



# GULF TIMES



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## PM, Oman's Sultan discuss US-Iran MoU, Hormuz



Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq met yesterday with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani. At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the Sultan of Oman, along with His Highness's wishes for the Sultan of Oman's continued health and happiness, and for the Omani people's continued progress and prosperity. The Sultan of Oman entrusted

the prime minister to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing His Highness continued health and happiness, and the Qatari people further development and growth. They discussed bilateral co-operation and ways to support and strengthen it in various fields to serve their common interests and benefit their peoples. They also discussed the latest regional developments, particularly the diplomatic efforts to enhance security and stability in the region, following the signing of the Memorandum of Un-

محمد بن عبدالرحمن  
@MBA\_AIThani\_

"Today, I met in Muscat with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Sultan of the sisterly Sultanate of Oman, and conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Father Amir, Sheikh @TamimBinHamad, to His Majesty and to the sisterly Omani people. Thank you to His Majesty for the generosity of hospitality and the warmth of the reception."

derstanding between the United States and Iran. The prime minister also met Oman's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to further strengthen co-operation, in addition to discussing the latest regional developments and diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting security and stability in the region. **To Page 9**



### Amir condolences with Pak PM

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a telephone conversation yesterday with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. At the outset of the call, His Highness the Amir extended his condolences and sympathy to the prime minister for the victims of the explosion that occurred at one of the industrial facilities in Ras Laffan Industrial City, which resulted in the deaths and injuries of several Pakistani nationals. He wished those injured a speedy recovery.

The Pakistani PM expressed his profound gratitude to HH the Amir for his heartfelt sentiments and commended the healthcare provided by Qatar to the injured, as well as the efforts made by the competent authorities in handling the incident. Both sides underscored their support for the families of the victims, along with the two countries' commitment to strengthening the bonds of cooperation in the interests of both brotherly peoples. **To Page 9**

### PM, Saudi FM review situation

HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani held a phone call with Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Abdullah al-Saud. They discussed bilateral co-operation and ways to support and strengthen it, in addition to exchanging views on the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts to enhance security and stability in the region following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the US and Iran. The prime minister reaffirmed Qatar's full support for the ongoing negotiations between the US and Iran to reach sustainable solutions to outstanding issues through dialogue and peaceful means. **(QNA)**

### US assures Gulf allies on Iran

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio yesterday vowed that Washington would not do anything to undermine the security of its Gulf allies in its dealings with Iran, as he sought to reassure partners sceptical of a proposed deal to end the four-month war. "We're going to be completely aligned with our partners in the Gulf," Rubio told reporters in Kuwait City. "We're not going to do anything that undermines the security of our allies, our longstanding allies in the region." Rubio is on a three-day tour of the Gulf, his first high-level mission on the accord. **(Reuters)**

RESULT

3 1

Bosnia and Herzegovina Qatar

## Cabinet hails outcome of talks

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

The Cabinet yesterday hailed the outcomes of the Lake Lucerne Summit and the first round of high-level US-Iran talks held under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Islamabad, describing the progress as the opening of a new phase in negotiations between Washington and Tehran. The meeting, held at the Amiri Diwan, was chaired by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani.



HE Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani

Following the meeting, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi said the Cabinet,

at the outset, commended the results of the talks held at the Burgenstock Resort in Switzerland, which brought together representatives of Iran and the United States alongside the two mediating countries, Qatar and Pakistan. The Cabinet affirmed that the success of this round, the progress made, and the positive atmosphere throughout the talks establish a new phase in the negotiations, adding that the breakthrough would strengthen mutual trust and the shared conviction in the value of peace and the need to reach a final agreement in line with the agreed framework. **To Page 9**

### Qatar Post reboots CONNECTED for borderless shopping

By Joey Aguilar  
Staff Reporter

Shoppers in Qatar can now buy from the world's biggest online stores — even those that refuse to ship here — and have the parcels land at their doorstep, thanks to a revamped version of CONNECTED launched by Qatar Postal Services Company (Qatar Post). The integrated international shipping service gives customers a seamless global shopping experience from

leading retailers worldwide, using dedicated international addresses and secure home delivery through a reliable logistics network. CONNECTED is built for stores that do not ship directly to Qatar. It receives, processes, and forwards purchases from the United States, United Kingdom, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, and Jordan, before sending them on to Qatar through flexible options and competitive rates — with plans to add more origin countries. **To Page 9**

## Kahramaa awards QR2.2bn deals

By A Staff Reporter  
Doha

Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has signed a series of contracts worth more than QR2.2bn to develop and strengthen the electricity network in the western region, as it moves to connect the Dukhan Solar Power Project to the national grid. The deals were awarded to several qualified local and international companies, including Voltage Engineering

LTD, the Best & Betas Consortium, Larsen & Toubro, and LS Cable. The contracts fall within Kahramaa's strategic initiatives to link the Dukhan solar plant to the network in the country's west. The scope of work covers engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) for building and upgrading substations, as well as installing underground cables and overhead lines. The projects support Kahramaa's efforts to ensure secure and efficient integration of renewable energy into the grid, boost its capacity to absorb ris-

ing solar power generation, and improve overall network flexibility and performance. The total value of the contracts reflects the scale of investment dedicated to strengthening network readiness and ensuring long-term system stability. President of Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation Engineer Abdulla bin Ali al-Thayab said the expansion of the network in the western region would have a positive impact on service reliability and quality for customers, meeting current and future electricity needs. **To Page 9**

Today's **GULF TIMES** includes a 32-page supplement on **HOSPITALITY TRAVEL & TOURISM**

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سموني الموز والبقول السوداني 500 مل  
Banana Peanut Smoothie 500ml



QAR 10.00

سلطة فتوش 400 غرام  
Fatoush Salad Bowl 400gm



QAR 9.50

جبنة دبل كريم / دمياطي قطرية 500 غرام  
Qatar Double Cream / Domiati Cheese 500gm



QAR 42.50

كيك كابتشينو متوسط  
Cappuccino Cake Medium



QAR 22.75

صفية زيت دوار الشمس 3 لتر  
Safya Sunflower Oil 3Ltr



QAR 17.50

تيمر دايري زيادي بالطريقة اليونانية منوع 400 غرام / حبة  
Tims Dairy Greek Style Yoghurt Asstd 450gm x 1pc



QAR 9.00

ميشن دوروم تورتيلا 1 قطع 378 غرام  
Mission Durum Tortillas 6's 378gm



QAR 17.50

موريسونز قهوة محمصة سريعة التحضير 200 غرام  
Morrisons Full Roast Instant Coffee 200gm



QAR 31.50

براغ خل التفاح العضوي 946 مل  
Bragg Organic Apple Cider Vinegar 946ml



QAR 18.75

كوكو فريش فيليه دجاج 500 غرام  
KOKO Fresh Chicken Fillets 500gm



QAR 13.00

كوكو فريش قطع دجاج مشكل 1000 غرام  
KOKO Fresh Chicken Mixed Parts 1000gm



QAR 15.75

برايم بقر لحم بقرى واغيو / بقر لحم بقرى عضوي 150 غرام  
Pryme Wagyu Beef Burger/Organic Beef Burger 150gm



QAR 28.00

لحم بقرى باكستاني بالعظم 1 كجم  
Beef Bone In Pakistan 1kg



QAR 22.00

جرينجر \_ لوشن للجسم منوع 400 مل / حبتان  
Jergens Body Lotion Asstd 400ml X 2pcs



QAR 24.75

أوراق كرفس أمريكي 1 كيلو  
Celery sleeves USA 1 kg



QAR 6.75

هليون صغير تايلاندي 1 حبة  
Baby Asparagus Thailand 1pkt



QAR 30.50

سمك دليس مرزعة عماني 1 كيلو  
Farmed Sea Bream Oman 1kg



QAR 44.75

قطع لحم بقرى أسترالي 1 كيلو  
Beef Cubes Australian 1kg



QAR 15.00

تستير منظف سائل للفضيل منوع 3 لتر  
Tstir Liquid Detergent Astd 3Ltr



QAR 9.75

أفوكادو هاس كيني 1 كيلو  
Avocado Hass Kenya 1kg



QAR 24.75

كيوي ذهبي جنوب افريقي 1 كيلو  
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QAR 8.25

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Tomato Bunch Turkey 1kg

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 <p><b>6.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per Pack</p> <p>Nectarine, Jordan</p>	 <p><b>6.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per Pack</p> <p>Peach flat, Jordan</p>	 <p><b>6.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per Pack</p> <p>Apricot, Jordan</p> <p>المشمش، الأردن</p>



**9.75**  
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Per KG

Tilapia, Egypt



**9.75**  
QAR

Per KG

سمك البلطي، مصر

 <p><b>9.50</b> QAR</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Mango kaleb-al-thour, Yemen</p> <p>مانجو قلب الثور، اليمن</p>	 <p><b>7.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per Pack</p> <p>Cherry, Syria</p> <p>كرز سوريا</p>	 <p><del>29.75</del> <b>12.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per PC</p> <p>بولو للرجال Mens polo shirt</p>	 <p><del>69.75</del> <b>24.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per PC</p> <p>بنطال للرجال Mens cargo jogger pants</p>
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 <p><b>26.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>صدور دجاج بيرلا ٢ كجم Perla chicken tenderized breast 2kg</p>	 <p><b>24.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>زيت دوار الشمس زين ٣ لتر Zain Sunflower oil 3L</p>	 <p><del>39.75</del> <b>10.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per PC</p> <p>ستارة ١٦٠x١٤٠ سم Window curtain 140x160cm</p>	 <p><del>129.00</del> <b>99.00</b> QAR</p> <p>Per PC</p> <p>طقم أواني طهي جيتكو سيلفيا Gitco silvia stainless steel cookware set</p> <p>9 Pieces</p>
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 <p><del>12.25</del> <b>8.75</b> QAR</p> <p>Per PC</p> <p>مناديل وجه سيف سافاي ١٨٠ منديل، طبقتان Safe safaayi facial tissue 180 sheets 2ply</p>	 <p><b>20.50</b> QAR</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>أرز الياسمين لوتوس ٥ كغ Lotus jasmine rice 5kg</p>	 <p><del>149.00</del> <b>99.00</b> QAR</p> <p>Per PC</p> <p>حقيبة سفر متنوعة VIP lisbon hard trolley assorted</p>	 <p><del>2199.00</del> <b>1649.00</b> QAR</p> <p>Per PC</p> <p>تلفاز كيوليد تي سي إل ٦٥ بوصة TCL 4K QLED 65T6D</p> <p>412.25 QAR</p>
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## Al-Misnad meets Pakistani, South African ambassadors



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the State of Qatar, Muhammad Aamer. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries and ways to support and enhance them, in addition to several topics of mutual interest. (QNA)



HE the Minister of State for International Co-operation Dr Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser al-Misnad met yesterday with ambassador of the Republic of South Africa in Doha Ghulam Hoosein Asmal. The meeting discussed bilateral co-operation relations and ways to support and strengthen them, in addition to discussing a number of issues of mutual concern. (QNA)

## Amir sends cables of congratulations to Ethiopia PM

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali, on the occasion of the Prosperity Party's victory in the general elections, wishing him success and further development and growth in the bilateral relations between the two countries. (QNA)

## Amir congratulates Colombian president-elect

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani and HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent yesterday cables of congratulations to Abelardo de la Esparilla, on the occasion of his victory in the presidential elections of the Republic of Colombia, wishing him success, and the bilateral relations between the two countries further development and growth. (QNA)

## Qatar Armed Forces graduate Military Science Diploma cohort

Qatar's Candidate Training Center has graduated the 15th cohort of its Military Science Diploma programme for university graduates during a ceremony held under the patronage of HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan al-Thani.

The event was attended by HE Chief of Staff of the Qatar Armed Forces, Lt Gen (Pilot) Jassim bin Mohammed al-Manna'i, along with senior military officials. The nine-month programme provided candidates with military training, field exercises, awareness lectures and joint exercises with various armed forces units, aimed at developing their combat and leadership capabilities. At the conclusion of the ceremony, HE the Chief of Staff presented graduation certificates to the participants. Among those attending were Major General (Pilot) Salem Abdullah al-Dosari, Deputy Chief of Staff for Education; Major General (Engineer/Air) Adel Hassan Fakhro, Chief of the Education Authority; Brigadier General (Dr) Mohammed Abdullah al-Henzab, Commander of the Candidate Training Center, and a number of senior officers from the Qatar Armed Forces. (QNA)



## QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY INVITATION TO TENDER

### QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER FEE RECEIPT SUBMISSION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ-6000005660	QPR Metrics Software – Maintenance, Support & Enhancement Services	500/- (Non-refundable)	18,956 \$ (eighteen thousand nine hundred fifty-six US Dollars)	28-06-2026 29-06-2026 30-06-2026 01-07-2026 02-07-2026	25.07.2026

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
  - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
  - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
  - IBAN : **QA51QNB00000000013025828058**
  - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender Number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and submit it as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender Number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also submit a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from their company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender (**Very Important**), during the submission of Tender Fee Receipt for ensuring electronic receipt of the Tender Document.
- Tender Fee Receipt along with the specified documents shall be submitted to [purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:purchase@qafco.com.qa) on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (nonrefundable).
- After submission of the above documents to the above email, Tender Document will be provided through an electronic platform separately.
- For any queries related to non-receipt of the tender documents after the submission of Tender Fee receipt, you may contact at [\\_purchase@qafco.com.qa](mailto:_purchase@qafco.com.qa) or on 44227797.
- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures will be specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- The Tender shall be strictly submitted using the QAFCO's Supply Chain Portal – SAP Ariba, on or before the "Tender Closing Date". Tenderers who fail to adhere to this requirement will result in the disqualification of their Tender.

# 'Dialogue, negotiation key to resolving crises'

HE Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem affirmed that the State of Qatar, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, continues its efforts to entrench the approach of dialogue and diplomacy, believing that disputes can only be resolved through negotiation, in a manner that preserves sovereignty, good neighbourliness, and the rules of international law, stressing that dialogue and negotiation remain the best means for addressing crises, settling disputes, and promoting security and stability in the region.

This came in his speech before the 20th session of the Conference of the Union of Councils of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, which began its work yesterday in the Azerbaijani capital Baku, and concludes today.

HE al-Ghanem pointed out that these efforts resulted in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, including ensuring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, in addition to the launch of negotiations between the two sides through Qatari-Pakistani mediation, which paves the way for de-escalation, enhancing security and stability, and opening broader horizons for co-operation and understanding in the region.

He added that the State of Qatar, despite what it has been subjected to of



aggression, has remained committed to dialogue and diplomacy, believing that stability can only be achieved through understanding and cooperation, expressing his aspiration for a new phase of stability in which the smooth flow of navigation and global trade is restored, and in which efforts are directed towards strengthening regional security and achieving the aspirations of its peoples for development and prosperity.

HE the Speaker of the Shura Council noted in his speech that this conference represents an important platform for enhancing co-operation between Islamic councils and parliaments, and embodying what the noble Islamic religion calls for in terms of co-operation, harmony, and rejection of dispute and hatred, praising in this regard the efforts exerted by the Union of Councils of the Mem-

ber States of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation in supporting joint Islamic parliamentary work, strengthening co-ordination between the councils of member states, and supporting their presence in international parliamentary forums.

He stressed that co-operation, co-ordination, and rejection of dispute are all matters that represent the most effective path to achieving common goals, calling for not paying attention to voices that question the unity of Islamic countries or seek to sow division among their peoples.

On the Palestinian issue, HE the Speaker of the Shura Council reaffirmed that the Palestinian cause will remain the primary and central issue of the Islamic nation until the Palestinian people obtain their legitimate rights, foremost among which is the establishment of their independent state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He condemned, in a related context, the continued Israeli attacks on Palestinian territories and the violations affecting Lebanon and Syria.

In conclusion, HE al-Ghanem expressed his thanks to the Republic of Azerbaijan for the good hospitality and organisation, expressing his aspiration that the conference deliberations will contribute to strengthening co-operation between member councils and parliaments, supporting common positions, and serving the causes of the Islamic nation. (QNA)

## Ashghal completes Al Asiri, Faleh Markets' development

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has completed the development and refurbishment works of Al Asiri Souq and Faleh Souq in Central Doha. This comes as part of its ongoing efforts to revitalise the heart of Doha and enhance its commercial and tourism facilities while preserving their authentic architectural character, according to Ashghal's statement.

The project aims to strengthen the area's visual and urban identity and further reinforce its position as a vibrant economic, commercial, and tourism destination.

The project included a comprehensive package of development and rehabilitation works, comprising the maintenance and restoration of existing architectural elements, modernisation of shopfronts, enhancement of external finishes, organisation and standardisation of commercial signage, and upgrading of lighting systems.

The works also included cleaning and polishing flooring and marble surfaces, as well as rehabilitating shared public areas, contributing to the enhancement of the markets' aesthetic appeal and improving the overall experience for shoppers and visitors. (QNA)



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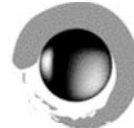
## TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tender Committee of QAFAC invites qualified local suppliers to participate in the following Tenders in accordance with QAFAC tendering procedures:

NO.	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	COLLECTION FEE Qrs.	TENDER BOND Qrs.	BID CLOSING DATE
1.	QTC/059/26	Three (3) Year Contract for Managed Security Services at QAFAC	300/-	50,000/-	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
2.	QTC/060/26	Four (4) Year Call off Contract for Lifting Equipment Testing and Certification Services at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed	300/-	20,000/-	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
3.	QTC/061/26	Four (4) Year Call off Contract for Maintenance Services of CCTV, Access Control, Turnstile and Hypo Gates at QAFAC Plant, Mesaieed.	300/-	50,000/-	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026

Interested companies are invited to collect the above tender documents as follows:

- Collection Date :** Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (QAFAC working days from Sunday to Thursday only)
- Collection Time :** 08:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m
- Location :** The Gate, Bay Tower 2, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Bay, QAFAC
- Tender Fees :** As shown above, (**Non-refundable**) can be paid at QAFAC Doha Office
- Validity :** Offers must be valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Bid Bond :** Offers must include a Bid bond issued from a local bank and valid for 120 days from closing date.
- Authorization :** Tenders will be issued to authorized company personnel with the following:
  - Official authorization on Company Letter Head.
  - Proper Identification.
  - Copy of valid Company's Commercial Registration.
  - Focal Point of Contact (Name, Telephone, Mobile & Email)



### Invites qualified bidders to participate in the following tender:

Sel No.	Tender Reference and Description	(i) Deadline for Submission of Information & Interest for Bidding	(ii) Tender fee (non-refundable); deadline for payment	(iii) Tender Publication on ARIBA	(iv) Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
1	RFQ: P05-14-013 Long Term Service Agreement for the Maintenance of Cathodic Protection System in QAPCO Complex for 5 years	30 June 2026	QAR 500.00 30 June 2026	02 July 2026	QAR 35,000	16 July 2026, 12:00 Noon
2	RFQ: P06-01-259 Provision of Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) Services for 5 years	30 June 2026	QAR 750.00 30 June 2026	02 July 2026	QAR 100,000	30 July 2026, 12:00 Noon

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

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

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

iv. **Tender Bond (Bank Guarantee):** Original tender bond must be submitted by hand to the following address, at the latest by Bid closing date & time:  
Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) Q.P.J.S.C.  
QAPCO HEADQUARTERS, P.O. Box 756,  
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Mesaieed, Qatar  
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### QCAA shuts down non-compliant travel, cargo agencies

The Qatar Civil Aviation Authority (QCAA) announced the closure of an additional number of travel and air cargo agencies, taking the total number of offices closed since the launch of the inspection campaigns to 17 travel and air cargo agencies. The QCAA reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening oversight and urged all agencies to comply with the applicable regulations and obtain the necessary licenses before conducting any travel or air cargo activities, in accordance with Law No. (3) of 2025. These inspection campaigns are part of the QCAA's ongoing efforts to strengthen oversight and regulate the air transport sector. QCAA, represented by the Air Transport Department, continues its inspection campaigns on travel and air cargo agencies, aiming to ensure their compliance with the approved laws and regulations. (QNA)

### QSTSS celebrates its 5th cohort of graduates

Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School for Boys (QSTSS) has graduated its fifth cohort of students (2025-2026), with all 56 graduates securing places at universities in Qatar and abroad. HE the Minister of Education and Higher Education Lolwah bint Rashid AlKhatir attended the graduation ceremony.



Also in attendance were HE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) Dr Ibrahim bin Saleh al-Nuaimi, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Maha Zayed Qaqa Alruwaili, and QSTSS School Principal Mohammed Ali Mandani al-Emadi, along with a number of leaders in education, parents, and members of the teaching and administrative staff.

According to MOEHE's statement yesterday, the graduates achieved a 100% university acceptance rate, gaining admission to 14 universities across five countries including Qatar, with seven students having been accepted into globally renowned universities.

Mechanical engineering emerged as the most popular field of study for graduates, followed by medicine and electrical engineering, while other students secured places in disciplines including petroleum and gas engineering, chemical engineering, computer science, cybersecurity, nuclear engineering, and aerospace engineering.

The ministry said the cohort also recorded strong results in international standardised tests, with an average SAT score of 1,169 and a highest score of

1,530. Meanwhile, the average IELTS score reached 7.06, with the top student scoring 8.0.

In her speech during the graduation ceremony, Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Maha Zayed Qaqa Alruwaili said that QSTSS represents a pioneering educational model that reflects MOEHE's vision of promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

She also praised the graduates' academic and research achievements during their studies.

QSTSS' results reflect the success of efforts made to create a generation equipped with the knowledge, skills, and innovative capabilities needed to meet future demands, Alruwaili said, noting that investing in high-quality education is a fundamental pillar for achieving the Qatar National Vision 2030. (QNA)

### Iceland president meets Qatar's ambassador

The President of the Republic of Iceland Halla Tomasdottir met with ambassador of the State of Qatar (non-resident) to Iceland Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Saoud al-Thani. During the meeting, they discussed co-operation relations between the two countries. (QNA)



### Kuwait expresses solidarity with Qatar on Ras Laffan incident

The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers expressed full solidarity with the State of Qatar following the explosion at a liquefied natural gas facility in Ras Laffan Industrial City, which resulted in deaths and injuries. The cabinet extended condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Qatari government and people, and the families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery for the injured. The statement came during a cabinet meeting chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf al-Saud al-Sabah. (QNA)

### CMC pushes for clearer regulations on skilled foreign worker recruitment

By Ayman Adly  
Staff Reporter

The Central Municipal Council (CMC) recently held its 56th regular meeting of the seventh term, chaired by Mohamed bin Ali al-Athba, CMC Chairman, addressing a range of issues related to housing, public services, urban development, and community welfare.

A key item on the agenda was the discussion of recommendations and a report submitted by the CMC Public Services and Utilities Committee on finding practical solutions to the challenges delaying the construction of citizens' housing projects.

The proposal was originally submitted by CMC members Hamad Khalid al-Kaabi, representative of Constituency 18, and Fahad Hamad al-Buraidi, representative of Constituency 19.

The council also reviewed recommendations regarding the introduction of regulations and requirements for organising the



recruitment of skilled workers and vocational professionals from abroad.

The proposal, submitted by Dr Badr Sultan al-Rumaihi, representative of Constituency 4, aims to establish clearer standards governing imported vocational labour and enhance oversight of related activities.

In the area of urban planning and infrastructure, members discussed recommendations on street naming in Constituencies 4, 10, 15, and 18. The proposals were referred by the Committee for Naming Areas, Neighbourhoods, Streets, and Squares. The council further considered a separate recommendation concerning the naming of a new street, based on a proposal from the same committee.

The meeting also reviewed updates from the Public Services and Utilities Committee on responses to previous council recommendations. These included measures to address begging, following a proposal submitted by Abdullah Khalid al-Yafei, the representative of Constituency 17.

Further discussions focused on reconsidering the licensing procedures for private rest houses in residential neighbourhoods, following a proposal by Dr Hassan Lahdan al-Mohannadi, representative of Constituency 26. In addition, the council examined progress on efforts to resolve issues related to subdivided villa housing, following a proposal submitted by Walid Mohamed al-Emadi, representative of Constituency 8.

### Minister meets Kuwait's ambassador



HE the Minister of Municipality Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah al-Attiyah met yesterday with ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the State of Qatar Ahmad Abdulrahman al-Shuraim. The two sides discussed ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest. (QNA)

### Al-Kaabi offers condolences to Pakistan, India over Ras Laffan Gas Plant victims



HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs and the President and CEO of QatarEnergy, Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, visited the the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Doha yesterday to offer condolences over the death of a Pakistani national in the Barzan gas facility incident in Ras Laffan. HE al-Kaabi met with the ambassador Muhammad Amer and conveyed his condolences as well as those of employees of Qatar's energy sector to the victim's family and to the government and people of Pakistan. He expressed solidarity with the people of Pakistan, saying that the loss of innocent lives is a tragedy that touches all. He extended prayers for the victims and wished speedy recovery for those injured. A Pakistani national was among 13 people who lost their lives in the explosion and fire at the Barzan local gas supply facility at Ras Laffan Industrial City on Sunday, June 21. (QNA)



HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President and CEO of QatarEnergy, Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, has visited the Indian embassy in Doha to offer condolences over the deaths of Indian nationals in the recent incident at the Barzan Gas Plant in Ras Laffan Industrial City. During the visit, HE al-Kaabi met with the ambassador of the Republic of India Vipul and conveyed his condolences, as well as those of employees across Qatar's energy sector, to the government and people of India. The loss of innocent lives is a tragedy that affects us all, al-Kaabi said, expressing sympathy to the families of those who died and wishing a speedy recovery to those injured in the incident. According to authorities, 12 Indian nationals were among 13 people killed in the explosion and fire at the Barzan Gas Plant on Sunday. The incident also left 66 people injured, although no life-threatening cases were reported. (QNA)

### Marriott Marquis City Center Doha named 'Best Business Hotel In Qatar' for second consecutive year at the Business Traveller Middle East Awards



Marriott Marquis City Center Doha Hotel announced that it has once again been named "Best Business Hotel in Qatar" at the prestigious Business Traveller Middle East Awards 2026, marking its second consecutive year receiving this distinguished recognition. The award reflects the hotel's continued commitment to delivering wonderful hospitality experiences for business and leisure travellers alike, combining world-class facilities, a prime location in the heart of West Bay, and personalised service. Connected to City Centre Mall, the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC), and the DECC

Metro Station, Marriott Marquis City Centre Doha offers seamless access to the city's key business and leisure destinations. The hotel features 579 guestrooms and suites, over 20,000 square feet of versatile meeting and event space, nine award-winning dining venues, and an extensive range of wellness and recreational facilities. "We are proud to be named Qatar's Best Business Hotel for the second consecutive year. This recognition reflects the passion and dedication of our associates and the trust and loyalty of our guests. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this achievement," said Paul M Cannings, Multi-Property general

manager of Marriott Marquis City Center Doha Hotel and Marriott Executive Apartments City Center Doha. The Business Traveller Middle East Awards are among the region's most respected travel industry accolades, with winners determined through votes cast by the publication's readers, recognising excellence across the travel, tourism, and hospitality sectors. This latest recognition further reinforces Marriott Marquis City Center Doha's position as one of Qatar's leading destinations for business travel, meetings, events, and premium hospitality experiences.



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BIN AL SHEIKH PLAZA,

AIN KHALED, DOHA, QATAR



Yusufali MA, chairman of LuLu Group, leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony alongside Mohammed bin Ali al-Athbah, president of the Central Municipal Council, and Dr Mohamed Althaf, LuLu Global Operations director & Chief Sustainability officer, in the presence of other dignitaries.



## LuLu's Happiness Loyalty Programme reaches 1mn members in Qatar

LuLu has marked a major milestone in Qatar as its Happiness Loyalty Programme surpassed 1mn members, reflecting the strong trust and loyalty of its customers.

The milestone was celebrated in the presence of Mohammed bin Ali al-Athbah, president of the Central Municipal Council; Yusufali MA, chairman of LuLu Group; Dr Mohamed Althaf, LuLu Global Operations director & Chief Sustainability officer; and other dignitaries.

LuLu's Happiness Loyalty Programme is designed to reward regular shoppers with a range of exclusive benefits, including instant discounts, points on purchases, and special member-only privileges. As part of the celebration, LuLu is offering special offers for Happiness members across its stores in Qatar.



LuLu's Happiness Loyalty Programme surpassed 1mn members in Qatar.

sufali said the achievement reflects the continued confidence of customers in LuLu.

"This milestone reflects the trust and loyalty of our custom-

ers. It also highlights our commitment to delivering great value, quality, and convenience to shoppers every day. Reaching 1mn Happiness members is a

highly significant step in our retail journey in Qatar," he said.

During the event, Yusufali also announced LuLu's upcoming expansion plans in Qatar, includ-



ing three new projects at Baraha Town, Al Waab, and Qetaifan Island. He also revealed that another major project, valued at QR500mn, is currently in the

pipeline. The new projects and investments underline LuLu's continued commitment to Qatar's retail sector and its growing customer base, he added.

## HMC achieves international accreditation in nuclear medicine

The Nuclear Medicine Molecular Imaging section of the Clinical Imaging Department at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has been accredited by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, USA, as a Radiopharmaceutical Therapy Centre of Excellence.

This recognition represents a significant milestone for HMC, placing it among the first centres outside the US to receive this prestigious accreditation. It underscores the organisation's commitment to delivering advanced, high-quality radiopharmaceutical therapy services in line with international standards.

This accreditation reflects HMC's dedication to providing therapy procedures to patients with the highest levels of quality,



Dr Maryam al-Kuwari.

safety, and excellence. The team's focus on precision, personalised, and targeted treatments continues to improve outcomes and en-

hance the patient experience.

Dr Maryam al-Kuwari, chief radiologist at HMC, said: "Being recognised among the first centres outside the United States to achieve this distinction shows the strength of our capabilities and our focus on patient safety and personalised treatment. We are proud of this achievement and remain committed to advancing nuclear medicine services for our patients."

Currently, the Nuclear Medicine Molecular Imaging section in HMC provides treatment for six benign and malignant conditions, demonstrating its growing capability and leadership in this specialised field. The department continues to expand its services and innovate to meet the evolving needs of patients in Qatar and beyond.

## QU announces minimum admission requirements for undergraduate programmes starting fall 2027

Qatar University (QU) announced its new minimum admission requirements for undergraduate programmes, setting the minimum high school average at 75%, with the changes set to take effect starting in the Fall 2027 semester.

Under the updated requirements, the minimum admission average for the College of Medicine and the College of Dental Medicine will remain at 90%, while the minimum requirement for the College of Pharmacy will remain at 80%.

The minimum admission average for all other colleges has been set at 75%.

Meeting the minimum required average does not guarantee ad-

mission, as applicants must also satisfy all other admission requirements, including completing any standardised tests required by their respective colleges.

QU emphasises that the changes will not affect students applying before the new requirements come into effect. The update is part of the University's regular review of admission policies and procedures and is being announced well in advance to provide students and parents with ample time to plan and prepare for university admission requirements.

The new requirements will apply to students enrolling beginning in the Fall 2027 semester (August 2027).

The early announcement is intended to provide high school students with greater clarity regarding future admission requirements and to enable them to plan their academic pathways at an early stage.

QU also reaffirms its commitment to providing students and parents with the information and guidance needed to navigate the admission process and encourages everyone to follow the University's official channels for any updates or additional details. The update comes as part of QU's ongoing efforts to develop its admission policies in line with its academic objectives and educational mission. (QNA)

## QC participates in panel discussion on strengthening refugee resilience

Qatar Charity (QC) participated in a panel discussion held as part of World Refugee Day, titled "From Survival to Opportunity: Advancing Refugee Resilience and Inclusion."

The event was organised by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at the Minaretin Building, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Doha.

The session brought together a distinguished group of officials and experts from the humanitarian and development sectors, along with representatives from government and private institutions, to explore ways to strengthen comprehensive responses to refugee challenges.

Participants included Ahmed Mohsen, UNHCR Representative to the State of Qatar; Aisha al-Jassim, head of the Disasters and Emergency Relief Section at QFFD; Abdulla al-Abdulla, executive director of Monitoring and Evaluation at Education Above All Foundation (EAA); and Aisha al-Kuwari, director of Humanitarian Operations at Qatar Charity. The session was moderated by Dr Mustafa Elamin, programme director and professor of Islam and Global Affairs at the College of Islamic Studies, HBKU.

Discussions emphasised the need to move beyond short-term humanitarian assistance toward more sustainable approaches that support education, livelihoods, and social inclusion, enabling refugees to achieve self-reliance and access new opportunities.

Al-Kuwari highlighted the key challenges and opportunities



in implementing integrated approaches that combine humanitarian response with development programmes to strengthen refugee resilience.

The panel also underscored the importance of partnerships among humanitarian and development actors, governments, and the private sector in designing more inclusive and sustainable solutions that create real economic opportunities for refugees and host communities.

Qatar Charity's participation reflects its continued commitment to supporting refugees, displaced persons, and host communities through integrated humanitarian and development interventions, as well as its belief in the importance of partnerships in creating economic opportunities for refugees and developing more sustainable and

inclusive solutions.

In a related development, UNHCR and Qatar Charity recently signed two agreements worth QR3,079,324 (approximately \$844,808) to support more than 15,000 vulnerable displaced people in Lebanon and the Middle East and North Africa.

Earlier, Qatar Charity launched a humanitarian campaign titled "Every Refugee Tent Holds a Story", aimed at providing integrated relief and sustainable support to vulnerable populations in several countries. Donations can be made through Qatar Charity's website or mobile application, via the 'Home Collector' service, by calling the contact centre at 44290000, or through its branches and collection representatives in shopping malls.

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# Mexico shares long, strong relations with Qatar: envoy

By Joseph Varghese  
Staff Reporter

Mexico shares very long and strong bilateral relations with Qatar that have been strengthened over five decades, noted Mexican ambassador Jose Guillermo Ordorica Robles. The ambassador also said that Mexico offers a lot of technologies in the agricultural sector and his country is ready to share them with Qatar to ensure food security.

Mexico and Qatar started bilateral relations in 1975, and we have completed 50 years of friendship and co-operation. Mexico was one of the first countries to set up diplomatic relations with Qatar. This is the 51st anniversary of

our bilateral relations, and we are very proud of it," Robles told the *Gulf Times*.

The envoy stated that since the beginning of the bilateral relations, both countries have achieved several milestones.

"We are sharing several common values and ideologies as we are committed to peace and dialogue. We are also committed to strengthening co-operation and multilateral diplomacy. We are very close to each other in so many practices," the ambassador said.

"We are very far in distance, but we are really very close in our values and ideologies and on several other fronts. There are several common grounds for both countries to be together, and we respect and value the relationship and



Mexican ambassador Jose Guillermo Ordorica Robles.  
PICTURE: Shaji Kayamkulam.

hope we continue developing these beautiful bilateral relations in the years to come," he continued.

According to the envoy, the volume of trade between the two countries is growing year on year, and Mexico has many technologies to share with Qatar, especially in the agricultural sector.

He underlined: "We are using several innovative technologies and ideas in agriculture, and we can share these with Qatar. Last year, we participated in the AgriteQ exhibition. Mexico has a lot of potential for co-operation in the agricultural sector. This is a great opportunity, and we are committed to it. We can share our experiences with Qatar to better the agriculture sector and to ensure food security in Qatar."

Meanwhile, Robles noted that trade between the two countries is mainly in metals and technology. "We also share many technologies, and I guess both countries are going in the right direction in this regard," he underlined.

Another area of similarity that the ambassador highlighted is the art and culture sector, as Mexico is part of the Years of Culture initiative this year, along with Canada.

The Qatar Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture sets the stage for all three countries to celebrate their rich traditions and contemporary cultures.

Mexico is renowned for its colourful celebrations, renowned muralists and exceptional craftsmanship.

"The current exhibition brings

together Mexico and Qatar. The exhibition through artistic elements, 'Sand and Corn, One Sun' invites us to reflect on the connections that unite our people and their vision about art as a way for strengthening international understanding," he highlighted.

"The idea is to share common values and arts practices of Qatar and Mexico. At a time when the world faces growing challenges and divisions, art and culture continue to offer a space for dialogue, empathy and mutual respect," Robles said.

"Art, I am certain, allows us to express different stories, emotions and visions. This is one way of fostering common artistic features and identity of both the countries," concluded the ambassador.

# Black Pearl Bank seminar brings heritage symbolism to the fore at theatre fest finale

By Tawfik Lamari  
Staff Reporter

The 38th Doha Theatre Festival concluded recently with the performance of *Al-Hair al-Aswad (The Black Pearl Bank)* by Al-Watan Theatre Company – a production that drew on the Gulf's maritime heritage and pearl-diving traditions within a fantasy-driven theatrical framework.

The closing performance was followed by an applied seminar that sparked discussion on the play's artistic and symbolic dimensions, particularly its use of the *Black Pearl Bank* as a central dramatic motif.

The play, written and directed by Shua'il al-Kuwari, tells the story of a young man who must retrieve a rare pearl from the legendary and dangerous Black Pearl Bank as a condition for marrying the woman he loves. Set against an imagined seascape inspired by the Gulf's pearl-diving legacy, the work explores themes of ambition, courage, and perseverance through



A scene from the play.

a symbolic narrative. During the seminar, theatre artist Ahmed al-Muftah praised the production's connection to traditional storytelling while calling for a deeper exploration of its central symbol.

He said: "Today we are discussing the play *Black Pearl Bank* by al-Watan Theatre Company. This work carries a clear message if it

is viewed through the lens of the shared memory associated with such heritage-based narratives: the poor and humble young man who seeks to marry the daughter of a wealthy family, alongside the parallel story of the wicked young man attempting to win the hand of his cousin."

Al-Muftah added: "Although

the idea is based on tradition, it could have been developed further through a more layered use of the central symbol, the black pearl, so that it would not remain merely a title concept, but rather evolve into a symbolic axis capable of driving the narrative toward broader dimensions beyond the conventional framework." Stage designer,



Abdullah Dasmal al-Kuwari



Ahmad al-Muftah

Eng Abdullah Dasmal al-Kuwari, focused on the dramatic structure of the work, noting: "The text is very simple; there is no dramatic build-up, and this was reflected in the work."

He also emphasised the sig-

nificance of the 38th Doha Theatre Festival as one of the Gulf region's longest-running theatre events, praising this year's edition for its distinguished participation by leading artists and directors and for presenting productions that appealed to diverse audiences.

The production employed a visual language that combined scenography, lighting, and sound effects to create an atmosphere aligned with its fantastical nature while reinforcing its symbolic themes. With the curtain falling on the *Black Pearl Bank* the Doha Theatre Festival brought another successful edition to a close, reaffirming the vitality of Qatari theatre. The accompanying seminar, meanwhile, underscored the continuing importance of heritage-inspired narratives and the creative possibilities they offer for contemporary theatrical expression.

# Auto Class Cars launches the Lynk & Co 900 Full-size Flagship PHEV SUV in Qatar in a spectacular ceremony

Auto Class Cars, a subsidiary of Nasser Bin Khaled (NBK) Group and the authorized general distributor of Lynk & Co in Qatar, has officially launched the Lynk & Co 900 Full-size Flagship PHEV SUV in Qatar, in a spectacular ceremony held at Rosewood Hotel Doha in Lusail.

A true game-changer in the luxury SUV segment, the Lynk & Co 900 Full-size Flagship PHEV SUV redefines the benchmarks of modern mobility, delivering an unrivalled combination of luxury, comfort, cutting-edge technology, practicality, and driving pleasure.

The official unveiling was conducted by His Excellency Sheikh Nawaf Bin Nasser Bin Khaled Al Thani, Chairman of Nasser Bin Khaled Group, His Excellency Sheikh Fahd Bin Nawaf Al Thani,

Managing Director of the Automotive Sector at Nasser Bin Khaled Group, Hani Abdo, CEO Nasser Bin Khaled Holding Company, Mr. Tian Jinjun, Chief Executive Officer and Regional Representative of Lynk & Co Middle East, alongside Frank Zauner, General Manager of Auto Class Cars, Ahmed Azmy, Group Marketing & Communications Manager at NBK Group, and Ahmad Firoozi, Marketing Manager at Auto Class Cars, in the presence of distinguished guests, stakeholders, members of the media, and influencers.

Following a captivating show and presentation, guests enjoyed an unforgettable evening experiencing Lynk & Co's most impressive vehicle to date. The launch marks a defining new chapter for the brand in Qatar, raising the bar for PHEV luxury vehicles and exceeding the expectations of even the most discerning drivers in today's era of modern mobility.

H.E. Sheikh Fahd bin Nawaf Al Thani, Managing Director of the Automotive Sector at NBK Group, commented: "Tonight marks a new era in mobility in Qatar. This is a landmark milestone in our journey – one that will reshape perceptions of transportation and meet the expectations of modern drivers seeking a truly futuristic experience. This launch is a clear embodiment of our broader strategy to bring to this market the latest, state-of-the-art products from Lynk & Co that is boldly charting its own course beyond conventional competition."

Frank Zauner, General Manager of Auto Class Cars, commented: "Since introducing the Lynk & Co brand in Qatar, it has consistently set new standards for reliability, luxury, and innovation. With the all-new Lynk & Co 900 Ultra PHEV, we are confident it will define this category and become the vehicle of choice for today's forward-thinking drivers. The exceptional demand we have already seen is a clear testament to its standing as the ultimate expression of luxury and advanced technology. At Auto Class Cars, we are proud of our partnership with Lynk & Co and honored to be among the first markets in the region to introduce this iconic vehicle."

Tian Jinjun, Chief Executive Officer and Regional Representative, Lynk & Co Middle East: "At Lynk & Co, our vision is to redefine the future of mobility by creating vehicles that seamlessly combine intelligent technology, exceptional design, and real-world



• A true game-changer in the luxury SUV segment, the Lynk & Co 900 PHEV redefines the benchmarks of modern mobility  
• The new car and a wide range of Lynk & Co models are on display at the Auto Class Cars showroom on Salwa Road

practicality. The Lynk & Co 900 embodies this vision as our flagship SUV, bringing together advanced innovation, class-leading safety, premium comfort, and high-performance hybrid technology in a vehicle designed to meet the evolving expectations of today's customers. We are delighted to introduce the Lynk &



Co 900 to Qatar, a market that continues to embrace innovation and excellence, and we look forward to offering customers a new benchmark in the full-size SUV segment."

## The Lynk & Co 900 Full-size Flagship PHEV SUV

The Lynk & Co 900 is a full-size plug-in hybrid Flagship SUV that seamlessly blends European-derived safety engineering with the latest in Chinese EV technology. Measuring 5.24 metres in length and built on the flat-floor SPA Evo platform, it offers a generously proportioned three-row cabin, rotating second-row seats, large 30-inch 6K screens, and a combined system output of up to 528 kW (710 hp),

enabling a 0-100 km/h sprint in approximately 4.6 seconds. Designed with modern families in mind, the Lynk & Co 900 delivers high-tech comfort and connectivity alongside an impressive electric range and rapid charging capability.

## Exterior & Design

The Lynk & Co 900's exterior features a panoramic fixed glass roof and commanding 20/21-inch alloy wheels further enhance its road presence, while a novel split tailgate – marketed as Electric Unbounded Tailgate – opens both upward and as a lower panel, serving as a shelter or even a seating platform. The SUV rides on 275/45 R21 tyres with approximately 20 cm of ground clearance.

## Interior

The cabin is nothing short of a lounge on wheels. At its heart sits a sweeping 30-inch 6K OLED touchscreen spanning the centre console to the passenger dashboard, complemented by a 12.7-inch digital instrument cluster and an expansive 95-inch augmented reality head-up display. A second 30-inch 6K screen folds elegantly from the ceiling for rear-seat entertainment, and the second row features its own dedicated 30-inch screen. A

Throughout the cabin, premium materials set the tone: supple Nappa leather upholstery, crystal-like translucent trim accents, and 256-colour ambient lighting that synchronizes to music. The generous second-row bench, spanning 1.35 metres, slides 55 cm fore and aft, and rotates 90° or 180° to face rear passengers – and with leg rests raised, converts into a flat 1.35 x 0.85-metre sleeping platform, ideal for young passengers. All seats are power-adjustable with heating, ventilation, and 16-point massage (on outboard seats), while a chilled 9-litre refrigerator in the centre console completes the first-class experience.

## The Hybrid system and performance

The Lynk & Co 900 is powered by a sophisticated EM-P hybrid system built around a three-speed DHT architecture, combining a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder Drive-E 2.0T T5 (VEP4) engine that functions as a generator with P1, P2, and P4 electric motors delivering drive to all four wheels through a dual-speed configuration.

In its highest specification, the system produces a combined output of 528 kW (710 hp) and around 1,000 Nm of torque, enabling acceleration from 0-100 km/h in approximately 4.6 seconds and a top speed of 210 km/h. Energy storage is provided by a 52.38 kWh battery, supporting up to 170 km of pure electric driving (NEDC) and a total combined range of approximately 870 km, with DC fast charging from 20-80% achievable in just 17 minutes and a 60-litre fuel tank extending long-distance capability.

## Technology & Infotainment

The 900 is comprehensively equipped with the latest technology. It features 5G connectivity, over-the-air updates, and a "transparent chassis" mode that stitches together camera feeds to provide a full 540° live view of the vehicle's surroundings. For driver assistance, the Lynk & Co 900 is equipped with Level 2 autonomy as standard, including LiDAR-based adaptive cruise control with lane centering, highway assist, automatic emergency braking, blind-spot monitoring, and a comprehensive suite of cameras and radars.

## Safety

Safety is at the core of the Lynk & Co 900's engineering. It features the NVIDIA Drive Orin-X processor (700 TOPS), integrated with a LiDAR system (126-beam), radar sensors, and multi-camera arrays to power its ADAS system. Built on the co-developed SPA Evo architecture, the vehicle has demonstrated exceptional structural integrity in crash testing, withstanding both rear and side impacts at speeds of up to 100 km/h while maintaining full passenger compartment integrity. Occupant protection is ensured through an 11-airbag system comprising front dual airbags, front and second-row side airbags, third-row integrated head-thorax airbags, a front center far-side airbag, and roof-mounted curtain airbags with pressure maintenance.

## Dimensions & Weight

The vehicle measures 5240 mm in length, 1999 mm in width, and 1810 mm in height, with a 3160 mm wheelbase that delivers slightly more interior space than most rivals in its segment. Ground clearance stands at 194 mm unladen, while the curb weight is approximately 2810 kg for the 2.0T AWD Ultra trim. Designed with practicality and comfort in mind, the model offers a spacious 6.16 m<sup>2</sup> interior floor area and up to 1215 liters of luggage capacity with the second row folded, expandable to 1350 liters in depth for extended cargo needs. Customers interested in owning the new vehicle are invited to visit the showroom to explore the range and place their bookings.

# Alfardan Sports Motors wins Ferrari Middle East's Best Showroom and Conquest Awards

Alfardan Sports Motors, Ferrari's official importer in Qatar, has expanded its awards portfolio after being recognised with the Best Showroom and Conquest Awards for 2025 at Ferrari Middle East's Dealers' Annual Meeting held in Qatar earlier this year.

Alfardan Sports Motors received the two accolades during a special ceremony attended by top officials and representatives of Ferrari's dealers across the region.

Their Best Showroom and Conquest Awards reward its ongoing efforts in sales and marketing excellence as well as delivering enhanced customer experiences. These accolades reflect its commitment of creating luxury-driven experiences for customers and strengthen Qatar's position as a leading market for Ferrari.

Tarek al-Hammoud, general manager at Alfardan Sports Motors, said: "It is a tremendous honour to receive the Best Show-



room and Conquest Awards. This milestone achievement is another example of our dedication, passion and relentless commitment of our entire team

at Alfardan Sports Motors, who always aim to make a positive difference to our Clients. We take great pride in representing Ferrari in Qatar and we will continue

to uphold the highest standards of excellence in our showroom."

Omar Alfardan, CEO and managing director of Alfardan Corporation, said: "It has been 27

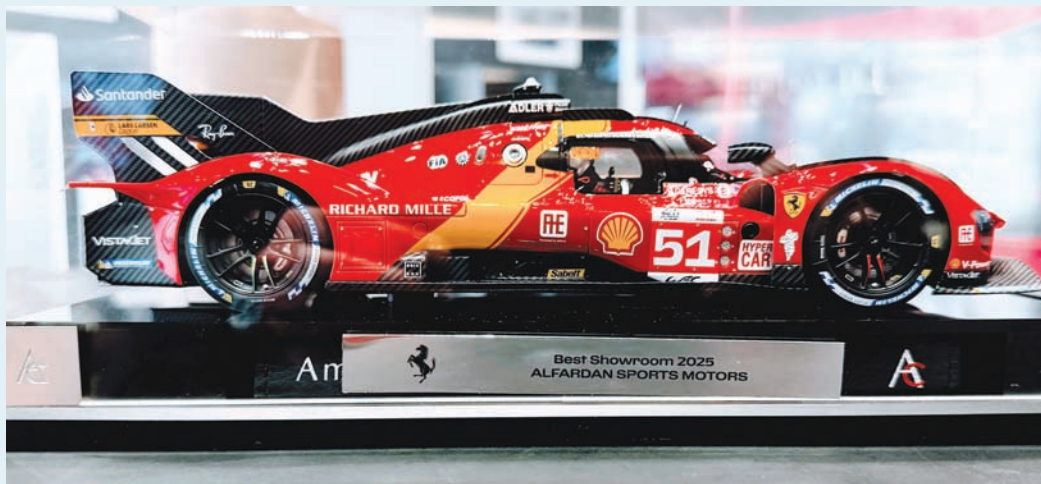
years since we began our partnership with Ferrari, representing one of the world's most iconic automotive brands in Qatar. Over the years, we have worked

**"It is a tremendous honour to receive the Best Showroom and Conquest Awards. This milestone achievement is another example of our dedication, passion and relentless commitment of our entire team at Alfardan Sports Motors"**

**– Tarek al-Hammoud,**  
General Manager, Alfardan Sports Motors

diligently to strengthen Ferrari's presence in the country. These latest recognitions are not only a testament to our operational excellence, but also to the strength and longevity of the strategic relationship between Alfardan and Ferrari."

Building on this latest recognition, Alfardan Sports Motors remains focused on further elevating Ferrari's presence in Qatar and playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of luxury automotive retail in the country.



## Qatar Lounge at Art Basel transports Doha's cultural vibes to global stage

The Qatar Lounge, presented by Qatar Sports Investments, and QC+, in partnership with Qatar Airways, concluded its presence at Art Basel in Basel this week, engaging international collectors, galleries, artists, and cultural stakeholders around Qatar's expanding arts ecosystem and the forthcoming 2027 edition of Art Basel Qatar.

The Lounge brought together hospitality, design, culinary programming, artistic collaboration, and cultural storytelling, highlighting the country's continued investment in creative exchange, market development, and year-round cultural programming.

Art Basel Qatar recently announced the appointment of Iraqi curator Wassan al-Khudhairi as artistic director for its 2027 edition. Al-Khudhairi, founding director of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Qatar, will develop the artistic and curatorial vision of the fair in close collaboration with Vincenzo de Bellis, Art Basel's chief artistic officer and global director of fairs. They will also guide the gallery selection process together with the fair's dedicated Selection Committee.

Designed as a calm and understated space within Art Basel in



Meet-and-greet with Art Basel Qatar 2027 artistic director Wassan al-Khudhairi in Qatar Lounge at Art Basel.

Basel, the Qatar Lounge featured limestone textures, dune-soft curves, mineral tones, and organic forms inspired by the desert and the oasis. The Lounge reflected a contemporary Arab sensibility and created a setting for conversation, connection, and cultural exchange.

A central part of the experience was the culinary offering by Jiwani, the Michelin-recognised restaurant at the National Museum of

Qatar. The Qatar Lounge also featured an artistic collaboration with Qatari artist Mubarak Nasser al-Thani, who designed the Lounge uniforms and a series of limited-edition items.

The Lounge hosted a series of intimate events and activations, including the presentation of Paris Saint-Germain's UEFA Champions League trophy; a meet-and-greet with al-Khudhairi; an acti-

vation with Spanish artist Edgar Plans highlighting his limited-edition collection of jerseys and posters, which is part of an ongoing collaboration between Qatar Sports Investments, Paris Saint-Germain, and Art Basel; and a reception for Art Basel's Discovery Program, which brought together international lifestyle collectors for a curated experience at the fair. Kirstin Mearns, CEO of QC+,



Presentation of Paris Saint-Germain's UEFA Champions League trophy in the Qatar Lounge at Art Basel 2026.

said: "The Qatar Lounge at Art Basel in Basel provided an important platform to engage directly with the international art community. Following the inaugural edition of Art Basel Qatar earlier this year, our presence in Basel helps continue that momentum, deepen relationships with collectors, galleries, artists, and cultural partners, and build anticipation for the fair's second edition in Doha in January 2027."

The activation supported continued international awareness of Art Basel Qatar, following the inaugural edition held in Doha in February 2026. The second edition of Art Basel Qatar will take place from January 28 to 30, 2027, with preview days on January 26 and 27, and will be presented in partnership with Qatar Sports Investments and QC+. Qatar Airways is the fair's Premium Partner.

Art Basel Qatar is committed to supporting the development of



Tote bags designed by Qatari artist Mubarak Nasser al-Thani at the Qatar Lounge at Art Basel 2026.

the regional art market through an annual fair and year-round programme connecting galleries, artists, collectors, institutions, and audiences from the Global South and beyond.

## NUQ scholars advance global conversations at ICA 2026

Faculty, researchers, students, and academic leaders from Northwestern University in Qatar (NUQ) joined communication scholars from around the world at the 76th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, held from June 4-8 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Centred on the theme, "Communication and Inequalities in Context," ICA 2026 explored how communication both reflects and shapes inequalities across social, political, economic, cultural, and technological spheres. The conference provided a platform for scholars to examine the challenges and opportunities facing communication research amid rapid global transformation.

NUQ was represented in close to 20 sessions through a wide range of paper presentations, panel discussions, leadership roles, and scholarly collaborations, reflecting the university's continued commitment to advancing research and

knowledge production focused on the Global South.

Faculty members contributed research spanning media and technology, journalism studies, digital cultures, political communication, artificial intelligence, migration, identity, and social change. Their participation highlighted the breadth of scholarship emerging from NUQ and its growing contribution to international conversations in communication and media studies.

"ICA remains one of the most important venues for scholarly exchange in our field," said Marwan M Kraidy, dean and CEO of NUQ. "It provides an opportunity not only to share research, but to engage with colleagues from around the world on questions that are increasingly urgent for our societies and our institutions."

The conference also provided opportunities for undergraduate and graduate researchers to engage with leading scholars, receive feedback on their work, and

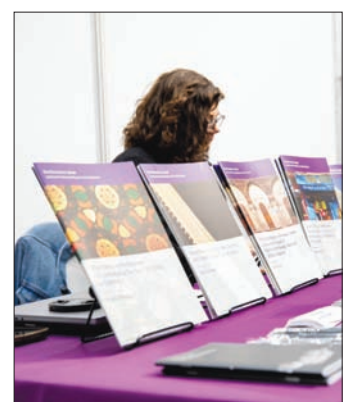


participate in conversations shaping the future of communication research.

Kraidy participated as a featured speaker at the 76th opening plenary as part of the association's flagship annual conference. The plenary, themed "Inequalities and Knowledge Production

in Communication: Inroads and Challenges Ahead," examined structural inequities shaping communication research, including the representation of Global South perspectives, barriers within academic publishing, and emerging digital divides.

Hosted on the African conti-



nent for the first time, the session underscored the importance of broadening global participation in knowledge production and advancing more inclusive approaches to communication scholarship, priorities that closely align with NUQ's mission as well as Kraidy's own scholarly contributions to the field.

A significant aspect of NUQ's presence at ICA 2026 was the con-

tribution of the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South (#IAS\_NUQ), whose initiatives continue to create platforms for dialogue across regions, disciplines, and intellectual traditions.

Through its Arab Information and Media Studies (AIMS) initiative, supported by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, #IAS\_NUQ co-organised the ICA 2026 pre-conference, "Echoes and Overlaps in Arab and African Thought on Media and Culture: Forging New Directions for Research."

Held prior to the main conference, the preconference brought together scholars from Africa, the Arab world, and beyond to examine intellectual traditions that have often been studied separately despite their historical connections and shared concerns.

The conference hosted discussions exploring how Arab and African approaches to media, communication, and cultural studies can inform one another and contribute new perspectives to the field.

# QF advances global dialogue on supporting families, digital age risks

Global dialogue on supporting families amid conflict, safeguarding children against the risks posed by the digital age, and nurturing young leaders in humanitarian law has been led by Qatar Foundation (QF) and its partners on the United Nations (UN) stage in Switzerland.

The 62nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council has seen QF member Doha International Family Institute (Difi) co-host two side events that brought together international leaders to discuss solutions to crucial challenges facing families in a turbulent and increasingly technology-driven world.

The global gathering in Geneva included a side event sponsored by QF-founded QatarDebate, where the role of young people as advocates, educators, and community



Leaders in advancing international humanitarian law was amplified to delegates.

QF's participation has also highlighted to an international audience how Qatar is playing a leading role in empowering women and girls through sport.

Jointly organised by the Perma-

nent Mission of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva and Difi, a discussion on 'Family Wellbeing and Resilience during Conflict' highlighted how conflicts and humanitarian crises place pressure on families, restricting their ability to be caregivers and to provide emotional support and social stability.



With speakers including Dr. Sharifa Noaman al-Emadi, executive director of Difi, and Dr. Ahmed Aref, the institute's director of Family Research and Policy, the event emphasised the importance of integrated, family-centred policy approaches in strengthening family resilience.

With the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UN in Geneva and non-profit organisation Global Helping to Advance Women and Children, Difi organised another event on the topic of 'Protecting Children from Emerging Forms of Harm in the Digital Era', centred around the role of parents, communities, and national bodies in ensuring that advances in technology support children's well-being, rather than endangering them, ex-

posing them to harmful content, or affecting their mental health and social interactions.

"We believe that family wellbeing must be central to global policy and human rights discussions on protection, resilience, and social stability," said Dr. al-Emadi. "Difi's participation at the 62nd Session of the Human Rights Council has provided an important opportunity to bring evidence from our research and policy work into international dialogue."

Meanwhile, QatarDebate and the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva, together with the Permanent Mission of Jordan, co-sponsored 'The Next Generation of Humanity: Youth Leadership in International Humanitarian Law'.

This side event provided a platform for representatives of states, humanitarian organisations, civil society, and young voices from around the world to explore the role of youth leadership in advancing this aspect of law.

Speaking at the event, Abdulrahman al-Subaia, administrative and strategy director at QatarDebate, emphasised the importance of moving youth participation beyond classrooms and into spaces of influence and decision-making, saying: "As a centre established under Qatar Foundation, we view dialogue as a vital tool for preparing an informed and responsible generation capable of contributing meaningfully to discussions and solutions surrounding global issues."

# Cabinet hails outcome of talks

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It expressed pride in the milestone achieved through Qatari diplomacy within the framework of the constructive partnership with Pakistan, and voiced hope that negotiations would continue in the same positive spirit and with genuine determination, leading to a final agreement that peacefully closes the chapter of conflict, enhances regional and international security and stability, and safeguards the interests of peoples in the region and the world.

The Cabinet also commended Qatar's performance across economic, business, institutional and social indicators in the 2026 IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook, issued by the International Institute for

Management Development. Qatar ranked first regionally and among the world's top five in economic resilience, first regionally and globally in the balance of trade indicator, and recorded the world's lowest unemployment rate.

On another matter, the Cabinet extended its condolences and deepest sympathy to the families of the victims of the accidental incident that occurred last Sunday evening at a facility in Ras Laffan Industrial City following a technical malfunction. It prayed for the deceased and a speedy recovery for the injured, and expressed appreciation for the prompt and efficient response of the competent entities.

The Cabinet then reviewed the items on its agenda and not-

ed the Shura Council's approval of a draft law on food. The draft law, prepared by the Ministry of Public Health, aims to ensure the safety and suitability of food across all stages of the food chain and verify compliance with applicable requirements, providing adequate protection for consumers against food-related risks.

Concluding the meeting, the Cabinet reviewed the 13th Annual Report on the Results of the Work of the National Committee for International Humanitarian Law for 2025, along with a report on the outcomes of Qatar's participation in the 64th Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, held in New York in February 2026, and took the appropriate decision thereon.

# Qatar Post reboots CONNECTED for borderless shopping

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Customers are given dedicated shipping addresses in each country to receive their orders, which are then consolidated, processed, and re-shipped to Qatar. Shipments can be tracked and managed through the digital platform, which also offers shopping guides, store links, and multiple shipping options per country to widen choice and ease the process. The service bundles flexible shipping solutions, competitive pricing, home delivery, and both online and cash-on-delivery payment options, while simplifying international purchasing from checkout to final delivery. Adding to the value, customers earn Avios with every shipment, which can be redeemed for flight tickets, cabin upgrades, and exclusive rewards through the Qatar Airways Privilege Club. Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Post Hassan Jassim al-Sayed said the enhanced version reflects the company's commitment to developing innovative logistics solutions that support e-commerce growth and let customers reach global markets with ease, while improving speed, transparency, and cost efficiency. He added that the launch is part of Qatar Post's ongoing efforts to strengthen its digital infrastructure and expand its service portfolio in step with the fast-evolving e-commerce sector, reinforcing Qatar's position as a leading regional hub for postal and logistics services. CONNECTED, he said, represents Qatar Post's strategic push toward integrated digital solutions that keep pace with the rapid growth of e-commerce at local, regional, and global levels.

# Amir condolences with Pakistan PM

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In addition, the conversation focused on bilateral relations between the two nations, as well as evolving regional developments, particularly updates regarding the memorandum of understanding between the US and Iran. In this context, Sharif lauded Qatar's endeavours in promoting regional security, peace, and stability, expressing his appreciation for Qatar's efforts to support security and

stability in the region. In a post on X, Sharif said the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the positive progress achieved during the first round of technical talks in Burgenstock, and agreed on the importance of maintaining the momentum through continued dialogue and diplomacy. The prime minister also said Pakistan took pride in its close fraternal relations with Qatar, adding that he looked forward to welcoming the Amir to Pakistan later this year. (QNA)

# Kahramaa awards QR2.2bn deals

From Page 1

"This step further strengthens Qatar's regional position in adopting advanced clean energy solutions. At Kahramaa, we continue to advance a more resilient and efficient electricity network capable of integrating renewable energy sources and supporting supply security," he said. Through these projects,



Kahramaa reaffirmed its commitment to developing high-efficiency electrical infrastructure, continuing to implement strategic plans that

enhance network reliability and service quality while keeping pace with rapidly rising demand and the development needs of all regions across the country.

# Qatar-EU partnership highlights sport as platform for women's empowerment

By Shaima Sheriff  
Staff Reporter

Qatar's growing sports ecosystem is helping create stronger opportunities for women and girls, a European Union official said during a panel discussion marking International Olympic Day in Doha.

Angelos Lenos, deputy head of Mission and head of Political Section at the European Union Delegation to the State of Qatar, told *Gulf Times* that the event reflected a shared commitment between Qatar and the European Union to promote gender equality through sport.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a panel discussion titled "Advancing Women and Girls' Rights, Safety and Participation in and Through Sport," held at the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.

The event, organised by the Employment Standards Office and the European Delegation in Qatar, brought together stakeholders to discuss the challenges women and girls face throughout their sporting journey and the practical steps needed to strengthen their rights, safety and participation.

Lenos noted that the event was one of the tangible outcomes of the annual Human Rights Dialogue between Qatar and the European Union.

"This is a decision we collectively made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar during our last round of annual Human Rights Dialogue," he said, adding that the aim



Angelos Lenos

was to create a practical deliverable focused on "promoting women and girls' rights through sports."

Lenos said the panel also provided a platform to hear directly from some of Qatar's pioneering female athletes, who shared their experiences of participation, growth and support.

"We were very pleased to host today some of the most pioneer female athletes of Qatar," he said. "We discussed the real issues that involve their participation in sports and how they grow personally and professionally with the support of institutions and, of course, their families."

Asked about Qatar's role in creating a safer and more supportive environment for women in sport, Lenos said the country has shown active engagement on the issue at both national and international levels.

"Qatar has been, as was mentioned also by the representative of the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the core group promoting last year's resolution of the Human Rights Council specifically on this issue," he said.



Lenos added that since the establishment of the EU Delegation in Qatar in 2022, the EU has worked with several Qatari institutions to advance shared values around gender equality and inclusion.

"We have been working with Qatari authorities since the inception of the delegation here in 2022," he said, citing engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Aspire Academy, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Financial Centre, the Olympic Museum and Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

"We have engaged with a lot of players in order to assist, to be partners, to promote our EU values, which is about gender equality," he added. "We see that we find partners in Qatar who are aligned on this purpose."

Lenos said Qatar's leadership has been central to the progress being made. "The leadership is the most important element here, and we see a very strong desire from the Qatari leadership to promote women in sports," he said, expressing confidence that women's participation in sport in Qatar will continue to grow.

"I have no doubt that the future

will only be brighter and stronger, with many more women participating and bringing medals to Qatar," he said.

Lenos stressed that the importance of women in sport goes beyond competition and medals. "This is important not only in terms of the medals, but opening the public space to women, being visible partners in this community," he said.

He also pointed to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 as a milestone that helped accelerate Qatar's visibility as a sports destination and created momentum for future events.

"The World Cup opened, or accelerated rather, the picture and the system in the country," he said. "With many more competitions and events taking place in Qatar, this will only grow bigger."

The discussion highlighted how sport can serve as more than a field of competition. It can become a platform for confidence, inclusion, leadership and social change – especially when institutions, families and communities work together to support women and girls at every stage of their sporting journey.

# PM, Oman's Sultan discuss US-Iran MoU, Hormuz

From Page 1

Talks also focused on developments following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the US and Iran, with emphasis on the importance of ensuring the security and freedom of international navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and keeping it open to maritime traffic in line with in-

ternational law. HE Sheikh Mohammed reaffirmed Qatar's full support for ongoing US-Iran negotiations to reach sustainable solutions through dialogue and peaceful means, stressing that such efforts would enhance regional security and open new prospects for co-operation, development and shared prosperity. (QNA)

# MoEHE launches Digital Citizenship curricula for students

QNA  
Doha

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), represented by the Department of Public Education E-Learning and Digital Solutions, has launched "Digital Citizenship" curricula through the Qatar education system, targeting fifth-grade primary and eighth-grade preparatory students, aiming to enhance digital awareness and promote safe and responsible use of modern technologies.

The ministry said in a statement that the curricula aim to develop students' digital skills and reinforce responsible online behaviour through an interactive self-learning experience available during the summer break, with the possibility of completing requirements at the start of the 2026-2027 academic year.

It noted that the initiative is based on awareness resources developed in partnership with the National Cyber Security Agency and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, contributing to raising cybersecurity awareness and strengthening digital culture among students.

The curriculum covers topics related to cybersecurity and digital citizenship, including

account protection, e-mail security, safe Internet browsing, digital privacy, responsible use of technology and social media, as well as awareness of cyberbullying risks and respect for intellectual property rights.

The ministry added that the programme includes diverse interactive educational content, such as awareness videos, infographics, activities, and short assessments designed in modern ways to enhance digital awareness and cybersecurity understanding in an engaging and effective manner.

It noted that students will receive digital badges during their learning journey, in addition to a "Digital Citizen" certificate upon successful completion of the course requirements.

The ministry stressed that the launch aligns with the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy, supporting the building of a knowledge-based and innovative digital society and enabling students to use technology positively and safely in their academic and daily lives.

It called on families and schools to encourage students to benefit from the interactive content during the summer break, to strengthen digital citizenship culture and responsible digital behaviour among youth.



## Climate change stoking Europe's extreme heatwave?

Europe struggled to cope with a record-breaking heatwave this week, with at least 94mn people expected to experience temperatures above 35C, most of them in France and Spain. Estimates based on analysis of forecasts from the German weather service and 2025 population projections from Europe's Joint Research Centre suggest maximum temperatures will surpass 30C for over 350mn people -- more than two-thirds of the continent's population. The effects of the extreme weather, with temperatures hotter than parts of east and west Africa, have been made worse by buildings and infrastructure not designed to cope with high temperatures, and is being driven by atmospheric patterns trapping hot air. But a scientific study published this

week said the current heatwave was "significantly exacerbated by human-induced climate change", without which the current temperatures would have been 2-4C cooler. The World Health Organization's head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that the heatwave, which has also increased air pollution, was putting the health of Europeans at risk and urged leaders to invest in making their health services more climate-resilient. The head of the UN's IPCC climate experts panel, Jim Skea, said the current temperatures were above some scientific projections, and warned that the continent would inevitably face more extremes as the planet warms. Around 44mn of the nearly 67mn people in France are currently under the

highest red alert level for heat, according to an AFP estimate. France on Wednesday experienced its hottest day since measurements began in 1947, the national weather agency said, breaking a record set just a day earlier. The national temperature indicator -- an average of daytime and nighttime temperatures across 30 stations -- reached 30C, Meteo-France said, citing provisional data. Meanwhile, Britain recorded its hottest ever June temperature on Wednesday with the mercury rising to 36.1C in southern England, breaking the previous record of 35.6C set in 1976. Spain also broke its June heat record, according to the Aemet weather agency, with an average temperature of 28.17C on Tuesday. Conditions at many schools, offices

and factories across the continent have become unbearable as temperatures rise, forcing early closures and employees to work from home. "I'm practically swimming in my own sweat, which is not pleasant," 25-year-old decorator Aaron Timothy told AFP in London while cooling off in the shade. In Italy, where 16 cities are under red alert, the advocacy group Greenpeace said it had detected surface temperatures of 80C in the heavily asphalted area around Rome's Termini railway station. Despite restrictions for outdoor workers, the area was still buzzing with delivery riders, many of whom are self-employed, who said they had to work to survive. "The climate crisis is impacting above all the most vulnerable people in the

population -- the people who need to work, who have to work," said Greenpeace campaigner Simona Abbate. Power outages have been reported in France, including in the northwest department of Finistere, where high temperatures knocked out a transformer late on Tuesday, leaving about 68,000 households without electricity. In Britain, electricity grid operator Neso warned that supply could be squeezed due to pressure on the system. Sales of fans and air conditioners have skyrocketed as people try to keep cool. June is a key month for tourism in Europe but popular landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower and Louvre museum in Paris, and the stainless steel Atomium in Brussels, have been shutting early because of the heat. -- AFP

## Alliances in the new world order



Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. Traditional thinking about alliances is outdated in a world increasingly defined by multipolarity and great power competition, technological advances and new methods of war fighting. (Reuters/File Photo)

By Rory Miller



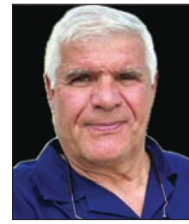
It is never wise to generalize about how different states respond to geopolitical insecurity and instability. Even states in the same region have different economic and security priorities and interests, as well as diverging policy preferences. But they also share a common preoccupation with building up their resilience so that they can absorb or bounce back from a range of security shocks including conventional and hybrid attacks. Alliances have long been the main way for regional states to build up this resilience. At the same time, traditional thinking about alliances is outdated in a world increasingly defined by multipolarity and great power competition, technological advances and new methods of war fighting. All these developments have not reduced the importance of alliances for regional states but they have made it even more important for states to make the right alliance choices. Prime Minister Mark Carney of Canada encapsulated this thinking during his high profile speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January. The end of the "old order", Carney eloquently warned, demands "building the coalitions that work, issue by issue, with partners who share enough common ground to act together". This is especially necessary for smaller actors whether in The Americas, Middle East, Asia, Africa, or Europe. These states rely more than ever on security cooperation to navigate regional disorder. Recognition of this has led to the emergence of new types of security alliances with distinct and often novel characteristics. They differ from traditional alliances like Nato in that they are informal and place low burdens and obligations on members. They also tend to be temporary frameworks, focused on a specific mission or objective. This means that they can be easily disbanded once the mission is over. Importantly, they almost always include a significant operational role for local actors. This is even the case if the US or another powerful extra-regional actor, such as France in Africa, is involved. Existing examples of such alliances include minilaterals like the Quad in the Indian Ocean, the Alliance of Sahel States in Africa and the Saudi-led Yemen War Coalition in the Middle East. These novel frameworks are attempts by regional actors to increase their security options in an increasingly unpredictable strategic environment where uncertainty, including about US intentions, is the only constant. This evolving reality raises an interesting and important question for the future. In what circumstances will regional actors be willing to invest their financial, political, diplomatic and military capital, not to mention their reputations, in these types of security frameworks? For this to happen, regional middle powers with some standing and influence must take the lead. They will need to have a vision of the security benefits of building such frameworks. They will also need to be willing to pay for the privilege of leading what are expensive, and potentially risky and

controversial, endeavours. Then they will have the challenging job of convincing other regional actors that such frameworks are a viable and sustainable alternative to the security status quo. This is a difficult task because the downside of more local autonomy tends to be higher levels of vulnerability. This will engender scepticism among prospective members over whether these frameworks can adapt to changing circumstances and reshape regional security architecture in ways that increase security and stability. Even if there is consensus over the benefits of these frameworks, their future adoption will ultimately depend on how disillusioned regional actors are with the US as their security leader. In recent years, decision-makers in Europe, Asia and the Middle East have found it increasingly difficult to reach and maintain a consensus with Washington on a range of critical security issues. We saw this most recently in April after President Donald Trump called for the formation of an international coalition to secure shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Long-standing allies including Japan, South Korea, France and the UK, as well as most other US partners, either declined outright or refused to commit to provide any meaningful support. Doubts over whether the US has the political will to deliver security in line with past expectations and commitments is also on the rise. As Carney noted in his Davos speech, the "comfortable assumption... [that]... alliance memberships automatically conferred prosperity and security is no longer valid". In the same month, Denmark's prime minister, Mette Frederiksen, spoke with regret that "the old world order is now gone", and wondered out loud if the US would even remain an ally of Europe. This does not mean that regional actors will look to use new security frameworks like those discussed here to establish themselves as the main suppliers of security and stability in their home regions. Nor will they opt to achieve security by aligning with other extra-regional big powers like Russia and China at the expense of the US. Most long-time US allies in most regions still believe that the US retains significant advantages over its global competitors in matters of defence and security. For this reason, they still view Washington as the necessary, and in some cases the preferred, ally of last resort. Yet we are witnessing changes in the nature of relations between Washington and its global partners on issues of security. For example, many of its long-time partners are more willing than ever before to challenge Washington over its regional security policies. They are also more open than ever to taking into account, and in some circumstances even supporting, the preferences of Washington's main competitors on important regional security issues. These moves are all relatively new. They are also the inevitable responses of regional actors who recognize the importance of re-imagining their alliance options in an increasingly complex and dangerous international system.

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## A memorandum is not a peace deal

By Jamil K Mroue



The memorandum now agreed between Washington and Tehran is being read in some quarters as an ending. It is nothing of the kind. At best it is a beginning, and a beginning is worth only as much as what is built upon it. No single act delivers peace in the Middle East. Long-term achievement is merely short-term steps piled patiently in the right direction -- and the only direction that counts is regional peace for all. A memorandum that cools the quarrel with Iran while the rest of the furnace burns is not a step towards that peace. It is a pause dressed as progress. The temptation in Washington and Jerusalem will be to treat the document as a finish line: bank the de-escalation, declare the danger managed, move on. That instinct mistakes security management for statecraft. A ceasefire stops the shooting; it does not supply a destination. And the absence of a destination is the flaw that has defined the past two years. The obstacle to a durable peace is no longer, principally, Iran. It is a course of conduct inside Israel. A state founded in the shadow of persecution has allowed that memory to curdle into something pathological -- a permanent sense of victimhood that has licensed excess in Gaza and Lebanon out of all proportion to any threat. The manner of war has been not merely harsh but, at moments, gloating, and it has gone beyond what military logic can justify. One need not take that on the word of Israel's critics. Former chiefs of the IDF and the security services have said as much themselves, breaking ranks to warn that the conduct of these campaigns exceeds necessity and corrodes the state that orders them. Israeli society is not simply complicit. It supports the wars in the name of security, yet it has thumped the government down again and again at the same time. There is daylight -- wide daylight -- between backing a war and backing the men who run it. But that support must be read with a caveat. The public is heavily insulated from what is done in its name. Military censorship has been standard practice for decades, and to it the government has added a hasbara apparatus that systematically dehumanises Palestinians and Lebanese while inflating the existential stakes of every campaign. Consent so managed is not consent informed. It is consent manufactured. The proportions are worth stating plainly, because the propaganda obscures them. For decades the Israeli air force has ruled the skies of every theatre it has entered, unchallenged. Only with the arrival of cheap drones did its adversaries manage to disturb that dominance -- to disturb it, not to contest it. The "existential threat" invoked to justify the rubble is, by the cold arithmetic of force, a vast exaggeration. A nation with total command of the air is not fighting for its survival. It is choosing how to fight.

A barber gives a haircut to a client at his salon, damaged during Israeli military strikes, in the southern Lebanese village of Srafa yesterday. (AFP)

Two of the men shaping that choice belong in a different kind of custody than government. Days after the memorandum was struck, with American envoys still enroute to meeting, Israel's national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, declared that for every tear of an Israeli mother a thousand Lebanese mothers must weep, and that all of Lebanon must burn. His finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, called for the gates of hell to be opened on Lebanon, as he once did on Gaza. These are not the slogans of street agitators. They are the recorded positions of sitting cabinet ministers, uttered while their own prime minister stood silent. In a healthier polity such words would be disqualifying. That the men who speak them sit in cabinet is not a detail of the pathology. It is the pathology. Above them stands a prime minister it is tempting to read through his own inheritance: the son of an irredentist historian and the brother of a fallen national hero, a man who has governed as though answering ghosts. Whatever the truth of the psychology, the political effect is plain. Mr Netanyahu has built a career on permanent emergency, and permanent emergency is the one condition under which the region cannot heal. Leave that course unchecked and the danger is not stalemate but degeneration -- a slide into fragmentation and serial bloodletting from which no neighbour is insulated. The Palestinian plight is infectious. It travels, it radicalises, it dignifies armed networks that are otherwise merely violent entrepreneurs with flags. Iran built an entire regional doctrine on that wound. The "axis of resistance" was never chiefly about piety; it was about deterrence, reach and survival. But Palestine gave it moral voltage. A memorandum may lower Tehran's capacity for mischief. It will not silence the grievance Tehran has spent forty years amplifying. Only closing the wound does that. Which is why the memorandum, to be worth anything, must be the first stone in a road that runs through Jerusalem. The materials already exist. Saudi Arabia has for years tied normalisation with Israel to the Arab Peace Initiative -- statehood and withdrawal in exchange for recognition -- the standing offer of the region's most consequential Arab power. Jordan has drawn its own red line, its king rejecting annexation and displacement, its ministers warning that forced relocation would spread radicalism and threaten the kingdom itself and beyond. The architecture of a settlement is on the table. What is missing is the will to treat the Iran track and the Palestinian track as one project rather than two. Here the American interest and the world's converge -- and the prize for Mr Trump is larger than he may yet realise. A president who merely manages a ceasefire is forgotten; a president who cuts the Gordian knot of Middle East peace enters the company of statesmen, the rank that outlives administrations. Such a move would rehabilitate not only his own presidency but his country's standing, restoring to America the moral initiative it has spent two decades squandering and recasting it as the author of order rather than the financier of its absence. Nor would this be a stand against his own people. For the first time since Gallup began asking in 2001, Americans' sympathies no longer tilt towards Israel, and 57% now favour a Palestinian state. The public appetite for an end is there; the moral case is there; the coalition abroad is there. The memorandum hands him the thread. Whether he pulls it, or lets it lie as another managed pause, will decide whether America regains the initiative it has lost -- or watches the region tip, on someone else's design, into the cauldron. The choice, then, is not idealism against realism. It is between two realisms: one that banks a single step and calls it arrival, and one that keeps laying stones until the road reaches everyone. A memorandum is not a peace. It is permission to begin building one.

• Jamil K Mroue is Lebanese writer and previous editor of Al Hayat newspaper in London and The Daily Star in Beirut.

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## Qatar sports minister visits injured Canada midfielder

HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, visited Canada midfielder Ismael Kone after he suffered an injury during his side's World Cup match against Qatar. HE the Minister wished the player a speedy recovery and swift return to action. The minister was accompanied by Qatar international Assim Madibo, who was involved in the collision that led to the injury early in the second half of the Group B match. The pair were received by Canadian Soccer Association President Peter Augurso, who commended the visit as a gesture of high level of sportsmanship. Commentators said the visit sought to provide moral support to the Canadian player and reflected sportsmanship and positive relationships between the participating teams. (QNA)



## Visit Qatar eyes bigger 'Qatar Through Your Lens' contest

By Shaima Sherif  
Staff Reporter

Visit Qatar will expand its Qatar Through Your Lens competition after its inaugural edition drew more than 1,300 entries, with government entities already expressing interest in joining future editions, PR and Communications director Jassim al-Mahmoud has said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony yesterday at Qatar Tourism's headquarters at Msheireb Downtown Doha, al-Mahmoud cited a strong response to the first edition, reflecting the public's growing role in presenting Qatar as an international destination through photography, videography, and creative storytelling.

He added that the competition had received an encouraging number of entries across both photo and video categories. The ceremony honoured the winners of



Jassim al-Mahmoud

the photography and videography competition, which was launched to encourage creative content that presents Qatar as a source of inspiration for storytelling and visual expression.

Al-Mahmoud said the quality and volume of submissions made the competition particularly meaningful for Visit Qatar, as the entries offered fresh perspectives on the country's landscapes, culture, attractions and visitor experiences. "We are very happy to receive this number of content that will help us in promoting Qatar as an international destination," he

said. He congratulated the winners, noting that securing a place among the top entries was not easy given the scale of participation. "We congratulate the winners for being in the top ten places for each category out of 1,300. It was a very big competition," he said.

The judging process, he added, was equally demanding because of the standard of the submitted work. Beyond recognising individual talent, the competition has also provided Visit Qatar with a valuable collection of user-generated content to support future promotional campaigns and social media storytelling.

Al-Mahmoud said many participants may have viewed the initiative mainly as a competition, but Visit Qatar also sees it as an opportunity to discover creative material that can strengthen the country's tourism image. "People think that we are doing a competition for people, but they do not know that we are getting the ben-

efit out of the content," he said. "A lot of people have provided great content, which is definitely going to be useful for our social media platforms and for our promotion."

The strong response has encouraged Visit Qatar to continue the initiative in future editions, al-Mahmoud said. "This competition is going to continue because of the positive feedback that we have received, and also because of the quality of content that we received," he said.

He revealed that the next edition could be broader in scope, with interest already shown from government entities seeking to participate. "The good news is that for the upcoming version of this competition, we have interest from some government entities who are interested to participate and scale up this level of competition to the next step," he said. Al-Mahmoud added that further details about the next edition would be announced once plans are finalised.

## Ironman 70.3 Doha Triathlon in 2027

Visit Qatar has announced that the inaugural edition of Ironman 70.3 Doha triathlon will take place from March 18 to 20, 2027 at Old Doha Port, marking another milestone in Qatar's growing international sports events calendar and further reinforcing the country's position as a leading destination for sports tourism.

Organised in collaboration with The Ironman Group, the world's leading organiser of endurance events, the event will bring together athletes and regional sporting communities for a world-class racing experience set against the backdrop of Doha's waterfront.

The main race, scheduled for March 20, 2027, will feature the globally recognised Ironman 70.3 format, comprising a 1.9km swim, a 90km cycling course, and a 21.1km run. The event programme will also include the Ironkids race on March 19, offering younger participants the opportunity to take part in the excitement of race weekend. The event is expected to attract thousands of athletes and visitors, further strengthening Qatar's position as a leading destination for major international sporting events while contributing to the country's growing visitor economy.

Alongside the races, visitors will enjoy a lively atmosphere featuring dedicated fan zones, the interactive



Ironman Village, and a range of community and entertainment experiences throughout the event weekend.

Further details regarding registration, spectator experiences, and dedicated travel packages for athletes and their families will be announced in the coming weeks through Visit Qatar's official channels. By hosting the Ironman 70.3 Doha triathlon at Old Doha Port, Visit Qatar continues to expand its portfolio of international sporting events while showcasing the country's advanced infrastructure, hospitality offerings, and ability to deliver large-scale events across a variety of sectors.

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