such an absence suggests Beijing would like the visit cast in terms of neighbourly ties, said Ja Ian Chong, a political science professor at the National University of Singapore.

During his first term, US President Donald Trump met Kim three times, before the unprecedented diplomatic effort broke down over US demands for North Korea to give up nuclear weapons. Trump has said he would be willing to restart talks.

"It is doubtful that Xi will serve as a catalyst for US-North Korea talks," however, said Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

Beijing castigates US move to blacklist Chinese companies

AFP
Beijing

Beijing said yesterday it "firmly opposed" the US blacklisting of Chinese companies, after Washington added tech giants Alibaba and Baidu to a list of firms it says are aiding the Chinese military.

The Pentagon update on Monday came months after it released, and then quickly withdrew, an earlier version of the list without explanation.

"China has consistently and firmly opposed the United States' generalisation of the concept of national security... and its unreasonable suppression of Chinese companies," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a news briefing. Lin urged Washington to "correct its erroneous practices", warning that Beijing may "take necessary measures to firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies". The new list includes 80 companies and their subsidiaries, and is largely similar to the version momentarily published in February, although two memory chipmakers were reinstated after having been removed at the time.

The re-added companies are ChangXin Memory Technologies and Yangtze Memory Technologies.

The Pentagon's release marks the latest test of relations between the world's two top economies, whose leaders met in Beijing last

month for a highly anticipated summit.

That meeting saw US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping seek to stabilise bilateral relations. Trump has invited Xi to pay a reciprocal visit to Washington in September.

The companies targeted in the US Defense Department's latest list include some of China's top tech giants involved in artificial intelligence, including Alibaba, Baidu and Tencent.

Tencent had already been designated in the blacklist.

Alibaba called its inclusion "a mistake", while Baidu said on social media "there is no credible justification" for adding it to the list.

Electric vehicle giant BYD, which was also added, reacted by saying in a statement posted yesterday to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange website that the US decision had "no justification".

The determinations have few immediate legal implications for many of the companies, although it is seen as a move that could precede more punitive measures.

Other companies on the list include pharmaceutical firm WuXi AppTec and start-up Unitree, which makes humanoid robots.

A spokesperson for WuXi AppTec told AFP that its inclusion was "clearly a mistake", adding that it is "not owned or controlled by or affiliated with any" Chinese military or government entity, nor does it "provide services" to the military.

Japan city catches bear after 4-day search

AFP
Utsunomiya

A bear that roamed the streets of a Japanese city for four days, forcing mass school closures, was caught yesterday, capping a search involving dozens of hunters and police.

Terrified families in the city of Utsunomiya, north of Tokyo, peered through windows as a search mission that included helicopters tried to track down the animal following multiple sightings, including in a shopping arcade, at a university and at a wholesale market.

Yesterday dozens of police officers, hunters and city officials surrounded a private home where the bear was spotted, an AFP photographer witnessed.

After a successful tranquilliser shot, they captured the animal. AFP images showed the sedated bear loaded onto a truck.

Issei Okabe, a 37-year-old house painter who lives in an apartment next to the house where the bear was caught, told AFP he was "so relieved".

"My kid goes to the primary school nearby... and news reports said a bear appeared around there," he said.

"Then I watched the news, and our house was shown (in the footage)... I was so surprised.

"This is the first time I heard of a wild bear in Utsunomiya."

The bear sightings had forced the closure of all 94 public primary and middle schools in the city on Monday and yesterday.

Public broadcaster NHK and other major media reported the bear's capture as breaking news.

The Shimotsuke Shimbun daily, based in Utsunomiya, said the first



Hunters stand next to a cage carrying a tranquillised bear as they prepare to leave a residential area, in Utsunomiya, Tochigi Prefecture, yesterday. (Reuters)



Police officers with sticks search for a black bear that was spotted at a residential area in Utsunomiya, Tochigi Prefecture, yesterday. (Reuters)

and second tranquilliser shots missed the target but a third successfully hit the animal.

A city official told AFP Monday it was not clear whether there was one bear or more roaming the city.

Separately, an "extremely intelligent" bear that injured four people in Fukushima in northern Japan has remained at large after apparently unlatching a window while

evading capture, NHK reported.

A record 13 people were killed by bears in Japan last year, and there has been a jump in sightings as the animals emerge hungry from hibernation.

Bears are thriving thanks in part to an abundance of food - including acorns, deer and boars - under the influence of a warming climate, experts say.

Indonesia parliament allows police to serve in civilian government

Reuters
Jakarta

The Indonesian parliament passed revisions to the country's national police law yesterday that allow serving police officers to accept posts in the civilian government.

The amendments came a year after parliament revised the country's military law, which allocated more civilian posts to soldiers.

Since taking office in 2024, Prabowo Subianto has expanded the military's role in civil affairs, using it to help develop his ambitious free meals and food self-sufficiency programmes, in which the police have also been involved.

The former special forces commander has also appointed senior police and military officers to his administration.

The law was passed unanimously by a plenary session of parliament.

Under the new law, serving police officers do not have to resign before they are appointed to other state institutions or ministries outside the National Police, including civilian posts, as long as the positions are related to the tasks and functions of the police, according to a copy of the bill seen by Reuters.

The positions are those related to public security and order, law enforcement, protection, care and services to the public in ministries or state agencies, it said.

Active police officers may also fill

posts outside its organisation based on requests from the president, ministries or state agencies, as long as their expertise is needed, according to the bill. Sarifuddin Sudding, a member of the parliamentary committee involved in deliberations over the bill, told Reuters that police officers do not have to resign because their expertise is needed by the administration.

"A more responsive and adaptable legal framework is urgent to ensure that National Police can perform their duties effectively," law minister Supratnan Andi Agtas said in the plenary session.

The revisions also extend the mandatory retirement age for police officers, including the national chief, by one year.

Rescuers race to reach trapped victims after powerful quake in Philippines

Reuters
General Santos

Rescuers searched the rubble yesterday of a collapsed building in the southern Philippine city of General Santos, the worst hit by a powerful earthquake that has killed at least 37 people and injured hundreds, to reach two people still believed to be trapped inside. Regional fire officer Edgar Tanawan, who is leading the operation, told Reuters two people had been pulled out alive from the commercial building, housing a grocery store and other businesses, but a third was found dead. Scanners have so far detected no signs of life from the remaining two, he added.

"It's difficult to accept, as a mother, that my son is still trapped there," said Dioslinda Deluvio, distraught as she waited outside the building for news of her son. "I don't know... it's very hard to accept."

"My only call is to have him retrieved today so we can be at peace," said the 65-year-old mother. The 7.8-magnitude quake, which triggered tsunami warnings across several countries, struck early on Monday morning about 20km (12.4 miles) off the coast of Sarangani province, with tremors felt strongly across Mindanao and as far as the city of Manado, 420km (261 miles) away on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. Officials said they hoped the death toll would not rise further as search and rescue operations continued, with more than 400 people injured and four still missing. Scenes of devastation were visible in parts of General Santos, which is



Passengers on the cargo bed of a pickup truck look at a damaged building a day after the magnitude 7.8 quake in General Santos, yesterday. (Reuters)

home to more than 700,000 people and now under a state of calamity, with several buildings collapsed and debris strewn across streets beneath a tangle of toppled power lines and utility posts. Philippine disaster officials scoured damaged buildings to assess damage and worked to restore power and water for the thousands of residents affected by the disaster. The quake came eight months after the country suffered its deadliest tremor in 12 years, when a shallow 6.9 magnitude quake hit off the central island of Cebu, killing 79 people.

The Philippines experiences hundreds of quakes each year and sits on tectonically complex parts of the Pacific "Ring of Fire", a seismically active belt stretching from South America to the Russian Far East. Schools, which had just reopened on Monday after a long break, remained closed as authorities checked the condition of school buildings, thousands of

which sustained minor to severe damage, Rafaelito Alejandro, head of the office of civil defence, told DZBB radio. A video shared by one school of the moment the quake struck showed a large group of children sitting on a floor swaying violently from side to side, some hugging teachers, before they fled en masse as a makeshift shelter collapsed behind them.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded 23 strong aftershocks, with the strongest measuring magnitude 6.7, forcing some residents to spend the night in evacuation centres and tents. In General Santos and Sarangani, patients were treated in makeshift tents as officials worked to ensure hospitals were safe, Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa told DZBB, adding the restoration of power was critical as outages limited access to sensitive and sophisticated treatments needed by patients.

Ex-PM Thaksin free man after royal pardon

AFP
Bangkok

Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is officially a free man, less than a week after receiving a royal pardon, the Department of Corrections said yesterday.

Thaksin, 76, served eight months of a one-year sentence for corruption and abuse of power before being released on parole last month due to his age and health.

The Department of Corrections said the former premier was required to wear an electronic monitoring device as a condition of his release.

The telecoms billionaire was among those eligible for a royal pardon on June 3, Queen Suthida's birthday, because he had less than one year remaining on his sentence.

The corrections department said yesterday Thaksin's electronic monitoring device had been removed.

"The prison issued the official release documents and certificate of discharge to Thaksin," it said in a statement.

It said Thaksin was "no longer subject to criminal punishment, supervision or related conditions", noting that the same standards were applied to other eligible parolees.

Thailand regularly grants royal pardons to prisoners with good conduct to mark major royal occasions, including the birthdays of the king and queen.

Thaksin is one of the most influential figures in modern Thai politics and served two terms as prime minister.

His second term was cut short by a military coup in 2006, after

which he spent more than a decade in self-imposed exile, largely in Dubai, before returning to Thailand in 2023.

Thai media reported that Thaksin was expected to travel to Dubai this month, although no reason for the trip has been disclosed.

A legal representative for Thaksin did not respond immediately to AFP's request for comment.

His Pheu Thai Party and its predecessors have been among Thailand's most successful political movements of the 21st century.

The Shinawatra family has produced four prime ministers and has long enjoyed strong support among rural voters.

However, Pheu Thai recorded its worst election result in February, falling to third place and raising questions about the future of Thaksin's political influence.

UK, allies announce sanctions over West Bank settler violence

Reuters
London/Jerusalem

Britain, Canada, France and Norway announced new co-ordinated sanctions yesterday against Israeli networks involved in financing, enabling and carrying out violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The move follows escalating violence by Israeli settlers, which diplomats say is intended to undermine prospects for a Palestinian state.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have settled among millions of Palestinians in land that Israel captured in a 1967 war. Nearly all countries and a range of UN bodies consider such settlements a violation of international law, although Israel disputes this, citing historical and biblical ties to the land.

The measures by the four countries were co-ordinated with sanctions already announced last week by Australia and New Zealand, underscoring anger in many Western countries towards Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, which has expanded settlements.

A joint statement by foreign ministers from the four countries as well as Australia said the steps aimed to "hold extremist settlers accountable for the horrific levels of settler violence against Palestinian civilians".

"We continue to urge the Gov-

ernment of Israel to take action to ensure meaningful accountability for violence in the West Bank," the statement added.

Israel's foreign ministry rejected the measures, and said the governments imposing them had failed to control antisemitism and were fuelling it with such sanctions. "The real essence of these steps is the attempt to impose a political stance regarding the right of Jews to settle in the Land of Israel and concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — camouflaged as measures against violence," it said in a statement. Yisrael Ganz, head of the Yesha Council, which represents municipal councils of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, said in response to the sanctions that Israel's parliament should dismantle the Palestinian Authority and strengthen Israel's presence and sovereignty throughout the West Bank.

Israel's government has acknowledged that settler violence occurs and has at times condemned it, while also opposing foreign sanctions on Israelis and entities in connection with the West Bank, where it says Jews have a right to live.

Yesterday's sanctions did not all target the same individuals and companies.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said the government had banned Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, four leaders of settler organisations and 21 vio-

lent settlers from entering France.

Britain said its package was aimed at disrupting the flows of finance that have "allowed extremist settler groups to act with impunity" in the West Bank. It also included a construction company whose resources it said had been used to destroy Palestinian property.

Canada's sanctions included a different construction firm and its owners, and prohibited Canadians from dealing with all those designated.

The joint statement threatened further action if the Israeli government did not take "urgent steps to address the situation on the ground".

One concern is Israel's plan to build a settlement east of Jerusalem, known as the E1 project, which would bisect the West Bank and cut it off from East Jerusalem, fragmenting territory Palestinians seek for an independent state.

France is due to hold a meeting on June 12 in Paris, bringing together Israeli and Palestinian civil society groups and about a dozen foreign ministers.

The meeting will mark a year since the adoption of the New York Declaration, a non-binding resolution endorsed by the UN General Assembly that set out a roadmap towards a Palestinian state, and led to 11 countries, including Australia, Britain, Canada and France, recognising a Palestinian state in September.

N Ireland police appeal for calm after 'barbaric' knife attack sparks anger

Reuters
Belfast

Police in Northern Ireland appealed for calm after arresting a Sudanese man yesterday over a knife attack that left one person in a serious condition and prompted calls online for protest.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer described the incident as "sickening" after video of the attack, which took place in north Belfast late on Monday evening, was shared widely on social media. The incident, which is currently not being treated as terrorism, comes at a time of heightened tensions in Britain following the murder of a student who was handcuffed by police as he lay dying from stab wounds after his killer, a Sikh man, falsely alleged a racist attack. It also follows repeated protests about immigration, with populist parties saying Britain's asylum policy had allowed dangerous men into the country. Northern Ireland saw anti-immigrant rioting last year amid anger over an alleged sexual assault.

"I understand that last night's attempted murder will leave people feeling a range of emotions, from fear to anger," Northern Ireland's Assistant Chief Constable Ryan Henderson, who has declared it a "critical incident", told a press conference.

"I appeal for calm and the safety of all of our communities in response to this."

He said the victim, a man in his 40s, suffered significant injuries to his eyes and slash wounds to his face and back during the "brutal" attack, with a kitchen



Police officers search the scene of a stabbing on Kinnaird Avenue in north Belfast, yesterday. (AFP)

knife found at the scene. Footage showed a number of members of the public trying to fight off the attacker before police arrived, and they were credited by senior officers with saving the man's life. The suspect, a 30-year-old Sudanese national, has been detained on suspicion of attempted murder. Police said it was understood he lived locally, having been granted leave to remain in the UK in September 2023 after claiming asylum. He had travelled to Belfast in February that year by bus from Dublin, having flown there from Paris on an unknown date. "There is no trace of this suspect on any of our national security databases, and he was not known to the Police Service of Northern Ireland," Chief Constable Jon

Boutcher said. Northern Ireland's main political party leaders jointly condemned the attack, calling it "horrific", and also called for calm, saying disturbances would only damage their communities. "Last night's attack in North Belfast was horrific and shocking. Many people are feeling angry, and many people are feeling deeply distressed," First Minister Michelle O'Neill told reporters. A widely shared post on Facebook and WhatsApp has called for protests yesterday evening, and in response police have promised an increased presence across the region.

"Nobody, nobody in Northern Ireland wants to see a repeat of the disorder that we have seen in recent years," Henderson said.

Indian fans unveil cutouts of football players



Supporters gather at an event where they put up cutouts of Argentina's Lionel Messi, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Brazil's Neymar Jr. ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, in Kozhikode, India, yesterday. (Reuters)

Modi to attend G7 summit

AFP
New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend next week's G7 Summit in France, as well as a technology conference in Paris, New Delhi's foreign ministry said yesterday. Modi's attendance is part of a two-nation trip to France and Slovakia, starting Saturday in Nice, where he will meet with French President Emmanuel Macron.

He then heads to Slovakia on Sunday, where he will meet with Prime Minister Robert Fico, the first visit by an Indian premier since its independence in 1993.

Modi then returns to France to attend the G7 summit in the Alpine lakeside resort of Evian on June 16-17.

The Group of Seven countries are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

US President Donald Trump has confirmed his attendance, and India's foreign ministry said Modi is expected to meet with "several world leaders" on the sidelines, without giving further details.

India and the United States are "about 99 percent" done with the first tranche of a trade deal, New Delhi has said this month.

After the G7 summit, Modi

heads to Paris, the foreign ministry said, to attend the VivaTech Summit, Europe's largest technology and startup event.

Modi's visit will "spotlight India as a global hub for innovation, digital transformation and entrepreneurship", the ministry added, saying the trip would support "new partnerships" with Europe.

Last month, Modi wrapped up a multi-nation tour to the the United Arab Emirates and four European countries.

The conflict in the Middle East and knock-on energy supply disruptions has piled pressure on India's economy, with Modi urging Indian citizens to reduce fuel consumption.

Everest survivor out of intensive care as probe calls grow

AFP
Kathmandu

A Nepali mountaineer who spent six days dragging himself off Mount Everest after being abandoned has been moved out of intensive care as he slowly recovers, his family said yesterday.

His improbable survival has sparked celebration among fellow climbers, but also anger from family members and the mountaineering community over the failure to locate him sooner.

Dawa Sherpa, 57, disappeared in brutal conditions on the upper slopes of the world's tallest mountain on May 30 during one of the final climbs of the spring season.

He was found on Thursday morning, crawling towards Base Camp, and airlifted to Kathmandu, where doctors are treating him for frostbite, severe dehydration and a fractured thigh bone.

"He has been shifted from the ICU (intensive care unit) to the ward and treatment is ongoing — he is able to speak a little and is eating," his relative Nuru Sherpa told AFP.

"Doctors are observing his hands and legs for improvement."

Left stranded in freezing temperatures near Everest's "death zone", where oxygen levels are critically low, Dawa Sherpa said he survived for days with almost no food or water.

"I thought I would perish this way. I didn't get lost. As the oxygen ran out, I fell behind. After the oxygen finished, I couldn't walk," he told BBC Nepali on Friday from his hospital bed.

"I didn't eat anything for the first two days. Then I began chewing ice. It hurt my teeth. I chewed the ice hard," he said.

He survived on a few chocolates and snacks he had in his pockets.

Dawa Sherpa, also known as "Hillary" like legendary climber Edmund Hillary, told others after his rescue that he had fallen into a crevasse.

But he crawled on and was found still slowly moving towards the Base Camp by the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC), a Nepali team that helps set routes on Everest and clean up waste left behind.

"There has been negligence in his case," Maya Sherpa, president of the Everest Summiteers Association, told AFP yesterday.

"An investigation has to take place to find out what exactly happened so that such incidents are not repeated."

The Nepal Mountaineering Association has called for a government committee to investigate the incident.

At least five climbers — two Indians and three Nepalis — died during this year's Everest season.

More than 1,000 climbers reached Everest's summit, according to preliminary Nepali government figures, making it the busiest season on record.

The government collected more than \$7mn from issuing climbing permits for Everest.

Nepal reinstates minister cleared by corruption probe

AFP
Kathmandu

Nepal's interior minister, a leading youth anti-corruption figure who stepped down in April during an investigation into his finances, was cleared of wrongdoing and reinstated yesterday, government officials said.

Sudan Gurung was a key figure in the 2025 youth-led anti-corruption protests that toppled Nepal's previous government. He was appointed home minister after winning a parliamentary seat in March elections.

However, he stepped down the following month to ensure a "fair investigation" after reports raised questions about whether he had failed to disclose some

financial investments.

A government committee tasked with examining the allegations submitted its report last week.

"Prime Minister Balendra Shah reappointed Gurung as home minister," Shah's media adviser Dipa Dahal told AFP.

Gurung was subsequently sworn back into office by President Ram Chandra Paudel yesterday.

He participated in the deadly September 2025 protests, which began as demonstrations against a brief social media ban but were fuelled by broader public anger over corruption and the struggling economy.

In January, Gurung joined the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), which swept to a landslide victory in March.

Storm pounds New Zealand's capital city

Reuters
Wellington

Gale-force winds and rough seas battered New Zealand's capital of Wellington yesterday, forcing ferry and flight cancellations and road closures as authorities urged hundreds of residents along the city's south coast to evacuate.

A light aircraft was briefly blown over by strong winds at Wellington airport after a gust of wind tipped the plane onto its wing and wheel, an airport spokesperson said by e-mail.

"Nobody was injured and it was quickly righted," it said.



Stormy seas pound the coastline in the Wellington suburb of Owhiro Bay yesterday. (AFP)

The *New Zealand Herald* said the plane had just landed and passengers had disembarked

when the craft tipped.

Around eight flights were cancelled at Wellington's airport. Air

New Zealand has informed passengers that forecast high winds could disrupt some flights from Wellington and offered rebooking options, Radio New Zealand reported.

A state of emergency has been declared for parts of Wellington as the weather bureau warned of waves up to 9 metres (29.5ft) along the city's south coast.

"We are now entering the forecast period for most significant swell impacts. If you are in the evacuation zone and have not left your property, please shelter in place," the Wellington City Council said in a post on Facebook.

Ferry services between New



Zealand's North and South Islands were cancelled yesterday.

Waves were forecast to rise rapidly through yesterday morning and early afternoon along the east coasts of the North and South Islands and at the Chatham Islands, the weather bureau said.

Island Bay resident Jonathan

Delich, who owns Cook Strait Fishing Charters, told the *New Zealand Herald* he has cancelled all operations scheduled for yesterday and today.

"We wouldn't take you fishing even if you wanted to... no one in their right mind would go out on the water today," Delich said.

Historic spectacle: SpaceX IPO is set to overwhelm financial markets

Elon Musk's SpaceX is poised to have the largest stock-market debut in history when it holds its initial public offering on Friday. SpaceX is aiming to raise as much as \$75bn in the listing, more than twice the previous record holder, at a valuation of at least \$1.8tn, according to a Bloomberg report.

The IPO is expected to be a market spectacle as investors get a chance to buy into Musk's vision to create a combined space and AI powerhouse. His long list of growth plans – including putting data centers in space – are hugely ambitious but also come with high costs, significant

risks and could take many years to come to fruition.

Even though SpaceX generates significant cash flow, largely from Starlink, its satellite-based internet broadband service, the company requires a lot more money to fund its biggest ambitions. The public filing unveiled on May 20 stated that IPO proceeds will be used, among other things, to expand the company's AI computing infrastructure, enhance its space infrastructure and rockets and boost its satellite constellations.

SpaceX could have opted to continue raising capital in private markets rather than going public.

But the company's funding needs appear to have risen substantially with the acquisition in February of xAI, which is burning through around \$1bn of cash per month to cover the cost of computing infrastructure including training its AI models, according to people briefed on the company's financials.

In addition to its rocket launch business, SpaceX owns Starlink, which has become the company's main cash flow generator. Following the all-stock acquisition in February of xAI, SpaceX also owns Grok, a money-burning operation whose flagship product is an AI assistant. X, the

microblogging site previously known as Twitter, rounds out its portfolio of businesses.

A listing for SpaceX to raise as much as \$75bn would shatter the previous record set by Saudi Aramco's \$29.4bn IPO in 2019. The big question is whether a valuation as large as \$1.8tn can be sustained in public markets. Analysts value companies based on their future earnings and growth, as well as industry competition and profit margins.

But valuation isn't a pure science. Especially in bullish market conditions, investors are sometimes prepared to pay up for a company's shares

based on something other than fundamentals. For SpaceX, the downside of having an IPO is that the company will have to publicly report its financials every quarter and answer to Wall Street analysts and public investors. Its plans also could be disrupted if its stock price is volatile or falls sharply in reaction to bad news.

The public filing has confirmed that Musk tightly controls SpaceX, with 85.1% voting control, mainly because he owns most of the company's super-voting Class B shares. The filing also revealed a super-voting share plan that would allow Musk, the Tesla Inc co-founder and world's

richest person, to keep SpaceX under his control.

Investors enthralled by SpaceX's potential and Musk's track record likely aren't bothered by this, but it could present problems if something went wrong and investors wanted a change at the helm. SpaceX's market debut on Friday could also prove to be a hurdle for US stocks as investors worry about possible overexuberance among high-growth technology stocks. ChatGPT maker OpenAI on Monday confidentially filed for a US initial public offering, joining rival Anthropic in a push toward public markets.

South Carolina goes to polls



Voters check in on Election Day for the midterm primary at Hand Middle School yesterday in Columbia, South Carolina. Four US states conducted midterm primary elections on Tuesday. (AFP)



QNA
Doha

Space is no longer a domain limited to scientific exploration and research missions. In recent years, it has evolved into one of the fastest-growing sectors of the global economy, driven by rapid advances in satellite technology, telecommunications, artificial intelligence, and reusable launch systems.

This transformation has opened new investment horizons and attracted substantial capital from governments and private companies alike, amid intensifying competition to capitalise on the economic opportunities offered by the expanding space sector.

The space economy encompasses the full range of activities and resources associated with the exploration, research, and utilisation of space in support of economic development and societal progress. It includes infrastructure-related activities such as satellite manufacturing and launches, spacecraft development, and the construction of space stations and exploration missions. It also covers a broad range of terrestrial applications, including navigation and positioning services, satellite communications, Earth observation, climate monitoring, data analytics, and space tourism.

Fundamental shift

Economic experts told Qatar News Agency (QNA) that the rapid expansion of the space economy reflects a fundamental shift toward a new arena in which commercial satellite systems, low-Earth-orbit communications networks, and Earth-monitoring technologies are flourishing alongside growing public and private sector investments.

They noted that the race is no longer solely about maximizing financial returns, but increasingly about shaping future geopolitical influence and global economic power. In this context, economic analyst Dr. Amer al-Shobaki said the world is entering a new era defined by scientific discoveries in space and the economic opportunities they generate.

“What is taking place today extends beyond scientific breakthroughs, technological competition, arms races, or access to data,” he said. “It can be described as a struggle for control over future value chains.”

Al-Shobaki explained that every space launch depends on a complex industrial ecosystem that begins with rare minerals and semiconductor manufacturing and extends to artificial intelligence and energy infrastructure. In remarks to QNA, he noted that estimates place the value of the global space economy at several hundred

Space emerges as trillion-dollar growth sector in global economy



that it could approach the trillion-dollar mark within the next decade. Growth is expected to be driven by sectors including telecommunications, Earth observation, defence, and navigation services.

He added that control over critical raw materials has become an integral part of the space race itself, given the dependence of satellites, rockets, and advanced battery technologies on these resources. According to al-Shobaki, the technologies underpinning the space sector rely heavily on strategic minerals such as cobalt oxide, manganese, nickel, and lithium, which are essential components in lithium battery production.

He pointed out that China currently dominates a significant share of the global refining and production capacity for many of these materials. He also highlighted a notable paradox: while space is often promoted as a clean, digital economy, it remains deeply dependent on natural gas, conventional energy sources, and heavy industry. In addition, data centers that power AI-enabled space applications, global communications networks, and semiconductor production consume vast amounts of electricity and energy resources.

“All of these sectors require substantial amounts of power and natural gas, making energy security a direct component of space security,” al-Shobaki said.

He added that artificial intelligence

a central driver of the space sector, with applications ranging from predictive satellite maintenance and the analysis of military, agricultural, and biological imagery to the development of advanced defense and early-warning systems.

Al-Shobaki noted that the competition between the United States and China has expanded beyond space exploration itself to encompass data ownership, energy resources, strategic minerals, computing power, and artificial intelligence capabilities.

Global spending

He expects global spending on space-related defence programs to continue rising, while some private-sector companies may emerge as geopolitical actors whose influence extends beyond the traditional role of nation-states.

The economic expert further observed that satellites have become increasingly influential in modern conflicts, affecting communications, navigation, intelligence gathering, and, in some cases, the outcomes of military operations.

“The question today is no longer who will reach space first,” he said. “The real question is who will control the infrastructure of the future economy managed from space, who will remain a consumer of technology, and who will succeed in becoming a producer of it.”

Current projections suggest that

the global space economy is poised for substantial expansion, growing from an estimated \$630bn today to approximately \$1.8tn by 2035, according to data from the World Economic Forum. The sector continues to advance at a compound annual growth rate of between 8 and 12%, driven by developments in space-based internet services, the emerging space resources economy, future logistics, security applications, supply chain technologies, and space tourism.

Discussing available investment opportunities, economic and financial analyst Ahmed Aql said that the space economy is inherently linked to higher levels of risk and represents a model of venture-style investment. He noted that direct investments in some space-sector companies carry elevated risk levels, but also offer the potential for exceptional long-term returns.

At the same time, investment in supporting technology companies presents a lower-cost alternative with moderate risk and attractive returns. These include firms supplying semiconductors, artificial intelligence technologies, and other critical components that support the broader space industry.

Speaking to QNA, Aql said that investment opportunities within the space economy involve a unique business environment and a distinct set of challenges. “The opportunities are highly promising,” he said, “but they require investors willing to take calculated risks and commit substantial capital to sectors such as communications, navigation, space-based internet services, scientific exploration, and space tourism.”

He highlighted the emergence of companies such as SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Virgin Galactic, which have transformed space competition from a predominantly government-led endeavour into a commercial model driven by investment, profitability, and innovation. According to Aql, this shift is paving the way for a new era in which investment flows increasingly serve as instruments of influence, wealth creation, and strategic advantage.

Space tourism has also emerged as a notable component of this rapidly evolving landscape. Companies are now offering suborbital flights that carry wealthy individuals and celebrities into space for brief experiences lasting only a

few minutes, yet generating substantial revenues.

These developments mark the early stages of what could become a fully integrated economic sector in the future, encompassing space hotels, commercial travel, and industries linked to human activity beyond Earth, along with the services required to support them.

Aql noted that the space economy remains in a phase of refining concepts, exploring opportunities, and testing long-term growth potential amid an increasingly competitive global race led by technology companies and some of the world's wealthiest entrepreneurs seeking to establish leadership in one of the most promising industries of the future.

Despite its transformative potential, he cautioned that the sector faces several significant challenges. These include the enormous capital requirements associated with space projects, the absence of comprehensive legal frameworks governing ownership of space resources and extraterrestrial mining activities, environmental concerns such as space debris, and growing cybersecurity demands to protect critical space infrastructure.

He added that the accelerating pace of space exploration, increasing competition for strategic positioning in space, and efforts by spacefaring nations to formalize regulatory arrangements are contributing to a more complex operating environment, underscoring the need for international legislation governing the use and management of outer space.

As the space economy continues to expand and its commercial, industrial, and defense applications become more deeply integrated into the global economy, competition is increasingly extending beyond access to space itself. The emerging race now encompasses technology leadership, data ownership, resource control, and the value chains that underpin this rapidly developing industry.

With investment flows into the sector continuing to accelerate, the contours of a new global economic landscape are beginning to take shape - one in which space capabilities are expected to play a decisive role in enhancing economic competitiveness and strengthening the technological and strategic influence of both nations and corporations.

NBA FINALS

Trump gets cold hometown welcome at NBA Finals in NY

US President Donald Trump was booed during the NBA Finals matchup at Madison Square Garden on Monday, as his attendance prompted ultra-tight security at the storied New York venue. Fans jeered the Republican leader, who was watching the game from an executive suite, when he appeared onscreen inside the arena during the singing of the national anthem. Security measures were hiked for the visit, with authorities barring fans without tickets from coming within several blocks of Madison Square Garden. Officials urged ticket holders to arrive at least two hours before) tip-off to clear airport-style security screening. **(AFP)**

PROTESTS IN BOLIVIA

Bolivian president blames ‘narcoterrorists’ for protests

Bolivia’s embattled president signaled dwindling patience for protests that have paralysed the country, moving closer to enacting a state of emergency that would allow the military to intervene. For weeks protestors have marched and erected roadblocks, bringing Bolivia to a near standstill – pushing up food and fuel prices and causing shortages of basic goods. Riot police have fired tear gas in attempts to clear the blockades, but have been forced to pull back under gunfire that has wounded several officers. Protesters hurled stones and burned tires and at least 14 civilians were also injured, the President’s office said. **(AFP)**

FIFA WORLD CUP

Iran to travel to US day before its first World Cup match

Iran’s football federation announced yesterday its national team’s schedule the World Cup journey is beginning under difficult circumstances as the players obtained the visas necessary to enter the US for its group-stage matches in Los Angeles and Seattle, but not all delegation members received them. “In accordance with FIFA’s programme, the team delegation will travel to the US on a charter flight,” the Iranian federation’s spokesperson Amir Mehdi Alavi said in a statement. “The team will travel to the host city one day before the match against New Zealand, and for the following two matches.” **(AFP)**

FCAS PROGRAMME

Spain ‘worried’ over end of joint fighter jet project

A decision by France and Germany to abandon a flagship joint fighter jet programme is “very worrying for Europe”, Spain’s Defence Minister Margarita Robles said yesterday. “I think this is bad news, very worrying for Europe and for Europe’s strategic autonomy,” she said, adding: “the interests of industry have been placed ahead of the interests of Europe’s security and defence.” Berlin and Paris agreed on Monday to ditch the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) programme that was seen as a key test of European efforts to work together in the face of a hostile Russia. This comes despite calls for Europe to integrate its militaries. **(AFP)**

US launches new strikes after Iran downs its copter

From Page 1

Trump said the two US pilots involved in the incident were uninjured.

“Nevertheless, the United States must, of necessity, respond to this attack,” he said on social media. Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi did not directly address the incident, but said foreign forces in the region risked being involved in accidents or crossfire. “To reduce risk, best solution is for them to leave,” he said on social media.

The episode adds further strain to efforts to broker a peace deal to end the wider Middle East war and reopen Hormuz, a vital conduit for petroleum and other commodities. Trump has repeatedly said Iran and the United States are close to an agreement, though there have been few signs of progress since a tenuous ceasefire took effect in early April.

A US Navy surface drone found and rescued the two crew, the US military said, after the US Army attack helicopter went down in waters near Oman’s coast while on patrol at around 3am yesterday. The US military’s Central Command gave no reason for the crash. It said the soldiers were rescued after two hours and said they were



President Trump at JFK International Airport yesterday. **(Reuters)**

in stable condition - a more cautious assessment than Trump’s description.

In a parallel conflict, Israel struck the historic port city of Tyre in southern Lebanon, killing at least eight people. It was the deadliest strike on the city since fighting erupted in Lebanon in early March.

A video verified by Reuters showed debris strewn across a road at the site of the attack.

Israel’s refusal to end its campaign against Iran-backed Hezbollah has

hindered Trump’s efforts to extend a tenuous ceasefire in the wider US-Israeli war with Iran into a durable settlement. Iran and Israel exchanged airstrikes earlier this week, killing two people in Tehran.

Trump told Axios on Monday he warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to return to war with Iran: “I said, ‘Bibi, you better be careful, or you will be on your own very soon.’” Tehran has long said any peace deal with Washington depends in part on an end to fighting in Lebanon.

Nordic-Baltic states back Ukraine’s ‘path’ to Nato

AFP
Tallinn

Nordic and Baltic countries yesterday declared their support for Ukraine’s “irreversible path” to Nato membership at a summit in Tallinn with President Volodymyr Zelensky. The leaders of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – the Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) regional cooperation format – met as the transatlantic alliance prepares for its own summit in Turkey next month.

“Ukraine is a strategic security partner to Nato, contributing directly to Euro-Atlantic security through its battlefield experience, technological innovation and industrial capacity,” the NB8 leaders said a joint statement.

“We support Ukraine on its irreversible path to full Euro-Atlantic integration, including Nato membership,” they added.

Ukraine is expected to take part in the Ankara summit, which comes as Nato’s European members fret over US President Donald Trump’s commitment to the alliance.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Estonia’s Prime Minister Kristen Michal listen as Iceland’s Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir speaks during a joint press conference in Tallinn yesterday. **(AFP)**

Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 prompted Sweden and Finland to abandon decades of military non-alignment and join Nato. Nato’s top military commander in Europe declared the alliance’s northeastern flank to be “one of the most strategically significant” areas in the world, and work is under way to boost defences. On the sidelines of yesterday’s summit in Tallinn, Latvian Prime Minister Andris Kulbergs and Zelensky signed a co-operation agreement on drones, according to the BNS news agency.

The deal outlines technological and industrial exchange between

the two states, which allows Latvia to use Ukraine’s battlefield know-how in drone technology.

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, Baltic countries – which have a long land border with Russia – have faced growing pressure from hybrid threats, including drone incursions into their airspace. French Nato jets shot down a drone in Latvia on Monday, and President Emmanuel Macron joined the NB8 summit by video link.

Macron told the leaders that as Russia’s offensive was failing in Ukraine, the Kremlin was seeking to provoke its neighbours. “We will face them together,” he said.

Airbus-led group proposes alternative to abandoned Franco-German jet project

A consortium led by Airbus has proposed developing a next-generation fighter jet after a high-profile Franco-German warplane project collapsed, one of the firms involved told AFP yesterday. The news came a day after Chancellor Friedrich Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron pulled the plug on the original programme after long-running disagreements between the firms.

Munich-based defence electronics firm Hensoldt said that it had teamed up with Airbus Defence and Space, Autoflug, Diehl Defence, Rohde & Schwarz, Liebherr, MBDA, MTU Aero Engines to come up with an alternative plan.

The proposal had been sent to German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius, a company spokesman said. The companies had “jointly drawn up a position paper on the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) and the associated Next Generation Weapon System (NGWS)”, the Hensoldt spokesman said.

Further information on the proposal would come on Thursday in an announcement at the Berlin ILA Air Show, the spokesman added.

Speaking at a press conference



A worker makes final touches on an Airbus logo at the International Aerospace Exhibition ILA in Berlin yesterday. **(Reuters)**

yesterday afternoon, Pistorius said the proposal from the eight firms was one of a number of options Berlin was examining.

“It is conceivable and one possibility,” he said, adding that purchasing American F-35 fighter jets or participating in other ongoing projects were also possible.

Britain, Japan and Italy are working on a new fighter system known as the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), but joining the project late could present a host of technical challenges.

Speaking to the *Handelsblatt* newspaper, Holger Neumann, commander of Germany’s air forces, said he was in favour of F-35 jets

as a stop-gap solution until the next generation of European jets was online.

The original FCAS project, started in 2017, came to be seen as a key test of European unity on defence as the region faces a hostile Russia and souring ties with the US. But it was dogged by bitter disputes between France’s Dassault Aviation and Airbus, representing German and Spanish interests.

The German side had bristled at Dassault’s efforts to take greater control of building the aircraft.

Merz had said that Germany, unlike France, did not need jets that could carry nuclear weapons or fly from aircraft carriers. **(AFP)**

French air force soars through NY skies



France’s air force acrobatics team staged a flyover of the Statue of Liberty yesterday, part of commemorations for the upcoming 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence. Eight Alpha jets of the Patrouille de France filled the skies above Manhattan with the colours of the French tricolour – soaring above the iconic statue which was a gift from France to the US and dedicated in 1886. “Honestly, this flyover of the Statue of Liberty is something I never imagined I would be able to do in my life,” Commander Brice Beaudouin, leader of the patrol, told AFP ahead of the flyover. This mission, dubbed “Liberte 250,” highlights France’s support for the US insurgents who took on the British crown, making Paris the oldest international ally of Washington. **(AFP)**

Nasa taps US, Italian astronauts for Artemis mission

Nasa yesterday named three US astronauts and an Italian astronaut to serve as the crew for its next Artemis mission, a spacecraft docking demonstration in Earth’s orbit next year that will test landers from Elon Musk’s SpaceX and Jeff Bezos’ Blue Origin for the first time in space. Nasa Administrator Jared Isaacman at a ceremony in Houston named US astronauts Andre Douglas,

Frank Rubio and Randy Bresnik and Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano as the Artemis III crew, which is due to launch late next year. Artemis III, following a crewed flight around the moon and back earlier this year, will be another key test ahead of Nasa’s first moon landing since 1972, Artemis IV, which is planned for 2028. **(Reuters)**

EU orders Meta to open WhatsApp to rival AI chatbots for free

AFP
Brussels

The EU ordered Meta yesterday to give rival AI chatbots access to its WhatsApp platform for free within five working days as it carries out an anti-trust probe, or risk a heavy fine.

Meta said it would appeal the order, which follows the launch in December of an EU investigation into the US firm’s policy of blocking access for AI providers other than Meta AI.

The European Commission, the EU’s digital watchdog, said Meta will have to maintain access to competitors until Brussels wraps up its probe.

“Today, we require Meta to restore access to WhatsApp for competing AI assistants while we investigate whether the restrictions may infringe EU competition rules,” EU antitrust chief Teresa Ribera said in a statement.

“This will prevent serious and irreparable harm to competition in this growing market by Meta’s



Meta AI logo. **(Reuters/File Photo)**

conduct, which at first sight infringes EU competition rules,” the commission said.

A Meta spokesperson said the measure would allow “OpenAI and some of the largest companies in the world” access for free, adding: “This is regulatory overreach subsidised by the many European companies that pay”.

The EU had warned Meta it faced interim measures if it did not open WhatsApp to rival AI assistants in February. The company then introduced an access fee – a

remedy the EU rejected in April as unsatisfactory.

Traditional antitrust probes can take years and European officials believe the decisions, often fines, come too late to see any positive change to address the harm already done.

The last time the EU used such interim measures was in 2019, Ribera said.

The EU’s goal is that Meta reinstates third-party AI assistants’ access to WhatsApp under the same conditions as before its Oc-

tober 2025 policy change when it “effectively” barred them.

The commission said it has the power to impose a fine of up to 10% of the company’s total turnover in the business year preceding the infringement if Meta “either intentionally or negligently” contravenes the decision on interim measures.

Brussels said the fee offered earlier this year “at first sight” was “in practice equivalent to the previous access ban”.

The commission described an “urgent need” to protect a “growing market for general-purpose AI assistants” and give space for smaller players and new entrants to challenge large incumbents.

“We cannot let large digital incumbents leverage their dominance of the past to dictate who in Europe gets to compete and who gets to innovate in AI,” Ribera told a press conference in Brussels.

She said the EU order would ensure EU citizens choose which AI chatbots they would prefer to use on WhatsApp.

There is no legal deadline for the

EU’s investigation to end.

The commission has had several run-ins with Meta as part of a broader clampdown on abusive Big Tech practices.

In April, EU regulators found Meta was failing to keep under-13s off its Facebook and Instagram platforms in breach of the bloc’s digital content rules.

As part of that same probe, EU regulators are looking into how Meta protects users’ physical and mental wellbeing, as well as the “addictive” design of Facebook and Instagram.

Meta has also appealed a €200mn (\$231mn) fine imposed last year by the EU under the on-line competition law, the Digital Markets Act (DMA).

The DMA is not popular across the Atlantic, with neither the US administration under President Donald Trump nor the American giants themselves.

Apple criticised the law on Monday when it blamed the DMA for its delayed rollout of the AI-enhanced voice assistant Siri, which the EU flatly rejected.

Belgium slams abandoned jet project

Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever yesterday blasted Germany and France for their “pure stupidity” after the EU powerhouses abandoned a joint fighter jet programme after disagreements. Berlin and Paris agreed to ditch the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) programme that was seen as a key test of European efforts to work together in the face of a hostile Russia.

“I was extremely disappointed to read that France and Germany cannot reach agreement on the development of a European sixth generation airplane,” De Wever told a conference in Brussels.

“What a waste of time. What arrogance. This is that we have chosen – to be irrelevant in a crucial part of air defence, not only now, but in a decade as well.”

The Belgian premier, known for his no-nonsense style, called the move “pure stupidity”. **(AFP)**



Graduates and officials with HE Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed AlKhatir, Minister of Education and Higher Education. **PICTURES:** Shaji Kayamkulam.

Minister honours students under Qatar Scholarship Programme

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

HE Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed AlKhatir, Minister of Education and Higher Education, honoured the graduates and academically outstanding students under Qatar Scholarship Programme yesterday at Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel as Education Above All Foundation (EAA) Foundation achieved the target of 500 scholarships.

The Qatar Scholarships Programme in Qatar event, organised by EAA Foundation in partnership with the General Directorate of Endowments (Awqaf), celebrated the achievements of the eighth cohort of beneficiaries. The event marked a significant milestone in the programme's journey, as it represented the successful achievement of its strategic target of 500 scholarships.

The event was attended by HE



Some of the graduates of the Qatar Scholarship Programme.

Fahad bin Hamad al-Sulaiti, director-general of the Qatar Fund for Development; Hassan bin Abdullah al-Marzouqi, director-general of the General Directorate of Endowments; Faiz Majed Abu al-Rub, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Qatar; Rajeh Hussein Farhan Badi, ambassador of Yemen to Qatar; Vipul, ambassa-

dor of India to Qatar, in addition to presidents of universities and directors of partner institutions. About 600 guests, including officials, representatives of government entities, academic institutions, strategic partners, media representatives, students, and parents were present on the occasion.



A section of the audience.

Mohammed Saad al-Kubaisi, chief executive officer of EAA Foundation, said: "The Qatar Scholarships Programme in Qatar event is an occasion to celebrate the achievements of our students and renew our commitment to empowering young people through quality education.

The programme's achievement of its strategic target of 500 scholarships reflects the strength of the partnership with the General Directorate of Endowments. We believe that every student who receives a fair opportunity to access higher education represents a new story of hope and an additional step towards more inclusive and sustainable development."

About 45 graduates of the programme were honoured at the event and around 55 academically outstanding students were recognised, alongside welcoming the new cohort of beneficiaries. The evening also highlighted the pro-

gramme's social and educational impact in supporting resident students, ensuring them fair access to higher education and enabling them to continue their academic and professional journeys.

Al-Marzouqi, from General Directorate of Endowments, said: "The Qatar Scholarship Programme is a practical example of the impact of waqf in supporting education and empowering students. Education is the cornerstone of societal progress and the most important pathway to empower youth and open new horizons for them. Guided by this vision, the General Directorate of Endowments works to support educational opportunities for students across various disciplines, reaffirming its mission to promote knowledge and innovation in a way that strengthens investment in human capital."

The event programme included official remarks from supporting

and partner entities, as well as a video presentation highlighting the programme's journey and achievements. It also featured live speeches by two student beneficiaries of the programme, who shared inspiring stories about the impact of the scholarship on their educational journeys and future aspirations. The event also witnessed the recognition of partner educational institutions, in appreciation of their pivotal role in supporting student beneficiaries and enhancing the quality of educational opportunities available to them.

The Qatar Scholarship Programme in Qatar, affiliated with EAA Foundation is one of the leading educational initiatives aimed at supporting non-Qatari resident students from marginalised families through the provision of annual scholarships in partnership with higher education institutions in the country.

Doha Design District reveals Public Art Open Call shortlist

QNA
Doha

Doha Design District (DDD), powered by Msheireb Properties, has announced the 20 shortlisted projects advancing to the final stage of its Public Art Open Call.

The response was extraordinary. Over 220 proposals were received from 53 nationalities, each one a testament to the hunger artists and designers feel to engage with real places, real communities, and the living fabric of a city.

From that rich and diverse field, 20 works have been selected - five from Qatar, three from the United States, two from Lebanon, and one each from France, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Japan, India, Finland, Tunisia, Kuwait, and Thailand.

Together, they form a cohort as international as the city itself. Director of Doha Design District Dana Kazic commented: "This open call was never just about art. It was an invitation to the world to imagine what Doha could become. The sheer breadth and depth of what we received was humbling. These 20 shortlisted works don't just respond to our spaces; they challenge us, move us, and remind us why public art matters. We look forward to seeing what the final winners bring to life across the district."

The shortlist was determined by a distinguished jury bringing together some of the region's most respected voices in design, culture, and urban development.

Each proposal, whether from an emerging talent or an established name, was evaluated against core criteria: the strength and innovation of the concept; its originality and clarity of artistic vision; how meaningfully it engages with its specific site and Doha's broader cultural context; its capacity to animate public space and spark genuine



audience interaction; the sustainability of its materials and production methods; the technical soundness of its installation approach; and the realism of its proposed timeline.

The journey is far from over. From the 20 shortlisted proposals, four final winners will be selected based on a combination of jury deliberation and public voting. The public is invited to see the proposals at Doha Design District Headquarters on the first floor, and vote for their favourite proposal from 18 to 25 June via DDD's website.

Those selected will move forward to develop and realise their works for installation across Msheireb Downtown Doha, transforming the district, piece by piece, into an open-air stage for contemporary expression.

By weaving public art into the everyday life of the place, Doha Design District continues to make the case that great design doesn't live in galleries alone. It lives on the street corner, the plaza, the shaded walkway. Through programmes like this Public Art Open Call, the district champions creative practitioners, nurtures cross-disciplinary exchange, and deepens the cultural roots of one of the Gulf's most ambitious urban destinations.

NMoQ opens 'On the Move' exhibition in China, extending Years of Culture legacy

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) opened yesterday the 'On the Move' exhibition at the National Museum of China, marking the first collaboration between the two institutions and a new milestone in the exhibition's international journey as a legacy project of Years of Culture.

Presented in South Gallery 3, the exhibition will remain open to the public until September 9. First presented at the National Museum of Qatar in 2022 as part of the Qatar-MENASA Year of Culture, On the Move has since evolved into a travelling cultural platform, extending Qatar's cultural dialogue with international audiences.

As NMoQ's first travelling exhibition, it was later presented at the National Museum of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar in 2024 as its inaugural presentation outside Qatar, before arriving in China. The opening ceremony was attended by diplomatic representatives from across the Arab world, senior officials from China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and leaders from key cultural institutions, including Qatar's ambassador to China Mohammed Abdullah al-Dehaimi, NMoQ director Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Thani, and Luo Wenli, director of the National Museum of China.

For its Beijing presentation, the exhibition features more than 150 artefacts from Qatar alongside photographs, films, oral histories, and archival material, inviting visitors to discover the lives, knowledge, and creativity of Qatar's nomadic and semi-nomadic communities from the 18th century until the discovery of oil.

Sheikh Abdulaziz said, "The National Museum of Qatar is proud to bring On the Move to audiences in Beijing. The exhibition shares an important part of Qatar's heritage, exploring the traditions, knowledge, and ways of life shaped by generations of movement across our landscape."

"Through this exhibition, we aim to foster greater understanding of the cultural values, resilience,



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Chinese visitors to the exhibition.

and ingenuity that have defined nomadic communities in Qatar. As On the Move continues its international journey, we hope visitors in China will discover both new perspectives and shared experiences through stories of adaptation, connection, and community that resonate across cultures."

Tania al-Majid, deputy director of Curatorial Affairs at the National Museum of Qatar, added: "One of the most rewarding aspects of curating On the Move has been the opportunity to share a more nuanced understanding of nomadic history in Qatar."

"Through historical objects, photographs, oral histories, and multimedia installations, the exhi-

bition highlights the experiences, knowledge, and traditions of communities that not only adapted but thrived in a challenging environment. It is a human-centred narrative that we are proud to present to the Chinese public."

Marking the inaugural collaboration between NMoQ and the National Museum of China, the Beijing presentation builds upon the cultural legacy established during the Qatar-China 2016 Year of Culture. Nearly a decade after the Qatar-China 2016 Year of Culture, the exhibition renews cultural dialogue between the two countries through a major museum collaboration, and highlights how Years of Culture continues to support

long-term partnerships, institutional exchange and deeper public understanding of Qatar's heritage.

Breaking away from traditional ethnographic displays, the exhibition presents an engaging and exploration of nomadic life in Qatar through objects, photographs, oral histories, multimedia installations, and interactive experiences. It explores the relationships between people, animals, the environment, and material culture, while highlighting the knowledge, creativity, traditions, and social practices that shaped nomadic communities.

A key feature of the exhibition is Mapping Migration Memories, an immersive and sound installation created in collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts Qatar (VCUArts Qatar).

Set within a landscape of sand, the work follows two Qatari women as they retrace and reimagine the seasonal journeys of their nomadic ancestors, reflecting on memory, movement, and belonging across generations.

The international journey of On the Move reflects the continuing impact of Years of Culture, which creates platforms for long-term cultural dialogue, institutional collaboration and people-to-people understanding between Qatar and communities around the world.