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SPORT | Page 1

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Qatar reports 'positive progress' in MoU talks

Parties 'to reconvene after Khamenei funeral'

GT Report
Doha

Qatar and Pakistan concluded separate rounds of talks with US and Iranian negotiators in Doha yesterday, reporting positive progress under the Islamabad memorandum of understanding (MoU) and agreeing to reconvene once the funeral of Iran's late supreme leader is over.

"Qatar and Pakistan mediators concluded separate meetings with the US and Iranian negotiators in Doha today, with positive progress made on issues related to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, building on the outcomes of the Lake Lucerne Summit," HE the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson and adviser to the prime minister Dr Majed al-Ansari tweeted on X.

"The parties agreed to continue discussions over the coming period, with the next meeting to be scheduled at the earliest possible time following the funeral processions of the former Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei."

Negotiators for the two countries had spent two days in Doha, Reuters reported, citing sources. The sessions concentrated on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and financial incentives for Iran - two pillars of the accord signed in June - rather than the more difficult questions that framework was meant to open up, according to the agency.

The two sides did not meet face to face, dealing separately with the Qatari and Pakistani media-



Trump remains upbeat

US President Donald Trump hailed the progress yesterday of indirect talks between the United States and Iran in Qatar, as the sides aimed to push forward negotiations and quell tensions following exchanges of fire. The US leader said there had been "very good meetings" in Doha. "As far as things are going, the denuclearisation of Iran is moving along well," Trump told reporters as he prepared to board his Qatar-gifted Air Force One plane for the first time.

Reuters reported that Jared Kushner and top US envoy Steve Witkoff, dispatched to the region for what the White House had billed as "high-level" talks, did not attend the sessions, citing a source who spoke on condition of anonymity. The leader of Iran's delegation, deputy foreign minister Kazem Gharibabadi, confirmed the talks had concluded.

US Vice-President J D Vance indicated the nuclear file would be taken up at a later stage, acknowledging it remained a concern. **To Page 8**

Amir, US envoys discuss regional diplomacy

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has met US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner at Lusail Palace to discuss regional developments and ongoing diplomatic efforts.

The talks focused on the latest developments in the region, particularly progress in negotiations between the United States and Iran, within the framework of a memorandum of understanding between the two sides. The discussions also addressed the situation in Lebanon, with emphasis on the importance of maintaining a ceasefire to preserve the country's unity, sovereignty, and stability. His Highness the Amir reaffirmed Qatar's continued role, in partnership with Pakistan, in supporting mediation efforts and facilitating dialogue stemming from the agreement, with the aim of achieving a comprehensive and sustainable settlement that strengthens regional security and international peace.

The US envoys expressed appreciation for Qatar's mediation efforts in partnership with Pakistan, noting Washington's commitment



to continuing negotiations and advancing diplomatic initiatives aimed at reaching a comprehensive agreement. **(QNA)**

Amir, al-Sharaa review evolving situation

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani received a phone call yesterday from Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa. They discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries and prospects for strengthening joint co-operation as well as ways to support and develop these ties to achieve the common interests of the two brotherly nations.

They also discussed developments in the region, particularly the latest developments in the negotiations between the United States and Iran within the framework of the memorandum of understanding between the two sides alongside the efforts being made to advance diplomatic solutions that contribute to strengthening regional security and stability. His Highness the Amir reiterated the importance of continuing coordination and consultation among all countries. **(QNA)**

Qatar's FDI haul soars to \$3.4bn

Invest Qatar notches record year: Report

By A Staff Reporter
Doha

Qatar pulled in \$3.4bn in foreign direct investment capital expenditure last year, spread across 373 projects that created just over 15,000 jobs, as Invest Qatar's newly released 2025 Annual Report confirmed the country's growing pull for high-value, innovation-driven capital.

The figures mark a striking year-on-year leap: new FDI projects surged 52%, up from 245 in 2024 to 373 in 2025. More than half of total capex went into greenfield ventures, while close to half of all projects fell into the medium-to-high-tech bracket - a signal, the agency said, of investors' confidence in Qatar's increasingly advanced and knowledge-based economy.

Five sectors did most of the heavy lifting. Consumer products, business services, food and beverages, software and IT services, and textiles together accounted for 69% of all projects, pointing to a landscape that spans both legacy industries and newer, knowledge-intensive ones - in step with the goals set out under the Third National Development Strategy.



HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the Advisory Board of Invest Qatar, Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal al-Thani, said the results reflected a deliberate strategy rather than good fortune. Amid global uncertainty, the minister said, Qatar had stayed focused on strengthening an economy built on clarity and durability, with 2025's milestones cementing the country's standing as a premier investment destination. He credited a series of targeted initiatives for sharpening the ecosystem's competitiveness, and pledged continued work with partners to keep Qatar a preferred global hub for investment and innovation.

Behind the numbers lies a year of institutional expansion. Invest Qatar extended its international reach with new representative offices in London, New York, Paris, Mumbai and Istanbul, putting the agency closer to investors in priority markets. **To Page 8**

Cabinet calls for region to be spared of attacks

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Cabinet has issued a strong condemnation of Iranian attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait, calling them a blatant breach of the two countries' sovereignty and international law, while also mourning a Qatari citizen killed when a vessel he was travelling on was struck by shrapnel from regional military operations.

The session, chaired by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani, met yesterday at the Amiri Diwan.

Briefing reporters afterwards, HE the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi said ministers opened the session by reaffirming full solidarity with Bahrain and Kuwait and backing any measures the two countries take to protect their sovereignty and security.

The ministers called for the region to be spared further fallout from the attacks, insisted on unimpeded freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, and urged a continued push towards dialogue, de-escalation and diplomacy. They said gains made under the existing Memorandum of Understanding should be built upon to strengthen regional and international stability, and reiterated support for talks between the US and Iran aimed at resolving outstanding disputes peacefully.

The Cabinet also extended condolences to the family of the Qatari national martyred in the shrapnel strike on his vessel, praying for him and for the swift recovery of another individual injured in the same incident.

Turning to domestic business, the Cabinet approved a draft Amiri Decision overhauling how legislation is prepared, replacing a 2000 decree with a framework meant to tighten planning, oversight and governance across the legislative process and keep new laws aligned with national strategy.

Lusail's cooling network sets two Guinness world records



Lusail City has entered the Guinness World Records twice over, with its district cooling system now officially recognised as both the largest network of its kind on the planet and home to the world's longest chilled water storage tank - a rare double honour that cements the planned city's reputation as one of the world's most advanced models of sustainable urban infrastructure.

Qatari Diar announced the twin achievements in a statement, describing them as a new milestone in Qatar's growing record of infrastructure and sustainable development accomplishments.

The integrated district cooling network snaking beneath Lusail stretches 123.5km, linking cooling plants and energy transfer stations to buildings through

pipes ranging from 100mm to 1,600mm in diameter. The system is reinforced by smart leak detection technology, distributed isolation valves and service tunnels, giving operators flexibility, easier maintenance and uninterrupted service - engineering details that, taken together, earned it the record for the world's largest district cooling network. **To Page 8**

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Blossom Jasmine
Rice 5kg



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فازلين لوشن للجسم منوع
400 مل / حبتان
Vaseline Body Lotion
Asstd 400ml x 2pcs



QAR 17.00
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منوع 1.48 لتر / 1 حبة
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Detergent
Asstd 1.48Ltr x 1pc



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1 كيلو
Apple Pink Lady
France 1kg



QAR 9.75
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1 كيلو
Prickly Pears
Egypt 1kg



QAR 14.75
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تايلندي 1 باكيت
Tom Yam Mix
Thailand 1pkt



QAR 6.75
قرنبيط مصري
1 كيلو
Cauliflower
Egypt 1kg



QAR 47.50
سمك قاروص متوسط
تركي 1 كيلو
Sea Bass Medium
Turkey 1kg



QAR 39.75
لحم بقرى مفروم
أسترالي 1 كيلو
Beef Mince
Australia 1kg



QAR 21.00
كيك موس الشوكولاتة
صغير
Chocolate Mousse
Cake Small



QAR 9.50
دونات بطاطس
بالشوكولاتة 4 قطع
Potato Chocolate
Doughnut 4's



QAR 14.00
مزرتي جبنة عكاوي
500 غرام
Mazzraty Akkawi
Cheese 500gm



QAR 12.50
جبنة وينسليدل إنجليزية
500 غرام
English Wensleydale
Cheese 500gm



QAR 19.50
إيطاليا جبنة پارميزان
مبشورة 142 غرام
Italia Grated
Parmesan
Cheese 142gm



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هاوس فودس توفو
صلب 340 غرام
House Foods Tofu
Extra Firm 340gm



QAR 17.00
لبولانجير كرواسون 6 قطع
240 غرام
La Boulangerie 6
Croissants 240gm



QAR 29.50
ديزي قشطة حامضة
خفيفة 404 غرام
Daisy Sour Cream
Light 454gm



QAR 20.00
فرانوي توت العليق طازج
مجمد مغطي بالشوكولاتة
البيضاء / الداكنة 150 غرام / 1 حبة
Franui Fresh Frozen
Raspberries in White/
Dark Chocolate 150gm X 1pc



QAR 24.50
تاج محل زعفران
1 غرام + 0.25 غرام
Taj Mahal Saffron
1gm + 0.25gm



QAR 9.00
كادبوري دايري ميلك شوكولاتة
منوعة 32 غرام / 5 حبات
Cadbury Dairy Milk
Chocolate Asstd
32gm X 5pcs



QAR 5.50
مستر يم زائق بطاطس
ستاكرز بنكهة الجبن والبصل
مملحة 110 غرام / 1 حبة
Mr Yum Cheese &
Onion/Salted Potato
Stackz 110gm x 1pc



QAR 20.00
نسكافية تراكداو فورتى
قهوة قوية 200 غرام
Nescafe Tradicao
Forte Strong
Coffee 200gm



QAR 18.50
سكيبي زبدة الفول السوداني
كريمية 462 غرام
Skippy Peanut Butter
Creamy 462gm



QAR 16.50
بيو عسل منوع
250 غرام / 1 حبة
Bio Honey Asstd
250gm x 1pc

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 <p>5.00 QAR</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Lettuce Iceberg, Syria</p> <p>خس أيسبرغ، سوريا</p>	 <p>5.75 QAR</p> <p>Per Pack</p> <p>Mushroom brown 250g, Local</p> <p>فطر بني ٢٥٠ جم، محلي</p>	 <p>24.50 QAR</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Shrimps 60/40, Saudi</p> <p>روبيان ٦٠/٤٠ سعودي</p>

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 <p>2.75 QAR</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Watermelon, Turkey</p> <p>بطيخ، تركيا</p>	 <p>7.75 QAR</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Mango thotapuri, Yemen</p> <p>مانجو ثوتابوري، اليمن</p>	 <p>12.75 QAR</p> <p>بطانية ٢٠٠x١٥٠ سم متنوعة Fleece or flannel blanket 150cm x 200cm assorted</p>	 <p>24.75 QAR</p> <p>بنطال للرجال Mens cargo jogger pants</p>
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 <p>10.75 QAR</p> <p>زيت دوار الشمس صن فلو ١.٥ لتر Sunflow pure sunflower oil 1.5L</p>	 <p>49.75 QAR</p> <p>حليب بودرة نيدو ٢٢٥٠ غم</p>	 <p>129.00 QAR</p> <p>طقم أواني طوي غير لاصق Tefal supercook non stick cookware set</p>	 <p>389.00 QAR</p> <p>طقم أواني طهي ستانلس ستيل Korkmaz astra stainless steel cookware set</p>
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 <p>28.50 QAR</p> <p>Sadia tender chicken breast 2kg</p> <p>صدر دجاج طري ٢ كغ</p>	 <p>8.75 QAR</p> <p>معجون أسنان كولجيت بالأعشاب ١٠٠ مل</p>	 <p>129.00 QAR</p> <p>حقبة سفر متنوعة American Tourister preston hard trolley assorted</p>	 <p>999.00 QAR</p> <p>تلفاز هيسنس Hisense UHD TV 55A61Q</p>
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Minister meets UK deputy national security adviser

HE the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Faisal bin Mohammed al-Thani met yesterday with Deputy National Security Adviser of the United Kingdom Barbara Woodward. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and explored ways to enhance cooperation in security fields, along with issues of mutual concern. **(QNA)**



Al-Khulaifi meets UK deputy national security adviser



HE the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Abdulaziz bin Saleh al-Khulaifi met yesterday with the United Kingdom's Deputy National Security Adviser, Barbara Woodward, who is visiting the country. The meeting discussed bilateral cooperation and ways to strengthen ties between the two countries. The two sides also discussed the latest regional developments, particularly diplomatic efforts to promote security and stability in the region following the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran. They further exchanged views on developments related to Lebanon and a number of issues of mutual interest. **(QNA)**

Amir sends congratulations to president of Somalia

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia Hamza Abdi Barre on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. **(QNA)**

Amir congratulates governor general of Canada

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to Governor General of Canada Louise Arbour on the occasion of Canada Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney on the occasion of Canada Day. **(QNA)**

Amir sends congratulations to president of Rwanda

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Rwanda Paul Kagame on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda Dr Justin Nsengiyumva on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. **(QNA)**

Amir sends congratulations to president of Burundi

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Deputy Amir Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Burundi Evariste Ndayishimiye on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani sent a cable of congratulations to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi Nestor Ntahontuye on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. **(QNA)**

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee	Tender Bond	Bid Closing Date
HBKU-RFQ-1825-2	Hydrothermal Liquefaction system (Supply, Installation, Commission, and Training)	500 QAR	7,000 QAR	2-Aug-2026
HBKU-RFQ-2273	Provision of Supply of Liquid Nitrogen (LN2) to HBKU on a Call-off Basis for 3 Years	1000 QAR	30,000 QAR	2-Aug-2026
HBKU-RFQ-2284	Slate/Cloud and Infrastructure Services and software	1000 QAR	30,000 QAR	2-Aug-2026
HBKU-RFQ-2286	Web Summit Qatar 2027 Designing, Constructing, Branding, and Delivering Booth	500 QAR	7,000 QAR	2-Aug-2026
HBKU-RFQ-2287	Provision for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Support Services for the Outdoor Testing Facility and the Remote Solar Monitoring Stations to QF-HBKU on Call-off Basis for Three (3) Years with option to extend up to 1 more year	1000 QAR	30,000 QAR	2-Aug-2026

HBKU-University Procurement Service (UPS) is inviting companies to participate in the above-listed public tender. To receive the tender documents, please follow the following steps:

Supplier Registration: It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender(s). Only QF-registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website: <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration> to complete the Supplier Registration process.

Tender Fee: Interested bidders can sign in by visiting this link <https://Suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract> and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online. All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from 02 July 2026 Until 16 July 2026

- All bidders who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.
- Technical and Commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier portal as per the instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.
- The Commercial bid must be valid for **180 Days** from the Bid Closing Date.
- The Commercial bid must be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee (Tender Bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents)
- The successful tenderer will be required to submit a Performance Bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
- Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Note: All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in the link <https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration>

Speaker of Shura Council meets Kuwait's ambassador



HE Speaker of the Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanem met yesterday with the ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the State of Qatar Ahmad Abdulrahman al-Shuraim. The meeting discussed both countries' close ties and ways to boost them. **(QNA)**

Al-Ansari meets senior German official

HE the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Majed bin Mohammed al-Ansari met with Political Director at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany Dominik Mutter. The meeting discussed cooperation relations between the two countries and ways to support and strengthen them. It also discussed the latest regional developments, particularly the diplomatic efforts aimed at strengthening the commitment to the ceasefire in Lebanon, and ways to build on them in a way that contributes to supporting regional security and stability, following the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran. **(QNA)**



Director-general of QNA meets Turkish envoy

HE the Director-General of Qatar News Agency (QNA) Ahmed bin Saeed al-Rumaihi met yesterday with the ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to the State of Qatar Dr Mustafa Goksu. The meeting discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the media sector. **(QNA)**

Kuwait's cabinet voices condolences to Qatar on death of its citizen

The Kuwaiti cabinet voiced the condolences and sympathy of the State of Kuwait to the State of Qatar on the death of a Qatari citizen and the injury of a resident as a result of their being hit by shrapnel from the military operations that the region witnessed recently. The Kuwaiti cabinet extended the sincere condolences of the State of Kuwait and its heartfelt sympathy to the State of Qatar, its leadership, government and people, and to the family of the victim, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. This came during a meeting of the Kuwaiti cabinet on Tuesday, chaired by the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah. **(QNA)**

Qatar takes part in GCC meeting of heads of government human rights bodies

The State of Qatar has participated in the 20th meeting of heads of government human rights agencies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held at the GCC General Secretariat headquarters in Riyadh. The Qatari delegation was led by Masha'el bint Mana al-Hajri, Assistant Director of the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **(QNA)**



QatarEnergy LNG Tender Invitation

No.	TENDER NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	TENDER ISSUE PERIOD	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER CLOSING DATE
1	LTC/C/MNT/7569/26 PREVENTIVE & CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE OF OVERHEAD / GANTRY / JIB CRANES & ELECTRIC HOISTS ON CALL-OFF BASIS	01/07/2026 to 15/07/2026	0	500,000	22/07/2026

Scope of Work:

Company's Onshore facility requires services for Preventive & Corrective Maintenance of Overhead / Gantry / Jib Cranes & Electric Hoists on Call Off basis. Contractor shall perform the work by providing qualified resources with all tools and tackles; The duration of Contract shall be for five (05) years with a sole option for Company to extend it for further up to two (02) years.

Bid Validity: Bid Offer should be valid for 180 calendar days from the Tender Closing Date.

Place for Tender Collection and Bid Submission:

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

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



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

Important Notice:

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

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

Sl. No	Tender Number	Tender Sale Period Start Date	Tender Sale Period End Date	Tender Closing Date	Tender Bond	Bond Curr.	Tender Fee	Fee Curr.
1	LT26102500	02.07.2026	08.07.2026	03.08.2026	150,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: PROVISION FOR M&S SERVICES & SAAS FOR PRIMAVERA LICENSES								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location: To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time: To be advised if required								
2	LT26MT0044	02.07.2026	08.07.2026	27.07.2026	10,000.00	QAR	N/A	
Title of Tender: SUPPLY OF INDUSTRIAL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT ON LONG-TERM AGREEMENT BASIS								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location: To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time: To be advised if required								
3	LT26MT0040	02.07.2026	09.07.2026	10.08.2026	20,000.00	QAR	0.00	
Title of Tender: PROCUREMENT OF FLUID PUMP WITH SUITABLE ZONE-2 RATED DIESEL POWER PACK								
Mid-Tender Meeting Location: To be advised if required								
Mid-Tender Meeting Date & Time: To be advised if required								

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Qatar ups global presence at New York City's Fanatics Fest

'Fanatics Fest NYC provides a valuable platform to engage influential audiences, strengthen industry relationships and introduce visitors to the experiences that make Qatar a leading destination for leisure, business and sporting events,' says GCO Director Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour al-Thani

Visit Qatar and Qatar Airways announced yesterday a partnership with Fanatics to present Qatar's hospitality at Fanatics Fest NYC through an exclusive invitation-only lounge experience.

Taking place July 16-19 at the Javits Center in New York City, Fanatics Fest NYC will feature an invitation-only lounge that captures Qatar's signature hospitality, designed for high-level networking among corporate partners, C-suite executives, elite athletes, and celebrities.

This initiative comes within the framework of the State of Qatar's efforts to employ sports and entertainment as a bridge for cultural communication and to strengthen international partnerships, which contributes to supporting dialogue between cultures and expanding the horizons of cooperation with various actors in this sector.



NYC is supported by the strategic partnership between Fanatics and the Government Communications Office (GCO) of the State of Qatar, which serves as a platform for advancing collaboration across sports, entertainment, retail and fan engagement.

GCO Director Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor al-Thani said: "Fanatics Fest NYC provides a valuable platform to engage influential audiences, strengthen industry relationships and introduce visitors to the experiences that make Qatar

a leading destination for leisure, business and sporting events."

For his part, CEO of Visit Qatar Engineer Abdulaziz Ali al-Mawlawi said: "Following a successful debut at Fanatics Fest NYC last year, we are delighted to return and deepen our engagement with this influential global audience. Our partnership reflects Qatar's commitment to excellence and our strategic vision to forge meaningful connections with key stakeholders across sports, entertainment and business. At Fanatics Fest NYC, we look forward to

showcasing Qatar's credentials as a premier destination for transformative experiences, world-class sporting events and opportunities for collaboration and growth."

In turn, Chief Strategy and Growth Officer of Fanatics Tucker Kain said: "One of the things that makes Fanatics Fest NYC so unique is its ability to bring together an incredibly diverse mix of fans, brands, leagues, athletes, celebrities, and industry leaders in one place. Building on a successful first year with Visit Qatar, we're thrilled to welcome Qatar Airways to the partnership and further elevate this exclusive hospitality offering. As Fanatics Fest NYC continues to grow, we're focused on creating exceptional experiences for every audience we serve. Our Qatar partners share that commitment, and together we're delivering a hospitality experience that will be a standout feature of Fanatics Fest NYC this year." (QNA)

Girls' Leadership Centre to launch summer programme on July 5

The Girls' Leadership Centre will launch its summer programme for this year, from July 5 to August 19.

Girls' Leadership Centre director Najla al-Hajri emphasised the centre's commitment to developing a comprehensive programme that includes a wide array of training workshops, interactive events, and sports and cultural activities tailored to girls' interests to enhance their capabilities in various fields. This year, she noted, the centre will collaborate with several organisations, companies, and institutions that will contribute their expertise to provide outstanding content to enrich the participants' experience and offer them greater opportunities for learning and development. The programme includes



outdoor activities and field trips designed to introduce girls to diverse work environments and experiences to provide them with opportunities to gain new knowledge and skills, al-Hajri said, adding that the events also comprise sports and health programmes to promote a culture of physical activity and maintain a healthy and balanced lifestyle. (QNA)

Doha Film Institute hosts Contemporary Arab Cinema Week in Mexico City

The Doha Film Institute (DFI) hosted a contemporary Arab cinema week at the Cineteca Nacional de las Artes in Mexico City, Mexico.

Held as part of the Qatar-Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture, the event presented a curated selection of seven films supported by the DFI in recent years, with some being Cannes, Venice, and Thessaloniki prize-winners.

The screenings saw an exceptional turnout, underscoring the strong interest in contemporary Arab cinema among Mexican audiences. The programme offered them a rare opportunity to experience films from Iraq, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Egypt, exploring themes of identity, memory, family, and tradition.

The film cycle is part of a wider programme that the Years of Culture will roll out in Mexico City this summer, in partnership with institutions such as Museo Jumex and the Centro de Cultura Digital, spanning film, art, heritage, design and sport throughout 2026. (QNA)



Dukhan Bank wins 'Best Business Card Offering in MENA 2026' at Meed Mena Banking Excellence Awards



Dukhan Bank has been named the winner of the "Best Business Card Offering in MENA 2026" award by Meed as part of the Mena Banking Excellence Awards 2026 for Retail, Digital & SME. The recognition highlights Dukhan Bank's continued progress in delivering customer-focused, Sharia-compliant banking solutions that support the evolving needs of businesses across Qatar and the wider region. It also reflects the Bank's commitment to enhancing its suite of card products through convenience, security, digital integration, and value-added services tailored to corporate and SME customers.

Dukhan Bank's business card offering is designed to support greater efficiency in business spending management, enabling companies to streamline payments, improve control, and access flexible solutions aligned with modern business requirements.

For companies today, efficient payment tools are essential to managing daily operations with greater confidence and control. Dukhan Bank's continued focus on developing practical, secure, and customer-focused solutions reflects its broader commitment to advancing modern Islamic banking while supporting the evolving needs of businesses and customers.

This latest recognition reinforces the Bank's role in contributing to Qatar's financial sector and its long-term economic ambitions through innovation, service excellence, and Sharia-compliant banking solutions.

The Meed Mena Banking Excellence Awards recognise leading financial institutions across the region for their achievements in retail, digital, and SME banking.

Dukhan Bank's win adds to its growing track record of regional and international accolades, reflecting its continued focus on innovation, service excellence, and sustainable growth.

Sidra Medicine honours Class of 2026; expands next generation of healthcare leaders

Sidra Medicine, a member of Qatar Foundation, celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2026 at a graduation ceremony marking its fourth Medical Education Day.

The Class of 2026 includes 75 graduates who completed residency, fellowship, undergraduate, and sponsored professional training programmes, including 24 residents, 42 fellows, 4 undergraduate medical students, and 5 Sidra Medicine employees who completed advanced training through the organisation's sponsorship programme.

Mohammad al-Mana, acting chief executive officer and member of the Board of Governors at Sidra Medicine, said: "Today marks the beginning of a new chapter for our graduates and another milestone in Sidra Medicine's commitment to developing future healthcare leaders. We are proud to celebrate their achievements and confident they will make a meaningful im-



pact wherever their careers take them, carrying forward the values of excellence, compassion, and humanity that define Sidra Medicine."

The ceremony was attended by diplomats, including Ahmad al-Shuraim, ambassador of Kuwait, and distinguished leaders from Qatar's healthcare and academic

sectors, including Maha Zayed al-Ruwaili assistant undersecretary for Educational Affairs and Dr Batool Hashem al-Sayed, director of Higher Education Institution Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Dr Thurayya Arayssi, vice dean for Academic and Curricular Affairs at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar.

Prof Ibrahim Janahi, chief medical officer of Sidra Medicine, said: "Healthcare is entering one of the most transformative periods in its history. Advances in artificial intelligence, precision medicine, and biomedical research are re-shaping how we diagnose and treat disease. While these innovations will continue to transform health-

care, compassion, empathy, and human connection will remain at the heart of medicine. We are proud to see our graduates from Sidra Medicine carry with them the clinical expertise, curiosity, and values needed to improve the lives of women and children across Qatar and the region."

Graduates will continue careers across 25 paediatric and women's health specialties, including child and adolescent psychiatry, neonatology, nephrology, cardiology, endocrinology, emergency medicine, neurosurgery, urology, and orthopaedic surgery.

More than 24% of this year's graduates are Qatari nationals, underscoring Sidra Medicine's commitment to developing Qatar's future healthcare workforce. All graduating residents have successfully matched into fellowship programs at Sidra Medicine and will continue their speciality training within the organisation. In addition, two Qatari physicians

sponsored by Sidra Medicine have completed advanced training in women's health in Canada and at Hamad Medical Corporation and will join Sidra Medicine as attending physicians.

Sidra Medicine continues to expand its graduate medical education programmes to meet the growing demand for highly specialised healthcare professionals. During the past year, Sidra Medicine's Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Programme received Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education International accreditation, bringing the organisation's total number of accredited residency programmes to 24.

Sidra Medicine also launched four new fellowship programmes in Women's Health, Paediatric Intestinal Rehabilitation, Paediatric Neuromuscular Disorders, and Advanced Hypospadias Surgery, increasing its fellowship portfolio to 45 programmes.

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Egypt's President al-Sisi receives credentials of Qatar's ambassador

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has received the credentials of Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman bin Mohammed al-Thani as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Qatar to Egypt. Sheikh Jassim conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to the president as well as the Amir's wishes of good health and happiness to al-Sisi, and continued progress and prosperity to the government and people of Egypt. Al-Sisi entrusted Sheikh Jassim to convey his greetings to His Highness the Amir, wishing him good health and happiness, and Qatar continued progress and prosperity. The president wished the envoy success in carrying out his duties, assuring him of all support to elevate bilateral relations between the two countries to closer cooperation across various fields. - QNA



PHCC launches campaign to promote annual health checkups

The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has launched a public awareness campaign to encourage eligible patients to undergo annual health checkups, as part of efforts to strengthen preventive healthcare services, improve access to care and promote early disease detection.

The assistant managing director for Clinical Affairs and executive director of Operations at the PHCC, Dr Samya Ahmad al-Abdulla, said the campaign targets eligible Qatari patients registered at the corporation's health centres.

The initiative will use text messages to invite recipients to take advantage of the annual health checkup service, with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of routine screenings and their role in disease prevention and early diagnosis.

Dr al-Abdulla said in a statement yesterday that the campaign is designed to increase awareness of the annual health checkup service and encourage patients to request appointments through self-referral by calling 107.

The official added that the initiative also seeks to increase engagement with preventative healthcare services in line with the corporation's vision of improving community health and quality of life.

Dr al-Abdulla said that the Primary Health Care Corporation has completed preparations to ensure its health centres are ready to accommodate beneficiaries of the campaign.

Patients can call 107 to schedule an annual health checkup, while all patients aged 18 and older are also eligible to access the service without a prior appointment.

Primary Health Care Corporation health centres provide the annual health checkup service around the clock, serving self-referred patients, walk-in patients and those with scheduled appointments, helping ensure convenient access and continuity of care.

The corporation noted that the initial health assessment must be conducted in person at a health centre.

Follow-up consultations may be conducted remotely when clinically appropriate, providing greater flexibility in service delivery while accommodating patients' needs. - QNA

QM unveils July events programme

Qatar Museums (QM) has announced an extensive programme of exhibitions, workshops, family activities and summer camps across its museums and creative spaces throughout July, offering opportunities to explore Qatar's cultural heritage and contemporary arts through hands-on experiences.

The programme follows the organisation's recently announced autumn and winter exhibition schedule and includes activities for children, young people and adults designed to encourage creativity, learning and cultural engagement.

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) will host one of the busiest schedules.

Highlights include a monthly story time session for children, beginner and intermediate calligraphy courses covering Naskh, Ruq'ah and Nasta'liq scripts, a family day exploring Islamic woodcraft, geometry workshops for teenagers, and creative sessions based on Islamic art.

The museum will also host screenings

through its Library Film Club, beginning with *El Baisano Jalil* on July 26 alongside its monthly book club discussing *The Blue Manuscript* by Sabiha al-Khemir.

Children's sustainability activities under the Planet Kids Club and an Arabic calligraphy art workshop will round off the month's programme.

Meanwhile, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art will stage its month-long "Beat the Heat Summer Camp 2026" from July 5-30, featuring four themed weeks of creative workshops, exhibition tours, sculpture, film-making, artificial intelligence (AI)-inspired art, family activities and dedicated sessions for participants with special needs.

The QM's Archaeology Department will organise educational programmes introducing young participants to Qatar's archaeological heritage, including "The Museum is Ours: Discover Archaeology" at the National Museum of Qatar (NMQ) and the "Dig into the Past" archaeology summer



camp in partnership with QC+ Membership at Liwan.

The 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum will host its Adventure Camp in collaboration with the Qatar Paralympic Committee, offering inclusive sports-based activities for children with special needs.

At M7 - Qatar's epicentre for innovation

and entrepreneurship in design, fashion and tech - children aged 5-15 will be able to design and build their own patchwork table lamps as part of a creative design workshop.

The NMQ's Mahara Programme will offer practical workshops on traditional craftsmanship, including the making of the Sunduq Al-Mubayat, a traditional Qatari travel chest, helping preserve local craft techniques for future generations.

Meanwhile, Dadu Children's Museum of Qatar will launch the first edition of its Dadu Startup Club, an eight-week entrepreneurship programme introducing children aged 8-12 to business planning, branding, budgeting and product development through interactive learning.

The QM said the month-long programme is designed to inspire imagination, encourage learning and strengthen visitors' connections with Qatar's rich cultural heritage while providing educational and recreational opportunities during the summer. - QNA

QCDC opens registration for 8th edition of 'My Career - My Future'

The Qatar Career Development Centre (QCDC), founded by Qatar Foundation (QF), has opened registration for the eighth edition of "My Career - My Future" 2026, its flagship job-shadowing programme for high school students in Qatar.

The programme will take place from August 2-6 in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Sports and Youth, and the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau.

Through the programme, high school students will have the opportunity to experience real workplace environments and explore a wide range of career pathways.

Over five days, participants will take part in a structured practical journey that begins with an orientation and preparatory session, followed by field visits and job-shadowing placements across more than 18 host organisations representing key sectors in Qatar.



During their placements, students will observe day-to-day operations under the guidance of professional teams, gain exposure to different roles within each organisation, and develop a clearer understanding of the workplace skills, behaviours, and expectations that shape professional life.

"My Career - My Future" gives students something that career guid-

ance alone cannot fully provide: direct experience," said Mohammed Ali al-Yafei, the head of Career Programmes and Services at the QCDC.

"When students step into real workplaces, they gain a clearer sense of what their future choices may look like," he said. "This is especially important at the high school stage, when students are beginning to think seriously about university pathways, skills development, and long-term career direction."

"The strength of this programme lies in the ecosystem behind it," al-Yafei stated. "Working alongside the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Sports and Youth, the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau, and participating host organisations allows us to offer students a credible, nationally connected experience that reflects Qatar's priorities for youth development, human capital, and workforce readiness." - QNA

QC helps to 'sew' seeds of economic independence

As part of ongoing efforts to support livelihoods and promote economic development in vulnerable communities, Qatar Charity (QC) has implemented a project through its Mali branch to empower 68 beneficiaries, including women, youth, and low-income earners.

The project included handing over four sewing workshops and an integrated training and production centre, along with shops for sewing supplies and tools, and six sewing machines to support the sustainability of beneficiaries' small-scale businesses.

This initiative aligns with the QC's strategy to transition beneficiaries from dependence to productivity by equipping them with the assets and practical skills needed to establish income-generating activities and improve their living conditions.

Amid Mali's economic challenges and high poverty rates, such interventions offer an effective pathway to strengthen self-reliance and transform local capacities into sustainable economic opportunities.

The project is expected to create both direct and indirect job opportunities, support skilled artisans, and foster a culture of self-employment and entrepreneurship, while also contributing to revitalising the local economy by improving access to tailoring products and services within target communities.

The project is also anticipated to generate lasting development impact by helping reduce unemployment, economically empower women, and strengthen vocational skills among youth.

Farmers welcome early signs of bountiful rutab season

Early signs of the domestic rutab (semi-ripe date) season are starting to emerge, with farmers sanguine over the outlook for a strong harvest this year.

The season is one of the most consequential agricultural periods in Qatar and across the Gulf, closely tied to cultural and social traditions, as dates hold a central place in Qatari homes and majlis gatherings during the summer months, where they are a staple presence across households and communities.

This season in Qatar usually starts at the end of July, with production reaching its peak during the month.

There is variation in the timing of early signs from one farm to another, depending on the variety, farm location, and growing conditions.

Production of some cultivars extends into October, ensuring a steady supply of fresh rutab to markets throughout the summer and beyond.

The homegrown farms abound with a broad range of date cultivars, where the number of homegrown cultivars exceeds 20, each one being characterised by its own flavour, appearance, and ripening time, with variation in timing across farms depending on the cultivar, farm location, and growing conditions.

Among the foremost cultivars is Khalas, which is widely consumed and highly sought-after at festivals and local markets, along with Shishi, Khen-aizi, and Barhi, as well as Arizi, Hilali, Sukkari, Zahidi, Nabut Saif, Sufri, and so forth.

The Qatar News Agency (QNA) reached Mubarak Saleh al-Hajri, a date farm owner and investor in the agricultural sector, who expressed the hope that this year's season would be abundant by dint of the efforts the Ministry of Municipality is marshalling, repre-



sented by the Agricultural Affairs Department.

These efforts, al-Hajri said, entail the provision of agricultural production essentials, in terms of fertilisers, pesticides, and agricultural inputs, as well as staging exhibitions that help market domestic products and promote their market presence.

He noted that during summer, the spike in temperatures helps accelerate date palm fruit ripening.

Al-Hajri recalled that the early season has been more outstanding than previous seasons in terms of scale of production and diversity of cultivars, demonstrating farmers' awareness of this homegrown product and their keenness to advance production.

He added that there is positive competition among farmers to cultivate a cornucopia of rutab cultivars to meet consumers' needs and shore up the standing of the national product, expressing hope that this season would

be better than the previous one.

Farm owner Nasser Ali Khamis Zamel al-Kuwari predicted that this year's production would be more abundant than previous years, thanks to the incredible and unwavering support the State provides to farmers.

What has been achieved in palm cultivation, he said, reflects a crystal-clear perspective toward strengthening food security and self-sufficiency and turning cultivation into an enduring economic supply.

He expressed the hope that this momentum would take hold through mobilising further support and investment in this critical sector that forms a timeless part of Qatari identity.

The palm tree is a symbol of goodness and giving, with an enduring standing in culture and religion, al-Kuwari said, adding that this tree is blessed and has been mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, precipitating continuous care and interest in cultivation.

Agricultural Affairs Department director Yousef Khalid al-Khulaifi said that the rutab season holds economic, nutritional, and heritage value and is one of the most consequential agricultural seasons at home.

The support that the agricultural sector receives from the ministry, he added, along with the farmers' commitment to enforcing proper agricultural practices, has helped optimise the productivity of palm trees and elevate domestic quality, thereby demonstrating the advancement that has been made in the palm sector in Qatar.

Al-Khulaifi highlighted a government-supported date procurement programme, under which the ministry purchases dates from farmers for approximately QR10mn annually, with an average procurement volume of around 850 metric tonnes of dates per year.

He further noted that the palm and date sector is constantly achieving positive indicators, with local production reaching almost 25,000 tonnes throughout 2025, while the self-sufficiency ratio exceeded 72%, as the country embraces approximately 638,000 date palm trees, covering an area of about 2,662 hectares, with more than 885 farms engaged in production.

Al-Khulaifi assured that homegrown rutab dates will start flowing into markets throughout the coming weeks via a variety of sales points, mainly through the Local Dates Festival at Souq Waqif, which represents a key platform to market domestic products and familiarise consumers with the foremost quality of rutab cultivars.

The 10th edition of the festival, he added, drew 114 farms, recording sales of 170,403kg of local rutab as well as 90,600 visitors, a testament to the rising demand for domestic produce and growing consumer confidence. - QNA

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Rawabi Hypermarket launches 'Ahlán Rewards Club - Shop, Earn & Win' drive

Rawabi Hypermarket announced yesterday the launch of its "Ahlán Rewards Club - Shop, Earn & Win" campaign, aimed at rewarding loyal customers with exclusive shopping privileges, exciting rewards, and an enhanced shopping experience through Rawabi's flagship loyalty programme.

During the campaign, Ahlán Rewards Club members will enjoy access to exclusive member-only promotional offers across a wide range of products.

Customers who are not yet members can register instantly at any Rawabi Hypermarket checkout counter and start enjoying the benefits immediately.

Every Ahlán Rewards Club member, both existing and newly registered ones, who shops during the campaign period is automatically entered into the digital raffle draw.

A total of 60 lucky winners will be selected, with each winner receiving a one-month grocery kit.

The mega draw will be conducted at Rawabi Hypermarket, Izghawa.

Today, more than half a million customers are already members of Rawabi's Ahlán Rewards Club, making it one of the fastest-growing retail loyalty programmes in Qatar.

The programme is designed to reward customers every time they shop by offering exclusive member-only promotions, reward points on every purchase that can be redeemed on future shopping, special birthday rewards, personalised offers, and exclusive shopping privileges throughout the year.

"The Ahlán Rewards Club reflects our commitment to building lasting relationships with our customers by re-

warding their loyalty every time they shop with us," said Al Rawabi Group executive director Ajmal Abdulla. "We are delighted that more than half a million customers have already become part of the Ahlán Rewards family, and this growing trust motivates us to introduce even greater value."

"Through our 'Shop, Earn & Win Campaign', members can enjoy exclusive savings, earn reward points on every purchase, receive special birthday rewards, and stand a chance to win exciting prizes," he said. "We invite everyone to join the Ahlán Rewards Club and experience a smarter, more rewarding way to shop at Rawabi Hypermarket."

The "Ahlán Rewards Club - Shop, Earn & Win" campaign reflects Rawabi Hypermarket's continued commitment to delivering exceptional value and rewarding customer loyalty.

Customers are encouraged to visit any Rawabi Hypermarket branch to become a member and enjoy exclusive offers, earn reward points, receive special birthday rewards, and participate in the exciting digital raffle draw.

MoECC trains staff of private companies on hazardous waste tracking

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)'s Department of Chemicals and Hazardous Waste has organised a specialised training workshop for employees of private-sector companies involved in managing and disposing of hazardous waste.

The workshop aimed to introduce the mechanism for submitting hazardous waste disposal reports through the electronic platform and to ensure the proper tracking of hazardous waste from the generating entity to the designated hazardous waste disposal facilities.

The workshop was inaugurated by the director of the Industrial Inspection and Pollution Control Department, Dr Mohamad Aayed al-Shammari.

It forms part of the ministry's efforts to develop the environmental management system, promote digital transformation in services and procedures related to chemicals and hazardous waste, and enhance the efficient use of approved digital systems for tracking and managing hazardous waste.

The workshop focused on explaining the final step in the hazardous waste platform procedures, namely the submission of hazardous waste disposal reports by licensed and approved disposal companies.

These companies are responsible for confirming the receipt and disposal of hazardous waste, specifying the quantities handled, and identifying the disposal methods used in compliance with approved environmental regulations.

The MoECC further explained that the electronic system enables waste generators to review submitted reports and verify the accuracy of data related to hazardous waste and recorded quantities before granting final approval.

This process, the ministry added, enhances reliability, transparency, and data accuracy while minimising potential errors or discrepancies that may arise during handling and disposal stages.

During the workshop, the MoECC stressed the importance of hazardous waste disposal companies complying with the requirement to submit quarterly reports to all their generator clients.

This ensures the continuous updating of national hazardous waste data and strengthens the efficiency of environmental monitoring and oversight processes.



Daam signs funding pact with QatarDebate Centre

The Social and Sport Contribution Fund (Daam) has signed a funding agreement with the QatarDebate Centre, founded by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, to support local debating leagues and championships and expand QatarDebate's educational publications.

Under the agreement, Daam will provide financial support for QatarDebate's annual debating leagues and championships in Arabic and English for students from preparatory school through university.

The funding will also support the development of specialised curricula and educational resources aimed at promoting Arabic-language debating through publications and instructional materials.

Daam programmes director Hassan Yousef al-Obaidly said the partnership reflects the fund's commitment to supporting initiatives that foster constructive dialogue and empower youth by developing their skills and enhancing their contribution to national development.

QatarDebate Centre administrative and strategy director Abdulrahman al-Subaie said the agreement would help expand the reach of the centre's programmes and strengthen their long-term sustainability while advancing debating as an educational tool that promotes critical thinking and constructive dialogue among younger generations.

Founded in 2008, the QatarDebate Centre is a leading institution dedicated to promoting the culture of debate and dialogue.

It develops educational and competitive programmes, produces specialised research and publications, and builds strategic partnerships to advance debating in Arabic and English both in Qatar and internationally.

The agreement reflects the role of Daam and the companies listed on the Qatar Stock Exchange in supporting cultural initiatives and sustainable development in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Since its establishment in 2010, Daam has launched numerous initiatives across the cultural, social, sports and charitable sectors, with contributions from listed companies serving as one of the fund's principal financial resources. - QNA

Doha Dictionary inks research accord with Turkish university

The Doha Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Turkiye's Gaziantep Islam Science and Technology University to strengthen academic research in Arabic language studies and expand the use of digital linguistic resources in higher education.

The agreement was signed at the university's headquarters in Gaziantep by the dictionary's executive director Dr Mohammed al-Obaidi and the university's president Prof Semhus Demir.

According to a statement issued by the Doha Historical Dictionary, the partnership will support joint research projects in Arabic language studies and lexicography, alongside the organisation of specialist workshops and academic seminars, both in person and online.

The two institutions also plan to develop university courses and teaching modules that incorporate the dictionary's resources and digital applications.

The agreement provides for programmes to help students and researchers use the dictionary and other digital lexicographical resources for learning, research and linguistic analysis.

It also aims to support university faculty in integrating the



platform into teaching and to explore ways of making the Doha Historical Dictionary accessible through the university's digital platforms to enhance both educational and technical collaboration.

At the signing ceremony, Dr al-Obaidi presented the Doha Historical Dictionary's commemorative shield to Prof Demir in recognition of his contributions, and those of the university, to the advancement of Arabic language studies.

During the visit, Dr al-Obaidi also met doctoral students and

researchers specialising in Arabic linguistics and delivered a lecture introducing the dictionary, followed by a discussion on its methodology, practical applications and academic significance.

The Doha Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language documents the history and semantic development of Arabic vocabulary from the fifth century before the Hijra to the present day, while continuing to incorporate new words, terminology and meanings that emerge as the language evolves. - QNA



Qatar attends GCC meeting in Riyadh

Qatar has participated in the fourth Meeting of the Committee of Directors of International Cooperation at the GCC Ministries of Interior, held at the GCC General Secretariat headquarters in Riyadh.

Qatar's delegation was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Thani, the head of the Gulf and Arabian Affairs Section at the Ministry of Interior (MoI)'s Department of International Cooperation. - QNA

Qatar participates in working group meeting on Basel Convention



Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), participated in the work of the 15th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which was held in Geneva.

The meeting reviewed priority technical and strategic issues, including the management of plastic and textile waste. It also reviewed proposed amend-

ments to the annexes to the Convention, strengthening cooperation with relevant international organisations, as well as following up on the implementation of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and preparing for upcoming meetings and entitlements.

Prior to the meeting, a delegation from the MoECC, represented by the Hazardous Chemicals and Waste Department, participated in the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee

of the Basel Convention, of which Qatar is a member.

The delegation contributed to the discussion of topics related to strengthening the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, supporting the compliance of State Parties with their obligations, as well as exploring mechanisms for developing international cooperation and building capacities in the field of sound environmental management of hazardous waste. - QNA

Vodafone Qatar investing in talent for Qatar's digital future

As Qatar continues building a knowledge-based economy, developing future talent is just as important as investing in technology.

While artificial intelligence (AI), 5G, and smart infrastructure are creating new opportunities across industries, technology alone does not drive transformation.

The long-term success of digital transformation depends on people who can understand, apply and innovate with these technologies in ways that create meaningful impact.

Qatar's continued investment in digital infrastructure and emerging technologies is creating new opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth.

However, maximising the value of these investments requires more than

access to technology.

It requires developing the skills, capabilities and future leaders who will drive adoption, create solutions and help translate technological advancement into long-term economic and social progress.

Looking ahead, the continued evolution of digital technologies is reshaping the skills required.

Beyond technical knowledge, future professionals will need opportunities to collaborate across disciplines, solve complex challenges, and trans-



late emerging technologies into practical solutions that create real-world impact.

A recent example of this commitment is Vodafone Qatar's Infrastructure Intelligence Hackathon, organised in partnership with the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST).

The initiative brought together students, academics and industry professionals to explore emerging technologies, develop innovative solutions and apply their knowledge to real-world challenges.

It also highlighted the importance of collaboration between academia and industry, helping to bridge the gap between classroom learning and workplace application while enabling students to develop skills and practical experience relevant to the evolving needs of the workforce.

The Infrastructure Intelligence Hackathon forms part of Vodafone Qatar's broader commitment to supporting innovation, talent development, and the next generation of technology leaders.

By creating opportunities for young people to engage with emerging technologies, strengthen their skills, and develop in-demand digital capabilities, Vodafone Qatar continues to contribute to Qatar's future growth and digital transformation.



Qatar joins meeting of La Francophonie Permanent Council

Qatar participated in the 133rd session of the Permanent Council of La Francophonie, held yesterday in Paris, chaired by International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) secretary-general Louise Mushikiwabo.

Qatar's ambassador to France Sheikh Ali bin Jasim al-Thani attended the session. - QNA

Shura concluding current session with numerous achievements

Ahead of its final meeting next week, the Shura Council concludes the first ordinary session of its second legislative term, corresponding to its 54th annual session, marking numerous achievements in both its legislative and oversight capacities.

These milestones align closely with Qatar National Vision 2030 and reflect the core interests and aspirations of Qatari citizens.

During this session, specifically up to June 29, the Shura Council held 36 plenary meetings.

Throughout these sessions, the Council studied, debated, and reviewed major draft laws, committee reports, and requests for general discussion introduced by members.

The Council also received progress reports, presentations, and strategic plans from government ministries, institutions, and agencies during sessions hosting ministers and senior officials.

Additionally, Council members reviewed and debated decree-laws and a series of formal proposals.

Meanwhile, the Council's various standing committees held numerous meetings to address vital issues within their respective jurisdictions.

In the field of parliamentary diplomacy, the Council maintained an active presence in regional and international parliamentary conferences and meetings.

Most notably, a delegation led by HE the Shura Council Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanim participated in the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Istanbul.

A key outcome of this participation was the submission and approval of an emergency item submitted by Qatar, represented by the Shura Council.

The Qatari proposal was successfully added to the agenda of the IPU's 152nd Assembly, securing 1,316 votes in favour, with only three votes against and 51 abstentions – easily clearing the required two-thirds

majority by a wide margin.

The adopted emergency item, titled "The Urgent Need for Concerted Parliamentary Efforts to Preserve Ceasefire Agreements and Support the Establishment of Peace in the Middle East and the World", focused on mobilising international parliamentary support to sustain ceasefires, advance peace processes, guarantee civilian protection, and push for sustainable political resolutions to ongoing conflicts.

Key areas of focus include ensuring freedom of navigation and keeping international waterways open, particularly amid escalating global crises and their humanitarian consequences.

A Shura Council delegation led by HE al-Ghanim recently participated in the 20th session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) in Baku, as well as the Eighth Conference of the Arab Parliament and Speakers of Arab Councils and Parliaments in Cairo.

The "Baku Declaration" issued at the conclusion of the PUIC conference, along with the resolutions of the Cairo conference, commended the mediation roles played by Qatar and Pakistan, which facilitated the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the US and of Iran to address outstanding issues.

During the same period, the Shura Council hosted various international dignitaries, delegations, and parliamentary meetings, including the 298th session of the IPU Executive Committee in January.

On the legislative front, ahead of its final session scheduled for Monday (July 6), the Council completed the review and study of 21 draft laws.

Its oversight activities during this term included addressing four requests for general discussion and three formal proposals.

Other Council achievements in the first regular session of the second legislative term, in the legislative field, included the draft general budget of the State for the



Shura Council participates in Arab Parliament plenary session

The Shura Council participated in the plenary session of the Arab Parliament, held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

The Council was represented at the session by Amina bint Youssef al-Jaidah, Nasser bin Mohammed al-Nuaimi, Mubarak bin Mohammed al-Matar al-Kuwari, and Ali bin Ahmed al-Kaabi, members of the Shura

Council and the Arab Parliament. The session reviewed the outcomes of the Arab Parliament's standing committees meetings and approved a number of draft resolutions and recommendations on issues on its agenda, including the Iranian aggression and the rejection of interference in the internal affairs of Arab states. It also reviewed statements on the developments in Syria, Sudan, Yemen,

Libya, Somalia and Lebanon. Qatar's delegation also participated in the meetings of the parliament's four standing committees: the Social, Educational, Cultural, Women and Youth Affairs Committee; the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee; the Legislative, Legal and Human Rights Affairs Committee; and the Foreign, Political and National Security Affairs Committee. – QNA

2026 fiscal year, a draft law approving the general budget of the State, a draft law amending some provisions of Law No. 3 of 2016 regarding the regulation of birth and death registration, and another amending some provisions of Law No. 25 of 2018 regarding excise tax.



It also included a draft law on international treaties and agreements (as amended), a draft law amending some provisions of the Labour Law issued by Law No. 14 of 2004 (as amended), a draft law on drones (as amended), a draft law amending some provisions of Law No. 4 of 2008 on real estate leases, and a draft law issuing the unified system (law) for voluntary work in the GCC countries.

The Council completed its study of a draft law amending certain provisions of Law No. 22 of 2017 regulating real estate

brokerage, a draft law on animal health (as amended), and a draft law on food safety (as amended).

This was accompanied by a legislative proposal regarding the digital protection of children, a draft law on animal welfare, a draft law on the monitoring of gas stations, and another draft law amending certain provisions of the Civil and Commercial Procedure Law enacted by Law No. 13 of 1990 (as amended).

On the oversight front, the Shura Council reviewed government statements and examined the achievements and strategic plans of various ministries.

It also reviewed and took note of numerous reports, requests for general discussion, and formal proposals addressing an array of public interest issues.

The Council looked into the critical role of parents in child-rearing, strengthening the social, cultural, and values-based roles of sports clubs, addressing childhood obesity in Qatar, and the regulation and governance of artificial intelligence (AI).

During the session, the Council held six hearings hosting senior officials.

HE the Minister of Finance, Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari attended to present and discuss

the state budget for the 2026 fiscal year.

HE the National Planning Council Secretary-General Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa discussed key strategic pillars related to the Third National Development Strategy (2024-30).

HE the Minister of Justice Ibrahim bin Ali al-Mohannadi, along with several ministry experts, presented the ministry's strategic plan and discussed initiatives across various sectors.

The hearings also hosted HE the Minister of Sports and Youth Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani and ministry specialists who outlined the Ministry of Sports and Youth Strategy 2023-30.

HE the Minister of Public Health Mansoor bin Ibrahim bin Saad al-Mahmoud presented the National Health Strategy 2024-30.

Additionally, Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) president Eng. Abdulla bin Ali al-Theyab, alongside specialists, reviewed aspects of the electricity and water sectors, the Qatar National Renewable Energy Strategy, and Kahramaa's plans for supply security, grid efficiency, conservation, digital transformation, and customer services. – QNA



Training programme held on combating money laundering, terrorism financing

The Legal and Judicial Studies Centre at the Ministry of Justice is hosting a training programme on combating money laundering and terrorism financing.

The programme aims to familiarise participants with four main topics: the general provisions of the law on combating money laundering and terrorism financing; investigation and precautionary measures as per the Criminal Procedure Code; international cooperation and extradition with an emphasis on their importance; and relevant, prescribed penalties.

Providing an overview of the authorities responsible for combating these crimes, the programme includes practical applications and training exercises designed to enhance participants' understanding of the relevant legal and regulatory procedures.

The programme is based on a number of relevant national laws, most notably Law No. (20) of 2019 on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing, as amended, and its Executive Regulations issued under Cabinet Decision No. 41 of 2019, as well as the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Participants in the week-long programme are divided into two groups: the first comprising legal professionals, and the second comprising non-legal personnel working in sectors and positions related to combating money laundering and terrorism financing crimes.

Legal and Judicial Studies Centre director Dr Abdullah Hamad al-Khaldi said that this training programme reflects the ministry's commitment to developing national legal expertise and enhancing readiness to address modern financial and economic crimes.

He said that the programme runs for five working days, from Sunday to Thursday, with four hours of training per day, totaling 20 training hours.

The official expressed confidence in the programme's ability to equip participants with a solid understanding of the fundamental concepts of combating money laundering and terrorism financing, the mandates of relevant national authorities, the importance of international cooperation in this field, and the criminalised acts and penalties prescribed by law. – QNA

Nabil Fahmy assumes duties as Arab League secretary-general

Nabil Fahmy has formally assumed his duties yesterday as secretary-general of the Arab League, succeeding Ahmed Aboul Gheit, whose term has ended, during an official handover ceremony at the League's General Secretariat headquarters in Cairo.

The ceremony was attended by the assistant secretaries-general, senior General Secretariat officials, and staff.

Following the handover, Fahmy received briefings from General Secretariat officials on the latest developments in several political files.

He also chaired a meeting with the assistant secretaries-general to discuss priorities for the coming



period and review the working methods and operations across the organisation's various sectors.

Fahmy also signed his first official correspondence as secretary-general, including letters to Arab heads of state expressing his appreciation for the confidence they placed in him.

He further signed letters addressed to Arab foreign ministers outlining his assessment of the regional situation and proposing measures to strengthen the Arab world and the Arab League in addressing current challenges, advancing institutional reform, and supporting economic and social development efforts. – QNA

Lusail's cooling network sets two Guinness records

From Page 1

The second record belongs to a single, striking piece of infrastructure: the chilled water storage tank at the Northern District Cooling Plant, which stands 46.041m tall with a 32m diameter and a capacity of 12,000 refrigeration tons, making it the longest such tank in the world.

Far from a passive vessel, the tank is central to the system's efficiency, storing chilled water during off-peak hours and releasing it at times of high demand – a mechanism that has improved energy efficiency by up to 14%.

Qatari Diar said the achievement grew out of the strategic vision it has pursued since Lusail's inception: a city whose ambitions extend beyond urban planning and design into the advanced infrastructure underpinning its long-term sustainability and growth.

Marafiq Qatar, a wholly owned subsidiary of Qatari Diar, has been the operational engine behind that vision, developing and running the utility systems to what the company describes as the highest global standards.

Qatari Diar chief executive Sheikh Hamad bin Talal al-Thani called Lusail's entry into the record books an



important milestone in a national project built on the premise that infrastructure is a cornerstone of sustainable development and quality of life.

The recognition, he said, reflects the success of the company's long-term investment in cities designed to grow and adapt over time, and reaffirms Qatar's capability in delivering world-class urban projects.

Marafiq Qatar chief executive Ahmed al-Ammari struck a similarly proud note, saying that the milestone was a testament to more than 15 years of planning, investment and development – and to the efficiency of a system built and operated to international best practice.

He described the recognition as a marker of Qatar's broader progress in infrastructure, and of Lusail's status as an advanced urban model.

District cooling systems, prized for cutting electricity consumption and easing pressure on natural resources, are increasingly viewed as a pillar of sustainable city design.

Lusail's own network is still growing: once complete, the city's cooling plants are expected to reach a combined production capacity of almost 630,000 refrigeration tons. – QNA

Qatar reports 'positive progress' in MoU talks

From Page 1

The Doha round followed the Lake Lucerne Summit of June 21, the first direct high-level talks between Washington and Tehran, held at the Burgenstock resort in Switzerland. That meeting established a High Level Committee to oversee implementation of the Islamabad MoU, the 14-point accord signed on June 18 to end the conflict that erupted in late February.

The Strait of Hormuz handled about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas before the war, and its status remains unclear. Reuters reported that although traffic has partially resumed, the two countries exchanged strikes at the weekend after an Iranian attack on a cargo ship, and Iranian state media said yesterday that a foreign container ship had run aground in shallow waters outside the officially designated route. Vandana Hari, founder of Vanda Insights, described the waterway's reopening as patchy, unpredictable and not fully transparent.

Several European countries have offered to help clear mines from the strait, but German defence minister Boris Pistorius said he did not expect Berlin to take part, citing Iran's unwillingness to co-operate. US President Donald Trump played down the prospect of a return to all-out war, saying the Iranians had "come a long way", the agency reported. Oil prices fell to their lowest in four months after his comments, with analysts cutting their forecasts for the first time since the war began.

The next round hinges on the funeral of Ali Khamenei, killed in a US-Israeli strike on his Tehran compound on February 28. State ceremonies are due to run from July 4 to 9 across Tehran, Qom, Najaf, Karbala and Mashhad, where he is to be buried. Qatar, alongside Pakistan, has anchored the mediation track that turned the ceasefire into a structured negotiating process, cementing Doha's role as a neutral facilitator in the Gulf's most consequential diplomatic file in years.

Qatar's FDI haul soars to \$3.4bn

From Page 1

It also rolled out a \$1bn national incentives programme built around four packages targeting advanced industries, logistics, technology and financial services.

On the digital front, the agency overhauled the Invest Qatar Gateway – the country's first integrated platform guiding investors from market entry through to expansion – adding a secure document vault and smoother access to banking and telecoms services.

The platform has since grown to more than 15,000 registered users and upwards of 900 companies.

Invest Qatar chief executive Sheikh Ali Al-waleed al-Thani described 2025 as a year of purposeful progress and deepening partnerships, crediting the agency's expanded global footprint, new incentives and digital tools with reinforcing Qatar's reputation as a dependable long-term investment partner.

He said the focus ahead would be on sustaining that momentum so that investment continues to be supported and growth shared.

The year also brought recognition on the world stage: Qatar broke into the top 10 globally in the IMD's Global Competitiveness Report for the first time, and climbed 21 places to 12th in fDi Intelligence's Greenfield FDI Performance Index – among the clearest external endorsements yet of its greenfield investment credentials.

Hunger sets in a week after Venezuela quakes

Hope of finding more survivors faded yesterday as Venezuela marked a week since twin earthquakes left almost 2,000 dead, while many who survived were running desperately short on food.

Tens of thousands of people are still unaccounted for and even hopeful relatives of the missing focused on recovering loved ones' bodies for burial.

The majority of collapsed buildings in the hardest-hit city of La

Guaira, just north of Caracas, have been marked with the letter 'D' for 'deceased' – a sign they had been searched and showed no signs of life.

"Time isn't wasted in a place where there is no expectation of recovering people alive," said Javier Rodes, the coordinator of a Spanish rescue team whose sniffer dog Nala searched in vain through the rubble for traces of life.

There have been miracle survivors, such as a three-year-old boy

found alive Tuesday, six days after Venezuela's most powerful quake in over a century.

But experts say trapped victims are unlikely to survive more than 72 hours after an earthquake.

Venezuela's National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez said Tuesday that deaths had risen to 1,943. The United Nations estimates 50,000 people are missing.

With daily life in ruins, the focus is now shifting to survival. Many are homeless and food and water

are becoming hard to find.

"They give out supplies here, but sometimes people nearly kill each other for food... It's like a cock-fight," Daniela Armas, 18, a vendor in La Guaira, said after waiting to get food at an emergency shelter.

There has been widespread theft and looting and yesterday four police officers were arrested after being caught by residents stealing valuables from the rubble.

"The situation is quite critical," said Lia Poggio, head of mission



View of rubble in El Junquito, Venezuela after twin earthquakes. (AFP)

in Venezuela for the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Queues for aid are growing long-

er by the day, with many surviving on the goodwill of volunteers and donations from fellow citizens.

Rise of leftist insurgents rattles Democrats ahead of US midterms

AFP
Washington

The anti-establishment left of the Democratic Party has carried a surge of US primary victories from New York to Colorado, delivering a stinging rebuke to party leaders seen as too cautious, too corporate and too tied to Washington.

In its latest triumph, Democratic Socialist Melat Kiros, a 29-year-old former attorney and part-time barista, stunned one of the party's longest-serving lawmakers Tuesday, defeating Diana DeGette in a Denver-based House district.

The upset came a week after left-wing challengers backed by Democratic Socialist groups scored a string of victories in New York City, including against sitting members of Congress.

Together, the results suggest that what some Democrats had dismissed as a New York-specific revolt may be spreading, fueled by anger over corporate money, generational stagnation and a party establishment many younger voters believe has failed to confront President Donald Trump.

For Senator Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent and elder statesman of the American left, the Colorado result showed a broader political movement against the establishment.

"The tide is turning," Sanders posted on X, congratulating Kiros for her "extraordinary victory" over a 30-year incumbent.



A general view of the US Capitol in Washington, DC. (AFP)

"Americans are tired of status quo politics. They want representatives in Congress who will stand up to oligarchy and fight for working families."

Trump is spinning the rise of the left ahead of November's midterm elections that "communists" are on the rampage, posing the biggest "threat" to the nation in its history.

"They use the words 'Social Democrat' because it sounds so nice, but it's really communism you're talking about," Trump told reporters at the White House this week.

Kiros's victory was particularly striking because DeGette was not even running as a centrist Democrat. She is a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and

had support from prominent leftist lawmakers.

Kiros – a pro-Palestinian activist and Israel critic – still attacked her from the left, arguing that voters needed a younger representative with a more direct understanding of rent, low wages and corporate influence in politics.

Her win was celebrated by the Democratic Socialists of America, Justice Democrats and other groups seeking to push the party leftward on economic policy, foreign policy and campaign finance.

But Colorado's primary night was not only about socialism.

State Attorney General Phil Weiser – no Democratic Socialist – defeated Senator Michael Benet in the primary for governor by

casting himself as warrior against Trump and his vastly more experienced opponent as a Washington insider.

Kurt Bardella, a former Republican congressional aide turned Democratic strategist, warned against reading the results simply as a left-versus-center revolt.

"It's not about 'socialism' – it's about establishment," Bardella wrote on X. "It's about 'insider' vs 'outsider.' It's about 'old' vs 'new.' It's generational."

Conservative commentator Bill Kristol made a similar point from a different ideological perch, saying Democratic centrists could either "wring their hands" or recognize that the results reflected anger over a perceived failure to oppose Trump.

That mood was also visible in Colorado's competitive 8th District, where progressive state Representative Manny Rutinel defeated a more moderate rival for the Democratic nomination to face vulnerable Republican Representative Gabe Evans.

Rutinel, a young Latino candidate and former Army Corps of Engineers economist, has argued that Democrats should focus relentlessly on the cost of living and the struggles of working families.

Republicans, meanwhile, are eager to make the left's rise the centerpiece of their midterm message, accusing Democrats of being hijacked by socialists, and tying Kiros and other left-wing nominees to vulnerable Democrats in more competitive districts.

Israel adamant to keep its troops in occupied lands

Israel's defence minister said yesterday that Israeli forces would remain in so-called security zones established in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza "until further notice".

"The IDF will remain in the security zones in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza until further notice, in order to protect Israel's residents and communities from terrorists," Israel Katz said, according to the defence ministry.

"We will not withdraw from the security zones," Katz said at a function held in honour of Israeli soldiers killed during the 2006 war in Lebanon.

Katz also reiterated an earlier warning to Iran, saying the Islamic republic would be struck with "full force" if it attacked Israel over its operations in Lebanon.

Israel and Lebanon signed

a US-sponsored framework agreement on Friday to pave the way for peace between the two countries and disarm Iran-backed Hezbollah.

Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have repeatedly ruled out withdrawing troops from southern Lebanon, where Israeli forces continue to clash with Hezbollah fighters.

They maintain that any troop withdrawal would happen only after Hezbollah has been disarmed across Lebanon.

Israel has also carried out repeated incursions and bombings in Syria since the overthrow of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad, saying it seeks to establish a demilitarised zone in the country's south.

In Gaza, Israel occupies nearly 70% of the territory. (AFP)

US envoy warns some Nato allies 'lagging' on Trump spending vow

The US ambassador to Nato warned yesterday that some European countries were not doing enough to fulfil a defence spending pledge, ahead of a summit in Ankara with President Donald Trump.

Under pressure from Trump, Nato leaders agreed last year in The Hague to boost defence-related spending to 5% of GDP by 2035. "Some allies are doing more than others – and we have countries like Poland, the Nordic countries, the Baltics, and Germany leading the way," US envoy Matthew Whitaker told journalists.

"But we have some that are lagging behind, that either are not spending enough right now or don't have a credible path to get to the Hague defence commitment," Whitaker said Trump "fully expects that all allies will step up immediately and get on the path to 5% and do it with urgency."

The Nato summit in Turkey comes after Trump lashed out at European allies over their response to his war in Iran.

Whitaker said he believed the bad blood was behind the alliance, claiming that "those days are past us". He pointed to Spain for having "disappointed" Trump over Iran and for its "unwillingness to demonstrate a credible path to five per cent".

As defence spending rises across the alliance, Whitaker said that Europe must now show it is turning the increased cash into real capabilities.

"The goal is clear, continue shifting the burden for the conventional defence of Europe to our allies in Nato," he said. (AFP)

Russian strikes in Ukraine kill six, wound dozens

AFP
Kyiv

Russian strikes across Ukraine Wednesday killed six people and wounded some 50 others, local authorities announced.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, seven glide bombs hit three districts, killing a 15-year-old and injuring 32 people, mayor Ihor Terekhov reported on Telegram.

In the southern region of Odesa, two people were killed and 15 injured in a ballistic missile strike that started a fire, according to regional governor Oleh Kiper. A minibus was also attacked by a drone in the Kherson region, also in the south, killing an 18-year-old woman and another person, governor

Oleksandr Prokudin said, adding that nine people were wounded.

In another drone attack in the Kherson region targeting an administrative building, one person was killed and two others wounded, he said.

More than four years after the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, strikes from both sides of the front occur daily and continue to claim increasing numbers of civilian victims.

In June, the number of long-range drones and Russian missiles launched against Ukraine fell sharply compared with May, according to an AFP analysis of data from the Ukrainian air force. Diplomatic efforts mediated by the US have been at a standstill since late February, when the war in the Middle East was triggered by Israeli-American bombardments of Iran.

China urges US to handle Taiwan issue with 'caution'

Reuters
Beijing

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged the US to handle matters related to Taiwan with "the utmost caution", during a phone call with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday, Wang's ministry said yesterday.

"A slight move on the Taiwan issue could affect the whole situation," Wang said, adding that China and the US should work to manage all kinds of risks, according to an official Chinese summary of the phone conversation. The US State Department did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

The call followed a mid-May summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump in Beijing, where Xi told Trump that mishandling the countries' disagreements

Both sides should eliminate disruptions, overcome obstacles, and continue firmly along this right direction,' – Wang Yi

over Taiwan could push China-US relations into an "extremely dangerous place".

Beijing claims the democratically governed island as its own territory and refuses to rule out military force to gain control of it. Taipei rejects Beijing's claims, and the US is bound by law to provide Taipei with the means to defend itself.

Wang said two countries should build a "constructive, strategically stable relationship".

"Both sides should eliminate disruptions, overcome obstacles, and continue firmly along this right direction," Wang said.

The Chinese foreign ministry said Wang and Rubio agreed to "continue maintaining communication in a flexible manner".

Looting, arrests after S Africa's anti-foreigner protests

AFP
Durban

Ransacked shelves and discarded packaging were all that remained inside several shops near the port city of Durban yesterday, which were looted during protests demanding that undocumented foreign nationals leave South Africa.

Several thousand people marched across the country Tuesday after a weeks-long campaign led by fringe groups for illegal migrants to go home by June 30, a push that had already led thousands to flee.

Police were out in force for the protests, announcing yesterday that most were peaceful but around 900 people were arrested over the day, some for looting.

In Clermont outside Durban, looters stripped shops of food, appliances, building material and clothing following the demonstrations, the owners said.

Some estimated losses running into millions of rand, saying



Protesters during the "March and March" movement in Durban. (AFP)

they were uncertain whether they would be able to reopen.

Mohamed Abdul, 29, said a large group of protesters stormed his shop selling food, hardware and clothing on Tuesday.

"We are not illegal in the country but they just started looting. I was scared and felt betrayed because we had 19 people employed here but today they have no job," he said.

"The protesters were screaming

at us and calling us names in Zulu," Abdul added.

Originally from Somalia, Abdul said he had been based in the area for 11 years. "The community knows me and this is one of the main stores people rely on and we used to donate to families who have nothing." The looters even took an ATM machine that had been inside the supermarket, he said, but the safe was left outside.

Fearful of a repeat of unrest five

years ago when around 350 people were killed, the government imposed major security for Tuesday's marches.

It was the first coordinated nationwide day of demonstrations in weeks of protests against illegal migrants who are accused of taking work from locals.

A government multi-agency security body said there were 120 marches nationwide Tuesday and only 12 required law enforcement intervention. Of the more than 900 people arrested, most were undocumented foreigners and South African looters, it said.

Police said they were investigating a murder in Johannesburg's crime-ridden township of Alexandra after a man was shot while people looted a shop owned by a foreign national.

While thousands were estimated to have taken part in the protests, they were not as large and violent as had been expected, politics expert Henning Melber.

The organisers "were too overconfident of their popularity," said governance expert Tendai Mbanje.



Qatar reaches for the stars

There is something quietly telling about a nation the size of Qatar committing €295mm to a satellite that will not fly until 2030. It is not the sum itself – modest by the standards of sovereign wealth – but the horizon it implies. Es'hail-3, the Turksat-Biruni spacecraft sealed into existence yesterday through agreements between Es'hailSat, Turkiye's Turksat, and France's Thales Alenia Space, is less a piece of hardware than a statement of intent: that Qatar sees its future not only beneath the Gulf's waters, but above the atmosphere, in the invisible architecture of bandwidth that will define the next century's power.

It is worth pausing on what this satellite is not. Es'hailSat's earlier ventures were built substantially for broadcasting. Es'hail-3 is something else: a Ka-band, software-defined platform designed to dynamically reallocate coverage and bandwidth on demand, serving aviation, maritime, government and enterprise clients from Africa's Atlantic edge to Central Asia. The prime minister's presence at the signing was not ceremonial decoration; it signalled that this is being read in Doha as sovereign infrastructure, strategic and largely invisible to the people it will serve.

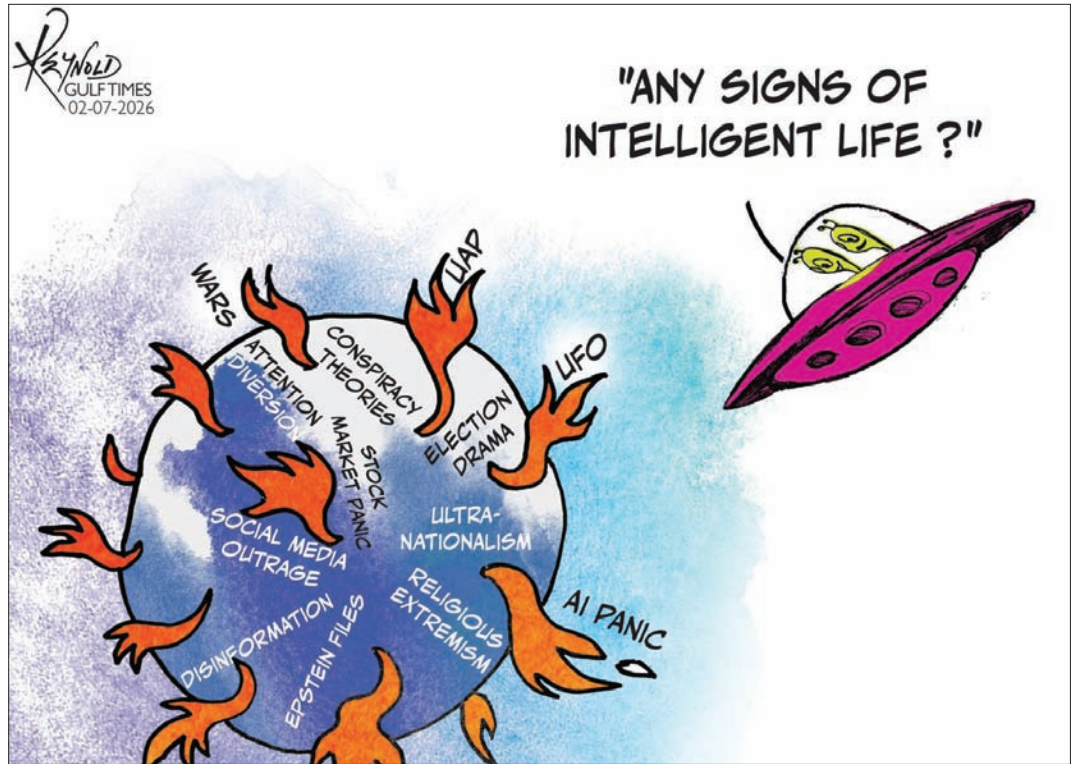
That invisibility deserves reflection. The great

infrastructural investments of any era rarely announce themselves in the moment – cables, fibre backbones, orbital slots negotiated years ahead. What Qatar is purchasing, alongside Turkiye and French engineering, is presence: a guaranteed seat at 50 degrees East from which to project connectivity across three continents.

There is a partnership logic here too. Pooling Es'hailSat's and Turksat's assets and ground infrastructure reflects a recognition that even ambitious middle powers now build reach through alliance, not solitary grandeur – a response, as Turksat's chief put it, to a fast-changing market rather than mere bilateral goodwill.

And there is a deeper question of self-image. A country built on hydrocarbons drawn from the seabed is now investing heavily in infrastructure answering to no seabed at all. Es'hailSat's own language – "sovereign control over critical communications infrastructure" – reveals an anxiety as much as an ambition, about dependence in an unstable region extending beyond energy into the unglamorous business of who controls the signal.

Satellites are built for decades, not news cycles. In committing to one now, Qatar is betting on a world it expects to still need connecting long after this week's headlines fade.



The limits of regional power: what the GCC can and cannot do

By Rory Miller



Speaking after a US-GCC ministerial meeting last week, GCC Secretary-General Jassim Mohammed al-Budaiwi was clear that any future regional security arrangements must take into account the interests and security needs of GCC member states.

Statements like this by senior officials inevitably raise the question of the future role of the six-member GCC in the post-war regional order.

Specifically, it raises the question of whether the GCC, which celebrated its 45th anniversary last month, can or should transform into a security and defence alliance or rebrand as a conflict mediation framework that can resolve, if not prevent, regional crises as they happen.

In theory at least, regional organisations like the GCC do provide members with opportunities to work together to address shared challenges. But there are limits to what regional organisations – whether in the Gulf, Europe, Asia, or anywhere else – can achieve as frameworks primarily focused on providing security or delivering peace.

The 55-member African Union has regularly deployed military, as well as civilian, resources across its home continent to manage crises. The EU has done the same on the Union's borders and, at times, further afield in parts of Africa and Asia. These are the exceptions not the norm.

Of the estimated 300 regional organisations active today, very few have the legal authority, political will or institutional and operational capabilities to enforce existing peace agreements. Even fewer use force to restore peace, never mind undertake more pro-active security operations intended to defend or achieve the organisation's core interests.

In the first place, regional organisations are "meeting places" for member states not independent entities free to act as they choose on matters of security and peace. In the EU, for example, ultimate decision-making on these issues requires the unanimous agreement of member states through the EU Council.

What complicates matters further is that members usually have different, and often competing, values and beliefs. They also tend to prioritise different interests, and disagree with each other over what threats deserve the most attention.

It is only on those rare occasions when the security interests of members converge that regional organisations can mobilise to undertake security operations. But even this requires members to share a vision of the benefits of acting together, as occurred with the GCC in Bahrain in 2011 during the Arab Spring. Once the specific threat subsides, members again opt for sovereignty over security cooperation inside the regional organisation.

The doctrine of non-intervention in domestic affairs is intended to protect the sovereignty of member states. It makes it especially challenging for regional organisations to act in peace and security. It is the foundational principle of ASEAN, which includes Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia among its members. It is also a core value of most other regional organisations, including the 81-year old Arab League, one of the world's oldest. Non-intervention is not cost-free. It can impact on the credibility and legitimacy of regional organisations, especially when they refuse to respond to regional conflicts that result in humanitarian crises or atrocities.

But the doctrine of non-intervention also plays an important role in building trust and sustaining regional organisations during challenging times. It reduces the likelihood that disagreements spill over and undermine cooperation between members on issues where interests overlap. For example, following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) collapsed because members – Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and North Yemen – aligned on opposite sides of the crisis.

The non-intervention doctrine also demands shared, or at least consensus-based, decision-making. This makes it harder for bigger members, with larger economies and armies, to impose their preferences on smaller partners. It also allows smaller actors to gain disproportionate influence relative to their size. For example, an April survey of ASEAN opinion leaders ranked Singapore as the most influential and effective member ahead of Indonesia – home to the bloc's biggest population, economy, and army.

Smaller members can use their available resources and expertise to promote their policy preferences to shape, and even set, the regional agenda. They can also lobby other members to back their policy preferences or convince them to join with them in collective action to fight for common peace and security goals. This "multiplier effect" is a very important instrument of power for smaller actors inside regional organisations.

This is how Sweden, despite the opposition of larger members, won its fight for the inclusion of a civilian crisis management mechanism – the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict – in the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). It is also how Ireland convinced the EU to fully back its two national priorities during the EU-UK Brexit negotiations: blocking a hard border between the north and south of the country, and protecting the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement.

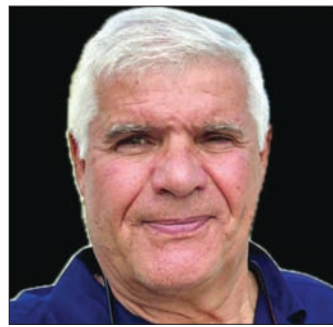
Smaller member states also use the "multiplier effect" within the regional organisation to play an oversized role in external mediation and multiparty negotiations. Some examples include Ghana, Gambia and Togo in West Africa's ECOWAS; Guyana and Suriname in CARICOM in the Caribbean; and Uruguay within Mercorsur, the Brazil-dominated South American common market.

Disillusioned states all over the world are currently searching for new peace and security mechanisms to counter rising uncertainty, instability, and disorder. Regional organisations, including the GCC, are unlikely to meet those needs. But that does not reduce their value. They provide a safe space for building trust and nurturing collective problem solving among neighbours. They can empower smaller members to play a role in regional affairs and they can add legitimacy and credibility to the values and interests of those inside the organisation. In today's evolving geopolitical environment, these all help to reduce regional conflict and increase opportunities for peacemaking.

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

Sovereignty on paper

Lebanon has won a document that calls it independent. It has not won back its land, its people or its peace



By Jamil K Mroue

When Joseph Aoun, Lebanon's president, appeared on television in the spring and asked why his country could not negotiate "to save the homes that have not yet been destroyed," it was not the voice of a leader bargaining from strength. It was a plea.

By then Israel's renewed war on Hizbullah, which began on March 2nd, had driven some 1.2m people from their homes – more than a fifth of Lebanon's population – and killed more than 4,000. Israeli bulldozers were erasing border villages one by one, in what many Lebanese saw as the Gaza plan moved north: more than 40,000 homes in the south destroyed, whole towns wiped from the map. Beirut's call for talks went unanswered for weeks.

That it was answered at all owed less to Beirut than to Washington. Donald Trump's inner circle on the Middle East is unusually Lebanese. His envoy to Turkey, Tom Barrack, descends from emigrants from Zahle; his ambassador to Lebanon, Michel Issa, is Lebanese-American; and his in-law and adviser Massad Boulos, whose son married Trump's daughter Tiffany, was born in Lebanon. The couple's first child – Trump's grandson, with a Lebanese-American father – arrived in 2025. Sentiment aside, Trump had a colder reason to act. Israel's bombing of Beirut threatened to wreck a larger prize: his deal to end the war with Iran. He leaned on Binyamin Netanyahu to stop.

The strategy was to deny Iran its Lebanese arm. Rather than let Tehran fold Lebanon into the terms of its own ceasefire, Trump chose to back the government in Beirut, which insisted that it alone had the right to speak for the country. The trouble was that the government had little to speak with. The Aoun-Salam administration, in office only since early 2025, had spent its entire mandate managing a war it did not start and could not stop. It had never been free to govern.

Weak hands rarely win at the table, and Lebanon's were very weak. The United States set the talks in motion and hosted them in Washington, where Secretary of State Marco Rubio steered five rounds of negotiation. By the time they began, Israel occupied roughly a fifth of Lebanese territory and more than a million Lebanese were

displaced. Worse for Beirut, it played its hand alone.

The 2026 war with Iran had swallowed the Gulf. Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz pushed Brent crude above \$120 a barrel at its peak; the International Energy Agency called it the largest supply disruption in the history of the oil market. Gulf states faced shortages of food and even water. The Gulf Co-operation Council, normally Lebanon's deepest pocket and loudest patron, was fighting for its own economic life. Lebanon's gamble was a solitary one.

The result, signed on June 26th, reads like a text written in Israel and pressed on Lebanon by Rubio. The Lebanese delegation balked at the conditions and, by several accounts, almost walked out. It signed anyway. On paper the agreement is historic: not since 1983 have the two states formally recognised each other's sovereignty. That should reassure no-one. The agreement of May 1983 was also signed while Israeli troops occupied Lebanon; it was never ratified, and Beirut tore it up within a year. This one, too, is signed under occupation – which is the heart of the problem. In practice it gives Lebanon almost nothing it can hold. Israel agrees to leave only two small "pilot zones." It keeps the fifth of Lebanon it occupies until Hizbullah is verifiably disarmed – and there is the trap. The agreement is built on a condition that cannot be met. Hizbullah will not be disarmed by force, which has been tried, nor by politics, which has failed for two decades. Neither the Lebanese army nor the Israeli one can deliver it.

If the deal cannot be implemented, who benefits from signing it? The answer is Netanyahu. He called the framework "a major achievement for Israel" and a blow to Iran, and lost no time selling it. Israel faces an election by October 27th. His Likud party leads the polls but his coalition is short of a majority, and he had just been embarrassed when Washington and Tehran ended their war without him. The framework lets him claim a victory in the north and a "security zone" defended on his terms, with no obligation to leave. For a prime minister whose fortunes have sagged since the failures of October 7th, it is a timely gift.

In Lebanon the agreement was dead on arrival. Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's leader, pronounced it "null and void." Hezbollah and its ally Amal, led by the speaker, Nabih

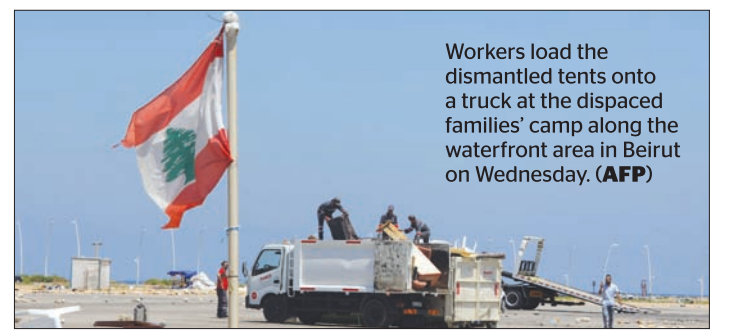
Berri, treated it as though it did not exist. Supporters burned tyres and blocked the road to Beirut's airport. That leaves Aoun and his prime minister, Nawaf Salam, in a strange limbo: holders of a paper that registers Lebanon as a sovereign state, independent of Iran's bargaining, but commanders of no force that can make the paper real.

One actor showed unexpected restraint. After weeks of attacking the Lebanese initiative, Iran did not push its allies into the street battles that many feared. It allowed the anger to simmer rather than boil. Tehran has no interest in a Lebanon that collapses into its own blood while Iran is still recovering from war. The calm is tactical, not friendly. What the agreement really marks is the opening of a new phase in the long quarrel over Hizbullah's weapons – and over the very sovereignty that Aoun and Salam have staked their futures, and their country's, upon.

The bill for that quarrel is staggering, and it is the part no signing ceremony can wish away. More than a million Lebanese remain displaced. Towns destroyed in vengeance have left families with no homes, no schools, no hospitals to return to. The treasury is empty and the economy is sinking deeper into a crisis that began in 2019, the worst financial collapse in the country's history, which has wiped out almost all of the lira's value and pushed more than a third of Lebanese into poverty. The finance minister, Yassine Jaber, puts fresh war damage at no less than \$3bn-4bn, on top of some \$7bn from the fighting of 2023-24. The World Bank's reconstruction estimate of \$11bn is already out of date and climbing; some officials speak of \$20bn-30bn. For a bankrupt state, the figure might as well be written on the moon.

For now the war is paused rather than ended, halted by Trump and held in place by his interest, not by any guarantee on the page. Hezbollah follows Tehran's agenda as stubbornly as ever. Only one man can change the arithmetic: the president who stopped the bombing can also force a real Israeli withdrawal, and turn a hollow document into something Lebanon can use. Until he does, Aoun and Salam are left holding a certificate of sovereignty in a country where sovereignty stops at the edge of the occupied fifth.

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



Workers load the dismantled tents onto a truck at the displaced families' camp along the waterfront area in Beirut on Wednesday. (AFP)



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QF is nurturing values of tolerance, respect in youth

Qatar Foundation's (QF)'s education model places values and empathy at its core, as illustrated by initiatives such as the Akhlaquna Award, which celebrates the human values and integrity demonstrated by people across different communities, from young children to students to impactful individuals.

One example is Meera al-Kaabi, a student at Qatar Technical Secondary School for Girls, who was one of three students recognised in the Akhlaquna Youth category in 2026. Her project, 'Qadraq Ka-beer', is a social awareness campaign focused on the importance of learning from the lessons and values of the older generation. Its aim is to instill values of connection and respect in the younger generations.

"The project was born out of my own love for my grandparents," says al-Kaabi. "I wanted to bridge that generational gap for others and show them how much they can learn from their elders."

Al-Kaabi's school supported her throughout her entire journey. Her project included surveying her peers' attitudes toward their elders, which her school helped facilitate.

She also assessed the results of those surveys with her school's counsellor and conducted interviews with prominent elders in the local community, through which she gained insight into how to improve intergenerational relationships.

Al-Kaabi also worked with entities in Qatar, such as Ajial Al-tarby Centre, to provide workshops to children on how best to engage with their grandparents.



Meera al-Kaabi

"The most touching moment for me was conducting exercises with children," she says. "I asked them to write letters of gratitude to their grandparents. Most children wanted to express their love but did not know how, and that exercise helped them greatly."

For al-Kaabi's mother, the

award provided a greater motivation for the project to flourish. "As a mother, it is my greatest joy that my daughter's values are celebrated," she said. "That is better than any other achievement."

The Akhlaquna Award, under QF's Pre-University Education, emphasises the interconnectivity



Ahmed al-Malki

between knowledge, education, and strong morals and promotes ethics as the foundation for success in life.

Ahmed al-Malki, project manager and member of the Akhlaquna team, explains the initiative's growing role in integrating values into the education system. "Values-based education is essential because knowledge is incomplete without ethics," he says.

"Akhlaquna contributes to promoting noble values on an annual basis to achieve our overarching goal: embedding ethical principles within students' character."

These values, he says, turn into proactive actions not just while student are at school but also beyond school. "The values they acquire are not merely theoretical concepts; they are translated into practical behaviour in daily interactions. They foster a spirit of initiative and volunteerism, ultimately bolstering students' confidence, adaptability, and success in the wider world," he added.



A journalist from one of the targeted areas.

QPC denounces Israeli attacks on journalists in southern Syria

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter

The Qatar Press Centre (QPC) has strongly condemned what it described as the escalating targeting of journalists by Israeli forces in southern Syria, warning that the attacks represent a grave assault on press freedom and a clear violation of international law.

In a statement, the QPC denounced the reported shooting of a Syrian television crew while they were covering events in the village of Abdeen in the western countryside of Daraa.

The journalists were documenting an Israeli military incursion into the Yarmouk Basin area and reporting on alleged violations affecting civilians when they came under fire.

The QPC also expressed concern over reports of a raid on the home of a journalist in Quneitra and the pursuit of other media professionals, describing the incidents as part of a broader pattern of intimidation aimed at obstructing the course of independent reporting in the conflict zones.

Emphasising the legal protections afforded to journalists, the QPC said that deliberately targeting media personnel constitutes a serious breach of international humanitarian law, including the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and UN Security Council Resolution 2222, which affirm journalists' civilian status during armed conflicts.

The Centre argued that such actions are intended to suppress the flow of information and prevent the international community from gaining an accurate account of developments on the ground.

Calling for urgent international action, the Centre urged human rights organisations, press freedom advocates, and media protection bodies to unequivocally condemn the attacks and intensify efforts to safeguard journalists working in conflict zones.

It also stressed the need to strengthen accountability mechanisms and end the culture of impunity that allows repeated violations against media professionals, reaffirming that protecting journalists is essential to preserving the public's right to accurate and independent reporting.

UDST signs pact with Siemens for establishing smart grid living lab

In the presence of German ambassador Oliver Owczka, the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Siemens in Qatar to establish a Smart Grid Living Lab and advance collaboration in energy innovation, applied research, and workforce development.

The partnership marks a significant step towards strengthening Qatar's capabilities in smart energy systems by creating a collaborative environment where students, faculty, researchers, and industry experts can develop, test, and validate next-generation technologies and solutions for the energy sector.

At the heart of the collaboration is the development of a Smart Grid Living Lab at UDST. The facility will serve as a practical platform for experiential learning, applied research, innovation, and industry engagement, enabling students to participate directly in the design, implementation, and operation of smart grid technologies.

The Living Lab will also support future research projects, technology demonstrations, simulation activities, and pilot initiatives focused on addressing real-world energy challenges.

The MoU establishes a framework for collaboration across several strategic areas. Siemens will contribute industry expertise through guest lectures, workshops, seminars, and technical knowledge-sharing ses-



sions covering smart grids, grid automation, energy management systems, and emerging smart infrastructure technologies.

The company will also support curriculum enhancement efforts to ensure students gain exposure to the latest industry practices and technological developments.

In addition, Siemens will provide students with opportunities for internships, industry attachments, and hands-on training experiences, helping them develop practical skills in digital energy solutions, smart grid software, and data analytics.

Students and faculty will also benefit from exposure to Siemens technologies, software platforms, simulation tools, and pilot projects that bridge academic learning with industry applications. Beyond academic and industrial collaboration, the agreement supports community engagement initiatives to promote energy literacy, sustain-

ability awareness, and public understanding of emerging energy technologies, thereby contributing to broader societal impact and sustainable development goals.

Dr Salem Al-Naemi, President of UDST, stated: "The establishment of the Smart Grid Living Lab represents a significant milestone in our efforts to strengthen applied learning and innovation at UDST." "We are pleased to collaborate with Siemens to create an environment where students can engage directly with advanced technologies and real-world energy systems while contributing to research and innovation that support Qatar's sustainable development ambitions," Al-Naemi added.

"This partnership reflects our commitment to preparing graduates who are equipped to lead the future of smart infrastructure and energy transformation," Al-Naemi explained.

Stitching sustainability: How a tailoring business is extending life of wardrobes

By Joey Aguilar
Doha

Growing sustainability awareness is encouraging more consumers in Qatar to repair, alter and reuse clothing instead of replacing it, according to the founder of Stitch by Salma.

Speaking to the *Gulf Times*, Umme Salma said the trend reveals a growing preference for quality, durability and better value, even as fast-fashion retailers continue to expand.

She explained that sustainability increasingly complements practical considerations such as affordability and long-term value when consumers decide whether to repair, alter or commission their garments.

"Many customers appreciate that repairing or altering a garment reduces waste and extends its lifespan. When commissioning bespoke garments, customers can also choose fabrics, designs and finishes that align with their preferences, resulting in pieces that are worn and valued for much longer," Salma said.

She stressed that mindful spending, quality craftsmanship and durable garments are helping drive a more sustainable approach to fashion consumption. Tailoring and bespoke services, she added, are playing an increasingly important role in reducing textile waste while enabling consumers to get



Stitch by Salma founder Umme Salma.

more value from their wardrobes.

Salma said fast-fashion brands have not undermined tailoring businesses. "We do not necessarily view fast-fashion brands as direct competitors. In many ways, they create additional demand for tailoring and alterations," she said.

She explained that affordably ready-made clothing often requires resizing, hemming or customisation, particularly in the Gulf, where appearance, comfort and modesty are important considerations. Garments purchased online also frequently require ad-

'Customers are finding practical ways to refresh existing pieces at a fraction of the cost while maintaining a polished appearance'

— Umme Salma

justments, allowing tailoring businesses to add value beyond the original purchase.

Salma also noted a shift in consumer behaviour, with shoppers becoming more selective and placing greater emphasis on craftsmanship, longevity and value.

"While there will always be demand for affordable fashion, many consumers are looking for garments that offer better quality, comfort and longevity. Customers are increasingly aware that investing in a well-made piece can provide better value over time than repeatedly replacing lower-quality items," she said.

According to Salma, this trend is especially evident among professionals, families and customers buying occasion wear, for whom craftsmanship remains a key consideration.

Rising living expenses have prompted more consumers to extend the life of their wardrobes by repairing, resizing and updating current garments. "Customers are finding practical ways to refresh existing pieces at a fraction of the cost while maintaining a polished appearance," Salma said.

GCC podcast revenue to rise to \$37.1mn in 2030: Media City Qatar report

By Joseph Varghese
Staff Reporter

Growth in the consumption and production of video podcasts is transforming the podcast industry, according to a new media insight paper published by Media City Qatar.

Examining emerging trends in the media landscape of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Middle East and North Africa, research conducted by Media City Qatar in partnership with Omdia, a leading research and consulting firm, highlights rapid growth in the podcast sector in the GCC.

According to the study, video podcast advertising revenue in the GCC will total \$17.3mn by the end of 2026 and rise to \$37.1mn in 2030. "Success for market players lies in creating and distributing localised Arabic content, leveraging

hybrid audio-video formats, and adopting monetisation strategies to expand reach, engage audiences, and unlock global opportunities," the report said.

Omdia report says that the market demand for podcasts, audio or video, has exploded in recent years across the world. It says: "Podcast content is episodic, often released on a regular schedule, and accessible via streaming platforms or download through feeds and apps. Growing consumer awareness and improved accessibility to high-quality podcast content have driven podcasts to become a mainstream media and entertainment format."

The report notes that audio content remains the leading segment within the podcast industry globally, but platforms and creators are increasingly prioritising investment in the production and distribution of video podcasts to



attract and connect with new audiences and engage existing audiences. Video podcast content can also be clipped into short-form content for distribution on social media, improving discoverability for creators and enhancing ad campaigns.

As for the revenue, advertising is the primary form of monetisation for the sector. Video podcasts generate revenue from several advertising formats: pre-roll, mid-roll, and post-roll ads (played be-

fore, during, or after the episode), display ads (visual banners or overlays), and sponsorship. Audio podcasts, meanwhile, utilise adverts contained within the content itself, such as host-read ads and dynamically inserted ads.

Omdia estimates that global revenue from audio and video podcast advertising will reach \$6.5bn in 2030, a healthy increase from \$4.9bn in 2026. Audio is and will remain the largest contributor globally for the foreseeable future, but

video revenue is growing rapidly and increasing its market share.

By 2030, video will account for 37.4% of total revenue, up from 28.6% in 2026.

The report highlights that the rise of video podcast consumption on platforms such as YouTube is helping to scale the podcast audience, and many audio podcasts are now incorporating video into their offerings to capture audiences across as many touchpoints as possible.

Video podcasts are also providing new monetisation opportunities for advertisers, and platforms are rolling out initiatives to support improved audience targeting. Campaigns are growing in scale and impact, supported by larger budgets, enhanced ad-targeting capabilities, and broader content libraries across many platforms and services.

Meanwhile, according to the re-

port, one factor that could impede the global growth of video podcasts is the consumer preference for audio-only content to reduce screen time.

"Many listeners are drawn to podcasts because they offer respite from the constant visual engagement demanded by screens. This screen-free appeal is also particularly valuable for multitasking during activities such as commuting, exercising, or household chores," the report underlined.

Although the screen-free nature of traditional podcasts remains appealing, the growing demand for video content suggests that many consumers are keen to embrace video podcasts, particularly when the visual element adds value or enhances the storytelling experience. Consumer appetite for video content has risen rapidly over recent years, and the sector is poised for continued expansion.

Commercial Bank and ministry strengthen Qatarisation drive

By Shaima Sheriff
Staff Reporter

Developing the next generation of Qatari banking professionals took centre stage on Wednesday as Commercial Bank, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, hosted its Career Day, highlighting the growing role of public-private partnerships in advancing Qatarisation and supporting Qatar National Vision 2030.

Held at The Ritz-Carlton Doha yesterday, the event brought together senior government officials, Commercial Bank executives and aspiring Qatari jobseekers, providing a platform for recruitment, career guidance and discussions on developing national talent for the country's evolving financial sector.

Speaking to *Gulf Times*, Mohammed Juma al-Kuwari, Assistant Director of the National Manpower Recruitment Department at the Ministry of Labour, said that the ministry's participation reflects its continued commitment to empowering Qataris



Mohammed Juma al-Kuwari.



Nasser Abdulla al-Harmi

within the private sector.

"The Ministry of Labour participates in the second exhibition of Commercial Bank and its strategic role with its partners in the private sector in employing Qataris and building Qataris in the private sector within Qatar National Vision 2030," al-Kuwari said.

The event forms part of broader national efforts to increase the participation of Qatari nationals in key industries while ensuring young professionals are equipped with the skills required for long-term career success.

Nasser Abdulla al-Harmi, Executive General Manager, Chief Human Resources Officer at

Commercial Bank, said the initiative demonstrates the bank's commitment to investing in national talent beyond traditional recruitment.

"Commercial Bank's Career Day, held in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, reflects our commitment to Qatar's national development agenda and to attracting the brightest Qatari talent.

"Qatarisation for us goes beyond job creation – it is a direct investment in the nation's human capital, equipping young Qataris with the skills, training, and leadership pathways needed to drive the country's economic diversification.

"This partnership with the Ministry of Labour helps align the sector's needs with high-calibre national talent, building a new generation of banking leaders who will help shape the future of Qatar's financial sector and its broader economy."

Eiman Mohamed al-Naemi, Executive General Manager, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer at Commercial Bank, said: "Career Day represents an exceptional platform that reflects Commercial Bank's vision of building sustainable relationships with the community and reinforcing its role as a responsible corporate citizen invested in the nation's progress.

"Through this initiative, we are proud to strengthen our engagement with the community and reaffirm our brand's commitment to supporting the aspirations of Qatari youth. Such initiatives further underscore Commercial Bank's position as an active partner in advancing national priorities and reflect our broader CSR vision of contributing meaningfully to Qatar's economic and social development journey."

Nutrition expert shares World Cup survival guide for football fans

By Tawfik Lamari
Staff Reporter



Moudhi al-Hajri

As football fever grips fans across the globe during the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States, late-night kick-offs driven by time zone differences are keeping millions awake well into the early hours.

While the tournament delivers unforgettable sporting drama, it is also taking a toll on the health of many supporters.

In an exclusive interview, therapeutic and community nutrition expert and consultant Moudhi al-Hajri warned that disrupted sleep, irregular eating habits, and prolonged inactivity are contributing to a growing number of health concerns among football enthusiasts.

According to al-Hajri, health clinics have reported an increase in patients complaining of fatigue, poor concentration, irritability, and mood fluctuations, symptoms largely linked to sleep deprivation caused by staying awake to watch matches that often continue until dawn.

"The excitement of the World Cup is undeniable," she said, "but fans should not allow the tournament to come at the expense of their health."

Al-Hajri explained that changes in daily routines often lead supporters to skip balanced meals and instead rely on fast food and processed snacks. Over time, these habits can contribute to weight gain and increase the risk of elevated blood sugar, high cholesterol, and other metabolic disorders.

To minimise the effects of late-night viewing, she recommends adjusting sleep schedules whenever possible. Planning meals in advance is equally important. Rather than ordering takeaway during matches, Al-Hajri encourages fans to prepare healthy snacks before the games begin.

Nutritious alternatives include carrot and cucumber sticks served with labneh or hummus, fresh fruit, yoghurt or Greek yoghurt, moderate portions of unsalted almonds, and homemade popcorn prepared with minimal oil.

Hydration should also remain a priority throughout the evening. In addition to drinking plenty of water, al-Hajri recommends natural herbal

beverages such as mint, chamomile, or anise, lightly sweetened with honey or stevia if desired, as healthier alternatives to sugary drinks.

She also cautions against remaining sedentary for hours while watching matches. Fans can incorporate light physical activity into their viewing routine by using a stationary bicycle or treadmill, or by performing stretching exercises and brief movement sessions during halftime. Such activities help improve circulation, maintain fitness, and counteract the adverse effects of prolonged sitting.

Al-Hajri stressed that individuals living with diabetes or hypertension should exercise particular caution during the tournament. Sleep deprivation and irregular meal schedules can destabilise blood sugar levels, increase cravings for unhealthy foods, elevate blood pressure, and place additional stress on the body.

She advises patients to adhere strictly to prescribed medication schedules, avoid skipping or significantly delaying meals. Anyone experiencing unusual fluctuations in blood sugar or blood pressure should seek prompt medical advice.

For al-Hajri, enjoying football and maintaining good health are not mutually exclusive. She believes that thoughtful planning and moderation allow fans to fully embrace the excitement of the World Cup without compromising their well-being.

"The World Cup is a celebration that unites people across cultures and nations," she concluded. "By balancing the thrill of the matches with healthy eating, sufficient sleep, regular movement, and proper hydration, fans can enjoy every moment of the tournament while protecting their long-term health."



Commercial Bank, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, hosted its Career Day at The Ritz-Carlton Doha yesterday.

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